

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 1 of 32

- [2- U12 Tournament Bracket](#)
- [3- Rep. Johnson's Weekly Column](#)
- [4- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
- [5- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [6- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column](#)
- [7- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [9- Weather Pages](#)
- [12- Daily Devotional](#)
- [13- 2019 Groton Events](#)
- [14- 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

Sunday, June 30

2:00 p.m.: Legion hosts Lake Norden, (DH)

U12 Midgets host Groton Tourney

6:00 p.m.: Locke Electric Amateurs vs. Groton 2 Amateurs (game to start after Legion (DH))

Monday, July 1

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

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

6:00 p.m.: U12 Midgets host Britton, (DH)

6:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Britton, (DH) (R,W)

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

Softball at Sisseton, (DH)s (U10 at 6 p.m., U12 at 6 p.m.)

Tuesday, July 2

6:00 p.m.: Junior Legion at Claremont, (DH)

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

6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees at Sisseton, (DH) (R,B)

6:00 p.m.: T-Ball hosts Andover, Falk Field (Black)

7:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Andover (R,B)

Softball U12 hosts Ipswich, (DH), 6 p.m.

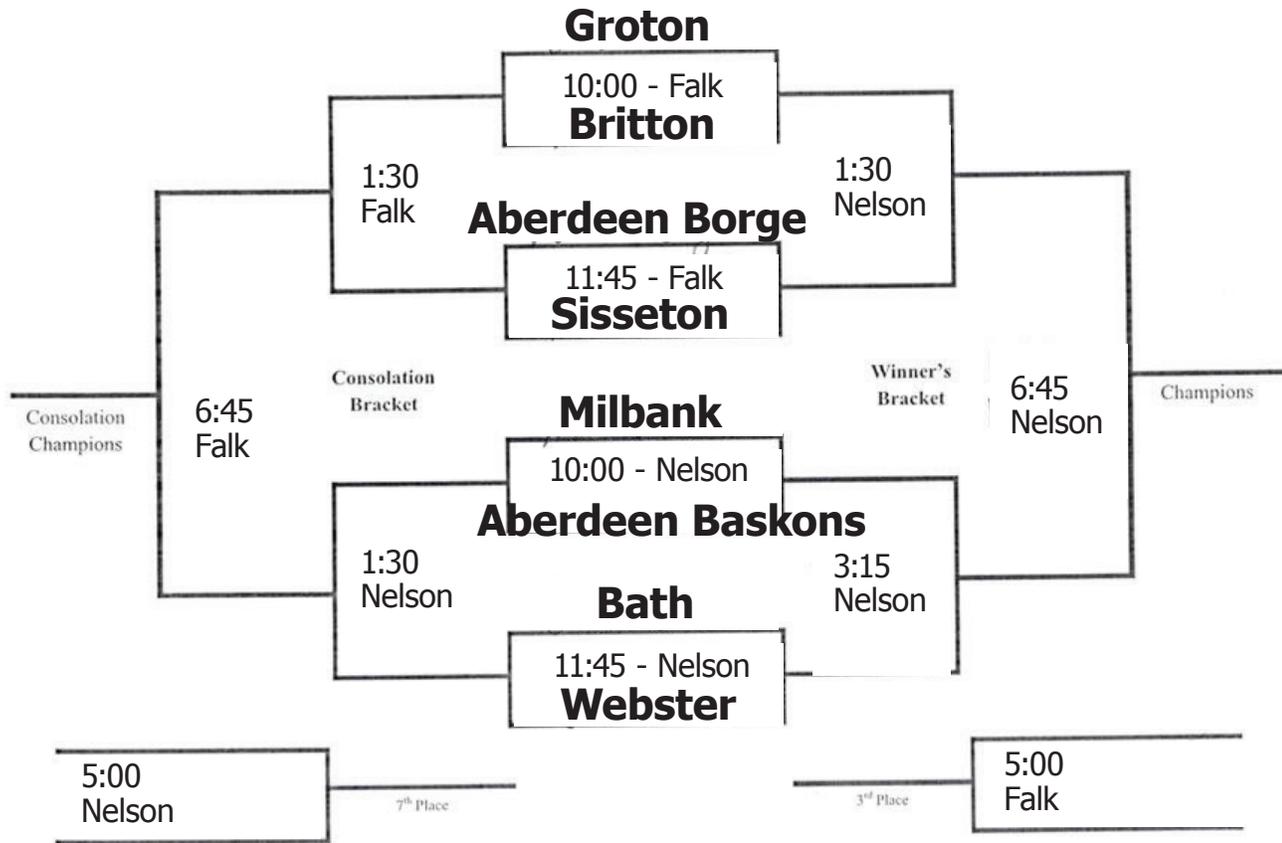
Softball U14 at Frankfort, (DH), 6 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 2 of 32

2019 Groton U12 Tournament Bracket

June 30th



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 3 of 32



CONGRESSMAN
DUSTY JOHNSON
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



By Rep. Dusty Johnson

It's Not Perfect – There was a circus in town this week, and it took up residence on the House floor. With 84 votes, the Senate passed a much-needed bipartisan humanitarian border bill that the President agreed to sign. In the House, Speaker Pelosi stood in the way of this legislation for weeks and waited until the midnight hour to bring a solution to the floor.

I spoke on the House floor and urged the Speaker to bring the Senate-approved border bill up for a vote immediately. I don't understand why many of my colleagues rejected a compassionate and common-sense measure. We have a border crisis that is out of control and I'm glad that after hours of debate, 128 of my Democrat colleagues realized this and ultimately supported the Senate bill to provide \$4.59 billion in humanitarian aid for the Southern Border.

Constituent Spotlight – This week Senator Thune and I were able to sit down with two South Dakota moms who were in town for the Addiction Policy Forum. Angela Kennecke and Melissa Flynn both know all too well the personal impact of opioid addiction on U.S. families. Angela and Melissa brought their children's stories to Capitol Hill in hopes another parent never has to feel the pain of losing a child to addiction. The opioid crisis is a national emergency and I cosponsored the Fentanyl Sanctions Act to combat this issue.

Back Home – Ahead of the Fourth of July, I'm heading to Lantis Fireworks in North Sioux City to discuss tariffs and proposed overregulation of fireworks. I'm also headed to Hot Springs and Rapid City for my first stops on my "Inside Scoop with Dusty" tour across South Dakota. Keep an eye out, I may just make a stop at an ice cream shop in your town! I want to be as accessible as possible, what better way to do that than over an ice cream cone?

Working Together – The opioid crisis impacts every community in the United States, it doesn't discriminate. It touches the strongest and the weakest in our neighborhoods, the richest and the poorest – that is why I introduced the Campus Prevention and Recovery Services for Students Act with several of my Democrat and Republican colleagues. This bill would ensure that students are not left behind in our bipartisan fight against the opioid epidemic. Prevention efforts should be collaborative and evidence-based. This bill will accomplish that goal, providing greater safety to our students and our communities.

I look forward with sharing my thoughts with you in next week's update! You can find the very latest updates by following me on social media - @RepDustyJohnson.

Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 4 of 32



SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM



Strengthening Families

Strong families have always been the backbone of South Dakota. The kitchen table is where we learn our values. The backyard is where we learn to respect each other. The bedroom is where we learn how to pray.

President Reagan once said this: "Our families nurture, preserve, and pass on to each succeeding generation the values we share and cherish, values that are the foundation for our freedoms." Today, more than ever, it's important we work to strengthen families, which is why I'm committed to being a family-first governor, fighting to strengthen the family unit and preserve the values South Dakotans have long embraced.

As governor, I have the opportunity to support and create legislation that can create real opportunities for folks throughout South Dakota. July 1 marks a milestone where most bills I signed become law, and I'm proud of the ways we're using legislation to strengthen families.

One bill going into effect will empower each family's decisions for education by leveling the playing field for homeschool students. Prior to this legislation, kids who were homeschooled would have to score a 28 on the ACT to qualify for the Opportunity Scholarship. The legislation I signed lowers that required score to a 24 – the same score required for public and private school students who apply for the same scholarship. This bill gives all kids an equal shot at the tools they need for higher education.

Another bill going into effect will streamline the licensing process for military members and their spouses. More than 20 percent of military spouses say that one of their biggest challenges is licensing regulations. The slow process can harm families financially while also slowing military transfers. This bill fast-tracks the licensing process; it lets their experience count so it's easier to work. This is one way we can support our troops – and the families that stand behind them.

Furthermore, because I recognize that strong families are key to a stronger future, I've committed to using my microphone and my influence to educate people about the need for more foster families. I'm confident that South Dakota can be a leader to our nation in how we help kids who are the most vulnerable. Every child deserves love, every child deserves a family, and every child deserves a home.

Strengthening families is a key element to every decision I make as governor, and I'm committed to keeping it at the center. Because strong families create strong communities. And strong communities create a stronger South Dakota.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



The Foundational Belief in Freedom is What Unites Us

As we celebrate this Independence Day, I'm reminded of our Founding Fathers who put together the greatest statement of self-government the world has ever seen: the Declaration of Independence. They proclaimed that "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

As you read it, each phrase of the Declaration of Independence is just as powerful as the one that precedes it, but it's the founder's recognition that every American is "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights" that I believe is among the most profound statements to ever be made, and it's a revered and cherished ideal that has been uniquely woven into the fabric of our society over the last two and a half centuries.

The rights that the founders described in that document aren't determined by one's social status, where an individual is born or raised, or even any standard set by government itself. That's what makes them so unique. They're granted to us by God. They are unalienable. And the governments born from these free people are created and maintained with their consent. That's pretty remarkable when you think about it.

We've all learned about Washington, Jefferson, Adams, and Franklin. Similar to their place in our nation's history, I believe each generation of Americans is blessed with leaders who are Founding Fathers in their own right – visionaries who help shape the future of America, just like those ambassadors of freedom who risked their lives by declaring freedom from the British crown; who helped preserve the nation against the backdrop of a civil war; who marched for universal suffrage; or who rattled communism with four simple words: "tear down this wall."

These leaders, whether having served at the outset of our democracy or during peace or during conflict, have been supported every step of the way by our brave men and women in uniform. Individual leaders come and go, but the continual presence, force, and professionalism of the United States military is constant, and it's fierce.

I'm proud to have recently voted for the National Defense Authorization Act, which will fund our military – including by giving our troops the largest pay raise in a decade – and help ensure that we can successfully protect Americans at home and abroad. It's the right message to send any time of the year, but particularly now ahead of Independence Day and amidst renewed threats abroad.

While there are plenty of things that can spark division these days, the one thing that unites all of us is the foundational belief in freedom. The founders pledged their "lives, fortunes, and sacred honor" to it, and countless men and women throughout our history have similarly sacrificed to provide for future generations and build on the legacy they have all given us: freedom, democracy, and opportunity. Happy Fourth of July!

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 6 of 32



Celebrating America

On July 4, Americans celebrate our country's independence. Like many families in South Dakota, Independence Day is a special holiday that our family looks forward to each year.

For decades, we've spent the Fourth of July boating and camping on Lake Oahe, just north of Pierre. It's a fun time for the big Rounds crew to get together with our kids and grandkids to celebrate America's birthday. We cherish this special time together even more so this year, since Jean is currently undergoing treatment for cancer at the Mayo Clinic. We are grateful to be back from Rochester over the Fourth of July holiday to spend this time together.

Of course, the reason that any of us are able to enjoy Independence Day is because of the men and women who have fought—and continue to fight—for our freedoms. It is through their sacrifices that we remain the strongest, freest country in the world. The Fourth of July is a time of celebration, but it's also a time to honor those who have sacrificed so much in defense of our liberties.

In the Senate, I work with my colleagues to advance policies that continue to make the United States the greatest nation in the world. The Senate recently passed the National Defense Authorization Act—or NDAA—a bipartisan bill we pass each year that supports the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States. This important legislation makes sure our troops have everything they need to keep our country safe. President Trump has been a strong supporter of our military, and I look forward to continuing the decades-long tradition of sending the president a strong, bipartisan NDAA to sign into law again this year.

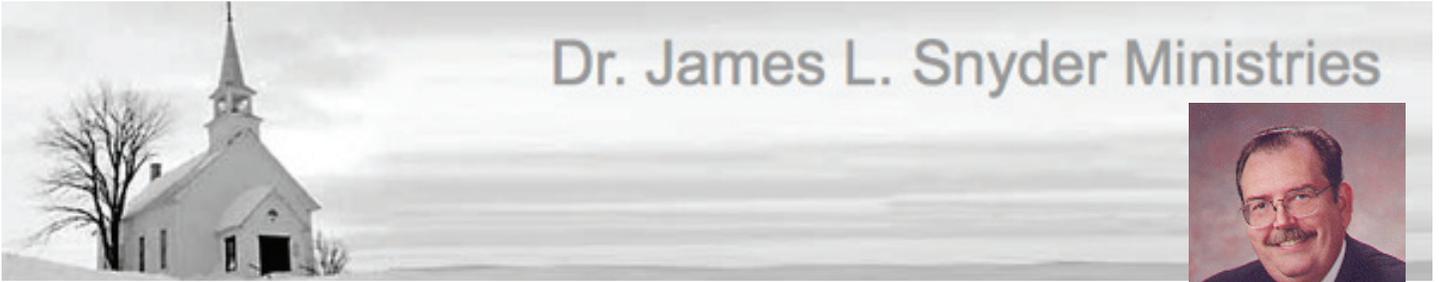
South Dakotans have a long history of supporting our military and our veterans. I'm proud to live in a state as patriotic as South Dakota. If you ask me, there's no better place in the country to celebrate Independence Day than South Dakota. No matter where you go, communities across the state organize special festivities to celebrate our freedom and the servicemembers who fight every day to preserve it.

If you're already making plans for next year's Fourth of July, be sure to add Mount Rushmore to your list. Thanks to President Trump and his administration, fireworks will once again be displayed over the national memorial for Fourth of July 2020. We haven't had fireworks over Mount Rushmore since 2009, and if you haven't had a chance to see them, I'd highly recommend visiting next year. It's a truly spectacular sight.

No matter where or how you spend the holiday, Jean and I wish you a safe and happy Independence Day!

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 7 of 32



Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



Let The Summer Fun Begin

Now that summer is upon us, we can turn our back on those frosty days of winter. I like winter as long as it is in the past tense. Otherwise, all that cold tenses me up something terrific. Now that summer is upon me, I can sit back, relax and enjoy those crazy, lazy days of summer.

My plans for the summer have already been established. I have a little notebook with all the things I plan to do during the summer. If someone were to open that little notebook, they will find, much to their surprise, not a thing written on any page.

That is precisely my plan. I plan to do nothing during the summer.

This is a relatively new strategy on my part. Every time I plan to do something, it never turns out right. In fact, if I plan to go right everything turns around and I end up going left. Therefore, my ingenious plan is to plan the opposite of what I really want to do. After all, it cannot be any worse than what I have been doing up to now.

I have been dreaming about the luxury of doing absolutely nothing for the summer. I have no personal goals to achieve. I have no projects needing completion. I have only one goal for the entire summer and that is to do nothing.

For this nefarious plan of mine to be successful, I will need to avoid the wife for the entire summer. If she was in the living room I would make sure, I was out in the garage. If she were out on the porch, I would be in the bathroom. I had this all worked out in my head long before Spring came to its finale.

For weeks now, I have been busy planning my summer's spree of non-activity. Within a matter of time, some strange thought horned in on my serenity. For some reason I hit a snag in my planning. I thought I had everything worked out. Then I noticed something strange about this new strategy of mine. That is, it is quite hard to plan to do nothing.

For example, if I plan to go fishing I know what equipment I need to lay out and what clothes I need to wear. If I am planning to go on a vacation, I know what to pack and I know the clothes to put in the suitcase and so forth. But, how do you plan to do nothing?

When I first thought of this plan, it seemed like such an easy thing to do. Something natural for a person like me. My problem was, what clothes do I need to put on when I am planning to do nothing? What kind of equipment do I need? And, should I pack a lunch?

I decided to pack a lunch anyway.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 8 of 32

It is only one week into the summer and I have found myself to be a little stressed. My plan was to do nothing but I am not sure what that means.

When you do nothing, what exactly are you doing or not doing? Boy, do I need a philosopher today. (Where is Dr. Phil when you need him?) And I suppose the biggest question is, how do you define nothing?

To define nothing, you have to say something, and something certainly is not nothing. So how do I know when I am doing nothing? If I do anything, does it cancel out my goal of nothing?

To show how desperate I was, I decided to ask the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

"How do I know when I'm doing nothing?" I asked her.

She looked at me with one of those strange looks I have become so familiar with and just stared at me for a few moments. Then with both hands firmly placed on her hips, she answered me.

"It is simply this. You are doing nothing when you are not doing what I asked you to do." Then she produced a thick notebook of things she wanted me to do. A "to-do-list," if you please, for the summer.

It was at that point that it hit me. The only way you can do nothing is if you have something to do. If I don't have anything to do, there is nothing I can do. But if I have something to do and do not do it I am, in fact, doing nothing.

I surprised my wife by taking her to-do-list and clutching it to my bosom. I said to her with a smile, "Thank you for solving my summer problem." With that, I walked off quite cheerfully, knowing that with this list in my hand, I now have a plan to do nothing for the summer. I love it when a plan comes together.

I then did something profitable. I turned to a favorite passage in the Bible. The apostle Paul knew a thing or two about doing things. Paul said, "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:12-13).

It may be difficult to do nothing but it is absolutely impossible to do anything without Christ.

Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 9 of 32

Today



Mostly Sunny
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

High: 85 °F

Tonight



T-storms
Likely

Low: 63 °F

Monday



Chance
T-storms

High: 79 °F

Monday
Night



Chance
T-storms

Low: 62 °F

Tuesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 87 °F

Unsettled Weather Ahead

Tonight especially across south central to northeastern South Dakota

off and on showers and storms through the week

Today
☁️
low 80s
cooler and less humid

Tonight
⚡️
low 60s
highest chance of storms over southeastern SD

Monday
⚡️
Upper 70s
highest chance of storms over E SD & W MN

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
weather.gov/abr

Published on: 06/29/2019 at 11:35PM

Graphic Created 6/30/2019 3:32 AM

Stay weather aware, as off and on unsettled weather returns. Today will be about 10 degrees cooler than yesterday, with the potential for returning storms tonight.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 10 of 32

Today in Weather History

June 30, 1991: Thunderstorms dropped over 2 inches of rain over Brown, Marshall, and Roberts County. The rain washed out many county roads and flooded low-lying areas. Several streets were impassable in Aberdeen. Officially, Aberdeen recorded 1.91 inches of rain.

June 30, 1992: An F2 tornado lifted a roof off a house 18 miles east of Pierre. A barn was destroyed, and power lines and trees were downed. Also, an estimated wind gust of 61 mph was observed 5 miles west of Miller in Hand County.

1792: The first recorded tornado in Canadian history struck the Niagara Peninsula between Foothill and Port Robinson, leveling some houses and uprooting trees between the communities.

1900: The combination of high winds and the presence of wooded fuel-filled cargo helped to spread fire on the Hoboken Docks in New Jersey. The fire began when cotton bales caught fire and spread to nearby volatile liquids. The fire killed at least 300 people and was seen in New York City. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel. Click [HERE](#) for pictures.

1912: An estimated F4 tornado ripped through Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada on this day. The storm became the deadliest tornado in Canada's history as it killed 28 people along a rare, 18.5-mile track from south to north.

1999: Mount Baker, Washington closed out a record snowfall season both for the United States and the verifiable world record as the seasonal total from July 1, 1998, to June 30, 1999, finished with 1,140 inches.

1886 - The second destructive hurricane in nine days hit the Apalachicola-Tallahassee area. (David Ludlum)

1942 - The temperature at Portland, OR, hit 102 degrees, an all-time record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1972 - The entire state of Pennsylvania was declared a disaster area as a result of the catastrophic flooding caused by Hurricane Agnes, which claimed 48 lives, and caused 2.1 billion dollars damage. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Hot weather prevailed in the Pacific Northwest, with readings above 100 degrees reported as far north as southern British Columbia. Yakima, WA, reported a record high of 100 degrees, while temperatures near the Washington coast hovered near 60 degrees all day. Thunderstorms prevailed from southwest Texas to New England. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 100 mph at Gettysburg, PA, killed one person. High winds and large hail caused more than five million dollars damage to property and crops in Lancaster County, PA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms in eastern Kansas drenched Worden with 12.21 inches of rain, and a wall of water two to four feet deep swept through Lone Star, KS, flooding every home in the town. Up to ten inches of rain was reported southeast of Callaway, NE. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 75 mph at Winfield, KS. Seventeen cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Duluth, MN, with a reading of 36 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Winnfield, LA, reported 22.52 inches of rain in three days, and more than thirty inches for the month, a record for June. Shreveport LA received a record 17.11 inches in June, with a total for the first six months of the year of 45.55 inches. Thunderstorms also helped produce record rainfall totals for the month of June of 13.12 inches at Birmingham AL, 14.66 inches at Oklahoma City, OK, 17.41 inches at Tallahassee FL, 9.97 inches at Lynchburg, VA, and more than 10.25 inches at Pittsburgh, PA. Pittsburgh had also experienced a record wet month of May. (The National Weather Summary)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 11 of 32

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 92 °F at 2:06 PM

Low Temp: 74 °F at 2:48 AM

Wind: 27 mph at 3:45 PM

Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 104° in 1931

Record Low: 38° in 1918

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 57°F

Average Precip in June.: 3.59

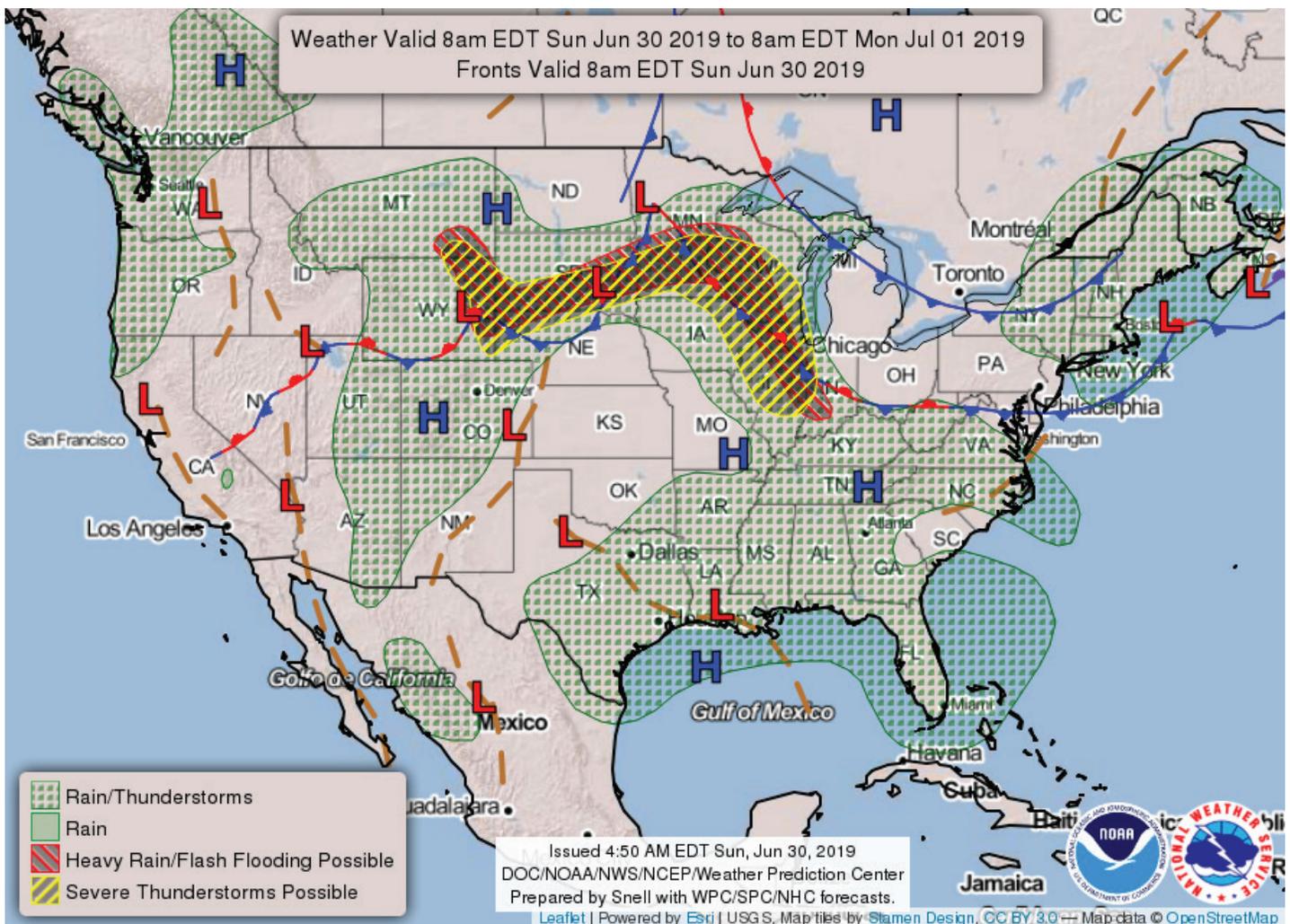
Precip to date in June.: 4.53

Average Precip to date: 10.73

Precip Year to Date: 12.31

Sunset Tonight: 9:26 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:49 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 12 of 32



QUANTITY OR QUALITY?

How do you define the word friend? Is a friend someone who is special or unique or close or a good listener or dependable to help when I'm in trouble? One of these, all of these, or none of these? Do you have someone whom you call friend? Have you ever had what you would call a friend? Would you know one if you have one?

I have a friend who often calls me his best friend when we are engaged in a conversation. Yet, in the same conversation, he talks of others as being my best friend. So, which is it? Am I the best friend? OR, are we all best friends? Confused? Perhaps that's what happens when we make an attempt to define friend.

Solomon wrote, One who has unreliable friends soon comes to trouble, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. In the Hebrew language the first word, friend is better interpreted as companion meaning one who is physically present for a particular purpose or time. The second time the word appears, it is best interpreted as one with whom there is an emotional bonding, a connectedness that is unbreakable. The companion is a casual acquaintance who is unreliable, untrustworthy, lacks discernment, and God's wisdom.

Most of us have experienced both. Unfortunately, though, there have been friends who were bonded to us who disappointed and abandoned when adversity invaded our lives. Enter Jesus, Who said, I will never leave you nor forsake you! Jesus delights in not only calling us servants but friends. How blessed we are to know that the risen Christ refuses to abandon us!

PRAYER: We love You, Father, for being our friend! We take comfort in knowing that although we may forsake You, You will never forsake us. Never! Thank you, In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 18:24 One who has unreliable friends soon comes to trouble, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 13 of 32

2019 Groton SD Community Events

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

2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

03-05-09-19-30

(three, five, nine, nineteen, thirty)

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America

04-30-40-42-48, Star Ball: 10, ASB: 4

(four, thirty, forty, forty-two, forty-eight; Star Ball: ten; ASB: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$21.19 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$83 million

Powerball

13-17-24-59-62, Powerball: 8, Power Play: 2

(thirteen, seventeen, twenty-four, fifty-nine, sixty-two; Powerball: eight; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$137 million

Tracks cleared after 6 train cars derail in South Dakota

NEW UNDERWOOD, S.D. (AP) — Crews have cleared a train derailment in western South Dakota.

Six empty cars of a westbound Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad derailed and overturned in New Underwood on Thursday night.

A spokesman for RCP&E's parent company, Genesee & Wyoming of Darien, Connecticut, tells the Rapid City Journal that a total of 82 cars made up the train that partially derailed.

There were no injuries or hazardous materials involved. The tracks were cleared and back in service Friday night.

The cause of the derailment is under investigation.

Federal officials to review convicted doctor's pension

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — U.S. officials are investigating whether to revoke the honorable discharge of a former Indian Health Service pediatrician convicted of molesting children on Montana's Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

The Billings Gazette reports that Stanley Patrick Weber could lose more than \$100,000 a year in retirement benefits depending on the results of the inquiry announced Wednesday by the U.S. Public Health Commission Corps.

The investigation comes after U.S. Sen. Steve Daines of Montana asked Health Secretary Alex Azar to change Weber's retirement with benefits. Daines says a pedophile should not receive a government pension.

Weber was convicted in January of aggravated sexual abuse of a child and attempted aggravated sexual abuse from his time working at the Blackfeet reservation between 1993 and 1995.

The 20-year IHS pediatrician faces separate child abuse charges at Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Hot local housing market has homebuyers scrambling

By JIM HOLLAND Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Nick and Kayla Hollenbeck really liked the house they looked at last week.

The 3,100-square-foot home at 3027 Sunny Hill Circle in southwest Rapid City featured vaulted ceilings, a fireplace, three bedrooms, 3-1/2 baths, an open kitchen and family room with panoramic views of the Black Hills skyline, a three-car garage, a finished basement and a large well-groomed yard.

What better place for an established family, or a house with room for a young family to grow?

The problem for the Hollenbecks, however, is the home is significantly out of their desired price range.

The Hollenbecks and their four-month-old daughter, Cora, have been caught in what has become a white-hot housing market in Rapid City.

The family recently moved here from Mitchell and are staying with Kayla Hollenbeck's parents while looking for a home of their own.

They have made offers on less expensive properties, only to be shut out.

"We have put in offers on three houses and lost all three of them," Kayla Hollenbeck told the Rapid City Journal. "It's been disappointing."

"One, we never had a chance to counter our original offer," Nick Hollenbeck added. "They just sold to a higher offer."

So now the couple is expanding their search to a higher price range and to areas of town they might not have looked at before.

"We're looking at everything, including houses that are more than we would be comfortable paying just in the hopes that we can find something," Kayla Hollenbeck said.

The current real estate crunch is as much a shortfall in the number of homes typically on the market in late spring and early summer — a prime time for home sales — as well as strong demand created by factors that include growth in the number of jobs in the local health care industry and younger couples moving up from apartment living.

A healthy housing market for the greater Rapid City area would be 600 to 700 homes for sale, said realtor Perry Grosz of EXIT Realty Black Hills of Rapid City.

As of June 21, there were fewer than half that number of homes and townhomes available in Rapid City and its surrounding bedroom communities, which includes Box Elder to the east, Piedmont, Elk Creek and Nemo Road to the west and Hermosa to the south.

"In all of that big area, a 20-mile circle, there's only 345 homes or townhomes you can buy," Grosz said.

The market has been especially hot for homes in the \$250,000 price range, with those listings being sold in some cases in a matter of hours.

"\$230,000 is the average. Anything under that is not on the market very long at all," said realtor Jennifer Brue of Keller Williams Black Hills Realty. "For a lot of sellers, if you're in the right price range at the right time, it goes within the first week of being on the market."

Grosz said homes are being purchased sight unseen. Realtors do a walk-through with live social media videos with their clients.

"They'll be writing offers basically sight unseen. They haven't been on site," he said.

Brue said the home on Sunny Hill Circle, viewed by the Hollenbecks last week, has been on the market since mid-May, initially priced at \$398,000 and drawing strong interest at first.

A recent \$10,000 reduction in the asking price combined with potential buyers needing to widen their range should increase the showings again, she said.

With the shortage of available properties, market pressure can only expand to higher and higher price ranges, Grosz said.

"The numbers just keep moving up," he said.

The shortage of homes on the market also comes as the economy continues to stabilize from the deep recession a decade ago, with more people staying in their homes, said Pam Heiberger, president of the Black Hills Association of Realtors.

"This isn't a concentrated thing in just our Rapid City area. It's throughout the country as far as a housing shortage goes," she said. "We're not the only ones getting hit."

The economic outlook for Rapid City continues to look bright, with ongoing growth and the expected expansion at

Ellsworth Air Force Base with the deployment of the B-21 Raider bomber, expected in the mid-2020s.

"We're good here in the Rapid City area for the next five, if not probably up to 10 years, from what's going to happen," Grosz said.

For the Hollenbecks, just finding a place to live for their growing family is the priority.

"The search continues," Kayla said. "That's what we keep saying."

Heiberger said now is the time for anyone considering selling a home, as many families look to move now to be settled before school starts in the fall.

"It's a good time to be a seller," she said. "If buyers can be patient, the right home will come along."

Baby lobster numbers spell trouble for shellfish population

By PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Baby lobsters are continuing to appear in high numbers off some parts of Canada while tailing off in New England, raising questions about what the valuable shellfish's population will look like in several years.

University of Maine scientist Rick Wahle has documented trends in baby lobster density for years, and released new data for 2018 this month. The new data reinforce recent trends about lobsters that show upticks off sites in Atlantic Canada, such as some areas in Nova Scotia, Wahle said. Meanwhile, the Gulf of Maine reported below average numbers from Bar Harbor to Cape Cod, he said.

Young lobsters settle into the ocean bottom, where they take shelter as they grow. Wahle tracks where lobsters are settling in 23 areas from Rhode Island to Prince Edward Island, Canada. This year's data showed high totals in Canadian locations such as St. Mary's Bay, Nova Scotia, and the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, but low numbers in Maine fishing areas such as the Midcoast region and Casco Bay.

American fishermen compete with Canada for the same species of lobster, which anchors one of the most lucrative fisheries in either country. Some scientists have said the shellfish appear to be moving north as waters warm.

"It's as if this wave that has crested in Maine is now increasing in Atlantic Canada," Wahle said.

New England's commercial harvest of lobster has been strong in recent years, but it's dependent on young lobsters growing to maturity. Some New England sites, such as those off Rhode Island, show few baby lobsters at all.

Signs about the future of the lobster fishery in Maine are mixed, as state government surveys have also shown large numbers of lobsters that have not yet reached legal size residing in deeper waters, Wahle said. Still, the decline in settlement in the Gulf of Maine has "raised concerns over the future of this region's fishery," according to his annual update of his American Lobster Settlement Index.

America's lobster industry is based mostly in Maine, and its haul of the crustaceans has been high all decade. The state's catch peaked at an all-time high of 132.6 million in 2016 before falling to 111.9 million — still a historically high number — in 2017.

The haul rebounded to nearly 120 million pounds (54 million kilograms) last year, and the price lobstermen received for their catch was also strong, as the fishery nearly topped half a billion dollars in value at the docks for the third time in history. The shellfish are easily available for many U.S. consumers, especially in the Northeast, and retail prices have been steady.

But lobstermen face challenges such as new protections designed to aid endangered North Atlantic right whales. The fishery is also facing a bait shortage.

Democratic Rep. Jared Golden of Maine has said the federal government is asking Maine lobstermen, whose industry is critical to the state, "to make huge sacrifices without clear evidence that those sacrifices will have any positive impact on right whales." Conservationists have said the new protections are needed

to save the whales, which number only slightly more than 400, from extinction.

Schumer: ATF should investigate Dominican Republic deaths

By MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Senate's top Democrat called on the U.S. government Sunday to step up its efforts to investigate the deaths of Americans who traveled to the Dominican Republic and is asking the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to get involved.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said the agency should step in to lend investigative support to the FBI and local law enforcement officials after at least eight Americans died in the Dominican Republic this year. Family members of the tourists have called on authorities to investigate whether there's any connection between the deaths and have raised the possibility the deaths may have been caused by adulterated alcohol or misused pesticides.

The ATF — the agency primarily investigates firearms-related crimes but is also charged with regulating alcohol and tobacco — is uniquely positioned to provide technical and forensic expertise in the investigation, Schumer said. The agency also has offices in the Caribbean.

"Given that we still have a whole lot of questions and very few answers into just what, if anything, is cause for the recent spate of sicknesses and several deaths of Americans in the Dominican Republic, the feds should double their efforts on helping get to the bottom of things," Schumer said in a statement to The Associated Press.

An ATF spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Francisco Javier García, the tourism minister in the Dominican Republic, said earlier this month that the deaths are not part of any mysterious wave of fatalities but instead are a statistically normal phenomenon that has been lumped together by the U.S. media. He said autopsies show the tourists died of natural causes.

Five of the autopsies were complete as of last week, while three were undergoing further toxicological analysis with the help from the FBI because of the circumstances of the deaths.

Taliban say latest round of talks with US 'critical'

By KATHY GANNON Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The seventh and latest round of peace talks between the U.S. and Taliban is "critical," said Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen on Sunday, the second day of talks with Washington's peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad in the Mideastern state of Qatar, where the militant group maintains a political office.

Shaheen told The Associated Press both sides are looking for "tangible results" as they try to hammer out the fine print of agreements that will see the eventual withdrawal of over 20,000 U.S. and NATO troops from Afghanistan, and end America's longest-running war.

The agreements are also expected to provide guarantees that Afghanistan will not again harbor terrorists to carry out attacks worldwide.

The talks began on Saturday and are expected to continue into the next week.

The two sides sat down to negotiate just days after U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Washington was hopeful of a deal to end Afghanistan's protracted war by Sept. 1.

"Getting a comprehensive peace agreement with the Taliban before Sept. 1 would be nothing short of a miracle," said Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia Program at the U.S.-based Wilson's Center.

"That said, I could certainly envision a more limited deal being in place by Sept. 1 on a U.S. troop withdrawal, given that there's already been ample progress on this issue."

Pompeo and Khalilzad have both said the final accord will include not only agreements with the Taliban on troop withdrawal and guarantees of a non-threatening Afghanistan, but also agreement on intra-Afghan dialogue and a permanent cease fire.

Until now the Taliban have refused direct talks with the Afghan government while holding two separate

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 18 of 32

meetings with a wide array of prominent Afghans from Kabul, including former president Hamid Karzai, members of the former northern alliance that fought the Taliban during its five-year rule as well as members of the government.

The Taliban have said they will meet government officials but as ordinary Afghans, labeling President Ashraf Ghani's government a U.S. puppet and noting that the U.S. is the final arbiter on their central issue, which is troop withdrawal.

The Taliban have refused a ceasefire until the withdrawal is complete, saying that to restart their insurgency if the U.S. reneges on its promises could be difficult.

But the accelerated pace of negotiations and the sudden announcement of a Sept. 1 target date for an agreement could be linked to Afghan President Ghani's insistence on presidential polls scheduled for Sept. 28 in Afghanistan, say analysts.

The upcoming elections have been criticized by many of his political opponents who often point to last October's parliamentary polls. The voting was so badly mismanaged that Ghani fired the entire Independent Election Commission, and several of the parliamentary seats are still being contested.

A biometric identification system aimed at reducing election fraud was prematurely rolled out for the polls, with the few people trained on the machines not showing up on election day.

While there were incidences of violence during the polling, analysts widely agreed the greatest flaw was the widespread mismanagement and fraud.

Khalilzad has also suggested that presidential elections could hamper reaching a peace agreement.

"I do think the U.S. government recognizes that the election could pose a major obstacle to peace talks, given that it will be a distraction and given that it will accentuate and intensify the fractures and rivalries in the Afghan political environment that undercut reconciliation prospects," said Kugelman.

"Another reason for the focus on Sept. 1 is much simpler: President Trump wants out, and he wants a deal as soon as possible."

Wide grins and historic handshake for Trump, Kim at DMZ

By ZEKE MILLER and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP) — With wide grins and a historic handshake, President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un met at the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone on Sunday and agreed to revive talks on the pariah nation's nuclear program. Trump, pressing his bid for a legacy-defining deal, became the first sitting American leader to step into North Korea.

What was intended to be an impromptu exchange of pleasantries turned into a 50-minute meeting, another historic first in the yearlong rapprochement between the two technically warring nations. It marked a return to face-to-face contact between the leaders after talks broke down during a summit in Vietnam in February. Significant doubts remain, though, about the future of the negotiations and the North's willingness to give up its stockpile of nuclear weapons.

The border encounter was a made-for television moment. The men strode toward one another from opposite sides of the Joint Security Area and shook hands over the raised patch of concrete at the Military Demarcation Line as cameras clicked and photographers jostled to capture the scene.

After asking if Kim wanted him to cross, Trump took 10 steps into the North with Kim at his side, then escorted Kim back to the South for talks at Freedom House, where they agreed to revive the stalled negotiations.

The spectacle marked the latest milestone in two years of roller-coaster diplomacy between the two nations. Personal taunts of "Little Rocket Man" (by Trump) and "mentally deranged U.S. dotard" (by Kim) and threats to destroy one other have given way to on-again, off-again talks, professions of love and flowery letters.

"I was proud to step over the line," Trump told Kim as they met in on the South Korean side of the truce village of Panmunjom. "It is a great day for the world."

Kim hailed the moment, saying of Trump, "I believe this is an expression of his willingness to eliminate

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 19 of 32

all the unfortunate past and open a new future." Kim added that he was "surprised" when Trump issued an unorthodox meeting invitation by tweet on Saturday.

As he left South Korea on his flight to Washington, Trump tweeted that he had "a wonderful meeting" with Kim. "Stood on the soil of North Korea, an important statement for all, and a great honor!"

Trump had predicted the two would greet one another for about "two minutes," but they ended up spending more than an hour together. The president was joined in the Freedom House conversation with Kim by his daughter and son-in-law, Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner, both senior White House advisers.

Substantive talks between the countries had largely broken down after the last Trump-Kim summit in Hanoi, which ended early when the leaders hit an impasse.

The North has balked at Trump's insistence that it give up its weapons before it sees relief from crushing international sanctions. The U.S. has said the North must submit to "complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization" before sanctions are lifted.

As he announced the resumption of talks, Trump told reporters "we're not looking for speed. We're looking to get it right."

He added that economic sanctions on the North would remain. But he seemed to move off the administration's previous rejection of scaling back sanctions in return for piecemeal North Korean concessions, saying, "At some point during the negotiation things can happen."

Peering into North Korea from atop Observation Post Ouellette, Trump told reporters before he greeted Kim that there had been "tremendous" improvement since his first meeting with the North's leader in Singapore last year.

Trump claimed the situation used to be marked by "tremendous danger" but "after our first summit, all of the danger went away."

But the North has yet to provide an accounting of its nuclear stockpile, let alone begin the process of dismantling its arsenal.

The latest meeting, with the U.S. president coming to Kim, represented a striking acknowledgement by Trump of the authoritarian Kim's legitimacy over a nation with an abysmal human rights record. Kim is suspected of having ordered the killing of his half brother through a plot using a nerve agent at a Malaysian airport in 2017. Meantime, the United Nations said in May that about 10 million people in North Korea are suffering from "severe food shortages" after the North had one of the worst harvests in a decade.

Trump told reporters he invited the North Korean leader to the United States, and potentially even to the White House.

"I would invite him right now," Trump said, standing next to Kim. Speaking through a translator, Kim responded that it would be an "honor" to invite Trump to the North Korean capital of Pyongyang "at the right time."

Trump became the first sitting U.S. president to meet with the leader of the isolated nation last year when they signed an agreement in Singapore to bring the North toward denuclearization.

In the midst of the DMZ gathering, Trump repeatedly complained that he was not receiving more praise for de-escalating tensions on the Korean Peninsula through his personal diplomacy with Kim. Critics say Trump had actually inflamed tensions with his threats to rain "fire and fury" on North Korea, before embracing a diplomatic approach.

North Korea's nuclear threat has not been contained, according to Richard Haas, president of the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations. He tweeted Sunday that the threat of conflict has subsided only because the Trump administration has decided it can live with North Korea's "nuclear program while it pursues the chimera of denuclearization."

Every president since Ronald Reagan has visited the 1953 armistice line, except for George H.W. Bush, who visited when he was vice president. The show of bravado and support for South Korea, one of America's closest military allies, has evolved over the years to include binoculars and bomber jackets.

While North Korea has not recently tested a long-range missile that could reach the U.S., last month it fired off a series of short-range missiles. Trump has brushed off the significance of those tests, even as his own national security adviser, John Bolton, has said they violated U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

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Kim-Trump border meeting: History or just a photo-op?

By FOSTER KLUG Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — It sure looked historic: President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un strode toward each other Sunday from opposite sides of a strip of land that marks one of the world's most dangerous places. They shook hands and then Trump stepped over the concrete slab that marks the borderline between the Koreas, becoming the first U.S. president to set foot in North Korean territory.

But then again, the undeniably made-for-TV moment also had all the elements, as a cacophony of critics will quickly remind you, of the grandstanding photo-ops that some say characterize the Trump era.

So what was it?

A crass, reality-show grab for attention? Another history-making step forward — Trump called it “legendary” — in two highly unorthodox leaders' attempts to fundamentally change a relationship marked by decades of mistrust, bloodshed and frustration?

Sunday's sometimes surreal, sometimes chaotic encounter in the divided border village of Panmunjom was probably a little of both. In one moment, reporters and security officials jostled each other in a scrum to get a shot of the action; in the next, Kim and Trump emerged from private meetings with an agreement to restart nuclear disarmament talks.

It's never easy to sift through the frenzied reactions that proliferate whenever Trump and Kim take to the world stage, and the dramatic setting of this meeting was bound to heighten the noise. But whatever you might think of what happened, history will likely judge it on a single point: Will it help address the North's headlong pursuit of a fully functioning arsenal of nuclear weapons that can strike anywhere in the U.S.?

IT'S A REALITY SHOW

With a single tweet inviting Kim to the border, Trump on Saturday overshadowed the summit in Japan of the leaders of the Group of 20 major economies he'd ostensibly come to Asia for and back-footed the small army of Democrats jockeying to replace him in next year's presidential election.

The world's attention Sunday was suddenly riveted on the Demilitarized Zone that separates the rival Koreas, waiting to see if Kim would accept the hasty invitation to a place where burly troops from two nations that are still technically at war glare at each other across the borderline.

Once you move past the striking backdrop, however, there is a persistent and deepening skepticism among many experts that Trump is pursuing anything more than his own narrow interests.

They point out that for all the drama that has accompanied the Kim-Trump meetings, nothing has yet settled the stalemate the rivals now find themselves in: Washington wants the North to move much faster toward full nuclear disarmament before it grants the security guarantees and huge cuts in crushing outside sanctions Pyongyang wants; North Korea says the United States is losing a crucial opportunity by not providing concessions for the North's offer to scrap its main nuclear plant.

Widespread doubt has met each step in the strange, surprising relationship Trump and Kim have been building — from Kim's 2017 insults on Trump's intelligence and Trump's vows to unleash “fire and fury” that had many fearing war to the professions of love and respect and the exchange of “beautiful” letters after diplomacy took hold in early 2018.

The diplomacy beats the threats, these critics say, but each time Trump comes away emptyhanded from a new meeting, he only further legitimizes Kim as an accepted nuclear power.

NO, NO: IT'S SOMETHING BIG

The feeling that the handshake and brief march by Trump and Kim into the North could be part of some-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 21 of 32

thing special is linked in part to just how far North Korea and the United States have come to get here. The Korean Peninsula was split at the end of World War II into a Soviet-controlled north and U.S.-backed South. Then, after the terror of the 1950-53 Korean War, it was divided permanently along the Demilitarized Zone, with a U.S.-led U.N. Command controlling the southern side of the border area.

A succession of U.S. presidents and senior officials has trooped up to the DMZ over the decades to look with steely resolve into the North. There have been ax killings, U.S. bomber fly-bys and desperate defections — and that's just at the border.

Since the early 1990s, Washington and Pyongyang have been locked in confrontation as the North has steadily, through famine, leadership changes and crushing poverty, built its nuclear bomb program.

While it's open to debate if Sunday's meeting will be ultimately transforming, overall there has certainly been a sea change in the relationship between Trump and Kim — something Trump regularly mentions.

To take it to the next level, John Delury, a Korea expert at Seoul's Yonsei University, tweeted, "North Korea has to be made to feel less threatened, more secure, less under siege, more welcome in the world. ... For Donald Trump to meet with Kim Jong Un, however briefly, on a Sunday in the DMZ — a barren no man's land that embodies the unhealed wound of post-WWII division, the Korean War, and 70 years of animosity — advances the cause of 'establishing new relations.'"

There's also hope that even if this was mostly for the cameras, it can still push forward the diplomacy and help Kim build momentum domestically for stronger engagement — and possible disarmament.

The Kim-Trump summits have been breakthroughs in relations, "but they also revealed the limits of personality-driven diplomacy when it's not backed up by working-level talks held on a regular basis," according to Suzanne DiMaggio, an analyst at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace think tank.

What's needed now, she wrote earlier this month, is "serious diplomacy to manage the uncertainties ahead and resolve a range of difficult issues."

Foster Klug is the AP news director for the Koreas, Japan, Australia and the South Pacific, and has covered North Korea since 2005. Follow him at www.twitter.com/apklug

DMZ diplomacy: Kim accepts Trump invite to meet at border

By ZEKE MILLER and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — President Donald Trump will meet Sunday with North Korea's Kim Jong Un at the Demilitarized Zone separating the North and South, a day after he issued an unprecedented invitation and expressed willingness to cross the border for what would be a history-making photo op.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in announced that Kim accepted Trump's invitation to meet when the U.S. president visits the heavily fortified site at the Korean border village of Panmunjom.

Moon praised the two leaders for "being so brave" to hold the meeting and said, "I hope President Trump will go down in history as the president who achieves peace on Korean Peninsula."

Trump said he looked forward to meeting with Kim, but sought to tamp down expectations, predicting it would be "very short," he said. "Virtually a handshake, but that's OK. A handshake means a lot."

Officials spent Sunday morning working out logistical and security details, Trump said during an earlier appearance with Moon.

The invitation, while long rumored in diplomatic circles, still came across as an impulsive display of showmanship by a president bent on obtaining a legacy-defining nuclear deal. North Korea responded by calling the offer a "very interesting suggestion."

Presidential visits to the DMZ are traditionally carefully guarded secrets for security reasons. White House officials couldn't immediately say whether Kim had agreed to meet with Trump. The president himself claimed before flying from Japan to South Korea that he wasn't even sure Kim was in North Korea to accept the invitation.

"All I did is put out a feeler, if you'd like to meet," Trump said in Japan. He added, somewhat implausibly: "I just thought of it this morning."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 22 of 32

Before arriving in Seoul, Trump said at a news conference in Japan that he'd "feel very comfortable" crossing the border into North Korea if Kim showed up, saying he'd "have no problem" becoming the first U.S. president to step into North Korea.

His comments followed hours after Trump asked for Kim to meet him there. "If Chairman Kim of North Korea sees this, I would meet him at the Border/DMZ just to shake his hand and say Hello(?)" he tweeted.

It was not immediately clear what the agenda, if any, would be for the potential third Trump-Kim meeting. "If he's there we'll see each other for two minutes," Trump predicted.

Such a spectacle would present a valuable propaganda victory for Kim, who, with his family, has long been denied the recognition they sought on the international stage.

Despite Trump's comments Saturday, he had told The Hill newspaper in Washington in an interview this past week that he would be visiting the DMZ and "might" meet with Kim. The paper reported it had withheld Trump's comments, citing security concerns by the White House.

North Korea's first vice foreign minister, Choe Son Hui, said the meeting, if realized, would serve as "another meaningful occasion in further deepening the personal relations between the two leaders and advancing the bilateral relations."

Meeting with Trump at South Korea's presidential Blue House on Sunday, Moon said when he saw Trump's invitation to Kim, "I could really feel that the flower of peace was truly blossoming on the Korean peninsula." Moon, who will accompany Trump to the DMZ, added that the meeting - if it happens - would be a "significant milestone in the peace process."

Trump's summit with Kim in Vietnam earlier this year collapsed without an agreement for denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. He became the first sitting U.S. president to meet with the leader of the isolated nation last year, when they signed an agreement in Singapore to bring the North toward denuclearization.

Substantive talks between the nations have largely broken down since then. The North has balked at Trump's insistence that it give up its weapons before it sees relief from crushing international sanctions.

Still, Trump has sought to praise Kim, who oversees an authoritarian government, in hopes of keeping the prospects of a deal alive, and the two have traded flowery letters in recent weeks.

Every president since Ronald Reagan has visited the 1953 armistice line, except for George H.W. Bush, who visited when he was vice president. The show of bravado and support for South Korea, one of America's closest military allies, has evolved over the years to include binoculars and bomber jackets.

Trump, ever the showman, appears to be looking to one-up his predecessors with a Kim meeting.

As he left the White House for Asia earlier this week, Trump was asked whether he'd meet with Kim.

"I'll be meeting with a lot of other people ... but I may be speaking to him in a different form," Trump said.

Such trips to the demilitarized zone are usually undertaken under heavy security and the utmost secrecy. Trump tried to visit the DMZ when he was in Seoul in November 2017, but his helicopter was grounded by heavy fog.

Trump has staked his self-professed deal-making reputation on his rapprochement with the North and has even turned it into a campaign rallying cry. Trump has repeatedly alleged that if he had lost the 2016 presidential campaign, the U.S. would be "at war" with North Korea over its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.

The meeting would come at a time of escalating tensions. While North Korea has not recently tested a long-range missile that could reach the U.S., last month it fired off a series of short-range missiles. Trump has brushed off the significance of the tests, even as his own national security adviser, John Bolton, has said they violated U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Associated Press writers Hyung-jin Kim and Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul, South Korea, and Darlene Superville and Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

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Migrant aid ship rams Italian police boat; captain arrested

By ANNALISA CAMILLI and FRANCES D'EMILIO Associated Press

LAMPEDUSA, Sicily (AP) — The German captain of a humanitarian rescue ship with 40 migrants aboard has been arrested after she rammed her vessel into an Italian border police motorboat while docking at a tiny Mediterranean island Saturday in defiance of Italy's anti-migrant interior minister.

Jeering onlookers shouted "handcuffs, handcuffs" as Carola Rackete, the 31-year-old captain, was escorted off the boat at Lampedusa, which is closer to north Africa than to the Italian mainland.

The migrants, meanwhile, hugged personnel of the German Sea-Watch charity who helped them during their 17 days at sea. Some kissed the ground after disembarking from Sea-Watch 3 at dawn's break.

The migrants had been rescued from an unseaworthy vessel launched by Libya-based human traffickers but Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini had refused to let them disembark on Lampedusa until other European Union countries agreed to take them. Five nations pledged to do so on Friday: Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Portugal.

The humanitarian rescue operation ended dramatically and violently when Rackete decided she could no longer wait for permission to dock given the odyssey of the migrants aboard.

"It's enough. After 16 days following the rescue, #SeaWatch3 enters in port," the organization tweeted early Saturday shortly before the ship started heading dockside.

The captain steered her vessel toward the island before dawn, ramming the much smaller police boat, which was blocking Sea-Watch 3's path to the dock.

In past years, Lampedusa had won international praise for its generous welcome to many of the hundreds of thousands of rescued migrants.

But even as the migrants' numbers dwindled as Italy cracked down on private rescue ships, many Italians lost patience, including economic migrants ineligible for asylum. Salvini's anti-migrant League party has soared in popularity.

Some on the island applauded when the migrants disembarked. But another group yelled insults, including "Gypsy, go home" to the captain. A senator from the opposition Democrats, Davide Faraone, filmed the intense scene and then posted it on Twitter.

"You must handcuff her immediately," a woman shouted before Rackete was hustled into a police car.

Her lawyer, Leonardo Marino, told Italian state TV that she was arrested for investigation of resisting a warship, a reference to plowing into the motorboat of the customs and border police force. No one was injured but the motorboat's side was damaged. If convicted, Rackete risks up to 10 years in prison.

She also risks a fine as high as 50,000 euros (\$58,000) under a recent Salvini-backed law cracking down on private rescue vessels. Any fine might be covered by a reported 100,000 euros supporters in Italy recently donated to help Sea-Watch.

Salvini slammed the captain's defiance, branding her actions as tantamount to an "act of war."

"I have asked for the arrest of an outlaw who put (lives) at risk," Salvini told RAI state radio. He also ordered that authorities sequester the ship, "which went around the Mediterranean breaking laws."

Sea-Watch defended Rackete's actions. "She enforced the rights of the rescued people to be disembarked to a place of safety," Sea-Watch said in a statement.

But a Sicily-based prosecutor, Luigi Patronaggio, indicated otherwise. "Humanitarian reasons cannot justify inadmissible acts against those who work at sea for the safety of everybody," ANSA quoted the prosecutor as saying.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas appeared to criticize the Italian decision to arrest the captain.

"Saving lives is a humanitarian duty," he said on Twitter. "Rescue at sea must not be criminalized. It's up to the Italian justice system to swiftly resolve the allegations."

A judge will decide after closed-door hearings in coming days whether Rackete should be freed or stay under house arrest while the investigation continues.

Among those backing the captain's conduct was a leader of Germany's Green party, Robert Habeck.

"The arrest of Captain Rackete shows the nefariousness of the Italian government and the dilemma of European refugee policy," he told German media group RND. "The real scandal is the drownings in the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 24 of 32

Mediterranean, the lack of legal pathways to flee and the absence of a European distribution mechanism.”

His outrage was echoed by the head of Germany’s Protestant Church, Heinrich Bedford-Strohm.

“A young woman is arrested in a European country because she saved human lives and wanted to bring the rescued people to land safely,” he said in a statement. “(This is) a disgrace for Europe!”

Thousands of migrants have drowned trying to reach European shores in recent years aboard migrant smugglers’ unseaworthy vessels.

Democratic Party lawmaker Graziano Delrio, after disembarking himself, likened her actions to that of a driver of a Red Cross ambulance “which goes through a red light” to speed ailing patients to a hospital.

Sea-Watch 3 had rescued 53 people on June 12, but later 13 of the migrants were taken to Italy for medical care.

After reaching Italy following rescue at sea, migrants are transferred to centers where they can file initial asylum request documentation. Even if their asylum bids failed, many migrants manage to stay in the country or try to make their way to northern Europe where many have relatives.

The overwhelming majority of the migrants’ home countries don’t have repatriation agreements with Italy, meaning even if their asylum bids are rebuffed, Italy can’t expel them, despite Salvini’s pledges.

Frances D’Emilio reported from Rome. Associated Press writer Frank Jordans in Berlin contributed to this report.

Ye Olde Slugfest: Yanks top Red Sox 17-13 in MLB Euro debut

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

LONDON (AP) — Rest assured, British fans: Most baseball games are not like this, not even the crazy ones between the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox.

Major League Baseball arrived in Europe on Saturday night with Ye Olde Slugfest. Each team scored six runs in a first inning that lasted nearly an hour, with Aaron Hicks hitting the first European homer . Brett Gardner had a tiebreaking, two-run drive in the third, Aaron Judge went deep to cap a six-run fourth and the Yankees outlasted their rivals 17-13 in a game that stretched for 4 hours, 42 minutes — 3 minutes shy of the record for a nine-inning game.

“Well, cricket takes like all weekend to play, right? So, I’m sure a lot of people are used to it,” Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. “We should remind them there’s not 30 runs every game.”

Before a sellout crowd of 59,659 at Olympic Stadium that included supporters from Britain, Beantown and the Big Apple plus royalty, batters behaved like good tourists and minded the gaps — and the fences. As a Union Jack fluttered above center field along with the Stars and Stripes, both teams jacked and jacked and jacked.

“I think we’re getting as good a reception as football has for the last couple years,” Yankees first baseman Luke Voit said.

AL batting leader DJ LeMahieu had four hits and five RBIs , including a three-run double in the fourth and a two-run single in the fifth that opened a 17-6 lead. Voit had four hits, including three doubles, before leaving with a left abdominal injury in the fifth. He’ll be evaluated before Sunday’s series finale.

No British reserve with these offenses. Hicks was especially proud to hit the first homer.

“That’s something they can never take from me,” he said.

New York set season highs for runs and hits by the fifth inning and outhit Boston 19-18 overall as both teams batted around twice. The 30 runs were the most in a big league game since Boston beat Baltimore 19-12 last Aug. 10, according to STATS.

Red Sox rookie Michael Chavis hit a pair of three-run homers, the second in a six-run seventh .

“Definitely the biggest crowd I’ve played in front of. The loudest, as well,” Chavis said. “With the overhang, there was kind of an echo.”

Jackie Bradley Jr. had four hits, including a home run . Boston shortstop Xander Bogaerts left in the eighth after calf muscles in both legs cramped , then said he should be available Sunday.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 25 of 32

Boston starter Rick Porcello and New York's Masahiro Tanaka got hammered — fittingly in the home of the Premier League soccer club West Ham, nicknamed the Hammers. Neither got out of a first inning that lasted 58 minutes and included 20 batters and 94 pitches. It took 1:51 to play the first three innings and 2:58 for 4½, but unlike in cricket, the teams did not break for tea.

Zack Britton retired Marco Hernandez on a bases-loaded grounder that ended the eighth, and Sam Travis hit into a game-ending double play against Aroldis Chapman on the 422nd pitch.

"The stadium, the atmosphere, just looking up into the outfield and seeing all those people there, it is pretty special to play out there," LeMahieu said.

Chad Green (2-2) allowed four hits in two scoreless innings. Steven Wright (0-1) lost in his first decision and second appearance since an 80-game suspension for a positive drug test.

New York won for the 12th time in 13 games, maintained a seven-game lead over second-place Tampa Bay in the AL East and reached the halfway mark at 53-28, one fewer win than at last year's midpoint. The defending World Series champion Red Sox dropped a season-high 10 games back at 44-39.

The 2,200th regular-season meeting between the teams was a scorcher — the hottest day of the year in London at 93 degrees Fahrenheit (34 Celsius), and still 92 when the first pitch was thrown at 6:10 p.m. And it was the first on artificial turf.

While Boston was the home team and hit last, both teams wore their white home uniforms. Prince Harry and wife Meghan Markle, the Duchess of Sussex, met with both teams and took part in the ceremonial first pitch ceremony. Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani was on hand, as he was when the Yankees played Tampa Bay at the Tokyo Dome in 2004.

"I got chills from our intros coming out," Judge said.

Organizers brought touches of home, such as the grounds crew dancing to the Village People's "YMCA." The sound system played "Sweet Caroline" in the eighth and "New York, New York" after the final out.

But there were misfires, too. When Gary Sánchez struck out in the second, music was played that usually follows a New York run being scored at Yankee Stadium.

Porcello got just one out in the shortest of his 324 career starts.

"I couldn't execute the pitches," he said. "There's no excuse for it. It was an unacceptable performance."

Tanaka got two outs as he failed to finish the first inning for the first time in 149 major league starts. It was the first time in the rivalry that both teams scored six or more runs in the opening inning and the first big league game involving any teams in which that occurred since visiting Toronto led Oakland 7-6 on June 23, 1989.

Before all the runs, New York gave Prince Harry and Markle a Yankees shirt as a gift for their new son Archie,

"He said if we win, he's going to let the baby wear the shirt," Didi Gregorius said. "I hope he remembers that."

BETWEEN INNINGS

Jason Diamond, visiting from New York, won the third-inning race against The Freeze, who came over from Atlanta. ... Freddie Mercury won the racing mascots, beating Winston Churchill, King Henry VIII and the Loch Ness Monster.

WEB GEM

Yankees RF Mike Tauchman made a diving, backhand grab to rob Travis in the seventh.

THE SHINING

Outfielders had trouble picking up balls because of white seats and tables of the white press tribune built for soccer, and also because of the late-setting European sun.

LONG NIGHT

Edwin Encarnación struck out five times.

FASCINATING

Yankees radio broadcaster Suzyn Waldman wore a fascinator, more commonly seen at Royal Ascot than a baseball game.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Yankees: RHP Domingo Germán is scheduled to return from a strained hip flexor and start Wednesday at the New York Mets, a day after LHP J.A. Happ starts the opener of the two-game Subway Series. LHP CC Sabathia will start in the following series at Tampa Bay. ... RHP Luis Severino (lat strain) had another setback and still has not thrown off a mound. Boone said an MRI showed the lat is about 90% healed and Severino probably will resume throwing in 5-7 days. ... RHP Dellin Betances (lat strain) probably will resume throwing next week.

Red Sox: LHP Brian Johnson was put on the 10-day IL because of an unspecified medical matter not related to baseball.

UP NEXT

LHP Eduardo Rodriguez starts Sunday's series finale for Boston and lefty reliever Stephen Tarpley for New York.

More AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/MLB> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Cease-fire in US-China trade war doesn't bridge differences

By PAUL WISEMAN and KELVIN CHAN AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Once again, Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping have hit the reset button in trade talks between the world's two biggest economies, at least delaying an escalation in tension between the U.S. and China that had financial markets on edge and cast a cloud over the global economy.

But when U.S. and Chinese negotiators sit down to work out details, the same difficult task remains: getting China to convince the United States that it will curb its aggressive push to challenge American technological dominance — and then to live up to its promises.

At the Group of 20 meeting in Osaka, Japan, Trump and Xi agreed to a cease-fire in the trade conflict. Trump said Saturday he would hold off for the "time being" on plans to impose tariffs on \$300 billion more in Chinese imports — on top of the \$250 billion he's already targeted. This decision will jump-start trade talks that stalled last month.

"We're going to work with China where we left off," Trump said Saturday. He also said China had agreed to buy more American farm products.

Andy Rothman, an investment strategist with Matthews Asia and a former economic official with the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, said the Trump-Xi meeting was more conciliatory than he expected. He was struck by Trump's use of the term "strategic partner" to describe U.S. relations with China after other administration officials have played up the geopolitical rivalry between the two countries.

Addressing another contentious issue, Trump said he will now allow U.S. companies to sell some components to Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, which last month was put on an American blacklist as a threat to national security. Trump said that Huawei will stay on the blacklist, however, and that its future won't be decided until the end of the trade talks.

Neil Shearing, London-based chief economist at Capital Economics, predicted that financial markets will rally with relief when they reopen Monday. "But I don't think this marks the turning of the tide," he said. "Talks will ebb and flow, but the direction over the next 12 months will be toward renewed escalation because issues around industrial strategy will prove to be so intractable."

The Trump administration says China is trying to cheat its way to dominance in the cutting-edge technologies of the future such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing.

In a report last year, the Office of the United States Trade Representative accused Beijing of resorting to predatory tactics to challenge American technological supremacy.

These include forcing foreign companies to hand over technology in exchange for access to the Chinese market; subsidizing its own companies (especially those owned by the state) while burying foreign firms in regulations; providing government money so Chinese firms can buy sensitive foreign technology at above-market prices; and stealing trade secrets outright.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 27 of 32

Eleven rounds of talks failed to end the standoff. The United States has imposed 25% import taxes on \$250 billion in Chinese products and threatened to target \$300 billion more — a move that would extend the tariffs to virtually everything China ships to the United States.

China has lashed back with tariffs on \$110 billion in American goods, focusing on agricultural products in a direct and painful shot at Trump supporters in the U.S. farm belt.

The last time Trump and Xi met — in early December at a G-20 gathering in Buenos Aires, Argentina — they also reached a cease-fire that injected new life into the talks. But the momentum didn't last.

Until May, it appeared that the two countries were slowly closing in on a deal. But then U.S. officials accused their Chinese counterparts of renegeing on commitments they'd made earlier, and talks broke down.

Getting them back on track could prove difficult. Beijing is reluctant to end subsidies to Chinese companies and to write any commitments into Chinese law. The Chinese also want the United States to drop its tariffs as a condition of any deal. But the Trump administration insists on keeping tariffs to use as leverage to make sure that China keeps its promises.

For now, business groups are relieved that the tariffs aren't expanding and optimistic the two countries can reach a deal.

"We are encouraged that China and the United States have agreed to continue negotiations without further escalation of the mutually damaging trade war," said Jason Oxman, president of the Information Technology Industry Council. "We are also relieved that President Trump has reconsidered his threat to impose additional tariffs, which would have accelerated harm to all American consumers, workers, and businesses of all sizes."

Still, the decision to go easy on Huawei drew immediate fire politically. "Huawei is one of few potent levers we have to make China play fair on trade," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. "If President Trump backs off, as it appears he is doing, it will dramatically undercut our ability to change China's unfair trades practices."

The Commerce Department put the firm on a blacklist because of the possibility its equipment could be used for cyberespionage. Trump suggested that his administration will review the company's status on Commerce's so-called Entity List and cleared the way for U.S. firms to sell it some components.

Both countries have economic and political incentives to reach a deal. Xi is overseeing a decelerating economy and likely won't want to be engaged in a destructive trade war when China's ruling Communist Party meets in October. Trump, too, is confronted with an economy that, though still healthy, has looked a bit wobbly. And the trade hostilities with China have hurt his supporters in rural America as he campaigns for re-election in 2020.

"This is a truce for now - for Xi, ahead of the Communist Party celebrations in October and for Trump, dependent on how his re-election campaign progresses," said Diana Choyleva, chief economist at Enodo Economics. "But as we've said before, fundamentally, this dispute is about much more than trade - it's part of a longer-term Great Decoupling that stems from a conflict over technological supremacy and geopolitical power. This is about redefining the world political and economic order, a process that will see periods of relative calm and also periods of significant turbulence."

"Both Chinese and U.S. leaders recognize the importance of bringing the relations back to the right track," said Li Yong of the China Association of International Trade. "President Xi said we hoped to see normal relations. It's hard to predict what will happen tomorrow, so I cannot say when the relations will return to right track."

Chan reported from London

Associated Press journalists Josh Boak in Washington and Joe McDonald, Fu Ting and Sam McNeil in Beijing contributed to this report.

Oregon Republican senators end walkout over carbon bill

By **ANDREW SELSKY** and **SARAH ZIMMERMAN** Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Republican lawmakers returned to the Oregon Senate on Saturday, ending an acrimonious nine-day walkout over a carbon emissions bill that would have been the second such legislation in the nation.

The boycott had escalated when the Democratic governor ordered the state police to find and return the rogue Republicans to the Senate so the chamber could convene, and a counter-threat by one GOP senator to violently resist any such attempt. Senate Republicans fled the state to avoid being forcibly returned by the Oregon State Police, whose jurisdiction ends at the state line.

Democrats have an 18 to 12 majority in the Senate but need at least 20 members — and therefore at least two Republicans — present to vote on legislation.

Nine minority Republicans returned to the Senate on Saturday after Senate President Peter Courtney said the majority Democrats lacked the necessary 16 votes to pass the legislation, a statewide cap on carbon that allows companies to trade pollution credits. Shortly after convening, senators quickly voted 17-10 to send the climate proposal back to committee, essentially killing it for the session.

Sen. Sara Gelser, a Democrat from the college town of Corvallis, said the demise of the cap-and-trade bill has deeply upset many constituents.

“That’s a bill that’s been many, many years in the making,” Gelser told reporters Saturday. “I think there’s a lot of heartbreak, but today is one day and we’ll come back and address it. We have to. Our planet demands it.”

The House had previously passed the bill, one of the centerpieces of Oregon’s 2019 legislative session, which is scheduled to end late Sunday.

Republicans, who make up the minority in both chambers, uniformly opposed the proposal saying it would increase the cost of fuel and wreak financial havoc on the trucking and the logging industries.

One of the Republicans absent Saturday was Sen. Brian Boquist, who had told state police to come heavily armed and to send bachelor officers if they were going to forcibly return him to the Senate during the walkout. Senate Republican leader Herman Baertschiger, Jr., on Friday refused to condemn Boquist’s words, only saying the comments were unhelpful.

Boquist faces a formal complaint that will be taken up at a special committee hearing in July.

The walkout by the Republicans, which began June 20, inspired protests at the Capitol by their backers and led to the building being closed one day due to a possible militia threat.

But Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick said that the walkout didn’t change much, as the measure didn’t have enough support to get to the governor’s desk even before Republicans left the statehouse.

“As the person who counts the votes, my personal sense is that the votes were not there,” Burdick told reporters earlier this week.

The Republicans, though, painted their boycott as a triumph.

“Our mission in walking out was to kill cap and trade,” Senate Minority Leader Herman Baertschiger told reporters Friday. “And that’s what we did.”

Democrats had said the climate legislation was critical to make Oregon a leader in the fight against climate change and will ultimately create jobs and transform the economy.

The bill, if passed, would have been the second in the nation, after California, to cap and trade pollution credits among companies. It aimed to dramatically reduce greenhouse gases by 2050 by capping carbon emissions and requiring businesses to buy or trade for an ever-dwindling pool of pollution “allowances.”

With only two days before the 2019 legislative session officially ends, the Senate hurried through some of the more than 100 bills and motions that were still pending. Among the measures are ones on paid family and medical leave, campaign funding, and funding for the Oregon Food Bank and for Medicaid. Other big-ticket items are a bill aimed at addressing sexual harassment in the Capitol, money to expand affordable housing and an increased tobacco tax.

The Republicans wielded power disproportionate to their numbers this session. They walked out of the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 29 of 32

Senate last month to block a school funding tax package. They returned only after Gov. Kate Brown brokered a deal in which Democrats dropped legislation on gun control and children's vaccination requirements.

"This is not how our democracy is supposed to work," said Tara Hurst, executive director of the lobbying group Renew Oregon, which helped craft the climate proposal.

Rep. Rachel Prusak, a freshman Democrat from a Portland suburb, said she is "heartbroken over the state of our Legislature."

Eleven Republicans participated in the walkout, with one Senate seat vacant due to the death of veteran lawmaker Jackie Winters in May, from cancer.

Denyc Boles, who had been serving in the House, was sworn in Friday to take Winters' seat, restoring the GOP caucus to its full number of 12.

This story has been updated to correct the spelling of the last name for Rep. Rachel Prusak.

Follow Andrew Selsky on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/andrewselsky> and Sarah Zimmerman at <http://www.twitter.com/sarahzimm95>

Trump dismisses Carter's attacks on his legitimacy

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Saturday dismissed Jimmy Carter's swipe at the legitimacy of his election and said the charge was nothing more than a "Democrat talking point," while offering his own digs at the 94-year-old former commander in chief.

Trump said he was surprised by Carter's comments alleging that Russian interference in the 2016 election was responsible for putting Trump in the White House. The Republican punched back, though with a somewhat muted response, at least for him.

"Look, he was a nice man. He was a terrible president. He's a Democrat. And it's a typical talking point. He's loyal to the Democrats. And I guess you should be," Trump told reporters at a news conference in Japan, adding that, "as everybody now understands, I won not because of Russia, not because of anybody but myself."

Carter made his comments during a discussion on human rights at a resort in Leesburg, Virginia on Friday. Carter had said there was "no doubt that the Russians did interfere" in 2016.

The 39th president alleged that that interference, "though not yet quantified, if fully investigated would show that Trump didn't actually win the election in 2016. He lost the election and he was put into office because the Russians interfered on his behalf."

U.S. intelligence agencies asserted in a 2017 report that Russia had worked to help Trump during the election and to undermine the candidacy of Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. But the intelligence agencies did not assess whether that interference had affected the election or contributed to Trump's victory. No evidence has emerged that votes were changed improperly.

Trump insisted during the news conference marking the end of a Group of 20 summit in Osaka that he had won because he'd worked harder and smarter than Clinton. He claimed that he'd "felt badly" for Carter because of the way he'd "been trashed within his own party."

"He's been badly trashed," said Trump. "He's like the forgotten president. And I understand why they say that. He was not a good president."

Dutch farm floats possibilities of urban dairy production

By MIKE CORDER Associated Press

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Peter van Wingerden's dairy farm smells just like any other farm — the rich aroma of cow manure and grass hangs in the air around the unusual stable housing the cattle. The farm itself is far from traditional.

Moored in a small harbor in Rotterdam's busy port, the farm is a futuristic three-story floating structure

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 30 of 32

where one robot milks the cows and another automatically scoops up the manure that gives the enterprise its familiar smell.

Its roof collects rainwater and a raft of solar panels floating alongside produces 40% of the energy the farm needs.

The cows, gazing out over ships transporting gas and yellow cranes unloading ships, eat a mixture of grass cut from a local golf course and the field used by Rotterdam's top soccer team, grain used by a local brewer to make beer and potato peelings — all automatically cut, mixed and transported to food troughs by conveyer belts.

As countries around the world seek to meet the challenge of feeding growing populations in a sustainable way, Van Wingerden believes the farm, which opened in May and cost about 3 million euros (\$3.4 million), demonstrates a new sustainable way of producing food close to where most of it is consumed — in the world's cities.

"Transporting all this food all over the world is really polluting the world. It's doing damage to food quality, it creates food losses," he said in a recent interview. "So we have to find a different model. We have to bring it much closer to the citizens. And that's what we're showing over here."

The fully functioning showcase of circular-economy farming combines Dutch expertise in recycling, building on water and automated agriculture is drawing interest from around the world. Van Wingerden said he is already discussing floating farms in Singapore and China. A group is looking into locating one in Red Hook, Brooklyn.

"We should stop exporting food, but we should start exporting knowledge and technology," Van Wingerden said.

When the herd reaches its target capacity of 40 cows — there are currently 35 — it will produce 800 liters (211 gallons) of milk each day. The brown and white cows are a breed called Maas-Rijn-Ijssel — named for three rivers that flow through the Dutch region they originate from.

The farm pasteurizes the milk and turns some of it into yogurt on the middle floor of the pontoon. Manure is processed for use as fertilizer.

Jan Willem van der Schans, a senior researcher at Wageningen Economic Research who specializes in urban farming and circular economy issues, said floating farms could be the future for some sectors of agriculture such as fruit and some vegetables in some parts of the world. But he thinks that the level of automation and the unnatural surroundings of the cows may create opposition to the project.

"These are animals that we all like and then we like to see them in a meadow," he said. "And then we bring them into a very industrial environment and I think that's something that many people think is not the right direction for livestock farming to go into."

Van Wingerden said that animal welfare is his top priority, pointing to many design elements in the construction that are intended to make life as easy as possible for the cows such as rubber floors and poles in the stable. A small meadow of grass speckled with wildflowers grows on land next to the pontoon. Once fencing is completed, cows will be free to walk down to graze in more natural surroundings.

"Animal welfare is for us design criteria No. 1," he said. "We wanted to create the best stable — comfortable stable, solid stable — for the cows, and that's what we did."

The cows appear comfortable on the water. On a recent hot, sunny, day some lay in the shade, others stood, eating from the food troughs that overlook the busy Merwe Harbor, while others milled around the milking robot.

The pontoon rose and fell gently on undercurrents caused by the movement of nearby ships.

The movement didn't appear to affect the cows.

"The cows are on four feet, so that helps a lot," Van Wingerden said. "So they have not got any problem at all. They don't get seasick. They don't get seasick at all."

Today in History
By The Associated Press

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 31 of 32

Today in History

Today is Sunday, June 30, the 181st day of 2019. There are 184 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 30, 1936, the Civil War novel "Gone with the Wind" by Margaret Mitchell was first published by The Macmillan Co. in New York.

On this date:

In 1865, eight people, including Mary Surratt and Dr. Samuel Mudd, were convicted by a military commission of conspiring with John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln. (Four defendants, including Surratt, were executed; Mudd was sentenced to life in prison, but was pardoned by President Andrew Johnson in 1869.)

In 1918, labor activist and socialist Eugene V. Debs was arrested in Cleveland, charged under the Espionage Act of 1917 for a speech he'd made two weeks earlier denouncing U.S. involvement in World War I. (Debs was sentenced to prison and disenfranchised for life.)

In 1934, Adolf Hitler launched his "blood purge" of political and military rivals in Germany in what came to be known as "The Night of the Long Knives."

In 1953, the first Chevrolet Corvette, with its innovative fiberglass body, was built at a General Motors assembly facility in Flint, Michigan.

In 1963, Pope Paul VI was crowned the 262nd head of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1966, the National Organization for Women (NOW) was founded in Washington, D.C.

In 1971, the Supreme Court ruled, 6-3, that the government could not prevent The New York Times or The Washington Post from publishing the Pentagon Papers. A Soviet space mission ended in tragedy when three cosmonauts aboard Soyuz 11 were found dead of asphyxiation inside their capsule after it had returned to Earth.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter announced he had decided against production of the Rockwell B-1 bomber, saying it was too costly. (However, the B-1 was later revived by President Ronald Reagan.)

In 1982, the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution expired, having failed to receive the required number of ratifications for its adoption, despite having its seven-year deadline extended by three years.

In 1985, 39 American hostages from a hijacked TWA jetliner were freed in Beirut after being held 17 days.

In 1997, the Union Jack was lowered for the last time over Government House in Hong Kong as Britain prepared to hand the colony back to China at midnight after ruling it for 156 years.

In 2013, 19 elite firefighters known as members of the Granite Mountain Hotshots were killed battling a wildfire northwest of Phoenix after a change in wind direction pushed the flames back toward their position.

Ten years ago: Democrat Al Franken was declared the winner of Minnesota's eight-month U.S. Senate vote recount, defeating Republican incumbent Norm Coleman. A Yemeni jet with 153 people on board crashed into the Indian Ocean as it tried to land on the island nation of Comoros; a 12-year-old girl was the sole survivor. American soldier Pfc. Bowe R. Bergdahl went missing from his base in eastern Afghanistan, and was later confirmed to have been captured by insurgents. (Bergdahl was released on May 31, 2014 in exchange for five Taliban detainees.)

Five years ago: A sharply divided Supreme Court ruled that some companies with religious objections could avoid the contraceptives requirement in President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, the first time the high court declared that businesses can hold religious views under federal law. President Obama tapped former Procter & Gamble CEO Robert McDonald to take over the troubled Veterans Affairs Department. The Israeli military found the bodies of three missing teenagers just over two weeks after they were abducted in the occupied West Bank, allegedly by Hamas militants. Writer, actor, producer and director Paul Mazursky, 84, died in Los Angeles. Actor Bob Hastings, 89, died in Burbank, California.

One year ago: Hundreds of thousands of people gathered for rallies and marches in hundreds of locations around the country, demanding an end to the separation of immigrant families who cross into the United States.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Lea Massari is 86. Actress Nancy Dussault is 83. Songwriter Tony Hatch is

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 355 ~ 32 of 32

80. Singer Glenn Shorrock is 75. Actor Leonard Whiting is 69. Jazz musician Stanley Clarke is 68. Actor David Garrison is 67. Rock musician Hal Lindes (Dire Straits) is 66. Actor-comedian David Alan Grier is 63. Actor Vincent D'Onofrio is 60. Actress Deirdre Lovejoy is 57. Actor Rupert Graves is 56. Former boxer Mike Tyson is 53. Actor Peter Outerbridge is 53. Rock musician Tom Drummond (Better Than Ezra) is 50. Actor-comedian Tony Rock (TV: "Living Biblically") is 50. Actor Brian Bloom is 49. Actor Brian Vincent is 49. Actress Monica Potter is 48. Actress Molly Parker is 47. Actor Rick Gonzalez is 40. Actor Tom Burke is 38. Actress Lizzy Caplan is 37. Actress Susannah Flood is 37. Rock musician James Adam Shelley (American Authors) is 36. Country singer Cole Swindell is 36. Rhythm and blues singer Fantasia is 35. Olympic gold medal swimmer Michael Phelps is 34. Actor Sean Marquette (TV: "The Goldbergs") is 31.

Thought for Today: "In order to go on living one must try to escape the death involved in perfectionism." — Hannah Arendt, German-born American philosopher and historian (1906-1975).