

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 1 of 73

- [2- A stop could be placed on the stop signs](#)
- [3- Groton Care & Rehab to get improvements](#)
- [4- Noem: Hold off on Roadside Mowing until July 10](#)
- [4- DPS Officials: Be Careful During July Fourth Holiday](#)
- [5- Weather Pages](#)
- [8- Daily Devotional](#)
- [9- 2019 Groton Events](#)
- [10- News from the Associated Press](#)



CLOSED: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Swimming Pool Hours

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

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

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

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

Swimming Lessons: First Session: June 17-27

Wednesday, July 3

Olive Grove: Kids Lessons; No Men's League

Thursday, July 4

Olive Grove: 10 am Couples Firecracker Tournament, Shotgun start, 18 holes
Pool hours: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, July 7

2:00 p.m.: Legion at Redfield, (DH)
2:00 p.m.: U12 Midgets vs. Backous & Pierre at Manor Park

Monday, July 8

5:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners host Sisseton, (DH)
6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees at Webster, (DH)s (R,B)
6:00 p.m.: Junior Legion at Northville, (DH)
6:00 p.m.: T-Ball Scrimmage (both)
Softball at Mellette (U8 at 5 p.m. (1 game), U10 at 6 p.m. (1 game), U14 at 7 p.m. (2 games)

Tuesday, July 9

5:30 p.m.: Legion hosts Aberdeen, (DH)
5:30 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees vs. Borge at Manor Park (R)

A stop could be placed on the stop signs

The stop sign proposal of adding stop signs to east and west traffic on West 5th Avenue at the intersection of Washington St. City Attorney Drew Johnson said the 20 day after publication notice should be referred to a vote if people so want to oppose it.

We also have four police officers that know when the games are over and they could patrol that area, said Councilman Jay Peterson. "We have over 150 signs in Groton, do we need two more? The people I have talked too don't want it."

Johnson said that it should be placed on the agenda to rescind the stop signs. Finance Officer Hope Block said the option to revisit the situation is already on the agenda. The council tabled the matter to the next meeting when a motion to rescind the motion for the two additional stop signs.

The pool managers came before the council to request three nights of moonlight swim. It would run from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. and would be July 11, July 25 and Aug. 8. Kami Lipp said concessions would be sold and possess would not be allowed. The hours are the same as a birthday party. It would be for ages 14 and up. Kellie Hanson said she would volunteer her time as a lifeguard. There is also the possibility of a movie.

On the say of the summer fest, Lipp suggested having games at the pool from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. with free admission (free will offering). "Try it and see how it goes," she said. The council gave the okay to all events.

Terry Herron reported that work has started on State Street and the curb and gutter on Third Avenue West west of State Street has been installed. A storm sewer is being installed on the north end of State Street. He said that he hopes they can get some gravel on State Street before it rains again. About 200 feet of curb on the baseball side is going to be replaced as it has broken and shifted.

Herron talked about Seventh Avenue an First Street where there are issues with the sidewalks. The fillets and sidewalks in that area need to be replaced. Jacobs Construction could do the work while they are in town. The City will receive a check for \$5,100 from Jacobs from the gravel that was sold tearing up State Street. The cost to fix it is \$18,426, but that cost could get down to \$10,000 or less. Councilman David Blackmun said that this is an emergency fix that needs to be done. It will be placed on the next meeting agenda so finance officer Block can find where the money is going to come from.

There was discussion on water in the cemetery in the catholic section by SD37. A pipe could be installed, but a permit from the state would be needed to install a pipe in the right-of-way. A permit will be sought to drain the water with drain tile from that area to the highway ditch which will then flow south.

Dwight Zerr said one of the pumps at the Aspen Lift Station was going bad. It was taken to Watertown where new bearings were installed. The lagoon has been drained a couple of times now. "This is an exceptional year with all of this water," Zerr said. "We're hanging in there, though."

Police Chief Stacy Mayou did not have much to report from the police department. He said there was a chase where the officers had to use the stop stick, which had to be replaced fro \$473. Councilman Jay Peterson suggested that the speed sign on Fifth Avenue be moved west to the next intersection.

Governor Noem declared July 5th as a holiday and to close the offices. The council agreed to do the same for the City of Groton - to close it down July 5th in addition to the normal July 4th.

Mayor Scott Hanlon and Councilman Karyn Babcock were authorized to attend a Groton Leadership Institute in Chicago. GrowSD is paying for the airplane tickets and the registration. The council gave the okay to pay for the rooms in the amount of \$440 each. The city will receive a \$4,000 grant. They will go in October

A Presidential Disaster Declaration for the 2019 spring flooding meeting will be held July 8 in Aberdeen and the council gave the okay for the Finance Officer Hope Block to attend the meeting.

The council appointed SD Fit and the First State Bank as official banks.

Quotes were read from both Groton papers. The Groton Independent quoted a legal line rate of .304 while the Dakota Press was .28. Classified rates were \$3 flat fee from the Independent, \$3 minimum with 10 cents per word over 20 words for the Dakota Press. Display ad rate is \$3.50 per column inch for the Independent and \$3 per column inch for the Dakota Press. After further discussion and learning that the Dakota Press has not submitted invoices and affidavits on a timely matter, the council decided to appoint both papers and accept the respective quoted rates.

Groton Care & Rehab to get improvements

Legacy Healthcare to Invest in Quality Care, Specialized Services and Amenities in Three South Dakota Regions

On July 1, Legacy Healthcare, with its office in Skokie, Ill., officially began operating a portfolio of 16 skilled nursing facilities in South Dakota, including the Groton Care & Rehab facility. Stretching from Rapid City to Sioux Falls, this transaction enables Legacy to create a second regional hub, in addition to its existing hub in the Chicago market. Over the last 10 years Legacy has had the opportunity to revitalize many facilities through implementing clinical best practices, advanced medical technology, and robust customer service.

Legacy's mission statement speaks of investing in people – employees and residents first – which will be our primary focus during this transition. "It is an honor to be a part of the South Dakota community," said Connie Ortega, VP of Operations for Legacy Healthcare. "Our Legacy team is excited to partner with the current facility staff who have already demonstrated a strong passion of providing high quality of care."

Legacy Healthcare will continue to be in constant contact with the state of South Dakota, regional hospitals, and local healthcare providers which will help facilitate new, advanced and needed specialty programs to enable residents to remain closer to their homes and families.

Ortega continues, "The most immediate need is investing in the structure of the building itself. Our team has already identified areas in need of immediate improvements and will be working with the facility and local contractors on these improvements."

Legacy Healthcare has plans to invest millions of dollars in needed plant upgrades across all new Avantara properties in South Dakota. During the first six months of operation, they are looking to enhance existing roofing, foundation, heating, cooling and general maintenance upgrades across all facilities.

In addition to Groton, Legacy Healthcare has taken over the facilities in Arlington, Ipswich, Pierre, Armour, Lake Norden, Salem, Milbank, Clark, Redfield, Watertown and four facilities in Rapid City.



LEGACY

HEALTHCARE

Noem: Hold off on Roadside Mowing until July 10

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem today reminded East River residents and landowners that roadside mowing along state highways is not permitted until July 10 under state law.

“Roadside ditches provide valuable nesting cover for pheasants, especially in portions of the state with limited CRP land or other upland nesting habitat,” said Governor Kristi Noem. “Mowing too early can kill hens and newly hatched broods, and result in lower pheasant populations. It is critical that everyone refrains from mowing or haying until July 10.”

Noem has also instructed Department of Transportation officials to lead by example and suspend mowing operations until July 10 except in urban areas. The South Dakota Highway Patrol plans to issue warnings to people who mow or hay before July 10, and Department of Game, Fish, and Parks conservation officers will also engage individuals mowing or haying before July 10 to remind them of their responsibility and to educate them on the impact mowing can have on pheasant populations.

DPS Officials: Be Careful During July Fourth Holiday

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota Department of Public Safety officials remind citizens to make sure the anticipated fun of this week’s July Fourth holiday does not turn tragic.

This year’s Fourth of July traffic reporting period covers 102 hours from 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 3, to midnight, Sunday, July 7. During the 30-hour holiday reporting period in 2018, there were 57 motor vehicle traffic crashes with one fatal crash near Yankton resulting in five fatalities.

“It doesn’t matter how long the holiday reporting period is; it still comes down to common sense as it does every day,” said Lee Axdahl, director of the Office of Highway Safety. “It still is about being safe on the roads. Slow down, don’t get distracted, don’t drink and drive and wear a seatbelt.”

This holiday is a busy travel period. Highway Patrol Superintendent Col. Rick Miller says more troopers also will be out on the roads as well, working to protect citizens.

“Many people will be rushing to get to their destination and that impatience can lead to crashes,” he said. “We encourage you to take your time and make sure you and others safely reach their destinations.”

There were 11 deaths recorded for the July 4, 1967 holiday period which is the worst on record for South Dakota. The last fatality free July 4th holiday period was in 2007.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 5 of 73

Today



Chance
T-storms

High: 85 °F

Tonight



T-storms
Likely

Low: 65 °F

Independence
Day



Chance
T-storms

High: 80 °F

Thursday
Night



T-storms
Likely

Low: 63 °F

Friday



T-storms
Likely

High: 78 °F

Another SLIGHT RISK of Severe Storms

WHAT

Scattered severe thunderstorms possible. The storms could produce wind gusts up to around 60 mph, and large hail up to around the size of golf balls. Locally heavy rainfall also possible.

WHERE

Central, north central and northeastern South Dakota, including Pierre, Mobridge, Aberdeen, and Sisseton.

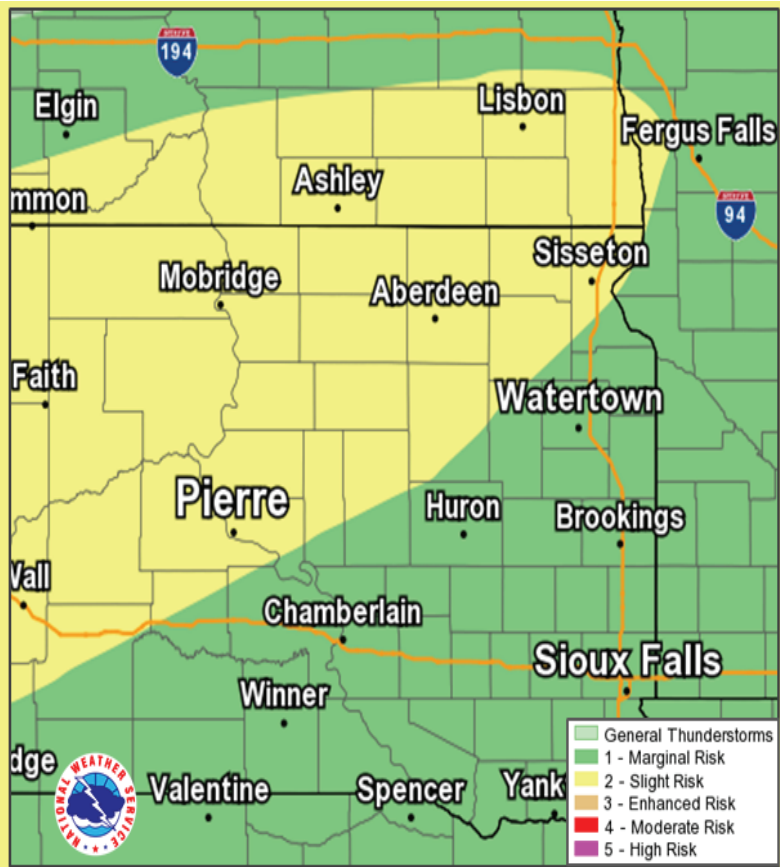
WHEN

Late this afternoon into tonight. The highest risk period will be from around 5 pm to 12 am CDT.

ACTION

Monitor the weather and have a plan of action if severe weather approaches your area.

ISSUED: 4:32 AM - Wednesday, July 03, 2019



Published on: 07/03/2019 at 12:34AM

Severe thunderstorms will be possible late this afternoon into tonight across portions central, north central, and northeastern South Dakota. The highest risk period will be from around 5 pm until around 12 am, CDT. Heavy rain, damaging winds and large hail are the main threats with any strong storms that develop.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 6 of 73

Today in Weather History

July 3, 1959: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast after destroying a farm building at the western edge of Java, Walworth County. Elsewhere in the area, high straight line winds caused property damage while hail damaged crops. The largest hailstone was 2.75 inches in diameter and was observed 9 miles NNW of Timber Lake.

July 3, 2003: A supercell thunderstorm moved southeastward across western Jackson County and Bennett County. The storm dropped up to golf ball sized hail and produced an F2 tornado north of Tuthill in Bennett County. The tornado touched down about a mile north of the junction of highways 18 and 73, where it destroyed a garage. The tornado moved south-southeast and destroyed a mobile home just to the southeast of the highway intersection and then dissipated just north of Tuthill. No one was injured.

Also on this day, a line of severe thunderstorms with hail up to the size of golf balls and winds over 80 mph at times brought widespread property and crop damage to far northeast Brown, across Marshall and Roberts counties. The wind and hail caused the most damage to crops in a 20 mile to a 70-mile long area from north of Britton over to Sisseton and into west central Minnesota. Much of the plants were shredded to the ground. In fact, approximately 30 percent (70,000 acres) of Marshall County's 227,000 acres of crops were damaged or destroyed. Cities receiving the most damage from the line of storms were, Hecla, Andover, Britton, Kidder, Veblen, Roslyn, Langford, Lake City, Claire City, Sisseton, Waubay, Rosholt, and Wilmot. Storm damage mostly included trees and branches down, power lines and poles down, roof and siding damage from hail and fallen trees, some farm outbuildings damaged or destroyed, and many windows broke out of homes and vehicles. Also, many boats, docks, and campers received some damage in the path of the storms. An aerial crop spraying plane at the Sisseton airport was picked up and thrown 450 feet and landed upside down. In Claire City, a 55,000-bushel grain bin was blown off of its foundation and flattened. On a farm five miles north of Amherst, three large grain bins were blown over and damaged.

July 3, 2010: Severe thunderstorms brought damaging winds to parts of central South Dakota, especially to Lyman County. Eighty mph winds moved a building off the foundation at the Presho Municipal Airport. Eighty mph winds also destroyed or damaged many grain bins and caused damage to several other buildings in and around Presho. A large sign, twenty power poles, along with many trees were downed in Presho. There were also several broken houses and car windows from hail and high winds. Seventy mph winds tore a garage door loose, bent a flagpole over, and downed many large tree branches in Kennebec. The winds also caused some damage to homes, sheds, and grain bins in Kennebec.

1873: A tornado in Hancock County, in far west central Illinois, destroyed several farms. From a distance, witnesses initially thought the tornado was smoke from a fire. A child was killed after being carried 500 yards; 10 other people were injured. Click [HERE](#) for more information from Illinois Genealogy Trails.

1975: Up to 3 inches of rain caused flash flooding throughout Las Vegas, NV. The main damage occurred to vehicles at Caesars Palace with approximately 700 damaged or destroyed with several cars found miles away. North Las Vegas was hardest hit with \$3.5 million in damage. Two people drowned in the flood waters.

2000: There is a certain irony about one of the driest places getting the greatest rainfall, and yet that is what happened at usually rain-sparse Vanguard, Saskatchewan on July 3 when a carwash-like down-pour flooded the community of 200 people, some 65 km southeast of Swift Current. As much as 375 mm (14.76") of rain fell in eight hours, the greatest storm for that duration on the Canadian Prairies and one of the most substantial rainfall intensities ever recorded in Canada.

The spectacular thunderstorm produced more cloud-to-ground lightning strikes than that part of southern Saskatchewan would expect in two years. A year's amount of rain left crops in the field drowning and rotting, and roads and rail lines under water. The force of the water crushed cars and farm implements swept away grain bins and soaked large bales. Stranded residents had to be rescued by boat, which rapidly became the carrier of choice on the main street in Vanguard. The flash flood also carried away herds of cattle and drowned dozens of deer and antelope. Some further irony, when millions of liters of contaminated water submerged the water-treatment plant and backed up into homes and businesses, officials had to ship in bottled water from Swift Current.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 7 of 73

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 86 °F at 4:25 PM

Low Temp: 61 °F at 5:56 AM

Wind: 10 mph at 12:22 PM

Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 107° in 1949

Record Low: 39° in 1917

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in July.: 0.21

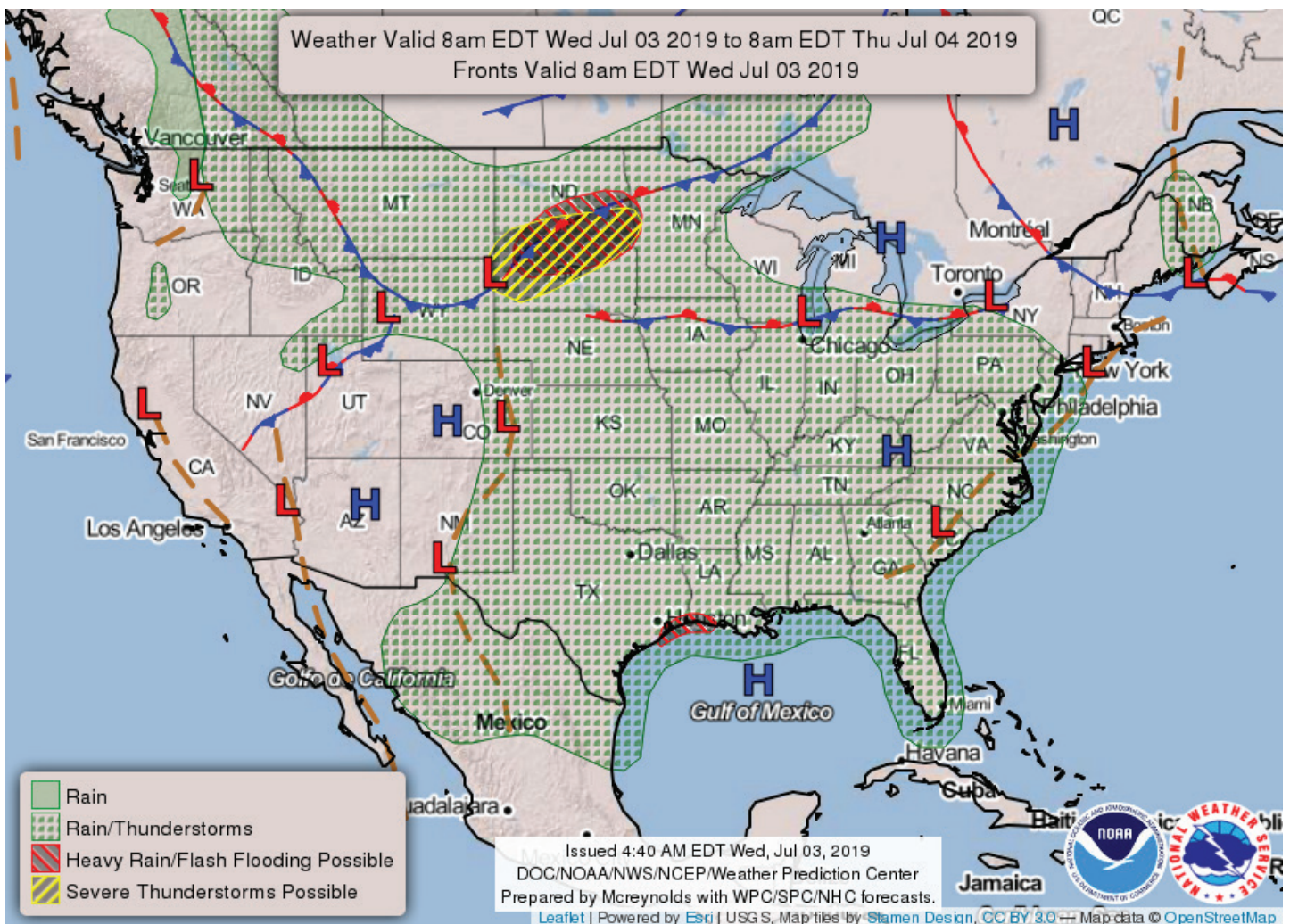
Precip to date in June.: 4.95

Average Precip to date: 11.05

Precip Year to Date: 12.72

Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:51 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 8 of 73



SELF-INTERESTS: RIGHT OR WRONG

Think of it this way?

We are considered smart if we eat a healthy diet, take time to exercise, get enough sleep, and respect laws that are made for our well-being, protection, and the rights of others. Actually, we will do well if we adopt these behaviors because they reflect God-care - honoring the life that God has given us, and others, by respecting His ultimate act in creation - us. Caring for ourselves must not be considered as self-centered if we do what is necessary for our spiritual, mental and physical well-being as a means to honor God. He expects us to care for ourselves as well as others. However, going beyond what is essential becomes self-worship or self-centered.

Listen to Solomon: He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who cherishes understanding prospers. We honor God and benefit our own wellbeing if we invest our minds and hearts - our souls - in getting God's wisdom. Soul as used here refers to the mind, emotions, and will. And, if our souls are filled with God's wisdom, our thinking, feeling, and choices will be controlled by Him. Our life-choices, choices that influence our spiritual, mental and physical wellbeing, will be in keeping with what God planned for us when He created us: to honor the Lord our God with every gift He planted within us!

When we accept our responsibility to love our own soul, we adopt a healthy lifestyle. We will make choices for ourselves that bless God and enhance us, and we can be assured that they come from God's Word and are not self-centered: they are God-centered. Personal wellbeing, then, does not come from ourselves or is for ourselves, but comes from God and is for God.

So, is self-interest right or wrong? If we focus on God and His wisdom and use it to glorify Him with our soul, self-interest is critical. We do what we do as a means to honor and glorify God.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to be so committed to knowing and applying Your wisdom to our lives that Your interests become ours. May we respect Your gift to us: our life. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 19:8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who cherishes understanding prospers.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 9 of 73

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

How the Trump administration's 2018 trade aid package works

By STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Trump administration's Market Facilitation Program is meant to compensate farmers for income they've lost due to the U.S. trade war with China. Data provided to The Associated Press from the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the Freedom of Information Act gives some insights into where the money goes.

Here's how the program works: Farmers didn't have to prove their losses on their 2019 crops and live-stock, just their production. The program sets a \$125,000 cap in each of three categories of commodities: one for soybeans and other row crops, one for pork and dairy, and one for cherries and almonds. Farmers can claim payments in more than one category. Individual farmers who produce both soybeans and hogs, for example, could collect up to \$250,000 if their production of each was high enough.

Older, bigger farm subsidy programs also contain \$125,000 caps — with similar ways to get around them. Large-scale farming operations do that by structuring themselves as partnerships, in which each family member or "legal entity" gets their own cap.

USDA rules specify that each member must be "actively engaged in farming," but the rules are vague, said Anne Weir Schechinger, senior economic analyst at the Environmental Working Group, which has long tracked where subsidies go and has been studying similar data on the program it obtained through its own open records request.

Many relatives are exempt from the "actively engaged" requirement— including parents, spouses, siblings and children who can each qualify for their own \$125,000 cap. First cousins, nieces and nephews were added to the list in the 2018 farm bill.

"When the Trump administration created the MFP they did not have to apply the same broken rules to MFP payments that they had applied to other payments," said Scott Faber, senior vice president of government affairs at the group. "The administration could have chosen to say we're going to have a 125,000 dollar cap with no loopholes, and we're going to have a real means test to ensure that millionaires and billionaires aren't receiving trade bailout payments."

But farm law attorney Robert Serio of Clarendon, Arkansas, whose business is focused on helping large farming operations structure themselves to maximize their ability to collect federal farm subsidies, called payment limits "pure political nonsense." If the purpose of the program is to compensate farms for their losses caused by the government's trade policies, he said, it shouldn't make a difference whether a farm is large or small.

USDA data provided to AP through May 31 show that nearly 578,000 Market Facilitation Program applicants had received aid payments, with 83% of the dollars — \$7 billion — going to soybean producers. The second most-subsidized commodity under the program was cotton, nearly 6% of the total at \$480 million.

Most payments were not large. The average for soybeans was \$16,976; for cotton, \$13,637; and for corn, \$385. But the averages were pushed up by a number of high payments. The median payments paint a better picture of what most farmers got because half got more and half got less. They were \$6,438 for soybeans, \$3,194 for cotton and \$152 for corn. Nearly 60,000 applicants received less than \$200, while nearly 5,000 received less than \$10.

Five states —all top soybean producers — accounted for nearly half the total payments: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and Indiana.

The data also show that 91% of the payments, or \$7.7 billion, went to counties that Trump carried in the 2016 election — not surprising since Trump fared much better in rural America than in urban areas.

For row crops the payments ranged from \$1.65 per bushel for soybeans to 14 cents per bushel for wheat, to just 1 cent per bushel for corn. Other payments were \$8 per head for hogs and 12 cents per hundredweight for milk.

Details of who will qualify for payments under the \$16 billion 2019 edition of the Market Facilitation Program have not been announced.

Associated Press reporters Balint Szalai and Riin Aljas contributed to this story from Washington.

Big farms find easy ways around Trump trade aid limits

By **STEVE KARNOWSKI** and **BALINT SZALAI** Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — When President Donald Trump's administration announced a \$12 billion aid package for farmers struggling under the financial strain of his trade dispute with China, the payments were capped. But many large farming operations had no trouble finding legal ways around them, records provided to The Associated Press under the Freedom of Information Act show.

The government paid nearly \$2.8 million to a Missouri soybean operation registered as three entities at the same address. More than \$900,000 went to five other farm businesses, in Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee and two in Texas. Three other farming operations collected more than \$800,000, and 16 others collected over \$700,000.

Recipients defended the payouts, saying they didn't cover their losses from the trade war and they were legally entitled to them. Department of Agriculture rules let farms file claims for multiple family members or other partners who meet the department's definition of being "actively engaged in farming."

But U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley, an Iowa Republican who has long fought for subsidy limits, and other critics say it's the latest example of how loopholes let large farms collect far more than the supposed caps.

Grassley said in a statement to AP that some of the nation's largest farms are receiving huge subsidies "through underhanded legal tricks. They're getting richer off the backs of taxpayers while young and beginning farmers are priced out of the profession. This needs to end. The Department of Agriculture needs to re-evaluate its rules for awarding federal funds and conduct more thorough oversight of where it's funneling taxpayer dollars."

USDA officials said they believe its rules are being followed and that procedures are in place to audit recipients.

About 83 percent of the aid under the Market Facilitation Program has gone to soybean farmers because they've suffered most under China's retaliatory tariffs. The program sets a \$125,000 cap in each of three categories of commodities: one for soybeans and other row crops, one for pork and dairy, and one for cherries and almonds. But each qualified family member or business partner gets their own \$125,000 cap for each category. Farmers who produce both soybeans and hogs, for example, would have separate caps for each and could thus collect \$250,000.

But there are legal ways around those caps.

USDA data show the biggest beneficiary has been DeLine Farms Partnership and two similarly named partnerships registered at the same address in Charleston, Missouri, that collected nearly \$2.8 million. They're led by Donald DeLine and his wife, Lisa DeLine. Their attorney, Robert Serio, said the partnerships qualified legally and probably could have qualified for more if not for the caps. He said each partnership farms around 27,000 acres and is made up of eight or nine partners who all meet the "actively engaged" requirement.

USDA spokesman Dave Warner said the department couldn't comment on the specifics of the DeLines' operations but that such a large claim was likely audited to ensure eligibility.

At Peterson Farms in Loretto, Kentucky, eight members of the family partnership collected a total \$863,560 for crops grown on over 15,000 acres, including wheat and corn used at the nearby Maker's Mark bourbon distillery.

Co-owner Bernard Peterson said it didn't make up for all their losses at a time when it was already hard to be profitable. The \$1.65 per bushel aid payments for soybeans fell well short of losses he estimated at \$2 to \$2.50 per bushel.

"It's a big number but there are a big number of people directly depending on the success of our opera-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 12 of 73

tion in the community," he said.

The numerous ways around the caps mean that millions of subsidy dollars flow to "city slickers who are stretching the limits of the law," said Scott Faber, senior vice president of government affairs at the Environmental Working Group, which has criticized federal farm subsidy programs as biased toward big producers and promoting environmentally damaging farming practices. Urban dwellers might play only a small role in an operation without ever setting foot on the farm because of the loose definitions for who qualifies, he said.

Matt Keller, a pork producer in Kenyon, Minnesota, said he appreciated the \$143,820 he got. It didn't cover all his losses but helped with cash flow, he said. He reached the \$125,000 cap on his hogs, and the remaining money was for his soybeans and corn.

Keller said his wife and other family members are all involved in his operation, which produces about 29,000 pigs per year. He doesn't blame the trade wars for depressed hog prices, but said the tariffs, on top of oversupply, have made things even tougher.

"It was kind of a relief, I guess, that we had a little support from the president and the country," Keller said.

Szalai and AP reporter Riin Aljas contributed to this story from Washington.

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

03-25-37-40-55, Mega Ball: 13, Megaplier: 2

(three, twenty-five, thirty-seven, forty, fifty-five; Mega Ball: thirteen; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$83 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$150 million

Defenders of vegan bacon sue Mississippi over labeling law

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A federal lawsuit says Mississippi is violating free-speech rights by banning makers of plant-based foods from using terms such as "meatless meatballs" and "vegan bacon."

The lawsuit against Mississippi Republican Gov. Phil Bryant and the state's Republican agriculture commissioner, Andy Gipson, was filed Monday by the Plant Based Foods Association and the Illinois-based Upton's Naturals Co., which makes vegan products and sells them in many states, including Mississippi. It was filed the same day Mississippi enacted a new law that declares "a plant-based or insect-based food product shall not be labeled as meat or a meat food product."

"The ban serves only to create consumer confusion where none previously existed," says the lawsuit, which is backed by Institute for Justice, a free-market advocacy group based in Virginia.

A similar food labeling lawsuit was filed in Missouri last year by the Oregon-based Tofurky Co., which makes vegetarian food products, and the Good Food Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that advocates for alternatives to meat. A Missouri law made it a misdemeanor to label plant-based products as meat.

Producers of beef, poultry, pork and lamb have been pushing to protect meat terminology as companies develop more plant-based products that look and taste similar to meat.

The Good Food Institute says 12 states have enacted what it calls "meat label censorship" laws. In addition to Mississippi and Missouri, the states are Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota and Wyoming.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 13 of 73

The Louisiana measure signed by Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards prohibits veggie products from being called meat, non-rice products from being described as rice and sugar alternatives from being marketed as sugar. It becomes law in October 2020.

The chairman of the Mississippi Senate Agriculture Committee, Republican Billy Hudson of Hattiesburg, was chief sponsor of the meat labeling legislation. He said the state agriculture department and the Mississippi Cattlemen's Association pushed for it because of concerns that consumers could be misled. The Mississippi law also says food produced using animal tissue cultured in a laboratory may not be labeled as meat.

"They tell me that fake steak looks just like our real meat," Hudson told The Associated Press on Monday. He said if a consumer sees two similar products side by side, they could think they're getting meat when they're not.

"I don't want to eat meat grown by a test tube in a laboratory," Hudson said. "If my constituents do, they ought to know what they're getting."

Mississippi's agriculture commissioner said Tuesday that he looks forward to defending the law.

"A food product made of insect-protein should not be deceptively labeled as beef," Gipson said. "Someone looking to purchase tofu should not be tricked into buying lab-grown animal protein."

The lawsuit in Mississippi says that Upton's Naturals does not make meat products but does use terms such as "vegan burgers," "vegan bacon" and "vegan chorizo."

"These terms, as used by Upton's Naturals, increase consumer understanding of the foods' characteristics and communicate how the foods should be prepared and eaten," the lawsuit says.

The Plant Based Foods Association says in the lawsuit that "no reasonable consumer would be misled" by terms such as "meatless steaks" and "vegan jerky."

Jessica Almy, policy director for the Good Food Institute, said the food labeling restrictions in Mississippi should be overturned: "This law is a tremendous overstep of state powers and is really just a sad attempt to censor veggie burgers."

Follow Emily Wagster Pettus on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/EWagsterPettus> .

Missouri River to remain high because of water from dams

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The amount of water flowing into the lower Missouri River will remain high throughout the summer and fall, and that water will likely continue to exacerbate flooding downstream.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says it plans to keep releases from Gavins Point Dam on the Nebraska-South Dakota border near current levels — which are more than double the average amount.

The high releases will likely continue worsening flooding downstream — in Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas — where many levees were damaged during severe March flooding.

Officials say the releases of 70,000 cubic feet per second of water are needed because the upstream reservoirs remain quite full. The amount of water entering the dams in June was 159 percent of normal, and it has been a wet year.

Rapid City home to state's first mental health court

By ARIELLE ZIONTS Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Amanda Hof-Tiernan said she had a good week after having spent a lot of time with her wife.

"You've been making progress," Judge Jeffrey Connolly told the 30-year-old Rapid City resident.

Others sitting with Hof-Tiernan in the jury box at the state court in Rapid City last month also had good weeks.

A smiling, energetic man said he'd been sober all week after staying away from bad influences. A woman sitting in handcuffs and a jail uniform said she was taking each week one at a time as she waited for an

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 14 of 73

opening at a safe housing facility. Another woman said she had a nice week despite breaking a tooth since she spent time with her children. The crowd, including a serious-looking sheriff's deputy, applauded as the woman announced she's been sober for more than a year.

Other people, like Corbin Mudlin, said they were struggling.

I'm "overwhelmed" and "have so much on my plate," the 26-year-old Rapid City resident said. Mudlin said he's been stressed about moving his storage to a new unit.

A woman said she keeps forgetting things, like clocking out of work or showing up to appointments, while another woman cried as she said she's stressed about her transportation options, feels embarrassed about her mental illness and is having trouble controlling her emotions. "I feel really low," she said. Another woman teared up as she explained her grandmother was dying. A woman who had to be awakened when it was her turn to speak said her medicine was making her tired and she'd rather be sent to prison.

Defendants don't typically tell judges about their feelings or how their week went. And deputies and lawyers certainly don't applaud in court.

But Hof-Tiernan, Mudlin and 11 others weren't in a typical court. They're participants in South Dakota's first mental health court, a speciality court meant to provide treatment, avoid a prison sentence and prevent recidivism for people who have a history of crime and serious mental illness.

The court is similar to South Dakota's DUI, drug and veterans courts, which are all aimed at helping people who would likely otherwise go to prison due to their criminal histories, said Lara Roetzel, a member of the mental health court team and chief deputy state's attorney in Pennington County.

"It's a really, really difficult program. I mean even more so than the other speciality courts this one's unique" because everyone is dealing with mental illness and most are also struggling with addiction, Roetzel told the Rapid City Journal. Mental health court, unlike other speciality courts, also accepts people convicted of recent violent crimes.

"We're kind of the last possible resort," Roetzel said, stressing that the program isn't for first-time offenders who are eligible for pre-trial diversion programs. "These are people that wouldn't otherwise be successful and have not been otherwise successful" without this intensive program.

The mental health court began soon after the new year and is run by a team headed by coordinator/probation officer Tessia Johnston along with Connelly, Roetzel, a defense lawyer and representatives from the Rapid City Police Department, Pennington County Sheriff's Office and Behavioral Management System (BMS), which provides treatment to the participants.

Before launching the mental health court, Connelly said, he visited one in Memphis, Tenn., to study how it worked.

"It's a research-based scientific model that's proven to be successful," Roetzel said.

People join mental health court after pleading guilty to a crime or admitting a probation violation, Connelly said. The program involves four stages and takes at least a year to complete, according to the court manual. The team meets to discuss how to best support the participants before both groups meet together for weekly check-ins.

Requirements of the program include undergoing random drugs tests and staying sober, taking prescribed mental health medication, attending counseling, making goals, finding safe and stable housing, meeting with Johnston and finding a job or positive social activities, according to the manual. Johnston and BMS staff deliver medication to participants, drive them to appointments, and call to check on them, Roetzel said.

Incentives for good behavior include moving up a stage — which involves receiving a medal — less frequent drug testing, attending fewer check-ins, bus passes and gift cards, the manual says. Sanctions for violating rules could mean curfews, house arrest, an increase in treatment, jail time, moving back a stage or eventually being kicked out of the program.

Speaking before court last month, Mudlin described himself as a "poster child to mental health disability since I was young."

When his ADD, ADHD and bipolar disorder aren't under control, Mudlin said, he hangs out with bad people and makes impulsive decisions. He said he recently pleaded guilty to marijuana wax possession

after being convicted of a burglary crime.

Being in mental health court rather than prison means "being able to be part of the community," Mudlin said. "I think it would be better for people that want to change to stay outside of prison."

Mudlin said the court is less adversarial. "You're more on a team than by yourself."

Hof-Tiernan proudly said she was the first person to sign up for mental health court. She said she joined after failing several drug tests while on probation for meth possession. During normal probation, Hof-Tiernan said, she did drug tests and infrequently met with a probation officer.

"That was basically it. Here they require therapy, they require you to take your medications, they require you go to classes, and groups and stuff like that to help improve and help you as a person," she said. "I'm spending more time trying to behave than trying to get away with doing bad stuff."

Hof-Tiernan said she used to use drugs to self-medicate her bipolar disorder and schizophrenia but is now using prescribed medication and attending therapy that teaches her how to communicate with others and handle difficult situations. "I don't plan on doing (drugs) anymore. I just don't feel like I need it anymore."

Connelly stressed that the mental health court is not meant to be a solution to a lack of treatment options in the state. "We're that part of the puzzle" for people who have a mental illness and history of crime, he said.

The court may serve as a model for future ones. Gov. Kristi Noem and David Gilbertson, chief justice of the South Dakota Supreme Court, have both asked the Legislature to fund a second mental health court in Sioux Falls. Gilbertson said that from February through June 2018, 13.5% of prisoners screened at Minnehaha County jail intake had a mental illness.

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

Researchers: Tracking Sioux Falls geese is 'organized chaos'

By ERIN BORMETT Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Researchers with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department are no strangers to managing the chaos of honking, kicking and flapping when catching a flock of Canadian geese.

That commotion was found at several parks in Sioux Falls on June 20, when a team met to perform the annual task of affixing identification bands to the legs of the local birds as a way to track their population numbers, hunting survival rates and migration habits.

Each shiny metal band has a unique identification number etched into it, categorized by sex and age. Researchers can follow migration patterns by recording the locations where geese with specific band numbers have been spotted. From there, biologists can make decisions on how to effectively manage local populations.

Waiting for reports of leg band sightings is the easy part. Before that, nearly a dozen researchers and volunteers have to successfully herd, contain, band and release anywhere from 200-400 geese in the Sioux Falls metro area, and roughly 1,500 statewide.

"It's organized chaos, is the best way to put it," said Rocco Murano, senior waterfowl biologist. "The geese definitely have a mind of their own . . . some of the geese have been banded before. They kind of lead the crew, and they know what's going on. And it can be interesting trying to persuade them to do the same thing again."

The team has a specific strategy for corralling geese. Mature Canada geese simultaneously molt their primary flight feathers during a three-week period each summer in order to grow new ones. Unable to fly during this time, it is a prime opportunity for catching the birds with ease.

Three volunteers kayaked slowly toward an unsuspecting flock in the water, causing the birds to swim away from them and closer to a chain link cage waiting on the shore. More people started walking alongside the flock from land, deterring any rogue birds from making a run for it up the bank.

"If they're on land, they can easily outrun you, and they're gone," Murano told the Argus Leader. "So we keep them on the water, keep them going the right direction and keep them calm."

As the kayaks pushed farther, eventually the geese had no choice but to run up the shore and into the cage. Once the fencing was pulled shut to prevent any escapes, birds were handed one-by-one to ready biologists with a stack of leg bands and a set of pliers to fit the metal to the goose's leg.

"The banding project is spearheaded by the Game, Fish and Parks Department, and it's great to have their assistance and expertise," said Julie DeJong, Sioux Falls Animal Control supervisor.

The two organizations have partnered in this effort for years.

"Most of our animal control officers deal with domestic animals, so to have wildlife experts at our disposal is a great addition," she said.

Sioux Falls has been dealing with significant problems due to both "resident" geese—geese that live in the city year-round—and visiting populations. The Big Sioux River is one of the few open water sources that doesn't freeze over, so flocks from neighboring states congregate in the city for the winter. The "resident" Sioux Falls goose population of roughly 1,000, according to DeJong, grows to 7,000 or 8,000.

While DeJong said the frequency of calls regarding aggressive geese has dropped significantly after management strategies were implemented, members of both Animal Control and the Game, Fish and Parks Department agree that the biggest worry about these overwhelming population sizes is focused at the airport.

"The major concern is when they set down and fly over the airport," DeJong said. "A Canada goose getting in a plane's engine can be a fatal situation."

Animal Control hazes geese that nest near the airport in an attempt to relocate them. Officers drill small holes in some of the flock's eggs in order to keep population numbers down. The Game, Fish and Parks Department has even adjusted goose hunting season in Sioux Falls to end later than the rest of the state in order to remove more of the visiting geese arriving for winter.

Leg banding allows researchers to track the effectiveness of these methods. Over time, they can see if efforts to move flocks away from the airport are successful, or if migration patterns ever start to move away from Sioux Falls.

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

Woman presents quilts of valor to veterans

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF Yankton Press & Dakotan

LAKE ANDES, S.D. (AP) — Betty Jean Gall honored her family's veterans last month, but she didn't pin medals on their chests.

Instead, she wrapped quilts around their shoulders.

Gall brought nine quilts with her from South Carolina to last weekend's family reunion in Lake Andes. The 65 inches by 72 inches quilts contained a variety of patterns incorporating Mount Rushmore, the American eagle and the stars and stripes.

"These are South Dakota veterans, so I incorporated things from the state," she explained. "All of these quilts contain red, white and blue. I put those colors in every one that I make."

Gall holds plenty of experience, as she belongs to the national volunteer organization called Quilts of Valor. Since 2003, the organization has distributed 222,200 quilts to veterans of all ages and military service.

The organization started with the one woman and has spread nationwide, Gall said.

"Quilts of Valor was started in 2003 by Catherine Roberts," Gall told the Yankton Press & Dakotan. "Her son was deployed to Iraq, and she had this vivid dream. Catherine envisioned a young soldier on his bed (in the middle of the night), slumped over and so depressed. In the same dream, Catherine saw him wrapped in a quilt and how it raised his spirits."

Roberts thought not only of her son in combat but of the millions of veterans who may still be suffering years later. "She wanted to honor the returning veterans, to show them that they are still remembered and not forgotten," Gall said.

An effort that started in Roberts' sewing room in Delaware turned into a national movement. She envi-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 17 of 73

sioned a volunteer network of quilt top makers and machine quilters who would award healing quilts to returning service men and women touched by war.

Over time, the Quilts of Valor Foundation QOVF has expanded to include military service members and veterans touched by war regardless of the conflict — declared war or otherwise — in which they served. The quilts are lifetime awards, stitched with love, prayers and healing thoughts.

Gall joined the effort because of the quilt's special meaning.

"I became involved because I think it's so wonderful to honor the veterans," she said. "Since I started, I've given about 50 quilts. Some veterans cry when they receive their quilt. I could have cried, too."

After making quilts for others, Gall focused on honoring her family members. Starting last November, she worked against the clock to make sure all of the quilts were ready in time for last weekend's reunion.

"I brought them with me from South Carolina as a surprise. We kept it a secret so that none of the veterans knew they were receiving it," she said. "No one at all knew about it here today (at the reunion) except for Bev Merkwan, who lives in Geddes and was my local connection to make sure people were here today."

Harold Wentland couldn't understand why Gall was so insistent about him sticking around the reunion at the Charles Mix County 4-H Building.

"I was headed down to Pickstown (six miles away) earlier today because we had family members who were camping down there (by the Missouri River)," Wentland said. "But Betty Jean kept saying, 'You can't leave!' Then I was told that I had to be back by 1 o'clock. I had no idea why I had to be here, but I came back in time."

Gall gathered the relatives at the reunion for a special announcement. She explained the Quilts of Valor organization and her role in it. She would be honoring a special group of veterans — those gathered in the room.

One by one, Gall introduced each veteran and brought him or her forward. She described the person's time, location and branch of service. Those who were present included Tom Kolecka, Robert Wentland, Richard Kolecka, Harold Wentland, Larry Wentland, Jean Kolecka and Terry Rasmussen.

Mike Wentland accepted a quilt for his father, Alvin Wentland, who could not attend the reunion. The final recipient, Paul Wentland Jr., also could not attend.

After each introduction, Gall reached into the box and pulled out the quilt for that designated person. Each quilt was unfolded to show the full scenes and details. The quilt was then carefully placed around the recipient's shoulders.

Cheers and applause erupted in the room, with dozens of smartphones raised for a mass photo shoot.

The veterans showed a mix of emotions. Some beamed smiles; others quietly accepted the quilt.

And at least two of the men fought back tears. They may have faced combat and the threat of death, but the quilts represented something overwhelming — public recognition for their service. They noted many of their fellow veterans haven't received gratitude decades later for their service.

Larry Wentland served with the Air Force at Okinawa. He saw his quilt as honoring not only him but also all previous generations who served in the military.

"So many people don't realize the sacrifices that the people before us made," he said. "I want people to look back and realize the sacrifices made by several members of their own family so we could be free."

Tom Kolecka served with the Wagner unit of the South Dakota National Guard. His quilt continued an eagle and Mount Rushmore.

"What do I think of this quilt? I love it," he said.

Unfortunately, too many people take for granted the service of millions of veterans, Kolecka added. "We're living free because of the brave," he said.

Harold Wentland, who served with the Marines, admired the stars and stripes on his quilt. "To receive one of the Quilts of Valor is very humbling," he said.

Gall has seen the quilts treated in a variety of ways, depending on the veteran and circumstances. "We have about half who use it (for everyday purposes) and others who keep it as a memento," she said.

She pointed out some notable examples.

"One veteran with dementia sat in his chair all the time. His wife put the quilt on him, and now he never takes it off. He keeps it near him — it's his comfort," she said. "Then, we have a couple in my church who drape it over their couch."

Sometimes, the quilt can provide very powerful feelings, Gall said.

"One lady wanted to hang the quilt on the wall," she said. "Her son came home from Iraq, not quite the same (as when he left), and committed suicide a month later. She wanted the quilt on the wall as a memorial for him."

Gall never expected to become involved with such a project.

"My mother started quilting. She wanted me to try it, but it looked too hard and complicated," she said.

However, Gall wanted to become involved with the Quilt of Valor. She purchases and donates the material, someone else does the quilting and she finishes the top and other work.

The quilts are twin sized for most veterans. If recipients are handicapped or confined to bed, they receive a lap-sized quilt.

During the Lake Andes presentation, Gall pointed out the quilt's back corner contains a tag listing who made it, when and where. After the ceremony, she marked down that the quilt was presented last month.

"My goal was to finish all the quilts by the reunion, because I knew they would all be here. And two of my uncles are 94 and 91 (years old). I may never see them again."

Gall looked around the room and saw the joy on the veterans' faces as they wore or held their new quilts. She hoped to continue bringing that feeling to many more recipients in the years ahead.

"It's such a good feeling to honor the veterans," she said. "They're so deserving of it."

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

Lexi Weisbeck on quest to walk after running competitively

By **CUYLER MEADE** Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Lexi Weisbeck was a runner.

She won some state championships with Central High School in track, and was good enough to run for South Dakota State University in college.

Now, she's running a whole different kind of race.

Weisbeck was starting her senior year at Brookings last September when, one day, everything shut down.

It was in stages, but it came quickly. After spending a day sick in bed with a regular cold, she discovered one Monday that she couldn't lift her book bag. No big deal, must be a pinched nerve, she thought.

She went for a walk that night to wear herself out, and she started to fall apart. She fell down the stairs. She fell two more times. It was time to go to a hospital.

"I went to the (emergency room) in Brookings," Weisbeck recalled. "They shipped me to Sioux Falls, that was Monday and Tuesday. Then Wednesday, I couldn't move my arms or legs except for my fingers and toes."

The cause, it was eventually determined — acute flaccid myelitis. It's extraordinarily unlikely to know someone who suffers from the disease. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control has confirmed fewer than 1,000 cases in the country since 2014, when it started tracking it. The vast majority — roughly 90% — are in young children.

"I hit the one in a million," Weisbeck said, drastically understating the statistical reality of how bizarre her diagnosis is.

The disease causes inflammation in the spinal cord, which disrupts the brain's messaging to the body. So while Weisbeck intellectually knows how to walk, her body can't interpret the signals her brain is sending it to tell it to do so.

"I couldn't move, really," Weisbeck told Aberdeen American News. "So I basically had to relearn everything. Daily tasks, couldn't reach up to brush my teeth, had to use counters to support my arms."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 19 of 73

The diagnosis came in September, and Weisbeck was in a hospital until early December. By her side nearly every moment since the initial hospital visit has been her mother, Necole Weisbeck of Mina, who moved in with her daughter and has lived with her since.

"I stayed in her (hospital) room, slept in a very uncomfortable chair for 74 days," Necole Weisbeck said without a hint of puffed-up pride. "And then when she was out of in-patient, we moved into a permanent unit across the street, that was a month. Then I moved to her house with her in Brookings so she could finish college. So we lived (in Brookings), drove back and forth to Sioux Falls for therapy and back and forth from class."

Necole Weisbeck, much like her daughter, counts the family pretty fortunate concerning the circumstances surrounding Lexi's illness.

"We always say it was lucky I wasn't working. We only had and have the one kid, and so it wasn't even a second thought for (Lexi's father) Kurt and I that, yeah, I'll be with her and get her through this," Necole Weisbeck said. "We'll do whatever we have to do for her to help her out. But she did all the work. She put in the effort, wanted it."

That notion is a critical truth for the mother — that her own efforts and sacrifice are nothing compared to those of her daughter, in whom she admits she has enormous amount of pride. Necole doesn't want this story to be about her.

By her own reckoning — though hardly in terms of the mathematics of the situation — Lexi Weisbeck was lucky. Some acute flaccid myelitis patients can't breathe or eat. She could and can. But she couldn't walk, and had to relearn her body to do everything from that to putting on a shirt to putting a pot on the stove.

Combine the inability to do simple tasks with the absurd unlikeliness of her circumstances, and Weisbeck's was a recipe for depression, frustration, anger, even despair.

That just isn't Weisbeck's way, though.

"It's just — I wouldn't," she said. "Obviously, no one wants to go through it. But if you're negative about it, you'll never get better. I'm only 22, so I kind of need to get better."

No "why me?" Really?

"No," she said. "I had a pretty good run for stuff, now I have to get back to it. I think that helped me. That is one benefit of collegiate athletics. I had to go through a ton of pain to get results, so I mean, I feel like I was pretty prepared. The average age to get this is like 4. So to already have a good attitude about it has really helped me — just from the aspect of not looking down on it. If you're sad about it all the time, you're not going to get better."

The positive attitude has worked wonders.

Weisbeck walked — with substantial help from others — by October. She was back in school by January. By May, she took her walker across the stage at graduation.

"I was shaking in my boots the whole time," Weisbeck said with her trademark giggle. "But I told my dad, 'The slower you walk, the more claps you get.'"

Today, she's still mostly using a wheelchair to get around. It's just faster than a walker or crutches, though she can certainly use those. Her goal is to be out of the wheelchair by December. She's in physical and occupational therapy several times a week, continuing her long recovery.

Now, she's headed to law school at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, after graduating from SDSU with a construction management degree in May.

"I was supposed to move to Hawaii in January for a construction management job," Weisbeck said. "But that didn't work."

As positive as she comes across — she laughed constantly while chatting on the phone as she painted boxes to match her furniture — Weisbeck doesn't want to pretend.

"I get those moments," she said. "Don't let me fool you."

Her mother has seen them, few and far between though they may be.

"She really only had two low spots," Necole Weisbeck said. "There was one in the hospital where she was still losing movement and she said she was afraid to go to sleep, because what if she woke up and couldn't move at all — lost that movement that was in her hands? That was tough. It was hard not to cry

then. But we just talked about it. We said, look, we have to trust this is going to work. She was a little worried. I said we can either sit here and wallow or suck it up and deal with it. Those are the two choices, there's no in between on this. She said 'OK,' and from then on, she was amazing."

The other came during an early therapy session.

"One day in the therapy room as an in-patient, she was laying on her back and they were having her try to reach up, and she couldn't do it," Necole recalled. "That was hard for both of us. But other than that, every day, she was just, 'Alright, let's get to it.'"

Sometimes it's frustrating, Lexi Wesibeck said, to know exactly how to do the simplest action but not be able to perform it.

"It's like a baby almost now," she said. "I had to crawl before I could walk."

But, almost to a fault, the younger Weisbeck remains positive.

"I was talking to my therapist and, you know, we could only do three different things in therapy, and now I can do 15 things in therapy" she said. "Just gaining so much speed. So it's just time. I feel like the recovery is mostly time, and nobody wants to deal with time."

The gap from running competitively to learning to crawl again isn't something of which she hasn't taken notice. But training for races and training for life are just two different types of training. She's used to working hard.

"It's weird," Weisbeck admitted. "If I could describe anything, it would be 'weird.' But I feel like it's a chance to try new stuff. When I moved to Omaha, the rock-climbing gym I used to go to has adaptive climbing, so I'll do that, and it's different kinds of workouts, which is nice. When you're a runner, your only workout is running, so it's nice to try different things."

When losing control of your body can be called "trying different things," it's pretty obvious what kind of attitude is being discussed.

"Staying positive is definitely key to recovery," Weisbeck said.

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

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press undefined

Rapid City Journal, June 30

Expand preschool to help everyone

Kindergarten teachers know quickly which of their students attended preschool. They're the ones prepared to learn.

Third grade teachers can usually predict which of their students will become truants and dropouts. Education after third grade relies increasingly on reading, and those who can't read well will fall further behind.

The kids who showed up at school unready for kindergarten are likely to be the same ones who will struggle in fourth grade, then cycle through jobs, become pregnant as teenagers, need welfare or end up in jail. It's a waste of human potential, but it's also a cost to taxpayers, crime victims and employers, who can't find qualified staff.

If only those kids had shown up at kindergarten prepared.

The latest Kids Count report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation cites a lack of state funding for early childhood education as an ongoing concern. South Dakota is one of a handful of states that provides no financial support for early childhood education, and in South Dakota two-thirds of youths do not attend preschool.

Today, kindergarten provides what first grade once did. Preschool is where kids learn to work together, follow rules and pay attention.

State lawmakers, meanwhile, are loath to embark on any path that might lead to mandatory preschool, fearing its ongoing costs and potential infringement of liberties. For many, mandating preschool for all

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 21 of 73

kids age 3 and above — as Oklahoma did recently — seems like the thin edge of a government wedge.

Legislators last year rejected a bill that would have established a committee to study South Dakota pre-kindergarten programs. They wouldn't even study it. Preschool education isn't going anywhere in Pierre.

That doesn't mean kids in South Dakota must suffer the lifetime consequences. Coalitions of faith interests, civic groups, businesses and charities have created scholarship programs for families who fall into the funding gap — too rich for federally funded Head Start programs and too poor to afford preschool on their own.

Poverty and underachievement go together. Bright kids from poor parents tend to underachieve as they age, while wealthier children with less talent often surmount poor starts. Poor families simply lack the resources to overcome setbacks.

In Sioux Falls, the Hope Coalition provides three-day-per-week preschool to low-income children. Recent additions will expand the program from 90 children last year to 150 this autumn. Seven certified preschools, most of them faith-based, now accept children for \$2,500 per child and then integrate them with other preschool children. The two-year-old program is halfway to its goal of serving 300 students. Businesses, individuals, charities and foundations provide all funding.

They represent people "who believe this will make Sioux Falls a better place to live in 10-20-30 years," said Randall Beck, the program's executive director.

In Rapid City, a seven-year-old initiative called Starting Strong, overseen by Early Childhood Connections, provides scholarships to 85 children whose parents can then choose among seven certified preschools. Funding comes from the John T. Vucurevich Foundation and others. Five-day-per-week preschool is guaranteed for two years to any child who qualifies at age 3.

More options may be coming to Rapid City. Mayor Steve Allender is looking to expand early childhood education here. How it might look will depend on feedback from a host of community partners. Any resulting program should stay focused on what will make Rapid City families stronger. It will take relentless leadership to beat this drum and convince businesses of the strong potential return on investment.

If Rapid City and Sioux Falls can prepare more kids to learn in kindergarten, the state might see fit to help other communities replicate their efforts. Done right, projects occurring on both ends of the state could eventually teach all of South Dakota a thing or two.

Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, June 27

Despite defeat, push for public access continues

The Argus Leader's eight-year battle for transparency in government spending records reached its legal pinnacle this spring in front of the United States Supreme Court. On Monday, in a shattering blow to government transparency, that battle was lost.

Our quest for public access to information about where federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) dollars are spent in South Dakota was struck down. A 6-3 majority reversed nearly a half-century of judicial precedent, effectively prioritizing private industry's desire for secrecy in government dealings over the public's right to know how their tax money is spent.

In 2011, under the Freedom of Information Act, our reporters requested the annual amounts the federal government paid to retailers that participate in SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We were examining rural communities' access to affordable, nutritious food and probing issues of potential fraud by retailers who accept government payment.

Some of the few such windows journalists have gotten into the \$70 billion SNAP system have revealed clear abuses. According to indictments brought by the Department of Justice in 2017 against a group of retailers in southern Florida, eight convenience stores "received more than \$20 million in federal payments for transactions in which they did not provide any food" by exchanging SNAP benefits for as little as half their value in cash.

Retail industry trade group Food Marketing Institute picked up the gauntlet after the USDA gave up challenging Argus Leader court victories. Yet we prevailed at the 8th Circuit Court against FMI's argu-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 22 of 73

ment, which was rooted in Exemption 4 of the FOIA: that retailers would suffer competitive harm were the information we sought to be made public.

Monday's ruling made clear why this Supreme Court agreed to hear FMI's appeal of the 8th Circuit decision. It was not due to the particulars of our specific case. Ours was simply the first FOIA case to reach this level that could be used as a vehicle to strike the "substantial competitive injury" test used in the judicial system since 1974 to determine whether or not information involving private business dealings with the government should be kept confidential or could be made public.

The majority opinion written by Justice Neil Gorsuch ignored that the records we requested were of government payments to businesses, information that is typically public record. Gorsuch focused only on an extreme narrowing of meaning of the word "confidential" in the original text of FOIA as written in 1966, basing this new restrictive definition on dictionaries of that era.

This strict textual approach, adherence to the letter of the law versus its spirit, has only recently been on the ascendancy in U.S. courts following years of legal interpretation based on the intent of lawmakers whose language was imprecise or idiosyncratic.

Since a 2015 dissent by textualist justices Clarence Thomas and the late Antonin Scalia, a sect of the Supreme Court has been waiting for the opportunity to break the competitive-harm lens through which Exemption 4 interpretations have been viewed. Unfortunately, Food Marketing Institute v. Argus Leader Media was sucked into the gravitational pull of that movement.

We agree with Justice Stephen Breyer's partial dissent in this case, in which he was joined by Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor: that this ruling is at odds with FOIA's principles of public access to government information that cannot otherwise be obtained. As Breyer wrote, "After all, where information is already publicly available, people do not submit FOIA requests — they use Google ... given the temptation, common across the private and public sectors, to regard as secret all information that need not be disclosed, I fear the majority's reading will deprive the public of information for reasons no better than convenience, skittishness, or bureaucratic inertia."

Extending Gorsuch's logic in the majority opinion, a local contractor's invoice for payment for road paving work done for the city of Sioux Falls could be shielded simply because it was submitted by a private contractor. The open bidding process — one of the most fundamental anti-corruption methods — is at risk of being undermined.

As Breyer's dissent charges, "For the majority, a business holding information as private and submitting it under an assurance of privacy is enough to deprive the public of access. But a tool used to probe the relationship between government and business should not be unavailable whenever government and business wish it so."

The majority opinion also fails to acknowledge the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, which added explicit language concerning the definition of confidentiality on which the decision centered. That's important because, although this week's decision essentially abdicates Congress's role to either industry or the executive branch, Congress is the next battlefield in the fight to cast sunshine on government dealings.

In that regard, there are already signs of hope. Republican Senator Chuck Grassley took to the Senate floor Thursday as "an advocate for the Freedom of Information Act and the public's business being public," venting his displeasure that this week's ruling restricts access to public information.

Grassley said he is "working on legislation to address these developments and to promote access to government records. Americans deserve an accountable government, and transparency leads to accountability." We hope that South Dakota's congressional delegation plans to join that fight.

Such a response softens the acute disappointment we felt in the wake of our Supreme Court loss. We vow to redouble our watchdog efforts. Although this battle fell short, it can serve to spur important action in the ongoing push for public access to government information.

We might be temporarily down, but we promise never to be out.

—

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 23 of 73

Madison Daily Leader, June 26

So just what is 'money' these days?

The head of the international Financial Stability Board warned world leaders this week that cryptocurrencies need close scrutiny by regulators.

Cryptocurrencies are a new sort of digital money invented by entrepreneurs in the last decade. Bitcoin may be the most familiar, but more than 4,000 similar currencies have been created.

These new alternatives force us to consider what is "money." Simply, it can be anything used to exchange for goods or services. Early money may have been stones, or food, or precious metals. As long as both sides agree to the exchange, then anything can be used as money.

Money can also be used as a place to store value. We earn a paycheck for work conducted one week but don't buy groceries with it until a week or more later. Generally, we count on money to hold its value so that it could buy the same amount of food whenever it's used.

Traditional currencies are issued by most countries and some, like the U.S. dollar or the Euro, are very stable. Other currencies, issued by countries with weak economies or corrupt governments, are very unstable. The Indonesian rupiah or the Russian ruble are considered the most volatile of currencies.

At the moment, cryptocurrencies are very unstable. They may buy a lot more or a lot less tomorrow than they do today. Eighteen months ago, a Bitcoin was worth about \$19,650. Six months ago, it was worth about \$4,000. Today, it is worth around \$10,000.

Because of such volatility, cryptocurrencies are bought and sold mostly for speculation rather than as currencies. Speculators buy if they think the value will go up, sell when they think it will go down. It isn't much different than spinning a roulette wheel.

Perhaps cryptocurrencies someday will become reliable, stable versions of money. Until then, we'll rely on time-tested currencies.

Economic impact of crisis felt by ag and dairy lenders

By ELIZABETH BEYER La Crosse Tribune

LA CROSSE, Wis. (AP) — Luke Schulte drew a deep breath, paused and exhaled.

"I'm not sure," he said with a sigh. "It's been a really tough time, the last five, six years."

Schulte worked in lending, with a focus on agriculture and dairy producers, for most of his career. Now, as the market president of State Bank Financial in Sparta, the oldest community bank in western Wisconsin, he has a front-row seat to the devastation caused by the volatile ag and dairy market on surrounding rural communities.

His bank worked with producers to restructure their debt amid the crisis, but a large number of those producers have refinanced two and sometimes three years in a row — to the point where the bank can no longer help them.

"After many years of this downward slide, for a lot of them, that's not an option anymore," he said. "It's just become harder and harder."

Schulte said his goal is to put farmers in a better position financially, but banks are beginning to feel pressure from regulators and the FDIC. "When they come in, we have to have a really good explanation as to why we continue to refinance the operating notes."

Michael Lochner, economic specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, also is feeling mounting pressure of the crisis as he and his coworkers struggle to help counsel farmers through the crisis.

The majority of calls routed to his office used to focus on transition planning, or how to pass the farm to the next generation. Now, he said, the majority of those calls consist of farmers who are financially stressed and seeking help.

The definition of financial stress has a wide range, but a large percentage of the calls come from those who are on the severe end of the spectrum or feeling pressure from a lender because they're more than 60 days past due on loan payments. That status could lead a producer to foreclosure or bankruptcy.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 24 of 73

In 2019 so far, the number of farm closures has reached three per day, the La Crosse Tribune reported. The decrease in the number of agriculture producers led to an increase in the number of implement dealers, such as grain suppliers, equipment manufacturers and distributors, as well as veterinary services, all staples of rural economies, that have closed or consolidated.

Lochner remembered working in the 1980s, when there was an implement dealer, a veterinary service and a dairy supply service within a 10- to 15-mile radius of any farm in Wisconsin. In the 1990s, he estimated that radius grew to 20 to 30 miles. Now, it's probably 40 to 60 miles, he said.

"As you have less (clients) for those specific businesses, they need to either merge with someone else or go out of business or get bigger," he said.

Stephen Bianchi, president and CEO of CCF Bank, a community bank that serves rural Wisconsin and Minnesota, recognized the symptoms of a suffering rural economy due to his past experience as a banker in South Dakota.

"When farmers were having good years, they were in town buying pickups, making improvements to their homes, to their farms," he said. "That economic activity in our towns, in our dealerships tends to diminish as a cycle like this (current crisis) plays out." Today, farmers hold on to their equipment longer, they're not making the investments they used to make.

Mark Stephenson, director of dairy policy analysis at University of Wisconsin-Madison, agreed with Bianchi's assessment.

If producers earn a dollar selling milk, that dollar is spent on services such as veterinarians, or to buy groceries or tools at the local hardware store. When the milk price is down and those dollars earned are down, it does have an effect on the local economy, Stephenson said.

"As we have financial distress on farms, it ripples through these rural communities," he said.

The market downturn has yet to affect the price on land, which has prompted struggling producers to sell their acres to neighbors, an effort that added to the consolidation of farms in Wisconsin and across the Midwest. Today, it's not uncommon for a large farm to be managed by multiple families.

Schulte believes dairy prices hit bottom and will begin to recover but that recovery will be slow, and more producers will leave the industry even as dairy and commodity prices rise. As a result, consolidation on the producer side as well as among implement dealers will continue regardless of market recuperation.

The number of farm and implement dealer closures and consolidation has caused the rural communities in Wisconsin to shrink as younger generations move to larger metropolitan areas, in search of employment opportunities outside of the agriculture and dairy industry.

"From what I can tell, the rural population continues to get smaller and the La Crosse, the Madisons, Milwaukee, continue to grow," Schulte said. "We'll probably see, in the next five years, another large reduction in the farms — specifically the dairy farms that are out there in Wisconsin."

He predicts the number of Wisconsin dairy farms will decrease by half during the next decade due to rural flight. "Obviously if this cycle continues its trend of downward or low prices, that number will accelerate."

Milk prices have rebounded substantially, from an all-milk price of roughly \$14 in 2018 to roughly \$18 per hundredweight forecast by the end of 2019 by the USDA Economic Research Service. But that's still lower than the highest all-milk price reached in 2017, \$18.90 in January of that year, when a lot of farms were operating at break even, Lochner said.

Information from: La Crosse Tribune, <http://www.lacrossetribune.com>

Man drowns in Rapid City park pond

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a man has drowned in a Rapid City park pond after he jumped in to swim.

Witnesses say the man was about 30 to 40 feet from shore when he went under about 3:30 a.m. Tuesday at Memorial Park.

KOTA-TV says firefighters first on the scene couldn't see the victim, so divers from the Rapid City/Pen-

nington County water rescue team were called in. Two of the divers found the victim who was pulled from the water unconscious and not breathing.

He was taken to the hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

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

Judge refuses to lower bond in mayor stalking case

STIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A judge has refused to lower bond for a man accused of stalking the mayor of Sioux Falls.

A public defender tried to get Christopher Bruce's \$50,000 cash bond lowered in court Monday, claiming comments made by the defendant were taken out of context. Bruce is charged with stalking, a felony that carries a maximum two years behind bars. Bruce is accused, in part, of emailing city council member in November, saying the mayor's family might find out that their son may be responsible for the deaths of citizens.

KELO-TV reports Judge Susan Sabers told Bruce that if she gave him the benefit of the doubt she would regret it if something bad happened.

Information from: KELO-TV, <http://www.keloland.com>

SUPREME COURT NOTEBOOK: Did Ginsburg hint at census outcome?

By MARK SHERMAN and JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's been another taxing term for reporters who try to forecast the outcome of high-profile Supreme Court cases.

Many of us wrote that based on arguments in late April, the court's five conservative justices would allow the Trump administration to go forward with a citizenship question on the 2020 census.

That turned out not to be true when Chief Justice John Roberts joined with the court's four liberals, in a decision announced last week, to keep citizenship off the census questionnaire, at least for the time being. The administration said Tuesday it would drop its effort to put its question on the form.

But perhaps we did not focus enough on a hint dropped by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in early June. In a speech to lawyers and judges in New York, Ginsburg described those predicting the administration would win the case as "speculators." The Merriam-Webster dictionary says a speculator may take something "to be true on the basis of insufficient evidence."

"Speculators about the outcome note that last year, in *Trump v. Hawaii*, the court upheld the so-called 'travel ban,' in an opinion granting great deference to the Executive," Ginsburg said in prepared remarks distributed by the court.

It's fair to, ahem, speculate that the 86-year-old justice could have idly dropped the word into her speech without intending to signal the case's outcome.

But this year's speech was not the first to offer some evidence that Ginsburg knows precisely what she is doing.

In 2012, with the whole world waiting for the court's verdict on President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, Ginsburg told the same groups of lawyers and judges that that the term had been especially "taxing." Weeks later, with Roberts and the four liberals forming a majority, the Supreme Court upheld the heart of the Affordable Care Act as a valid exercise of Congress' taxing power.

Problem is, Ginsburg's handiwork is typically only evident in hindsight. And to be fair, she denied to a reporter that she intended to foreshadow the health care decision in her speech.

Send more women to Washington. That was what Ginsburg had to say Tuesday during an event at

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 26 of 73

Georgetown law school in the nation's capital, where she was asked about the number of women in politics. Yes, no woman has served as president, but voters sent a record number of women to Congress in the last election.

"Impressive numbers, but not enough. That's right," said Ginsburg, who co-founded the American Civil Liberties Union Women's Rights Project before she was a justice.

Ginsburg became the second woman to join the Supreme Court when she was nominated by Bill Clinton in 1993, and a record three women now sit on the nine-member court.

Ginsburg wasn't asked how many female justices would be "enough," but she's answered that question repeatedly in the past: "When there are nine."

Three glorious months. That's how long the Supreme Court is on vacation after issuing its final, big opinions last week.

The justices usually get out of Washington, packing their bags for other parts of the country and the world. Roberts likes to spend time at a vacation home in Maine. Justice Clarence Thomas generally isn't recognized as he drives his motor coach around the country.

This year, Ginsburg's schedule includes a repeat trip to New York to speak at a festival dedicated to musicals and opera, a passion of hers. She'll be back in Washington to speak at the Library of Congress National Book Festival on Aug. 31.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor is also hitting the books, spending time at book festivals in Mississippi and Georgia. She has a new kids book, "Just Ask!" due out Sept. 3. It's about children who are growing up with different challenges, a topic personal to Sotomayor, who was diagnosed with diabetes as a child.

The classroom, rather than the courtroom, is another place justices often spend the summer. The court's newest justice, Brett Kavanaugh, is teaching in England. President Donald Trump's other appointee to the court, Neil Gorsuch, is doing the same in Italy. Gorsuch will be back stateside to speak at the George W. Bush Presidential Center in mid-September, where he'll talk about his book, "A Republic, If You Can Keep It," due out Sept. 10.

The justices will next gather for a private conference Oct. 1 and begin hearing arguments again Oct. 7.

Show of hands on immigrant health care belies a thorny issue

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In one unanimous show of hands, Democratic presidential candidates moved to the mainstream the idea of full health insurance for people who don't have legal permission to be in the United States.

But turning that debate night moment into reality would mean reversing longstanding federal policies that have only gotten stricter. The idea is so new that independent experts say they don't have a reliable cost estimate. Politically, it wouldn't happen without a pitched battle.

Democrats debating in Miami argued that all Americans would be better off if everyone in the country had medical care, pointing out that most immigrants are working and paying taxes that support programs like Medicare and Social Security.

"You cannot let people who are sick, no matter where they come from, no matter what their status, go uncovered," former Vice President Joe Biden said.

Biden's approach calls for building on the Obama law he helped to pass, which now denies benefits to immigrants living in the country without permission.

It wouldn't be a freebie, argued South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, who has talked about a buy-in plan.

"They pay sales taxes, they pay property taxes directly or indirectly," Buttigieg said. "This is not about a handout. This is an insurance program."

Other Democrats say program design could lead to broader public acceptance.

"If it is clear that they are paying for it, they could be getting basic care and avoid being in the emer-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 27 of 73

gency room at taxpayer expense," said Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif.

The issue has been considered so politically sensitive that the "Medicare for All" bills in Congress don't directly deal with it. Instead legislation from Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and a similar bill in the House call for covering every U.S. "resident," and they delegate the secretary of Health and Human Services to define that term in a regulation.

President Donald Trump, doubling down on tough immigration policies as he seeks a second term, all but thanked the 10 Democrats on the debate stage last Thursday in Miami.

"All Democrats just raised their hands for giving millions of illegal aliens unlimited healthcare," he wrote on Twitter. "How about taking care of American Citizens first!? That's the end of that race!"

Health coverage for people without legal permission to be in the country has mainly been a demand from the political left, echoed by some public health experts who say society is better protected if everyone has medical care. Think children going without measles shots.

A new CNN poll found support among roughly 6 in 10 Democratic voters for government health insurance coverage for people in the country illegally. It also highlighted a generational difference. Democrats under 45 supported coverage by 70% to 29% while those 45 and older were more closely divided, 55% to 41%.

The poll raised a general election warning flag that echoed Trump's dismissive tweet: Among all Americans, 59% were opposed, while 38% were in favor.

For now, flagship federal health programs remain off limits to all but U.S. citizens and legal residents. That includes Medicare, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance and the Obama-era Affordable Care Act, or ACA. Congress even forbade unauthorized immigrants from buying ACA coverage with their own money.

America doesn't slam the door completely. Federally funded community health centers provide basic medical care to the uninsured without asking immigration questions. Hospital emergency rooms are required by law to treat and stabilize all patients, with government subsidizing the cost. Some states, like California, use their own funds to cover children regardless of immigration status.

Of the 10 million to 11 million immigrants in the country without legal permission, many appear to have private coverage. The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that roughly 4 million people are uninsured because of immigration status, while the Migration Policy Institute has a higher number, nearly 6 million. Both are nonpartisan research organizations.

The bills in Congress call for measures to deter immigration for the "sole purpose" of getting free medical care. That implicitly acknowledges that health care benefits could wind up encouraging more immigrants.

"Adopting subsidized major health care programs for illegal aliens serves as the ultimate 'pull factor' for migrants and would exacerbate our nation's border crisis," said R.J. Hauman of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which supports curbs on immigration.

"Both Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama would be to the right of all current (Democratic) candidates on this issue," he added.

Cost is another factor. Hauman said the coverage would be a new "multi-billion dollar" expense for taxpayers. However, independent experts at the Kaiser Foundation and Migration Policy say there's no authoritative number because the question hasn't been rigorously researched.

Randy Capps, a senior researcher with the Migration Policy Institute, said immigrants living in the country illegally are generally a younger population, so bringing them into the private insurance system could also help with costs.

"Undocumented immigrants are disproportionately young and healthy," Capps said. "From the point of view of providing preventive and primary care to a large group of people who are younger and healthier now but might get sicker later, it makes sense."

AP Political Writer Nicholas Riccardi in Denver contributed to this report.

Trump touts July 4 military 'salute'; critics see politics

By **ROBERT BURNS, LOLITA C. BALDOR and DARLENE SUPERVILLE** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is marshalling tanks, bombers and other machinery of war for a Fourth of July celebration that traditionally is light on military might, while critics accused him of using America's military as a political prop.

Under White House direction, the Pentagon was scrambling to arrange for an Air Force B-2 stealth bomber and other warplanes to conduct flyovers of the celebration on the National Mall. There will be Navy F-35 and F-18 fighter jets, the Navy Blue Angels aerial acrobatics team, Army and Coast Guard helicopters and Marine V-22 Ospreys.

Two Bradley fighting vehicles were in place Wednesday near the Lincoln Memorial, where Trump will deliver a speech on for the Independence Day celebration.

A small number of 60-ton Army Abrams battle tanks were sent to Washington by rail to be positioned on or near the National Mall, though the District of Columbia government fired back with its own verbal salvo.

"Tanks, but no tanks," it tweeted, adding that the Pentagon itself said last year that a tank's steel tracks could damage city roadways. Also scheduled to make appearances over the Mall are the presidential Air Force One and Marine One aircraft.

Trump, casting the extravaganza as a "Salute to America," tweeted on Tuesday that military leaders are "thrilled" to participate. If so, they were hiding it well. Pentagon officials referred questions to the White House. Military officials would not even say on the record whether Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, plans to attend.

"Military Leaders are thrilled to be doing this & showing to the American people, among other things, the strongest and most advanced Military anywhere in the World," Trump tweeted. "Incredible Flyovers & biggest ever Fireworks!"

"This is raw politicization," countered Loren Dejonge Schulman, a senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security and a Pentagon and White House official during the Obama administration. She said in an email exchange that Trump's use of the military appears to be less about honoring the men and women serving in uniform than about trying to "brag to and humor" his political cronies.

Rep. Betty McCollum complained, "Mr. Trump is hijacking the celebration and twisting it into a taxpayer-funded, partisan political rally that's more about promoting a Trumpian cult of personality than the spirit of American independence and freedom. The Minnesota Democrat, who chairs the Interior Appropriations subcommittee, said the Interior Department and the Pentagon have not answered multiple requests for details on how much the event will cost.

White House officials sought to counter the criticism by stressing that the president would deliver a patriotic speech at the Lincoln Memorial during an event that he has billed as honoring the U.S. armed forces.

The administration undercut its own assertion of it being a nonpolitical event, however, when senior presidential adviser Kellyanne Conway said the speech will highlight "the success of this administration in opening up so many jobs for individuals, what we've done for veterans," in addition to celebrating democracy, patriotism and the military.

A fundamental feature of the military's role in American democracy is its insulation from politics, which is meant to ensure the armed forces' loyalty to the Constitution rather than to an individual elected leader. That is why, for example, members of the military are not allowed to participate in political campaigns, and why Trump's first defense secretary, Jim Mattis, slow-rolled a White House plan for a Veterans Day military parade last year.

Muscular military displays of the kind that are common in authoritarian countries like China and North Korea are not quintessentially American, although military bands and honor guards customarily participate in holiday parades and warplanes sometimes are used in flyovers at big sporting events. The U.S. traditionally has not embraced showy exhibitions of raw military power as a claim of international prestige and influence.

Trump had wanted a military parade of tanks and other equipment in Washington after he watched a

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 29 of 73

military parade on Bastille Day in Paris in 2017. His plan eventually was scuttled, partly because of cost, though he apparently held on to the idea. Local officials objected at that time, too.

A ticket-only area in front of the Lincoln Memorial is being set aside for VIPs, including members of Trump's family, friends and members of the military, the White House said.

The Republican National Committee is distributing a "small number" of tickets to the event, which it says is standard practice and follows what the Democratic National Committee did under Democratic presidents. However, those were smaller events at the White House, for example, and not major productions taking over the National Mall.

David Lapan, a retired Marine colonel and former senior spokesman at the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security, said enlisting troops for a Fourth of July event in the nation's capital only adds to their stress.

"After 18-plus years of war, we have asked a lot of our military and their families, and they have sacrificed," Lapan said. "Let's give them a day off rather than a day on for this holiday."

Some Democrats in Congress objected to what they saw as Trump's political motives.

"Most shameful of all is the fact that our military is being co-opted for a gratuitous display of strength by a commander in chief who relishes the attention of dictators and despots," she said.

The Pentagon said it had made no overall estimate of the cost of the military's participation. The Air Force said it costs \$122,311 an hour to fly the B-2 bomber, which is to make the trip from its home at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri and back. Officials said this will be considered a training event, the cost of which is already budgeted. They said the per-hour flying cost of the F-22 fighter is \$65,128.

Associated Press writers Matthew Daly, Deb Riechmann and Ellen Knickmeyer contributed to this report.

Airstrike hits Libyan detention center, killing 44 migrants

By RAMI MUSA and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP) — An airstrike hit a detention center for migrants near the Libyan capital early Wednesday, killing at least 44 people and wounding more than 130, the U.N. mission to the war-torn country said.

The airstrike raises further concerns about the European Union's policy of partnering with Libyan militias to prevent migrants from crossing the Mediterranean, which often leaves them at the mercy of brutal traffickers or stranded in squalid detention centers near the front lines.

It could also lead to greater Western pressure on Khalifa Hifter, a Libyan general whose forces launched an offensive on Tripoli in April. The Tripoli-based government blamed his self-styled Libyan National Army for the airstrike and called for the U.N. to investigate.

A spokesman for Hifter's forces did not immediately answer phone calls and messages seeking comment. Local media reported the LNA had launched airstrikes against a militia camp near the detention center in Tripoli's Tajoura neighborhood.

Footage circulating online and said to be from inside the migrant detention center showed blood and body parts mixed with rubble and migrants' belongings.

The airstrike hit a workshop housing weapons and vehicles and an adjacent hangar where around 150 migrants were being held, mostly Sudanese and Moroccans, according to two migrants who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal.

The migrants said three or four survived unharmed and about 20 were wounded. They said the rest were killed, indicating the final death toll could be much higher.

Doctors Without Borders said the detention cell that was destroyed held 126 migrants. The aid group's Libya medical coordinator, Prince Alfani, said teams visited the center just hours before the airstrike. He said survivors fear for their lives, and he called for the immediate evacuation of the detention centers.

The U.N. refugee agency also condemned the airstrike and called for an immediate end to efforts to

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 30 of 73

return migrants to Libya.

UNHCR spokesman Charlie Yaxley noted that the agency had warned less than two months ago that anyone inside the Tajoura detention center was at risk of being caught in the fighting around Tripoli. Then, an airstrike that hit nearby wounded two migrants. Yaxley said UNHCR is sending medical teams to the site after the latest airstrike.

The head of the African Union, Moussa Faki Mahamat, also condemned the strike. He called for an independent investigation and said those responsible for the "horrific crime" should be held to account. U.N. envoy Ghassan Salame said the airstrike could amount to a war crime because it "killed by surprise innocent people whose dire conditions forced them to be in that shelter."

The LNA launched an offensive against the weak Tripoli-based government in April. Hifter's forces control much of Libya's east and south but suffered a significant blow last week when militias allied with the Tripoli government reclaimed the strategic town of Gharyan, about 100 kilometers (62 miles) from the capital. Gharyan had been a key LNA supply route.

Hifter's forces have targeted militia positions in Tajoura with airstrikes in recent weeks. The LNA said Monday it had begun an air campaign on rival forces in Tripoli after it lost control of Gharyan.

Hifter's forces boast MiG fighter jets supplied by neighboring Egypt, as well as drones, attack helicopters and mine-resistant vehicles. It was not immediately clear what munitions were used in the airstrike early Wednesday.

Oded Berkowitz, a security analyst focused on the Libyan conflict, said Hifter's LNA flies "a handful of obsolete aircraft" that are "in poor condition." He said it has received spare parts from Egypt and possibly Russia, as well as decommissioned aircraft from both countries.

"Egypt and the UAE have been conducting air operations on behalf of the LNA, but there are no indications that the UAE transferred aircraft to the LNA," he said.

Fathi Bashagha, the interior minister in the Tripoli-based government, claimed that foreign countries allied with Hifter were behind the attack. He told The Associated Press that Hifter's foreign backers "went mad" after his forces lost Gharyan. He did not name any countries or provide evidence to support his claim. He also denied any weapons were being stored at the detention facility.

The fighting for Tripoli has threatened to plunge Libya into another bout of violence on the scale of the 2011 conflict that ousted longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi and led to his death.

Hifter says he is determined to restore stability to the North African country. He is backed by Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia while his rivals, mainly Islamists, are supported by Turkey and Qatar.

His campaign against Islamic militants across Libya since 2014 won him growing international support from world leaders who are concerned that Libya has become a haven for armed groups and a major conduit for migrants bound for Europe.

His opponents, however, view him as an aspiring autocrat and fear a return to one-man rule.

Libya became a major crossing point for migrants to Europe after Gadhafi's overthrow, when the North African nation was thrown into chaos, armed militias proliferated and central authority fell apart.

At least 6,000 migrants from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and other nations are locked in dozens of detention facilities in Libya run by militias accused of torture and other abuses. Most of the migrants were apprehended by European Union-funded and -trained Libyan coast guards while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe.

The detention centers have limited food and other supplies for the migrants, who often end up there after arduous journeys at the mercy of abusive traffickers who hold them for ransom money from families back home.

The U.N. refugee agency has said that more than 3,000 migrants are in danger because they are held in detention centers close to the front lines.

Magdy reported from Cairo. Associated Press writer Maggie Michael in Cairo contributed.

Jury to decide SEAL's punishment for posing with corpse

By JULIE WATSON and BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The same military jurors who acquitted a decorated Navy SEAL of murder in the killing of a wounded Islamic State captive under his care in Iraq in 2017 will return to court Wednesday to decide whether he should serve any jail time for the single charge he was convicted of: posing with the 17-year-old militant's corpse.

The final step comes after the verdict Tuesday was met with an outpouring of emotion as the jury also cleared Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher of attempted murder in the shootings of two civilians and all other charges.

The outcome dealt a major blow to one of the Navy's most high-profile war crimes cases and exposed a generational conflict within the ranks of the elite special operations forces.

Gallagher could face up to four months imprisonment for the single conviction along with a reduction in rank, forfeiture of two-thirds of his pay and a reprimand.

Having already served seven months in confinement ahead of the trial, the Bronze Star recipient is expected to go home a free man, his defense lawyers said. In the military justice system, the jury decides the sentence.

After the verdict was read, the defense attorneys jumped up from their seats as Gallagher turned and embraced his wife over the bar of the gallery.

Gallagher, dressed in his Navy whites sporting a chest full of medals, told reporters outside court that he was happy and thankful.

"I thank God, and my legal team and my wife," he said.

He declined to address questions about his SEAL team. His lawyers said he might talk after the jury decides his sentence.

His wife, Andrea Gallagher, who was by his side throughout the court-martial, said she was elated.

"I was feeling like we're finally vindicated after being terrorized by the government that my husband fought for for 20 years," Andrea Gallagher said before the couple drove away from Naval Base San Diego in a white convertible Mustang to start celebrating.

She vowed to continue to take action over what she has described as prosecutorial misconduct and a shoddy investigation that led to her husband going to trial. She said she wants Naval Special Warfare Group 1 Commodore Capt. Matthew D. Rosenbloom to resign, among other things.

Defense lawyers said Gallagher was framed by junior disgruntled platoon members who fabricated the allegations to oust their chief and the lead investigator built the probe around their stories instead of seeking the truth. They said there was no physical evidence to support the allegations because no corpse was ever recovered and examined by a pathologist.

The prosecution said Gallagher was incriminated by his own text messages and photos, including one of him holding the dead militant up by the hair and clutching a knife in his other hand.

"Got him with my hunting knife," Gallagher wrote in a text with the photo.

The defense said it was just gallows humor and pointed out that almost all platoon members who testified against him also posed with the corpse.

Gallagher's family championed a "Free Eddie" campaign that won the support of dozens of congressional Republicans who brought the case to the attention of President Donald Trump.

Trump had Gallagher moved from the brig to more favorable confinement at a Navy hospital this spring and was reportedly considering a pardon for him.

The panel of five Marines and two sailors, including a SEAL, were mostly seasoned combat veterans who served in Iraq and several had lost friends in war.

Most of the witnesses were granted immunity to protect them from being prosecuted for acts they described on the stand.

Lt. Jacob Portier, the officer in charge of the platoon, has been charged separately for overseeing Gallagher's re-enlistment ceremony next to the corpse and not reporting the alleged stabbing.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 32 of 73

The Navy is still pursuing the case against Portier, defense lawyer Jeremiah J. Sullivan III said.

2020 Census to be printed without citizenship question

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER** and **MARK SHERMAN** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Days after the U.S. Supreme Court halted the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau has started the process of printing the questionnaire without the controversial query.

Trump administration attorneys notified parties in lawsuits challenging the question that the printing of the hundreds of millions of documents for the 2020 counts would be starting, said Kristen Clarke, executive director of the National Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Justice Department spokeswoman Kelly Laco confirmed Tuesday there would be "no citizenship question on 2020 census."

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said that while he respected the Supreme Court's decision, he strongly disagreed with it.

"The Census Bureau has started the process of printing the decennial questionnaires without the question," Ross said in a statement. "My focus, and that of the Bureau and the entire Department is to conduct a complete and accurate census."

President Donald Trump had said after the high court's decision last week that he would ask his attorneys about possibly delaying next spring's decennial census until the Supreme Court could revisit the matter, raising questions about whether printing of the census materials would start as planned this month.

For months, the Trump administration had argued that the courts needed to decide quickly whether the citizenship question could be added because of the deadline to starting printing materials this week.

On Twitter Tuesday night, Trump wrote that the Supreme Court ruling marked a "very sad time for America." He also said he had asked the Commerce and Justice departments "to do whatever is necessary to bring this most vital of questions, and this very important case, to a successful conclusion." He did not elaborate.

Even though the Census Bureau is relying on most respondents to answer the questionnaire by Internet next year, hundreds of millions of printed postcards and letters will be sent out next March reminding residents about the census, and those who don't respond digitally will be mailed paper questionnaires.

"The Supreme Court's ruling left little opportunity for the administration to cure the defects with its decision to add a citizenship question and, most importantly, they were simply out of time given the deadline for printing forms," Clarke said in an email.

Opponents of the citizenship question said it would discourage participation by immigrants and residents who are in the country illegally, resulting in inaccurate figures for a count that determines the distribution of some \$675 billion in federal spending and how many congressional districts each state gets.

The Trump administration had said the question was being added to aid in enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, which protects minority voters' access to the ballot box. But in the Supreme Court's decision, Chief Justice John Roberts joined the court's four more liberal members in saying the administration's current justification for the question "seems to have been contrived."

Democratic mayors and governors opposed to the question argued that they'd get less federal money and fewer representatives in Congress if the question was asked because it would discourage the participation of minorities, primarily Hispanics, who tend to support Democrats.

Attorneys general for two of the largest states controlled by Democrats praised the decision to abandon the citizenship question.

"While the Trump Administration may have attempted to politicize the census and punish cities and states across the nation, justice prevailed, and the census will continue to remain a tool for obtaining an accurate count of our population," said New York Attorney General Letitia James.

While praising the question's disappearance, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra warned that the Trump administration had underfunded the Census Bureau, making it difficult to count hard-to-reach

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 33 of 73

communities.

"It's an investment of time and resources that we have not seen, and this administration is dragging its feet," Becerra said.

Top congressional Democrats hailed Tuesday's news. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called it "a welcome development for our democracy," while Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer promised his party "will be watching the Trump administration like a hawk to ensure there is no wrong-doing throughout this process and that every single person is counted."

Dale Ho, who argued the Supreme Court case as director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Voting Rights Project, said, "Everyone in America counts in the census, and today's decision means we all will."

Associated Press writer Andrew Oxford in Sacramento, California, contributed to this report.

Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MikeSchneiderAP>

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. AIRSTRIKE HITS MIGRANT DETENTION CENTER IN LIBYA

A Libyan minister claims a foreign country was behind the strike in the capital, Tripoli, killing at least 44 people and wounding more than 130.

2. IRAN WILL ENRICH URANIUM TO 'ANY AMOUNT WE WANT'

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is warning Europe that Tehran will "take the next step" in increasing its uranium enrichment this coming Sunday.

3. FACEBOOK POSTS PUT BORDER PATROL ON DEFENSIVE

A secret Facebook group for U.S. Border Patrol agents that included callous, sexually explicit posts has put the agency on the defensive at a time of increased scrutiny of the agency.

4. LEE IACOCCA, AUTO EXECUTIVE AND MASTER PITCHMAN, DEAD AT 94

In his 32-year career at Ford and then Chrysler, Iacocca helped launch some of Detroit's best-selling and most significant vehicles, including the minivan, the Chrysler K-cars and the Mustang.

5. BIG FARMS FIND EASY WAYS AROUND TRUMP TRADE AID LIMITS

Many large farming operations had no trouble finding legal ways around a \$125,000 cap and collected millions of dollars in aid checks, AP finds.

6. SHOW OF HANDS ON IMMIGRANT HEALTH CARE BELIES A THORNY ISSUE

Most of the Democratic presidential candidates are for providing full health insurance coverage to people in the U.S. illegally, but that would reverse longstanding federal policies.

7. WHO REMAINED MUM IN TARIFF SPAT

Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador were silent when Trump threatened Mexico with tariffs as they rely heavily on remittances that their citizens send home from abroad.

8. JURY TO DECIDE SEAL'S PUNISHMENT FOR POSING WITH CORPSE

A Navy SEAL acquitted of murder in the killing of a wounded Islamic State captive under his care in Iraq will find out if he will serve jail time for posing with the teenage militant's corpse.

9. WHERE GUN LOVERS FIND SANCTUARY

The Old West desert town of Needles, California, is a safe haven for people who believe the state's strict gun laws have encroached too much on the Second Amendment.

10. MIKE TROUT, ANGELS TEAMMATES EMOTIONAL AFTER PITCHER'S DEATH

The two-time AL MVP tried to smile when it was his turn to talk to the media, only to find himself fighting back tears almost immediately when asked to discuss Tyler Skaggs' death.

Facebook posts put Border Patrol on defensive at rough time

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Before the rise of social media, Border Patrol agents gathered in parking lots at the end of their shifts for what was known as “choir practice” — a chance to share what they saw that day and anything else on their minds.

T.J. Bonner, who led the National Border Patrol Council during much of his 32-year career as an agent, recalled the defunct tradition while trying to explain a secret Facebook group for agents that included sexually explicit posts about Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and questioned the authenticity of a recent photo of a father and daughter who drowned in the Rio Grande.

“That outlet faded away and was replaced by social media, where people thought they had a safe place they could vent and process,” said Bonner, whose career ended in 2010 and who does not belong to the group. “That would explain some of the callous comments. The vile stuff? There’s no excuse. I’m certainly not going to try to defend it.”

Billed as “fun, serious and just work related,” the group boasts about 9,500 members. “We are family, first and foremost,” it states, according to ProPublica, which reported its existence on Monday, igniting a fierce outcry.

A former agent who belongs to the group said Tuesday that members had to provide the administrator with their graduating class number from the Border Patrol Academy and have a current member vouch for their credentials. The agent, who retired last year in San Diego, spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he feared a public backlash.

The agent likened the forum to a bar where agents would gather after work and swap stories. He said any agent active on Facebook would have likely received an invitation to join.

Some posts were graphic, doctored images of Ocasio-Cortez, including one that shows a smiling President Donald Trump forcing her head toward his crotch, according to screenshots obtained by ProPublica. Other comments refer to Ocasio-Cortez and fellow Democratic Rep. Veronica Escobar of Texas as “hoes,” and one member encouraged agents to throw a “burrito at these bitches.”

A news story about a 16-year-old Guatemalan migrant who died in Border Patrol custody in May elicited a response from one member, “If he dies, he dies.” Another member posted a GIF of the “Sesame Street” character Elmo with the quote “Oh well.”

The posts threaten to tarnish the Border Patrol’s image at one of the most challenging times in its 95-year history. Border Patrol Chief Carla Provost called the posts “completely inappropriate” and “offensive” and vowed to hold employees accountable.

“Most importantly, the words of these few individuals directly undermine public trust in the Border Patrol and the dedication and compassion with which the rest of you undertake your duties each and every day,” Provost wrote to staff.

George Allen, who retired in 2017 after a 31-year career, most recently as an assistant chief of the Border Patrol’s Tucson, Arizona, sector, said he had heard of the group, which is named “I’m a 10-15,” a reference to the agency’s internal code for “aliens in custody.” Although he was not a member, he belongs to another Facebook forum where the group has occasionally been mentioned.

“I’ve heard other agents talk about it,” Allen said. “The ones that talk about it talk about it in a negative manner. Some of the posts really bash the older agents.”

The political fallout revived criticism of the agency’s culture, which was a subject of extensive news coverage after a string of migrant deaths in Barack Obama’s presidency but faded from public view after Trump took office.

The National Border Patrol Council, an early supporter of Trump’s presidential bid whose leader, Brandon Judd, advises the White House on immigration, said Monday that it “strongly condemns” the posts and that they do a “great disservice to all Border Patrol agents, the overwhelming majority of whom perform their duties honorably.”

The union produces a radio show, “The Green Line,” that mixes discussions about border security with shoptalk and freewheeling news commentary. The hosts alternate between workplace gripes like radios

that don't work in remote areas and topics in the news. They have called the Black Lives Matter activists "domestic terrorists" and Mexico "a corrupt country."

Gil Kerlikowske, who was commissioner of parent agency U.S. Customs and Border Protection from 2014 to 2017, riled the union by recruiting Mark Morgan from the FBI to be the first outsider to run the Border Patrol. Morgan was ousted during Trump's first week in office but impressed Trump as a television commentator and was recently named acting commissioner of Customs and Border Protection, with union support this time.

"Changing culture is pretty difficult," Kerlikowske said. "You can change the behavior to some extent. You can punish, suspend people. You can terminate people."

Rouhani: Iran will enrich uranium to 'any amount we want'

By JON GAMBRELL and NASSER KARIMI Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's president warned European partners in its faltering nuclear deal on Wednesday that Tehran will increase its enrichment of uranium to "any amount that we want" beginning on Sunday, putting pressure on them to offer a way around intense U.S. sanctions targeting the country.

The comments by President Hassan Rouhani come as tensions remain high between Iran and the U.S. over the deal, which President Donald Trump pulled America from over a year ago.

Authorities on Monday acknowledged Iran broke through a limit placed on its stockpile of low-enriched uranium.

An increasing stockpile and higher enrichment closes the estimated one-year window Iran would need to produce enough material for a nuclear bomb, something Iran denies it wants but the nuclear deal sought to prevent.

Meanwhile, the U.S. has rushed an aircraft carrier, B-52 bombers and F-22 fighters to the region and Iran recently shot down a U.S. military surveillance drone. On Wednesday, Iran marked the shutdown by the U.S. Navy of an Iranian passenger jet in 1988, a mistake that killed 290 people and shows the danger of miscalculation in the current crisis.

Speaking at a Cabinet meeting in Tehran, Rouhani's comments seemed to signal that Europe has yet to offer Iran anything to alleviate the pain of the renewed U.S. sanctions targeting its oil industry and top officials.

Iran's nuclear deal currently bars it from enriching uranium above 3.67%, which is enough for nuclear power plants but far below the 90% needed for weapons.

"In any amount that we want, any amount that is required, we will take over 3.67," Rouhani said.

"Our advice to Europe and the United States is to go back to logic and to the negotiating table," Rouhani added. "Go back to understanding, to respecting the law and resolutions of the U.N. Security Council. Under those conditions, all of us can abide by the nuclear deal."

There was no immediate reaction in Europe, where the European Union just the day before finalized nominations to take over the bloc's top posts.

On Tuesday, European powers separately issued a statement over Iran breaking through its stockpile limit, calling on Tehran "to reverse this step and to refrain from further measures that undermine the nuclear deal."

Under the nuclear deal, Iran agreed to have less than 300 kilograms (661 pounds) of uranium enriched to a maximum of 3.67%. Both Iran and the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog agency confirmed Monday that Tehran had breached that limit.

While that represents Iran's first major departure from the accord, it still remains likely a year away from having enough material for a nuclear weapon. Iran insists its program is for peaceful purposes, but the West fears it could allow Iran to build a bomb.

Meanwhile on Wednesday, relatives of those killed in the 1988 downing of the Iranian passenger jet threw flowers into the Strait of Hormuz in mourning.

The downing of Iran Air flight 655 by the U.S. Navy remains one of the moments the Iranian government

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 36 of 73

points to in its decades-long distrust of America. They rank it alongside the 1953 CIA-backed coup that toppled Iran's elected prime minister and secured Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's absolute power until he abdicated the throne before the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Just after dawn on July 3, 1988, the USS Vincennes sent a helicopter to hover over Iranian speedboats the Navy described as harassing commercial ships. The Iranians allegedly fired on the helicopter and the Vincennes gave chase, the Navy said. Unacknowledged for years afterward by the Navy though, the Vincennes had crossed into Iranian territorial waters in pursuit. It began firing at the Iranian ships there.

The Vincennes then mistook Iran Air flight 655, which had taken off from Bandar Abbas, Iran, heading for Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, for an Iranian fighter jet. It fired missiles, killing all 290 people on board.

The U.S. later would give USS Vincennes Capt. William C. Rogers the country's Legion of Merit award, further angering Iran.

Iranian state television aired footage Wednesday of mourners in the strait, as armed Iranian Revolutionary Guard fast boats patrolled around them. They tossed gladiolas into the strait as some wept.

Iran warns it will increase nuclear enrichment within days

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's president is warning Europe that Tehran will "take the next step" in increasing its uranium enrichment this coming Sunday.

The comments Wednesday by President Hassan Rouhani further increases pressure on European partners to salvage the unraveling 2015 nuclear deal following the U.S. withdrawal from the accord last year.

Rouhani says: "If you want to express regret and issue a statement, you can do it now."

President Donald Trump pulled America from Iran's nuclear deal last year and restored crippling economic sanctions.

Iran this week breached a low-enriched uranium stockpile limitation set by the deal and said by Sunday it would increase its enrichment of uranium closer to weapons-grade levels if Europe does not offer it a new deal.

Angels try to get handle on raw emotion after Skaggs death

By SCHUYLER DIXON AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Mike Trout led a parade of Los Angeles Angels into the interview room of the Texas Rangers for the first interaction with reporters since teammate Tyler Skaggs died.

The two-time AL MVP tried to smile when it was his turn to talk, only to find himself fighting back tears almost immediately. Trout wasn't alone following a 9-4 win over the Texas Rangers on Tuesday night, a day after the 27-year-old Skaggs was found unresponsive in his room at the team hotel.

Andrew Heaney, a starter alongside Skaggs who said the fellow left-hander was his best friend, choked back sobs before finding his composure.

It was the opposite for Justin Upton, who started with a smile talking about how Skaggs' reaction to the victory would be to say, "We're nasty!" Soon, though, the outfielder dropped his head and stopped in the middle of a sentence, getting a squeeze on the shoulder from Trout.

The emotion was just as raw in that same room a few hours earlier with manager Brad Ausmus and general manager Billy Eppler.

"It's just a tough 24 hours," Trout said as he sniffed and gained a handle on his emotions. "Like Brad said earlier, Skaggsy wouldn't want us to take another day off. The energy he brought to the clubhouse, every time you saw him, just pick me up."

The Angels clubhouse was closed to reporters before and after the game, which is unusual in an industry with arguably the best media access among the four major U.S. professional sports.

There was some question whether Trout and his teammates would talk to reporters after the game — until just about every one of them showed up in a room normally reserved for the home team's manager

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 37 of 73

after each game.

Ausmus, much more composed than he was in a pregame meeting with reporters that included Eppler, owner Arte Moreno and team president John Carpino, said he would take questions about the game before turning it over to the players.

There was one question each for five players, including Kole Calhoun after his two-run homer that included a heartfelt celebration at home plate when he pointed skyward and had a message for his fallen teammate.

Justin Bour, who had a two-run single on the only pitch he saw as a pinch-hitter after All-Star second baseman Tommy La Stella injured his right shin and had to leave the game on a 3-2 count, finished off the interview session.

Bour went through the same thing three years ago with the Miami Marlins, when pitcher José Fernández was killed in a boating accident late in the season.

"Like the guys say, reserve your sorrow for Skaggs' family, his wife," Bour said. "We're going to keep grinding every day and playing hard and playing with a spirit."

Heaney was singled out for a question among the couple of dozen players because of his close relationship with Skaggs, a Southern California native remembered as a fun-loving teammate.

The day before he died, Skaggs posted a picture on Instagram of him and the Angels in cowboy hats and other western clothing outside their plane. Skaggs organized the effort because the club was stopping in both major league cities in Texas. LA goes to Houston next.

"There's probably about 100 other people out there that would say he was their best friend too," Heaney said as he tried to control his sobs. "Because he treated everybody like that. He just had such an infectious personality."

Upton provided the first light moment of the day, filling the room with laughter by stepping to the microphone when someone asked how Skaggs would respond to a big win and saying, "Right now, he'd be saying, 'We're nasty!'"

Within seconds, Upton was struggling to figure out a way to wrap up his remarks, lowering his head before raising it to try to continue.

"Honestly, there was nobody happier to win a ballgame than Skaggs," Upton said. "Walking through that line in the clubhouse, we're going to miss him, his high-fiving. We're going to remember that energy for a long time."

So are the people who won't spend nearly as much time in the clubhouse.

"He was magnetic," Eppler said. "He was generous and kind, and our team will never be the same without him. But forever we've been made better by him."

And the Angels will be playing for him, probably for the rest of the season.

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

Thousands marvel as total eclipse darkens Chile, Argentina

By MAURICIO CUEVAS and EVA VERGARA Associated Press

LA SERENA, Chile (AP) — Tens of thousands of tourists and locals gaped skyward Tuesday as a total eclipse of the sun darkened the heavens over Chile and Argentina.

Tourists from around the world gathered to witness the cosmic spectacle, which began in the morning as the moon crossed in front of the sun and cast a shadow that passed over a tiny uninhabited atoll in the South Pacific and headed to South America. Chile and Argentina were the only inhabited places where the total eclipse could be seen.

The eclipse made its first landfall in Chile at 3:22 p.m. (1922 GMT) in La Serena, a city of some 200,000 people where the arrival of more than 300,000 visitors forced the local water company to increase output and service gas stations to store extra fuel. Police and health services were also reinforced.

"Oh! Oh! Oh!" thousands of spectators shouted as they jumped and danced without taking their eyes off

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 38 of 73

the sky. After a brief moment of silence, the yelling returned as the sun's rays began reaching Earth again.

Others shouted "Long live, Chile!" — a chant used at sporting events. In northern Chile, meteorologists measured a three-degree Centigrade drop in temperature and in the center a two-degree drop.

"Today Chile is the world capital of astronomy," said Chilean President Sebastián Piñera, alluding to the dozens of giant observatories in the country, which amount to about half the world's telescopic capacity. "We are the eyes and senses of humanity to be able to look, observe and study the stars and the universe."

In the Argentine town of Chascomús, dozens braved near-freezing temperatures and strong winds and claimed a spot at a pier in a lagoon, hoping to catch a glimpse of the eclipse.

"I've been looking at the sky since my youth. My first telescope when I was a kid was made out of cardboard," said Ricardo Rumie, a 68-year-old veteran eclipse-watcher, who set up his camera with a tripod and a telescope with a sun filter along the banks of the lagoon.

"I've seen other eclipses but never like this one. I just couldn't miss it. For me it's something supreme."

Yoga teacher Cecilia Magnicaballi searched for the best spot to watch the eclipse with a green mat under her arm.

"This is about taking out the darkness, letting the sun, the light come in," she said.

Some rushed to buy the cardboard-framed protective eyeglasses at the last minute.

"This is something that they say won't repeat itself for like 300 years, so we wanted to bring our son," said Maximiliano Giannobile, who arrived at the pier with 18-month-old Vitto wrapped in a puffy jacket and several layers of clothes.

Northern Chile is known for clear skies and some of the largest, most powerful telescopes on Earth are being built in the area.

"In the past 50 years we've only had two eclipses going over observatories. So when it happens and an observatory lies in the path of a totality, it really is special for us," said Elyar Sedaghati, an astronomer working as a fellow at the European Southern Observatory in Paranal, Chile.

"We can finally use our toys during the day because it's always at night that we use them."

The town of La Higuera was also plunged into total darkness.

"We hope this milestone will transform (our town) into a tourist attraction, so that visitors ... can come to La Higuera and take a picture where there once was a total sun eclipse," Mayor Yerko Galleguillos said.

Town officials distributed more than 2,000 cardboard-frame protective eyeglasses at local schools and community centers while workers built statues of huge sunglasses and a darkened sun on a local square.

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the Earth and the sun and scores a bull's-eye by completely blocking out the sunlight.

Thousands of visitors also trekked to neighboring areas of Argentina where the eclipse also will be total.

The San Juan provincial government installed telescopes and public viewing areas. Astronomers in Buenos Aires province offered yoga and meditation classes during the eclipse, which were also partially visible in other South American countries.

The Earth's next total solar eclipse will be Dec. 14, 2020, and it also will cross Chile and Argentina, though on a different path.

In 2017, millions of people in the United States witnessed the phenomena, with a full solar eclipse visible in parts of 14 states and a partial eclipse seen in nearly the entire country. It was the first such widespread eclipse in the U.S. since 1918.

Associated Press journalist Mauricio Cuevas reported this story in La Serena and AP writer Eva Vergara reported from Santiago, Chile. AP writers Almudena Calatrava and Luis Andres Henao in Chascomús, Argentina, contributed to this report.

Former Chrysler CEO Lee Iacocca has died at age 94

By TOM KRISHER and DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writers

DETROIT (AP) — Lee Iacocca, the auto executive and master pitchman who put the Mustang in Ford's lineup in the 1960s and became a corporate folk hero when he resurrected Chrysler 20 years later, has died in Bel Air, California. He was 94.

Two former Chrysler executives who worked with him, Bud Liebler, the company's former spokesman, and Bob Lutz, formerly its head of product development, said they were told of the death Tuesday by a close associate of Iacocca's family.

In his 32-year career at Ford and then Chrysler, Iacocca helped launch some of Detroit's best-selling and most significant vehicles, including the minivan, the Chrysler K-cars and the Ford Escort. He also spoke out against what he considered unfair trade practices by Japanese automakers.

The son of Italian immigrants, Iacocca reached a level of celebrity matched by few auto moguls. During the peak of his popularity in the '80s, he was famous for his TV ads and catchy tagline: "If you can find a better car, buy it!" He wrote two best-selling books and was courted as a presidential candidate.

But he will be best remembered as the blunt-talking, cigar-chomping Chrysler chief who helped engineer a great corporate turnaround.

Liebler, who worked for Iacocca for a decade, said he had a larger-than-life presence that commanded attention. "He sucked the air out of the room whenever he walked into it," Liebler said. "He always had something to say. He was a leader."

In recent years Iacocca was battling Parkinson's Disease, but Liebler was not sure what caused his death.

He remembers that Iacocca could condemn employees if they did something he didn't like, but a few minutes later it would be like nothing had happened.

"He used to beat me up, sometimes in public," Liebler remembered. When people asked how he could put up with that, Liebler would answer: "He'll get over it."

In 1979, Chrysler was floundering in \$5 billion of debt. It had a bloated manufacturing system that was turning out gas-guzzlers that the public didn't want.

When the banks turned him down, Iacocca and the United Auto Workers union helped persuade the government to approve \$1.5 billion in loan guarantees that kept the No. 3 domestic automaker afloat.

Liebler said Iacocca is the last of an era of brash, charismatic executives who could produce results. "Lee made money. He went to Washington and made all these crazy promises, then he delivered on them," Liebler said.

Iacocca wrung wage concessions from the union, closed or consolidated 20 plants, laid off thousands of workers and introduced new cars. In TV commercials, he admitted Chrysler's mistakes but insisted the company had changed.

The strategy worked. The bland, basic Dodge Aries and Plymouth Reliant were affordable, fuel-efficient and had room for six. In 1981, they captured 20% of the market for compact cars. In 1983, Chrysler paid back its government loans, with interest, seven years early.

The following year, Iacocca introduced the minivan and created a new market.

The turnaround and Iacocca's bravado made him a media star. His "Iacocca: An Autobiography," released in 1984, and his "Talking Straight," released in 1988, were best-sellers. He even appeared on "Miami Vice."

A January 1987 Gallup Poll of potential Democratic presidential candidates for 1988 showed Iacocca was preferred by 14%, second only to Colorado Sen. Gary Hart. He continually said no to "draft Iacocca" talk.

Also during that time, he headed the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, presiding over the renovation of the statue, completed in 1986, and the reopening of nearby Ellis Island as a museum of immigration in 1990.

But in the years before his retirement in 1992, Chrysler's earnings and Iacocca's reputation faltered. Following the lead of Ford and General Motors, he undertook a risky diversification into the defense and aviation industries, but it failed to help the bottom line.

Still, he could take credit for such decisions as the 1987 purchase of American Motors Corp. Although

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 40 of 73

the \$1.5 billion acquisition was criticized at the time, AMC's Jeep brand has become a gold mine for now Fiat Chrysler Automobiles as demand for SUVs surged.

Iacocca was born Lido Anthony Iacocca in 1924 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. His father, Nicola, became rich in real estate and other businesses, but the family lost nearly everything in the Depression.

After earning a master's degree in mechanical engineering at Princeton University, Iacocca began his career as an engineering trainee with Ford in 1946. But the extrovert quickly became bored and took the unconventional step of switching to sales.

He said a turning point in his career came in 1956, when he was assistant sales manager of the Philadelphia district office ranked last in Ford sales nationwide. Iacocca's devised a financing plan called "56 for 56," under which customers could buy a 1956 Ford for 20% down and payments of \$56 a month for three years. The district's sales shot to the top, and Iacocca was quickly promoted to a national marketing job at company headquarters in Dearborn, Michigan.

By 1960, at age 36, Iacocca was vice president and general manager of the Ford division.

"We were young and cocky," he recalled in his autobiography. "We saw ourselves as artists, about to produce the finest masterpieces the world had ever seen."

Iacocca's first burst of fame came with the debut of the Mustang in 1964. He had convinced his superiors that Ford needed the affordable, stylish coupe to take advantage of the growing youth market.

He broke from tradition by launching the car in April rather than the fall. Ford invited reporters to a 70-car Mustang rally from New York to Dearborn, which generated huge publicity. The car made the covers of Time and Newsweek the same week.

In 1970, Iacocca was named Ford president and immediately undertook a restructuring to cut costs as the company struggled with foreign competition and rising gas prices. Iacocca's relationship with Chairman Henry Ford II became strained, and in 1978, Ford fired Iacocca. Henry Ford II later described Iacocca as "an extremely intelligent product man, a super salesman" who was "too conceited, too self-centered to be able to see the broad picture," according to interview transcripts published by The Detroit News.

Iacocca got the last laugh. He was strongly courted by Chrysler, and he helped cement its turnaround in the 1980s by introducing the wildly successful Dodge Caravan and Plymouth Voyager minivans.

In July 2005, Iacocca returned to the airwaves as Chrysler's pitchman, including a memorable ad in which he played golf with rapper Snoop Dogg.

Chrysler wasn't faring well. In his 2007 book "Where Have All the Leaders Gone?" Iacocca criticized Chrysler's 1998 sale to the Germany's Daimler AG, which gutted much of Chrysler to cut costs.

As the recession began, sales worsened, and soon Chrysler was asking for a second government bailout. In April 2009, it filed for bankruptcy protection.

"It pains me to see my old company, which has meant so much to America, on the ropes," Iacocca said.

Chrysler emerged from bankruptcy protection under the control of Italian automaker Fiat. In a 2009 interview with The Associated Press, he urged Chrysler executives to "take care of our customers. That's the only solid thing you have."

Iacocca was also active in later years in raising money to fight diabetes. His first wife, Mary, died of complications of the disease in 1983 after 27 years of marriage. The couple had two daughters, Kathryn and Lia.

Iacocca remarried twice, but both marriages ended in divorce.

Judge blocks Trump policy keeping asylum-seekers locked up

By GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A federal judge in Seattle on Tuesday blocked a Trump administration policy that would keep thousands of asylum-seekers locked up while they pursue their cases, saying the Constitution demands that such migrants have a chance to be released from custody.

U.S. District Judge Marsha Pechman ruled Tuesday that people who are detained after entering the country illegally to seek protection are entitled to bond hearings. Attorney General William Barr announced

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 41 of 73

in April that the government would no longer offer such hearings, but instead keep them in custody. It was part of the administration's efforts to deter a surge of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Pechman said that as people who have entered the U.S., they are entitled to the Fifth Amendment's due-process protections, including "a longstanding prohibition against indefinite civil detention with no opportunity to test its necessity."

Immigrant rights advocates including the American Civil Liberties Union and the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project sued to block the policy, which was due to take effect July 15.

"The court reaffirmed what has been settled for decades: that asylum-seekers who enter this country have a right to be free from arbitrary detention," Matt Adams, legal director of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, said in a written statement. "Thousands of asylum-seekers will continue to be able to seek release on bond, as they seek protection from persecution and torture."

The Justice Department did not immediately return an email seeking comment, but the government was expected to quickly appeal the decision, as Pechman noted in her order.

For the past 50 years, the government has given asylum-seekers bond hearings before immigration judges where they can argue that they should be released because they are not flight risks and pose no threat to the public, the immigrant rights groups told the court. That gives the asylum-seekers an opportunity to reunite with relatives in the U.S. and to find lawyers to handle their asylum claims, making them more likely to succeed.

The new policy would end that practice, keeping between 15,000 and 40,000 immigrants in custody for six months or more without requiring the government to show that their detentions are justified, the groups argued. Typically, close to half of asylum-seekers who are granted bond hearings are released from custody.

"The Court finds that Plaintiffs have established a constitutionally-protected interest in their liberty, a right to due process which includes a hearing before a neutral decisionmaker to assess the necessity of their detention, and a likelihood of success on the merits of that issue," the judge wrote.

Pechman, who heard arguments last Friday, said the government must provide a bond hearing within seven days of a request by any immigrant who has demonstrated that they have a credible fear of persecution or torture if returned to their home country. The asylum-seekers must be released if not granted a hearing within that time frame, she said.

Pechman also said the burden must be on the government at such hearings to show that keeping asylum-seekers in custody is necessary because they pose a flight risk or a danger to the public.

President Donald Trump has said he is determined to end the "catch and release" of migrants at the border. He has also called the asylum system broken, saying that some take advantage of it with frivolous claims.

The lawsuit, a nationwide class action, began as a challenge to the separation of family members at the border under Trump's "zero-tolerance" policy. Its legal claims have morphed as the government's policies have shifted.

Pechman first issued an order in April saying that the government must give the asylum-seekers hearings within a week, saying delays in holding such hearings violated their rights. Eleven days later, the attorney general issued a decision finding that they weren't entitled to bond hearings at all.

The Justice Department argued that the policy is a legitimate interpretation of a federal law that says if immigration officers determine immigrants have a credible fear of persecution, they "shall be detained for further consideration of the application for asylum."

The government also argued that even without bond hearings, detained asylum-seekers would still have another avenue for release: a request to an immigration officer for parole. Such requests are rarely granted under the Trump administration, however, and the immigrant rights groups said they are not a substitute for bond hearings before independent fact-finders.

Heavy-hearted Angels win their 1st game after Skaggs' death

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS AP Baseball Writer**

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Tyler Skaggs weighed heavy on the minds of Mike Trout and all of the Los Angeles Angels in their first game since death of the much-loved 27-year-old pitcher.

"I can't explain it man. Lost a teammate, lost a friend, a brother. Just got to get through it," a visibly shaken Trout said after the Angels 9-4 win at Texas on Tuesday night.

"It's tough. My first at-bat, I get up there, all I do is think about him," added the All-Star center fielder, who was in the same Angels draft class as Skaggs in 2009. "Just a different feeling, just in shock, it's like walking around the hotel, you're just always thinking about him."

The Angels decided to play a day after the postponement of the series opener against the Rangers. Skaggs was found unresponsive in his hotel room in Texas on Monday. A cause of death has not been reported.

Before Angels starter Jose Suarez threw his first pitch in the bottom of the first inning, the left-hander appeared to write something in the dirt with his finger. He then touched the No. 45 painted on the back of the mound and tapped his heart.

Justin Bour pointed skyward after his two-run single in the sixth inning, when the Angels went ahead to stay with four runs to break a 3-3 tie. Kole Calhoun was more emphatic with his reaction when crossing home plate after his two-run homer in the eighth.

"No, it wasn't normal. And it felt like there was much more urgency to win," manager Brad Ausmus said. "It's been a rough 24 hours, and we haven't had a lot to smile about, so a win would give us something."

There was a moment of silence before the game, with the players followed their coaches lined up outside the dugout. Pitchers Andrew Heaney and Cam Bedrosian held Skaggs' No. 45 jersey.

"It was just kind of something unplanned. His jersey was hanging in his locker. We wanted to take him out there with us one more time," Heaney said. "He was definitely my best friend. There's probably about 100 other people out there that would say he was their best friend too. Because he treated everybody like that."

Trout and his teammates said Skaggs, who brought so much energy to the clubhouse, wouldn't have wanted them to take another day off.

"It's going to be tough these next couple of days, the rest of the season, the rest of our life, to lose our friend," Trout said.

"Today it was just different, and there's no playbook on how it's supposed to go today and you're supposed to act and react," Calhoun said. "But getting back to the game definitely is what he would have wanted. Today was a day that we leaned on each other like we really needed to do."

Bour hit the only pitch he faced after taking over the full count of All-Star second baseman Tommy La Stella, who fouled off a pitch that hit him squarely on his right shin. La Stella didn't put any pressure on his leg while helped off the field.

Public address announcer Chuck Morgan introduced the moment of silence by saying the Rangers offered their deepest sympathies and condolences to Skaggs' family, his teammates and the entire Angels organization.

The introductions of the starting lineups by Morgan before that were uncharacteristically subdued, and the Rangers ran to their positions for the start of the game quietly without any music playing in the stadium.

When Rangers batters were introduced, there was no walk-up music played. Also missing were the normal between-inning shenanigans and the fireworks that usually marked Texas homers — Delino DeShields went deep in the third inning.

"There are no words to express our sadness today," Angels owner Arte Moreno said before the game.

Ausmus said the team gathered together a couple of times Monday at the team hotel about 20 miles from the ballpark. He wiped away tears when speaking about Skaggs before the game.

Asked about his message to his players, Ausmus said that was a "family conversation" that would remain between them.

General manager Billy Eppler described Skaggs as a teammate, a brother, a friend and most importantly

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 43 of 73

a husband and a son who "brought joy to everybody around him."

Angels players wore a black encircled patch with No. 45 above the heart of their uniforms.

With the team out of town, fans went to Angel Stadium, where they left flowers, hats, baseballs, signs, photos and other memorabilia in a makeshift memorial mound.

The poignant display resembled the fan-created memorial for Nick Adenhardt in 2009 after the rookie pitcher was killed by a drunk driver. That tribute stayed out front of the Big A through the summer.

Team president John Carpino said the Angels would pay tribute to Skaggs in much the same way they did Adenhardt, who was killed after only his fourth major league game.

"The way we'll honor them both is just watching these guys play," Carpino said, referring to the players sitting to his left before the game. "As far as the stadium, just typical with a patch and all that, but honoring him so much more with our thoughts and our hearts is the most important thing."

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

US election security official highlights email threat

By MORGAN LEE Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Beware the phishing attempts.

An election security official with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday warned top state election officials nationwide to safeguard against fraudulent emails targeting state and local election workers.

The emails appear as if they come from a legitimate source and contain links that, if clicked, can open up election data systems to manipulation or attacks.

Geoff Hale, director of the department's Election Security Initiative, told a gathering of secretaries of state that the nation's decentralized voting systems remain especially vulnerable to emails that can trick unsuspecting workers into providing access to elections databases.

"We know that phishing is how a significant number of state and local government networks become exploited," Hale told scores of secretaries of state gathered in the New Mexico capital city. "Understanding your organization's susceptibility to phishing is one of the biggest things you can do."

Email phishing schemes haunted the electoral landscape in 2016. Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign chairman, John Podesta, fell for trick emails on his personal account, allowing Russians to steal thousands of messages about the inner workings of the campaign. Targeted phishing emails also allowed Russians to gain access to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee's networks and eventually exploited that to gain entry to the Democratic National Committee.

In the run-up to the 2020 vote, Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate, a Republican, is calling phishing the No. 1 concern when it comes to securing election-related computer systems in his state.

Iowa's 100 county political subdivisions make the threat especially challenging. He said his fear is that phishing emails may target overlooked public employees who don't have adequate training.

"If they get into the courthouse, they can then get into the county auditor, which is our elections folks — and that's not a good thing," Pate said.

Pate's agency is fighting back with two-factor identification requirements for anyone accessing state voter systems, and mandatory annual cyber-security training sessions.

Phishing threats lay bare the difficulties of guarding election systems across large rural expanses. New Mexico Democratic Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver says new federal funding is needed to bolster cyber security in counties that are too small to hire information technology specialists. There are seven counties in the state with fewer than 5,000 residents; Harding County is home to about 700.

State election chiefs gathered in Santa Fe for the first time since the release of special counsel Robert Mueller's report documenting Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

California's Secretary of State Alex Padilla said he, too, is concerned about so-called soft cybersecurity threats, beyond voting equipment or software, such as predatory phishing for security weaknesses among

election workers.

"You can read the Mueller report on what the most effective strategies were that the Russians engaged in, and most cyber experts will tell you that it's still phishing attempts that are rampant," he said.

California town wants to be a sanctuary _ for gun owners

By JOHN ROGERS and JOHN LOCHER Associated Press

NEEDLES, Calif. (AP) — The Old West desert town of Needles, California, is where the beleaguered Joad family crossed the Colorado River into California in John Steinbeck's classic novel "The Grapes of Wrath" and was a boyhood home to "Peanuts" creator Charles Schulz.

These days, Needles is gaining notoriety for another reason. Leaders have declared it a "sanctuary city" for people who believe California's strict gun laws have encroached too much on their constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

The City Council in the town of 5,000 that borders Arizona and is a few miles from the southern tip of Nevada last month unanimously declared Needles a "2nd Amendment Sanctuary City." The vote had no immediate practical impact on how guns are treated in the city. Rather, the Needles city attorney was directed to draw up a resolution asking the California Legislature to allow licensed gun owners in other states to carry their firearms in town.

This effort is part of a national trend of officials in more conservative areas resisting tougher state gun laws. In New Mexico, more than two dozen sheriffs in predominantly rural areas vowed to avoid enforcement, equipped with supportive "Second Amendment Sanctuaries" resolutions from county commissions. In Washington, sheriffs in a dozen counties said earlier this year that they won't enforce the state's sweeping new restrictions on semi-automatic rifles until the courts decide whether they are constitutional.

The sponsor of the "2nd Amendment Sanctuary City" measure in Needles, City Councilman Tim Terral, acknowledged it could be a long shot to go anywhere in California's overwhelmingly Democratic Legislature, noting the title is a poke in the eye to places like Los Angeles, San Francisco and the state itself, which have declared themselves sanctuaries for people living in the country illegally.

"They want to pick and choose what they follow," he said. "It's 'We're going to shield this person, but we're going to go after that person.' And in our opinion they have violated the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution in many ways."

But don't get Needles wrong, said he and other officials. They don't want any would-be gunslingers sauntering down Historic Route 66 brandishing six-shooters.

"We're not crazy," said City Manager Rick Daniels, chuckling. "We're not proposing that everyone have a gun on their hip or open carry or anything like that."

What the city wants is to make it easier for visitors to this roadside stop on the way to Las Vegas and Los Angeles to not worry they could face a felony arrest if a traffic stop turns up a loaded but legally registered gun from outside California.

"We have had that happen," Daniels said. "Now not a lot. Not often. But occasionally that occurs."

The city also wants the state Legislature to tweak a law that took effect Monday. It requires gun owners to undergo a background check to purchase ammunition and outlaws people from bringing ammunition into California from other states. California Gov. Gavin Newsom and other Democratic leaders say that the state's new ammunition laws will save lives by helping authorities discover so-called ghost guns that aren't registered with the state.

Most Needles residents buy their ammunition in neighboring Arizona because the nearest California stores are more than 100 miles away. City leaders want residents to be able to continue purchasing in neighboring states.

That and a request that California recognize concealed carry permits from other states will be spelled out in another resolution the City Council plans to adopt at its meeting on July 9.

Terral, a longtime gun owner who fondly recalls hunting with his grandfather, has reached out to state officials who are waiting to see exactly what the city adopts on Tuesday.

He said he was inspired after friends in Arizona told him they were steering clear of Needles.

"I'm asking them, 'Why won't you come out to a barbeque at my house? Or why won't you come out here and buy X, Y or Z because we can sell it cheaper,'" he said. "They said basically it's because we're not going to disarm ourselves, and California won't accept our concealed weapons permits."

Needles, founded in 1883, was once a booming railroad hub and a gateway to California because of its location on Route 66, which before the interstate highway system was the main east-west thoroughfare for the region. Schulz spent part of his childhood in Needles and made it the home of Snoopy's brother Spike in his Peanuts comic strip.

But as railroading declined and interstates relegated Route 66 to a back road, Needles' fortunes declined. Now every visitor dollar is crucial to a town where summertime temperatures routinely hit 110 degrees.

So far, Terral said, everyone he's talked to supports the resolution. If there is local opposition, it's neither vocal nor visible as an Associated Press reporter's calls to more than a dozen businesses produced not a word of dissent.

One supporter did note, however, that including the words "Sanctuary City" unnerved some. Daniels said that may be tweaked as well.

"They thought (Terral) was trying to bring a whole lot of illegal immigrants to the city and give them gun rights," said Cheryl Luell, who owns The Healing Center marijuana dispensary, one of Needles' biggest businesses. "I've explained it to at least seven people, and once you explain it to them and they understand it they are in favor."

Rogers reported from Los Angeles.

Central America's long silence on migration might not last

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN Associated Press

TECUN UMAN, Guatemala (AP) — From the steps of his church in this Guatemalan border town, the Rev. Fernando Cuevas has watched the flow of migrants evolve from massive caravans that filled the nearby plaza to small groups of families arriving by bus to scramble aboard rafts waiting to carry them to Mexico.

What hasn't changed is the Guatemalan government's attitude toward migrants. In Tecun Uman recently, there was no sign of authorities even making a show of trying to dissuade people from crossing into Mexico illegally aboard rafts.

"Having no immigration policy is also a policy," Cuevas said. "There are too many conflicts of interest to stop migration."

The governments of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador were conspicuously silent as Mexico twisted in the wind last month under the threat of crippling tariffs from U.S. President Donald Trump. It was their citizens, not Mexico's, who had drawn Trump's ire by arriving in huge numbers at the U.S. southern border, yet Mexico was facing the brunt of the potential consequences.

A major reason for their silence: The countries of the so-called Northern Triangle rely heavily on the money their citizens send home from abroad. In Honduras, remittances totaled more than \$4.8 billion last year — more than 20% of gross domestic product, according to its Central Bank. In Guatemala it was more than \$9 billion, and in El Salvador some \$5.5 billion.

Through negotiation Mexico has bought itself a reprieve for now on the threatened U.S. tariffs. But it faces a September deadline to get the flow of migrants under control and is now scrambling to win the cooperation of its Central American neighbors. President Andrés Manuel López Obrador is betting on a United Nations-backed development plan for the region and southern Mexico and says he has a commitment from the U.S. government to guarantee investments.

Last month, he offered El Salvador's president, Nayib Bukele, a \$30 million donation for a reforestation and jobs program. López Obrador is expanding his own version of that program with the expectation it will keep Mexicans in rural areas from opting to migrate to the U.S.

But Mexico has also deployed thousands of National Guard troops across its territory to help rein in

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 46 of 73

migration.

It has yet to be seen whether the Northern Triangle governments have the political will or the resources to attack the deep-rooted poverty, crime and violence that are the main drivers of their emigration.

In the meantime, there has been plenty of finger-pointing.

Last month, Mexican Interior Secretary Olga Sánchez Cordero indicated where she thought the blame should fall.

"The Americans really believe that we're not doing our job," she said. "We are doing it. The truth is that the issue isn't that we're not doing the job. The issue is the humanitarian crisis in Honduras" and the rest of Central America.

Sanchez Cordero said Honduran officials told Mexico that some 500,000 of their citizens had left the country since last fall.

Guatemala has been making its own attempt to smooth tensions with Washington.

In late May, while acting U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan was visiting the region, Guatemala announced that it had broken up a human-smuggling ring that made some \$10 million taking people to the U.S. The U.S. is also sending immigration agents to work as advisers to their Guatemalan counterparts.

"The policy or attitude of the Central American governments toward the topic of immigration has been of total disinterest for practically the past two decades," said Fernando Neira Orjuela, of the Research Center for Latin America and the Caribbean at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

"That the migrants leave, for some of these governments, is like shedding problems — fewer jobs to worry about, fewer social issues to attend to," Neira said. "On the contrary, they've taken it as a benefit to the extent that for Central America the flow of remittances has a big impact on gross domestic product."

Asked about the tension between Mexico and the United States over immigration, Honduran Deputy Foreign Affairs Secretary Nelly Jerez said: "Those are bilateral situations between the United States and Mexico."

But this week, on the eve of a visit by the acting U.S. homeland security secretary, Bukele struck a tone unusual for the region's leaders: He took responsibility.

"We can speak blame to any other country, but what about our blame? I mean, what country did they flee?" the Salvadoran president said of the tragic deaths of a Salvadoran father and daughter who drowned last week while trying to cross the Rio Grande into Texas.

"They fled El Salvador. They fled our country. It is our fault," Bukele said.

The Northern Triangle has not completely escaped Trump's gaze.

Last month the Trump administration said it would restore \$432 million of the \$615 million in assistance it ordered cut in March for previously approved projects in the Northern Triangle. But it added that no new funding would be forthcoming until their governments decreased the number of their citizens arriving at the U.S. border.

Immigration expert Sally Valladares said the remittances Honduras relies on from abroad are a major factor for that country's virtual silence on migration.

"They have tried to distract from their responsibility," Valladares said, adding that when forced to confront the huge caravans departing last year, Honduran government officials blamed the opposition.

Meanwhile, people continue to flee.

On a recent day, Joshue Manuel Quintanilla stepped onto Mexican soil after crossing the Suchiate River from Guatemala. The 28-year-old from San Salvador said he had worked as an automotive technician, but crime forced him to flee.

Asked what his government would have to do to keep him and others from migrating he didn't hesitate: "First they have to combat crime, then create jobs."

"We have had 20 years of government ... and the only thing they've done is steal money. The poor get poorer, the rich richer," Quintanilla said.

Noting that Bukele, who took office only last month, has promised change, he added: "We hope there's change and in five years we can say, 'Well, we're going back to our country because it's better there.'"

Associated Press writers Marcos Alemán in San Salvador, El Salvador; Marlon González in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and María Verza in Ciudad Hidalgo, Mexico, contributed to this report.

Trump transforms 2020 immigration debate - for Democrats

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The intensity of President Donald Trump's hardline approach to immigration hasn't just pushed the Republican Party rightward — it's also moving Democrats in ways that are profoundly transforming the immigration debate.

Gone are hopes for a big, bipartisan immigration overhaul once envisioned in Congress. With dire conditions taking hold at the border, and deportations stoking fear in immigrant communities, groups on the left are no longer willing to engage in the trade-offs that had long been cornerstones to any deal. That's pushing the 2020 Democratic presidential candidates to increasingly say they'll rely on executive action to undo Trump's policies and revamp the system that lawmakers have been unable to fix.

"The brutality of this administration has pushed this conversation to happen," said Cristina Jimenez, executive director of United We Dream Action.

The group formed around protecting young immigrants known as Dreamers from deportation, but now sees that issue as a starting point, or "floor," in the debate as the nation confronts harsh images from the border, including the deaths of migrant children and adults in federal custody.

"The world is bearing witness," Jimenez said. "You're seeing the pressure of this moment is pushing the conversation."

At their first televised debate, the Democratic presidential candidates gave voice to the enormous shift under way. Talk of reviving "comprehensive immigration reform" was largely absent, replaced by calls for unilateral action.

"Day One, we take out our executive order pen and we rescind every damn thing on this issue that Trump has done," said Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

California Sen. Kamala Harris said she would immediately use executive action as president to protect young immigrants by preserving the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program — and by extending those deportation protections to parents and military veterans.

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and former Housing Secretary Julian Castro want to do away with the law that makes illegal entry into the United States a criminal, rather than civil, offense.

And Sen. Cory Booker announced a plan Tuesday to use his presidential powers to orient the Department of Homeland Security away from immigration raids on schools or churches and end Trump's travel ban to the U.S. by residents of certain majority-Muslim nations.

Longtime immigration advocate Frank Sharry said the urgency of the situation and the GOP's embrace of Trump's priorities is propelling Democrats in a new direction.

"Do we think comprehensive immigration reform would pass in 2021? It's kind of hard to imagine," he said.

For more than a decade, Congress has tried to broker an immigration compromise by marrying two different but related concepts — a pathway to citizenship for some of the 11 million immigrants in the country illegally, and beefed-up border security and enforcement to prevent a wave of new arrivals. The pairing was central to a 2007 effort from John McCain and Ted Kennedy, the former Senate lions, and to a sprawling 2013 bill that was approved overwhelmingly in the Senate only to be ignored by John Boehner's GOP-controlled House.

But that calculus changed under Trump. He entered the campaign in 2016 decrying Mexican immigrants as "rapists" and seized control of the party with his promise to "build the wall." One of Trump's first actions as president was to shut down entry into the U.S. for immigrants from some Muslim countries. As president, his focus has been on enforcement — both limiting new arrivals seeking asylum and stepping up deportations of those immigrants already here, even longstanding residents whose only crime was illegal entry.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 48 of 73

Even though Trump spoke privately early on of doing something “nice” for the Dreamers, groups on the right who favor tough enforcement never signed on. Nor did some of Trump’s more influential advisers, and Trump ultimately resisted bipartisan overtures from Congress.

Last week, as the border crisis worsened, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi tried to add provisions to improve migrant care as part of a \$4.6 billion emergency funding bill. But the White House threatened a veto, saying it would “hamstring” the administration’s ability at to enforce borders.

President Barack Obama’s administration also carried out tough enforcement policies as they tried to broker a broader immigration deal with Congress — there were so many removals under his watch that immigrant advocates labeled him the “deporter-in-chief.” But when no deal could be found, Obama decided to go it alone, establishing and then expanding the deportation protections for young Dreamers that Trump is seeking to end — a step that is now pending before the Supreme Court.

Democratic Rep. Joaquin Castro, the chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, said Tuesday he still wants Congress to “fix a broken system.”

The Texas congressman, the twin brother of the presidential candidate, led a delegation of lawmakers to visit border facilities Monday and posted stark videos of women, some of them grandmothers, being detained in cramped and potentially unsanitary conditions.

“I continue to hold out hope that we can work together on some kind of immigration reform legislation,” Castro said in an interview. “Part of the challenge is that for the president it is his No. 1 go-to political punching bag issue. That makes it very hard because, even for moderate Republicans, it moves everybody to the far right.”

Republicans say the problem is Democrats want “open borders,” government benefits for those here illegally and the abolition of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. At the recent presidential debate, all the Democratic candidates onstage raised their hands when asked if they would provide health care for immigrants illegally in the U.S.

“All Democrats just raised their hands for giving millions of illegal aliens unlimited healthcare. How about taking care of American Citizens first!? That’s the end of that race!” Trump tweeted.

With the emotions around immigration so raw, longtime advocates see the gridlock as hard to overcome.

“The process of a McCain-Kennedy bipartisan breakthrough on immigration is hard to imagine,” said Sharry. He said even a more narrowly tailored bipartisan measure — linking funding to build Trump’s border wall to deportation protections for Dreamers — failed in the Senate in 2018 after the White House opposed it.

“The idea of a bipartisan deal with a Trumpian Republican Party is impossible to imagine for the short run,” he said.

Associated Press writers Colleen Long, Elana Schor and Alan Fram contributed to this report.

Kaepernick stirs new controversy for Nike

By ALEXANDRA OLSON AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Nike’s sales have only grown since it seized attention with its ad campaign featuring former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick. So, the shoemaker deferred to its star endorser when he raised concerns over a sneaker featuring an early American flag.

Nike pulled the Air Max 1 USA shoe, which included a Revolutionary-era U.S. flag with 13 white stars in a circle on the heel. Kaepernick reached out to Nike after learning they planned to release the sneaker to explain that the flag recalls an era when black people were enslaved and that it has been appropriated by white nationalist groups, a person familiar with the conversation told The Associated Press.

The person requested not to be named because the conversation was intended to be private.

Nike decided to recall the shoe after it had been already sent to retailers to go on sale this week for the July Fourth holiday, according to the Wall Street Journal.

The decision caused an instant backlash among conservatives who accused Nike of denigrating U.S.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 49 of 73

history, with Arizona Governor Doug Ducey tweeting that he is asking the state's Commerce Authority to withdraw financial incentives promised to Nike to build a plant in the state.

Others expressed surprise that the symbol known as the "Betsy Ross" flag, so named after the beloved Philadelphia woman credited with designing it, could be considered offensive. Although some extremist groups appear to have appropriated the flag, it is not widely viewed as a symbol of hate, and is used in museums that focus on 18th century U.S. history.

The Anti-Defamation League does not include it in its database of hate symbols. Mark Pitcavage, a senior research fellow for the ADL's Center on Extremism, said extremist groups have occasionally used it, but the flag is most commonly used by people for patriotic purposes.

"We view it as essentially an innocuous historical flag," Pitcavage said. "It's not a thing in the white supremacist movement."

Nike said in statement that "it pulled the shoe based on concerns that it could unintentionally offend and detract from the nation's patriotic holiday." The company pushed back against criticism that the decision was being "anti-American."

"Nike is a company proud of its American heritage and our continuing engagement supporting thousands of American athletes including the U.S. Olympic team and U.S. Soccer teams," Nike said.

Nike is showing consistency by listening to Kaepernick, the star of the brand's "Just Do It" campaign last year that ultimately proved a win for the company, said Chris Allieri, founder of New York public relations firm Mulberry & Astor.

"Listening to somebody that has helped the brand in so many countless ways, it makes sense. It would be completely hypocritical for them not to listen to him," Allieri said.

Kaepernick was the first NFL athlete to take a knee during the national anthem to protest police brutality. Some people called for boycotts after Nike featured him in a campaign last year that included a print ad featuring a close-up of his face and the words, "Believe in something. Even if it means sacrificing everything."

The boycott calls fizzled.

Nike's annual sales have jumped 7% to more than \$39 billion, according to the company's last quarterly report. Its stock is up 12% since the start of the year. And Nike CEO Mark Parker has said the Kaepernick campaign inspired "record engagement with the brand," an important goal for a company trying to strengthen its direct-to-consumer business.

Because the Betsy Ross flag is not widely considered a racist image, it's difficult to judge whether Nike should have designed the shoe in the first place.

"Can a brand be expected to know everything possible that could be offensive? That's probably tough, but that's why you have to have inclusive teams," Allieri said.

While some took to Twitter to thank Nike and Kaepernick for yanking the sneaker, several Republican politicians were quick to condemn the company.

"If we are in a political environment where the American flag has become controversial to Americans, I think we have a problem," said Sen. Mitch McConnell.

Ducey ordered Arizona to withdraw a grant of up to \$1 million that was slated for Nike, said Susan Marie, executive vice president of the Arizona Commerce Authority, which administers the grant. But the governor has no authority over more than \$2 million in tax breaks over five years that were approved Monday by the City Council in the Phoenix suburb of Goodyear, where Nike committed to opening a \$185 million factory that would employ more than 500 people.

Nike is unlikely to suffer financially over the flag flap, said Matt Powell, a sports industry analyst at NPD Group Inc.

"I'm sure there are plenty of states out there that would love to have a Nike factory that would employ 500 people," Powell said. "Today's consumers really want brands to be vocal on social issues, especially the younger consumers. This very much aligns with the social position of their core consumers."

Indeed, New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham responded to Ducey's tweet with her own: "Hey @ Nike, Let's talk."

The abandoned shoe sparked a discussion on social media and beyond about the Betsy Ross flag itself.

In 2016, a Michigan chapter of the NAACP said the flag has been “appropriated by the so-called ‘Patriot Movement’ and other militia groups who are responding to America’s increasing diversity with opposition and racial supremacy.” The statement came in response to a high school football event where the NAACP said some white students used the flag while attempting to intimidate players from a predominantly black school.

The Anti-Defamation League says “Patriot movement” describes groups that include militias and others who have adopted anti-government conspiracy theories. The ADL says there is some overlap between the “Patriot” movement and the white supremacist movement, but that overlap has shrunk over time.

Lisa Moulder, director of the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia, said she has never heard of the flag being used as a hate symbol.

“Personally, I’ve always seen it as a representation of early America,” Moulder said. “The young nation was not perfect, and it is still not perfect.”

Associated Press writers Michael Kunzelman in College Park, Maryland, Jonathan Cooper in Phoenix, and Summer Ballentine in Jefferson City, Missouri contributed to this story.

To boost milk, dairy groups support high school coffee bars

By CANDICE CHOI AP Food & Health Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Coffee bars selling \$3 iced lattes are popping up in high schools, helped along by dairy groups scrambling for new ways to get people to drink milk.

It’s one small way the dairy industry is fighting to slow the persistent decline in U.S. milk consumption as eating habits change and rival drinks keep popping up on supermarket shelves.

At a high school in North Dakota, a \$5,000 grant from a dairy group helped pay for an espresso machine that makes lattes with about 8 ounces of milk each. The drinks used 530 gallons of milk this year.

“We buy a lot of milk,” said Lynelle Johnson, the food service director for the Williston Public School District.

It’s not clear how much coffee drinks in high schools might help boost milk consumption, or whether the concept will gain traction across the country. But with consumption of milk in the U.S. down 40 percent since 1975, the dairy industry is looking for all the help it can get.

The industry famous for its “Got Milk” advertising campaign is hoping its newer “Undeniably Dairy” slogan will help fend off the almond, oat and soy alternatives that are becoming more popular. And regional dairy groups are encouraging schools to serve milky drinks like smoothies and hot chocolate, as well as iced lattes.

The efforts come as the dairy industry is also trying to adjust to changing views about diet and nutrition.

With fat no longer seen as a dietary evil, skim milk has suffered the sharpest declines in demand in recent years. And it’s difficult for dairy producers to reduce production of skim milk because it is left over after making other products such as butter, cheese and ice cream.

As skim milk becomes especially tough to sell, Organic Valley is even drying some of the surplus and mixing it back into low-fat and fat-free milk to boost the nutrients and make it creamier.

“We’re just exploring everything we can,” said George Siemon, who was CEO of Organic Valley when the plans were developed, but has recently stepped down.

The dairy industry blames rules that limit the fat content of milk in schools for consumption declines, arguing that generations of students are growing up disliking milk because of the watery taste of skim.

In the meantime, it’s hoping lattes can make milk go down easier. In Florida, a dairy group said it paid for coffee carts in 21 high schools this past school year. In the Southwest, a dairy group gave grants to seven schools for coffee programs.

Not all high school coffee bars get grants from dairy groups, and the money may only cover a small portion of costs. School food operators also say lattes offer other benefits, such as giving teens a reason to stay on school grounds. At a national convention for school lunch officials this month, one session will also detail how schools in Orange County, Florida used coffee drinks to get students to buy lunch.

For an extra \$2, students can turn the cup of milk served with lunch into a coffee drink at a nearby cart. Without the lunch, it costs \$3.

The Orange County schools did not receive industry grants for the coffee bars, but the local dairy council provided chalkboard-style signs and menus.

Cafeteria directors and dairy groups say coffee drinks in schools have to follow nutrition standards, making them healthier than the lattes students would get anyway outside schools.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which sets rules for schools participating in its meal programs, says high schools can sell espresso drinks that are no bigger than 12 ounces, and that are made with fat-free or 1% milk. The drinks have around 150 calories, school food directors say.

But not everyone thinks teens should drink coffee, or that they need milk.

The American Academy of Pediatrics discourages caffeine consumption among children, citing potentially harmful effects on developing bodies. And while dairy is an efficient way to get calcium and vitamin D, it's not the only way to get such nutrients, said Dr. Natalie Muth, a pediatrician and representative for the American Academy of Pediatrics.

As for lattes, Muth said there are ways to encourage students to get the nutrients of milk without promoting caffeine habits that could lead to headaches, agitation and lack of sleep.

"If they're going to be having that outside of school, that's one thing. But in schools, the idea is to promote good health and nutrition," Muth said.

Exactly how schools prepare coffee drinks can vary, but milk is a primary ingredient for lattes. "It's really milk with some coffee, as far as proportion," said Julie Ostrow of Midwest Dairy.

It's why the group is providing a grant for a coffee bar at a fourth high school in the Fort Zumwalt, Missouri district this upcoming year. In exchange, the group gets data on how much milk is used for the lattes, as well as information for personal pizzas, mozzarella sticks and other products with dairy.

But the group might not be happy about one of the newer options: This past year, the coffee bars began offering almond milk for 40 cents extra, said Paul Becker, the district's food director.

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Morgan scores and Naeher saves in 2-1 victory over England

By ANNE M. PETERSON AP Sports Writer

LYON, France (AP) — With Alex Morgan's cheeky tea-sipping celebration and a postgame mobbing of goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher, the United States has moved a step closer to successfully defending its latest Women's World Cup title.

Morgan scored the go-ahead goal and Naeher preserved the 2-1 semifinal victory over England by smothering a late penalty kick Tuesday night.

The top-ranked United States will now face the winner of Wednesday's semifinal between the Netherlands and Sweden in the Americans' third straight appearance in the World Cup title match.

Christen Press — who started with Megan Rapinoe out with a hamstring injury — put the United States up early but Ellen White's goal tied it before 20 minutes had passed. Morgan's sixth goal of the tournament came before the break, and on her 30th birthday. She hadn't had a goal since she scored five in the team's 13-0 rout of Thailand to open the tournament.

After her goal, Morgan pantomimed a sip of tea on the field.

"I feel like this team just has had so much thrown at us, and I felt that we didn't take the easy route to the final this tournament, and that's the tea," she said.

White's goal was also her sixth but Morgan has the edge for the tournament's Golden Boot with three assists. White appeared to score her seventh in the 69th minute but video review determined she was offside — and the Americans in the crowd of 53,512 at Stade de Lyon roared.

Another video review went against the United States late in the game when it determined Becky Sauer-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 52 of 73

brunn had fouled White in the penalty area. England captain Steph Houghton's penalty shot was stopped by a diving Naeher in the 84th minute.

It was the first penalty kick saved by a U.S. goalkeeper in regular time at the World Cup. At the final whistle, the team mobbed Naeher in front of the goal in celebration. Rapinoe gave her a bear hug.

The mild-mannered goalkeeper was asked afterward if it was the biggest save of her life. "Probably up there, yeah," she said smiling.

"It's a special team and everybody fought hard tonight for all 90 minutes. Players on the field, players on the bench, ready to come in and make differences," Naeher said. "Obviously Christen coming in and starting tonight and scoring a great goal was huge for us. And I think it's just a testament to the team."

The Americans have been to the semifinals of all eight World Cups, and they've won the trophy three times, more than any nation. The U.S. team's lone loss in a World Cup title match came to Japan in 2011.

Third-ranked England went through to the semifinals in 2015 but fell to Japan before beating Germany in the third-place match for the Lionesses' best finish in the tournament.

"No words that I can say tonight will make them feel any better," said England coach Phil Neville.

England will play in the third-place match on Saturday in Nice against the loser of the other semifinal. Moments after Tuesday's loss, Neville was already looking ahead — even to next year.

"My first thought was, 'How do we win on Saturday,' and my second thought was, 'How do we win the Olympics?'" he said.

The United States has won 11 straight World Cup matches and is undefeated in its last 16. With the quarterfinal victory in France, the Americans tied Norway's record winning streak set over the 1995 and 1999 tournaments.

The Americans have exuded confidence since arriving in France. After pouncing on Thailand 13-0 in the opener and celebrating each goal in the rout, they beat nemesis Sweden, the team that ousted the United States in the quarterfinals at the 2016 Olympics. And Rapinoe struck a victorious pose in a 2-1 quarterfinal victory over France on Friday night in Paris.

Rapinoe suffered a minor hamstring injury late in the second half against France, which she said she didn't expect would keep her out of the final. Coach Jill Ellis said there was an outside chance that she could have taken a penalty if the match against England had come to that.

England started Carly Telford in goal instead of Karen Bardsley, who was out with a hamstring injury. Bardsley had shutouts in both of the team's knockout round matches. Telford started in the team's group stage match against Argentina.

England had shut out its last four opponents but the United States attacked early as expected — the Americans have scored within the first 15 minutes of all of their games in France.

Press delivered first, scoring on a header off a long cross from Kelley O'Hara that sailed over Telford's outstretched arm. It was Press' first goal in France, and her second World Cup goal overall.

Shortly thereafter, Beth Mead served the ball to White, who got between the U.S. center backs for the finish to pull England even. White raised her hands to her face for her customary "glasses" celebration.

The United States pulled ahead when Lindsey Horan found Morgan in front of the net for the header. It was Morgan's 107th international goal, moving her into a tie for fifth on the U.S. career list with Michelle Akers.

"We had to make changes this game, but we have such a deep team and we have people who are able to get the job done, no matter what," O'Hara said. "That's one of the coolest parts about this team. We really do top to bottom have such a strong team."

More AP soccer: <https://apnews.com/apf-Soccer> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Arctic fox walks more than 2,700 miles from Norway to Canada

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — An arctic fox walked more than 4,415 kilometers (2,737 miles) to go from northern Norway to Canada's far north in four months, Norwegian researchers said.

The Norwegian Polar Institute reported the young female fox left her birth place on Norway's Svalbard archipelago on March 1, 2018 and reached Canada's Ellesmere Island by way of Greenland on July 1, 2018.

The ground the small fox cumulatively covered over those four months was among the most ever recorded for an arctic fox seeking a place to settle down and breed, the institute said in a research article subtitled "One female's long run across sea ice."

Institute scientists monitored the fox's movements with a satellite tracking device they fitted her with in July 2017 near her native habitat by a glacier on Norway's Spitsbergen island. She stayed close to home then gradually ventured out until she left the island on March 26, 2018.

During the walk to Canada, the roughly 2-year-old fox moved at an average rate of 46.3 kilometers per day (28.7 miles per day), the Norwegian scientists said.

"The short span of time spent covering such a distance highlights the exceptional movement capacity of this small-sized carnivore species," they said.

The distance between the fox's natal den and where she settled on Ellesmere Island was 1,789 kilometers (1,109 miles) if traveled in a straight line, according to the institute.

The sea ice allows Norway's arctic foxes to reach Greenland and then North America, though it's not known why they leave their birth places in search of places to breed, the researchers said.

The animals, which have thick fur to survive cold environments and live to about age four, subsist on fish, marine birds and lemmings.

This story has been corrected to show the fox traveled 4,415 kilometers, or 2,737 miles, over four months, not 76 days.

'And now we are alone': Extended family separated at border

By COLLEEN LONG and AMY TAXIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A 12-year-old boy entered the U.S. from Mexico with his brother and uncle, fleeing violence in Guatemala, but is now without them in a packed Texas border facility. Honduran sisters, 8 and 6, were taken from their grandmother when they arrived. An 8-year-old Guatemalan boy was separated from his aunt and cousin.

One year after President Donald Trump ended his widely criticized practice of separating migrant children from their parents, his administration is again under fire for a different kind of family separation crisis — one involving extended families.

Unlike last year, when at least 2,700 children were separated from their parents under a "zero tolerance" program, these minors have been taken from aunts, uncles and grandparents under a policy meant to guard against human trafficking. This policy has been the practice for years — long before Trump became president. But the recent surge in families trying to cross the border suggests children are being separated from relatives much more frequently, and because of systemic delays, they are held without caregivers longer.

Some are being kept in the U.S. Border Patrol facility in Clint, Texas, where advocates, attorneys and lawmakers have described overcrowded, fetid conditions and children as young as infants being held for weeks.

"We are housed in a room with dozens of other children, some as young as 2," the 12-year-old boy said in a declaration filed last week with a federal court seeking to require inspections of the facilities. "Many do not have their parents with them. I have to take care of many of the other children who are sad and cry. I do my best to help other children who are sad."

The 8-year-old Honduran girl said in a declaration that she and her sister were taken from their grandmother "and now we are alone."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 54 of 73

"I have to take care of my little sister. She is very sad because she misses our mother and grandmother very much."

Minors are supposed to be transferred from Border Patrol custody within 72 hours and are then kept at a government-run shelter until a sponsor is identified and they are released. Often sponsors are parents, aunts, uncles or siblings who have been vetted. But because of overcrowding and delays with Health and Human Services, the agency that manages the care of minors in government custody, children are kept in Border Patrol stations longer.

A report released Tuesday by Homeland Security's inspector general found that a third of the children in Border Patrol custody in South Texas' Rio Grande Valley had been held there longer than 72 hours. The report warned that many children had no access to showers, limited access to a change of clothes, and no hot meals in two facilities until the week inspectors arrived.

Homeland Security officials have said they are complying with the law when separating children from non-legal guardians and have grave concerns over the possibility of trafficking, but have echoed advocates' worries about the conditions for children in border facilities not meant to detain them.

The government has not said how many children have been separated from their extended families at the border, but some data presents a window into the regularity with which it occurs. For example, of the 13,330 minors in the custody of Health and Human Services at the end of May, 1,849 were under 12 years old. Those numbers are generally constant over the past several months. Advocates say these children were likely to have come with an adult, while older teenagers were more likely to have crossed alone.

Teams from Homeland Security Investigations, under Immigration and Customs Enforcement, have been sent to the southern border to help determine cases of fraud; more than 50,000 immigrants traveling in family groups have been crossing the border each month. By comparison, last year around the same time, there were about 8,000 crossing.

Between mid-April, when investigators were sent, and June 21, they interviewed 2,124 families, identified 316 family cases as fraudulent, meaning people were posing as nuclear family members. But those numbers would include extended family who initially claimed to be parents. Of that, about 530 people, and it could be more than one adult per family unit, were referred for prosecution, ICE officials said. By comparison, from October 2017 to April 2018, Homeland Security officials said there had been about 300 cases of fraud.

Even when adults tell officials outright that they are grandparents or siblings, the children are generally separated from them unless they are legal guardians.

Under U.S. law, the children are then considered unaccompanied minors and have a legal case separate from any relatives, except their parents.

The law was developed in part because U.S. Border Patrol agents aren't trained to determine whether someone is truly a relative and a decent caregiver or an ill-intentioned trafficker posing as one.

"I think a lot of people are struggling with, what if the situation is you have a grandmother or uncle who has effectively raised the child? That is a traumatic separation from the child," said Jennifer Podkul, senior director for policy at Kids in Need of Defense.

Their experience can be just as traumatizing as a separation from a parent, especially if the child was raised by an aunt or uncle. That trauma can lead to mental health and physical health issues later on.

"If that child sees the person as a loving caregiver, separation can be incredibly disruptive and it threatens their health," said Dr. Julie Linton, a pediatrician and a leader of the immigration health special interest group at the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Clara Long, senior researcher at Human Rights Watch, said she has seen immigrants sent to wait in Mexico for their asylum hearings tell the court they arrived on the border with a child and they no longer know where the child is.

In one case, a 19-year-old girl from Guatemala traveled with her 14-year-old sister. The younger girl was released to their brother in the U.S., but the older girl was returned to Mexico.

Long said laws should be changed so that immigrant children are able to stay with their primary caretaker, and that might be someone who isn't a parent. "Sometimes it's like I have been raised by my grandma

my entire life, or my aunt, and now she has to flee," Long said. "What they need to do is again change border enforcement so it is a humanitarian response."

Taxin reported from Santa Ana, California. Associated Press writer Nomaan Merchant contributed to this report from Houston.

Government photos show detained migrants pleading for help

By NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — In one photo, one of 88 men in a cell meant for 41 presses a piece of cardboard against the window, with the word "help." In another, a man lowers his head and clasps his hands as if in prayer. And in a third, a woman wearing a surgical mask presses both of her hands against the glass.

The images were released Tuesday by U.S. government inspectors who visited facilities in South Texas where migrant adults and children who crossed the nearby border with Mexico are processed and detained.

As public outrage grows over the conditions in which thousands of people — some no more than a few months old — are being held by the U.S. government, the report offered new cause for alarm. It quotes one senior government manager as calling the situation "a ticking time bomb."

"Specifically, when detainees observed us, they banged on the cell windows, shouted, pressed notes to the window with their time in custody, and gestured to evidence of their time in custody," the report says. BuzzFeed first reported on a draft version of the report, which blurs most faces in the photos.

An autopsy report also released Tuesday confirmed that a 2-year-old child who died in April had multiple intestinal and infectious respiratory diseases, including the flu. Wilmer Josué Ramírez Vásquez is one of five children to die after being detained by border agents since late last year. Two of the other four also had the flu.

The autopsy report says Wilmer was in "respiratory distress" April 6 when he was taken to an emergency room. His grandmother, Dorotea Castillo, told The Associated Press in June that Wilmer was already in delicate health when they left Guatemala, and crossed into the U.S. with a high fever and difficulty breathing.

The Border Patrol said after Wilmer's death that it had detained Wilmer and his mother for three days when she told agents her son was ill. It didn't specify if that was the first report or sign that Wilmer was sick. The agency did not respond to follow-up questions sent Tuesday.

Pediatricians called again on border authorities to accept their offer to provide volunteer medical care to migrants in detention. U.S. Customs and Border Protection rejected the offer. Roger Maier, a CBP spokesman, said anyone who needs medical attention beyond what government and contract staff can provide is taken to a local hospital.

The Border Patrol made 132,887 apprehensions in May, including 84,542 adults and children traveling together. With long-term facilities for adults and children at capacity, President Donald Trump's administration has said it has to hold people in unsuitable Border Patrol facilities for much longer than the 72 hours normally allowed by law.

Auditors from the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general visited five facilities and two ports of entry in South Texas' Rio Grande Valley, where more people cross the U.S.-Mexico border illegally than any other section. The dangers there were recently illustrated in images shared around the world showing a young father and daughter who drowned trying to enter the U.S. by crossing the Rio Grande.

In a statement included in the report, DHS blamed "an acute and worsening crisis" and said it had tried to expand detention capacity and improve the conditions under which migrant families are held. DHS did not immediately respond to a request for further comment from The Associated Press.

The photos provided in the report were digitally manipulated to obscure the faces of the prisoners and therefore did not meet the AP's standards for distribution.

Immigrant advocates blame the Trump administration for refusing to promptly release families, children and people seeking asylum, leading to increased numbers of people detained.

The report details several potential violations of federal law or Border Patrol standards:

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 56 of 73

— Two facilities inspected had not provided children access to hot meals until the week that auditors arrived. Some adults were only receiving bologna sandwiches, causing constipation and in some cases requiring medical attention.

— Of 2,669 children detained by the Border Patrol in the region, 826, or 31%, had been held there longer than 72 hours. More than 50 children under the age of 7 were waiting to be moved to long-term facilities, some of them for more than two weeks. In one photo, women and children appeared to be sleeping on the ground under Mylar blankets.

— Many adults hadn't showered despite having been held for as long as a month. Some were being given wet wipes to clean themselves.

The report also detailed "security incidents" at multiple facilities, including one case in which detained migrants refused to re-enter their cell after it had been cleaned. People detained have also in some cases clogged toilets with their Mylar blankets and socks in order to be let out of the cells.

The report was released a day after a group of Democratic congressmen visited the Border Patrol facility in Clint, Texas, on the other side of the state, where lawyers previously reported some 250 children being detained in squalid conditions.

One of the congressmen, U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro of Texas, alleged that a woman told them she was instructed to drink water from a toilet. Castro shared a video he took from inside one facility.

U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings, a Maryland Democrat who chairs the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, said top Homeland Security leaders would testify before his committee next week on the treatment of migrant children.

Associated Press journalist Cedar Attanasio in El Paso, Texas, contributed to this report.

'Serena is Serena': Goose bumps, selfie, loss to Williams

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Used to be that players would dread the prospect of facing Serena Williams, especially at Wimbledon.

Nowadays, they seem to be eager to go up against her — not because they think they can beat Williams, mind you, but because, well, she's Serena Williams, and what better way to create a memory for life than to share a court with one of the, if not THE, greatest in the history of tennis.

So that's why Giulia Gatto-Monticone, a 31-year-old qualifier from Italy making her debut at the All England Club, was thrilled when the draw put her up against Williams in the first round Tuesday, and the schedule put them on Centre Court, to boot. So what if Gatto-Monticone fell behind 5-0 in 17 minutes and wound up losing 6-2, 7-5?

"Incredibly happy to play her," Gatto-Monticone said afterward. "Serena is Serena."

The whole day was, she said, "a dream come true," filled with smiles and tears and goose bumps. From the tour of the stadium that she, her coach, her physiotherapist and her physiotherapist's son were given in the morning: "We went through the club members' area. Just a spectacular place. Truly beautiful couches, flowers. We saw the trophies. We saw the entrance to the court," Gatto-Monticone said.

To the match itself, which was briefly even in the second set at 5-all, prompting an Italian reporter to ask whether Gatto-Monticone wondered whether maybe she had a chance: "No," came the reply, "I never thought that."

To the handshake after the highlight-worthy 12-stroke exchange that capped the result, including a trade of volleys with both women at the net: "She told me I'm an amazing player. I don't know if she really thought so, but she was so nice. I told her she's the queen of this tournament. I thanked her."

And then came this: Gatto-Monticone asked the 37-year-old Williams if they could pose for a selfie together. "She was sweet, because I was panicking and I couldn't find my phone," Gatto-Monticone recounted. "She said, 'That's fine. Don't worry. I'll take it with mine and post it on Instagram.' I said, 'Perfect!'"

Consider, too, the attitude of the next woman standing in the way of Williams' bid for an eighth Wimbledon championship and 24th Grand Slam singles trophy overall (which is aside from her hardware in women's

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 57 of 73

doubles and mixed doubles, an event she is entering this week with Andy Murray). That's another qualifier, 18-year-old Kaja Juvan of Slovenia, who was born a little more than a year after Williams won the 1999 U.S. Open.

Juvan, like Gatto-Monticone, relishes the opportunity to meet Williams.

"I'm glad I got the chance to still play with her," Juvan said, "because she's done so much in her career."

This is true, of course. The thing right now for Williams is that she hasn't been able to do much this season, in part because of an injured left knee that was a big reason Tuesday's match was only her 13th of 2019.

Two former Wimbledon winners who have struggled this season, Maria Sharapova and Garbine Muguruza, both lost, as did a pair of major champions elsewhere, Svetlana Kuznetsova and Sam Stosur. Sharapova, who recently returned to the tour after missing five months because of a right shoulder operation, quit while one game from defeat against Pauline Parmentier at 6-4, 7-6 (4), 5-0, blaming what she said was "a tendon in my left forearm flaring up."

Defending champion Angelique Kerber, two-time Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova and Ash Barty — playing her first match at No. 1 in the rankings — all won in straight sets.

The men's bracket lost its third top-10 seed, though, when No. 5 Dominic Thiem, a two-time French Open runner-up, was eliminated by Sam Querrey of the United States.

Williams' coach said over the weekend that the pain was gone from that knee in recent weeks and so they finally were able to prepare properly for a tournament. The lack of practice time and match play were reasons Williams pointed to after her third-round exit at the French Open.

If her knee is fine, that not only helps her cover the court, of course, but also allows her to get some extra oomph on her serve, which when at its best is the best in the game.

"I can actually use my legs now. It's been a while," said Williams, who pounded serves at up to 122 mph on Tuesday. "Mentally, if you're serving without legs, you're paranoid (about) hurting your shoulder, so you take a little pace off. ... Now that I can actually use my legs, it just all feels better."

To get to match point, Williams smacked a swinging forehand volley winner, then pumped both arms, leaned forward and screamed.

Asked about that vigorous celebration, Williams explained that she feels as if "every match counts like several matches" because she is trying to make up for lost time.

"That was just something that I was really excited about," she said, before referring to herself in the third person: "It's Serena, I always get excited."

Sounds like something an opponent might say.

More AP Tennis: <https://www.apnews.com/apf-Tennis> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Trump Facebook ads use models to portray actual supporters

By BERNARD CONDON Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A series of Facebook video ads for President Donald Trump's re-election campaign shows what appears to be a young woman strolling on a beach in Florida, a Hispanic man on a city street in Texas and a bearded hipster in a coffee shop in Washington, D.C., all making glowing, voice-over endorsements of the president.

"I could not ask for a better president," intones the voice during slow-motion footage of the smiling blonde called "Tracey from Florida." A man labeled on another video as "AJ from Texas" stares into the camera as a voice says, "Although I am a lifelong Democrat, I sincerely believe that a nation must secure its borders."

There's just one problem: The people in the videos that ran in the past few months are all actually models in stock video footage produced far from the U.S. in France, Brazil and Turkey, and available to anyone online for a fee.

Though the 20-second videos include tiny disclaimers that say "actual testimonial, actor portrayal," they

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 58 of 73

raise the question why a campaign that can fill arenas with supporters would have to buy stock footage of models. It's a practice that, under different circumstances, Trump himself would likely blast as "fake news."

Trump campaign officials declined repeated requests for comment on Tuesday. Political experts say that, while it's not unusual for stock footage to find its way into ads, a presidential campaign should have been more careful.

"As a producer, you want to control — you want people to look a certain way and you want them to sound a certain way," said Jay Newell, a former cable TV executive who teaches advertising at Iowa State University. "The fact that the footage is from outside the U.S. makes it that much more embarrassing."

There are plenty examples of such gaffes. In the last presidential primaries, Republican Sen. Marco Rubio ran an ad titled "Morning in America" with shots from Canada. A super PAC supporting former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush put ads on TV with video reportedly from the English countryside and workers from Southeast Asia.

Trump himself has used video from abroad before. His 2016 TV ad vowing to build a wall to keep out immigrants from Mexico showed people streaming across the border — but the shots of refugees were taken in Morocco.

The existence of the stock footage in this series of Trump ads, reported last week by Judd Legum for his website Popular Information , underscores an increasingly aggressive, targeted approach by the Trump campaign to reach out to voters on Facebook.

The Trump Make America Great Again Committee, which was behind the testimonial videos, is by far the biggest spender on political Facebook advertising, shelling out more than \$2.7 million on 27,735 ads in the last 90 days alone, according to the social network's running database of campaign ad spending. That's in addition to the more than \$1 million spent on more than 14,500 ads in the same period by Donald J. Trump for President Inc.

Trump's campaign gets to such totals by running the same ads numerous times, all at slightly different audiences.

"Thomas from Washington," featuring the bearded young man behind a coffee shop counter, appeared aimed at evangelicals, with the voice-over quote saying the president and his family are "in our prayers for strength and wisdom from God almighty." "AJ from Texas" seemed focused on Hispanic men. And "Tracey in Florida" was aimed specifically at a demographic in which Trump is historically weak — young women.

All are models for Turkish, Brazilian and French companies, respectively, that supply hundreds of photos and video to the popular site iStock run by Getty Images, which caters to publications, filmmakers and advertisers looking for professional, inexpensive imagery.

According to the site, licenses for the video clips used in the Trump ads can be had for as little as \$170.

The blonde on the beach appears to be particularly prolific. Her photos and videos from the French company Tuto Photos in Roubaix, France, show her twirling in a wedding gown, walking spaniels in a meadow, getting her teeth checked at the dentist and working in a warehouse.

And the star of iStock's "Bearded and tattooed hipster coffee shop owner posing" — also known as Trump's "Thomas from Washington" — is a fixture on the videos and photos contributed by the company GM Stock out of Izmir, Turkey. His unmistakable beard and tats can be seen on the image site strolling with a woman on the beach, sitting by a campfire and pumping iron in the gym.

So what do these models think of being held up as model Trump supporters?

That's not clear because none of the companies they've posed for would give a detailed comment to The Associated Press. A spokeswoman for Getty Images would not identify the models, citing privacy concerns.

Fred Davis, a campaign consultant who's produced ads for George W. Bush and other Republican presidential candidates, said the Trump campaign's use of such footage is not surprising, given the volume of political ads on the internet these days.

"Whoever did this is probably 22 years old, and they're going through pictures and thought, 'This is a great picture,'" Davis said.

"This is a great shot of Thomas from Washington. It's a shame it's not Thomas from Washington."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 59 of 73

GOP political donation tool to rival Trump's preferred app

By BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Texas company is launching a new political donation app for Republicans that will rival a similar platform already adopted by President Donald Trump, a move that could complicate GOP efforts to match Democrats' online fundraising success.

Give.GOP will launch on Tuesday. It comes a week after the rollout of WinRed, a platform adopted by all national Republican campaign committees and praised by Trump via tweet after its debut.

Top Republican leaders and donors have sought to find one platform for their online giving since Democrats' online giving portal, ActBlue, played a pivotal role in their 2018 midterm success. The nonprofit served as a conduit that funneled more than \$1.6 billion to Democratic campaigns.

Republicans' campaigns, however, use a hodgepodge of more than a dozen for-profit companies to collect online contributions. That cedes an advantage to a monolithic platform like ActBlue, which allows donors to give to candidates up and down the ballot with a few taps of a smartphone.

Give.GOP founder Paul Dietzel said efforts by national Republicans to adopt one online giving platform run counter to long-standing GOP beliefs in "free markets, equal opportunity and capitalism."

Dietzel also is the CEO of another online donation company that Republicans have used, Anedot, and he said some have likened the party's top-down effort to socialism.

"This sounds a lot like AOC, not the Republican Party," he said, using the initials for outspoken New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who identifies as a democratic socialist.

Emails obtained by The Associated Press show that Republican leaders have incentivized the adoption of WinRed.

A National Republican Congressional Committee official wrote in one message this month that members of Congress who adopt the platform can get a break of up to \$20,000 on their membership dues, a term used for the campaign cash they are expected to give to Republican political committees.

A spokesman for WinRed did not respond to a request for comment.

Dietzel says his app will be used by state parties across the U.S. and by several GOP governors. He said it allows donors to split donations among multiple committees, points donors to similar candidates to whom they could give and will charge a smaller processing fee, allowing campaigns to keep a larger share of contributions.

But Josh Holmes, a longtime adviser to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who was involved in the development of WinRed, questioned the wisdom of comparing Trump's and other Republicans' preference of a giving app to socialism.

"I don't think it's terrific for business to call President Trump a socialist," Holmes said. "But that's their business, not mine."

Iranians say US sanctions hurt people, not government

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — While opinions differ across Tehran's Grand Bazaar about the ongoing tensions between the U.S. and Iran over its unraveling nuclear deal, there's one thing those in the beating heart of Iran's capital city agree on: American sanctions hurt the average person, not those in charge.

From an English-language teacher hoping for peace to an appliance salesman who applauded President Donald Trump as a "successful businessman," all said they suffered from the economic hardships sparked by re-imposed and newly created American sanctions. The Iranian rial's collapse has eaten into the savings of a retired bank clerk, while a young man with a shock of bleached-blond hair says those his age want to leave the country.

Iranians spoke to The Associated Press on Tuesday, a day after authorities acknowledged the country had broken through the limit placed on its stockpile of low-enriched uranium by the 2015 nuclear deal. Trump pulled the U.S. out of the deal a year ago.

Tensions between Tehran and Washington have seen the U.S. rush an aircraft carrier, nuclear-capable

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 60 of 73

B-52 bombers, F-22 fighters and thousands of additional troops to the Middle East. While Iran says it doesn't seek war, it recently shot down a U.S. military surveillance drone. Iran also now acknowledges an "intentional" disruption to GPS coordinates in the country by authorities, interfering with position data used by the U.S. military for airstrikes and drone flights.

Under the nuclear deal, Iran agreed to have less than 300 kilograms (661 pounds) of uranium enriched to a maximum of 3.67%, which can be used for power stations but is far below weapons-grade levels of 90%. Both Iran and the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog agency confirmed Monday that Tehran had broken through that limit.

While that represents Iran's first major departure from the accord, it still remains likely a year away from having enough material for a nuclear weapon. Iran insists its program is for peaceful purposes, but the West fears it could allow Iran to build a bomb.

Iran also has threatened for weeks to push its enrichment closer to weapons-grade levels on July 7 if Europe doesn't put forth a new deal to protect Tehran from U.S. sanctions. As the stockpile and enrichment rises, the estimated year narrows.

"There should be some negotiations. Both parties should talk in a friendly manner," said Nahroba Alirezei, a 35-year-old English-language teacher. "They should think about the Iranian people and the Iranian society and the American society. Young people should not suffer more than this."

On Tuesday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov urged Iran to "show restraint, not yield to emotions." China expressed regret, while French President Emmanuel Macron urged Iran to reduce its stockpile.

In a joint statement, the foreign ministers of Germany, France and Britain and the European Union's foreign policy chief said that "we have been consistent and clear that our commitment to the nuclear deal depends on full compliance by Iran." They urged Iran to reverse the move "and to refrain from further measures that undermine the nuclear deal."

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted that Iran will comply with the deal to the same extent as European signatories implement their economic commitments.

Iranian parliament speaker Ali Larijani criticized the increasing U.S. military presence in a televised speech.

"They think they can just come and occupy a country by sending four warships to the region," Larijani said. He also warned other countries in the region not to join any U.S. coalition against it, saying: "If they rally against us, they will have to pay the price for it."

While the government says challenging the West over its nuclear program is necessary, some Iranians like Sajjad Nazary, a 23-year-old university student in Tehran, question the move as leading to more economic suffering.

"Instead of the nuclear program, the Iranian people need bread," Nazary told the AP outside of Tehran's sprawling bazaar. "They want their economic situation to get better. The point is with nuclear energy, you can't make your children's bellies feel full."

But Nazary, like others there, said he didn't believe a war would break out.

"Trump is too smart to do that and he'll in no way harm himself like that," Nazary said. "The situation is dangerous but none of us are aware of the politics. Maybe all of this was a threat to meant to open some new ways."

He added: "This was just a threat to make the Iranian officials come to their senses."

Despite that optimism, there are signs Iran is taking the threat of a possible military escalation seriously.

Hossein Fallah Joshaghani, a government telecommunications official, told the state-run IRNA news agency Monday that the source of the GPS disruptions in the country had been determined, but no action was taken. That suggests an authority in Iran is actively disrupting GPS systems, which can be used for U.S. drones and airstrikes, as well as civil aviation and mobile phone apps.

While some blame Trump for the tensions, Mehdi Hamzeh Nia, a 39-year-old appliance salesman, applauded the U.S. president as a "successful businessman, a man who knows what he's doing and doesn't want others to know what he's doing."

Asked about the economy, which has seen the rial go from 32,000 to \$1 to now nearly 130,000, Hamzeh

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 61 of 73

Nia blamed not just the sanctions but local mismanagement as well. Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran's government has careened between economic crises involving poor planning and embezzlement, which U.S. sanctions have exacerbated.

"I think 50% is related to sanctions and 50% is domestic," he said. "Even if the foreign 50% is resolved, and the domestic 50% is not fixed, our situation will still get worse."

That fall in the rial has hit retirees particularly hard. Yussuf, a retired banking official who would only give the AP his first name for fear of retribution, said things remained extremely difficult for those on fixed incomes like himself. He said he took on odd jobs to help make ends meet.

"I think in very tough situations, wise decisions are made easier," he said. "I think that the officials at the right moment will not let us fall off the edge of a cliff."

But he was not complimentary of Trump's approach.

"In the past he was not predictable, but now he almost is," Yussuf said. "For everyone around the world, it's now clear that he only thinks about American interests."

Nazary and Hamzeh Nia, both younger men, said they thought about leaving Iran, given the stress. Hamzeh Nia said he worried about how to support his family, which includes a 5-year-old son.

"We would love to leave, if the situation remains like this," Hamzeh Nia said. "There is no future for you here."

But the most pressing concern for Alirezei, the English teacher, is the need to ease tensions.

"It's not a good idea to respond to threats with threats," Alirezei said.

Asked what she hoped for, she responded in English: "Peace, just peace."

Associated Press producer Mehdi Fattahi and writer Nasser Karimi contributed.

Fire kills 14 Russian sailors aboard deep-sea submersible

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Fire broke out on one of the Russian navy's deep-sea research submersibles, and toxic fumes from the blaze killed 14 sailors aboard, Russia's Defense Ministry said Tuesday, although it released few details about the disaster or the vessel involved.

The Defense Ministry did not say how many sailors were aboard the vessel during Monday's fire, whether there were any survivors or if it was submerged at the time. But Russian media reported it was the country's most secret submersible, a nuclear-powered vessel designed for sensitive missions at great depths.

President Vladimir Putin, who came under criticism for his handling of the Kursk nuclear submarine disaster in 2000 that killed 118 sailors, canceled a scheduled appearance and immediately summoned Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu for a briefing on the blaze, which was under investigation.

"Fourteen submariners have died of poisoning by fumes from the fire," Shoigu told Putin during a televised meeting. "The fire was extinguished thanks to the crew's resolute action."

Putin ordered Shoigu to fly to the Arctic port of Severomorsk, the main base for Russia's Northern Fleet where the vessel was brought, to oversee the investigation and report back to him personally.

"It's a huge loss for the navy," Putin said. "I offer my sincere condolences to the families of the victims."

He added that the vessel had a special mission and an elite crew.

"It's isn't a regular vessel. It's a research vessel with a highly professional crew," Putin said, adding that seven of the dead had the rank of captain and two were awarded the nation's highest medal, the Hero of Russia.

The fire occurred while the submersible was measuring sea depths in Russia's territorial waters, the ministry said, adding that the vessel also is used for studying the seabed.

Russia's RBC online news outlet and the Novaya Gazeta newspaper identified it as the nuclear-powered AS-12 Losharik.

The vessel is the most advanced Russian submersible, under a heavy veil of secrecy, and it is believed to have entered service in 2010. It is named after a Soviet-era animated cartoon horse that is made up

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 62 of 73

of small spheres.

The name is apparently derives from the unique design of its interior hull, which is made of titanium spheres capable of withstanding high pressure at great depths.

In 2012, the Losharik was involved in research intended to prove Russia's claim on the vast Arctic seabed. It collected samples from the depth of 2,500 meters (8,202 feet), according to official statements at the time. Regular submarines can typically dive to depths of up to 600 meters (2,000 feet).

Some observers speculated the Losharik was even capable of going as deep as 6,000 meters (19,685 feet), but the claims couldn't be independently confirmed. Analysts suggested that one of its possible missions could be disrupting communication cables on the seabed.

The Losharik is carried under the hull of a mother submarine, the nuclear-powered Orenburg, and reportedly has a crew of 25, all of them officers.

Russian news reports said that while the Losharik officially belongs to the Northern Fleet, it answers directly to the Defense Ministry's Department for Deep-Sea Research, reflecting the high sensitivity of its missions.

The vessel has been surrounded by tight secrecy, but in 2015, it was accidentally caught on camera by a photographer from a motoring magazine doing a photo session on the White Sea coast.

Igor Britanov, who commanded the Soviet K-219 nuclear submarine that suffered an explosion in one of its missile tubes in 1986 that killed four of its crew, was quoted as saying by Severpost news outlet that Monday's blaze could have been caused by a short circuit or a flammable liquid getting into an air filter — the two most common causes of submarine fires.

The Russian navy also uses simpler Priz-class and Bester-class deep water vehicles, which have a hull built of titanium and are capable of operating at a depth of 1,000 meters (3,281 feet). The small vehicles have a crew of two and are primarily intended for rescuing submariners in case of incidents. Such vessels are transported to the area of operation by a carrier vessel and can operate autonomously for up to 120 hours.

The blaze marks the most serious Russian naval disaster since 2008, when 20 crewmembers died aboard the nuclear-powered Nerpa submarine in the Pacific Fleet after a firefighting system was accidentally initiated while it was undergoing sea trials.

The accident involving the Kursk was the worst naval disaster in post-Soviet Russia. It occurred on Aug. 12, 2000, when the nuclear submarine exploded and sank during maneuvers in the Barents Sea, killing all 118 crewmembers. Putin, who was in his first year of his presidency, came under heavy criticism at the time when he failed to immediately interrupt his vacation to take charge of the disaster.

This version corrects the name of the mother submarine that carries the Losharik to Orenburg, not Belgorod.

EU leaders break deadlock, nominate candidates for top posts

By LORNE COOK and RAF CASERT Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — After three days of arduous negotiations, European Union leaders broke a deadlock Tuesday and nominated German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen to become the new president of the bloc's powerful executive arm, the European Commission, one of two women named to top EU posts for the first time.

In a series of tweets, European Council President Donald Tusk said that Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel would take over from him in the fall.

Frenchwoman Christine Lagarde was proposed as president of the European Central Bank, while Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Borrell was nominated to become EU foreign policy chief, meaning he would be charged with supervising the Iran nuclear deal, among other duties.

Only Michel can take up his post without other formalities. The others, notably von der Leyen — who will take over from Jean-Claude Juncker for the next five years — must be endorsed by the European

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 63 of 73

Parliament. The assembly sits in Strasbourg, France on Wednesday to elect its own new president, and early signs suggest that lawmakers could contest the nominations.

"It is important that we were able to decide with great unity today, and that is important because it's about our future ability to work." German Chancellor Angela Merkel told reporters after the nominations — decided away from the cameras and media in a long series of meetings — were made public.

Several lawmakers have already objected to the leaders' package of nominations, and it remains to be seen whether the parliament will flex new found muscles following the massive turnout for EU-wide elections in May. Party leaders have said the vote has brought the assembly — the EU's only elected institution — even more democratic legitimacy.

"This backroom stitch-up after days of talks is grotesque," said Greens group leader Ska Keller, describing the nomination process as "party power games."

"After such a high turnout in the European elections and a real mandate for change, this is not what European citizens deserve," said Keller, who is in the running to become parliament president on Wednesday.

Juncker, who steps down on Oct. 31 as head of the commission, which proposes and enforces EU laws, conceded that "it won't be easy in parliament."

Tusk said "it was worth waiting for such an outcome" and that he would do his best to explain to what could well be a tetchy parliament on Thursday how the nominations were made and what thought processes went into the move.

"It's always a huge question mark. This is why we have parliaments," Tusk said, with a wry smile.

Von der Leyen would be the first woman in the commission job, and Merkel said this is "a good sign."

So would Lagarde — currently chair of the International Monetary Fund — and she would serve for up to eight years if her nomination is endorsed.

"That's a very important statement that Europe leads on gender equality," Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said.

"It might have taken three days, but it's a good outcome overall," he told reporters.

The nominations came after one of the longest summits in recent years, outstripping even all-night negotiations during the Greek debt crisis.

Already plagued by crises like Brexit and deep divisions among nations over how best to manage migration, the leaders had been keen to show that they could take quick decisions and that the European project remains important to its citizens.

But they struggled to establish a delicate balance between population size and geography — an even mix of countries from the north and south, east and west, and ensure that at least two women were nominated. Tusk he said he hoped that someone from a central or eastern European member state would be voted in as president of the European Parliament.

Despite deep tensions, some tantrums by leaders behind the scenes and even public criticism of his handling of the summit, Tusk said: "Five years ago we needed three months to decide, and still some leaders were against. This year it was three days and nobody was against."

The Belgian prime minister said that he understands the challenges that lie ahead.

"The next five years will be very important for the future of the European project and I am convinced that it will be very important to protect and to promote our unity, our diversity and especially also our solidarity," Michel told reporters, after one of the most acrimonious summits in recent memory.

AP writers Mike Corder in Brussels, and Geir Moulson and Frank Jordans in Berlin, contributed to this report.

House committee files lawsuit for Trump tax returns

By JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House committee sued the Trump administration in federal court Tuesday for access to President Donald Trump's tax returns, setting up a legal showdown over the records.

The House Ways and Means Committee said it needs the documents for an investigation into tax law compliance by the president, among other things. It asked the court to order the administration to turn over the documents.

The lawsuit is the culmination of a long-running fight between Democrats and Trump over the returns, dating back to the 2016 campaign, when Trump claimed that he could not release them due to an IRS audit. The records hold the promise of information that Trump has carefully guarded from public view, including about his business entanglements, relationships with foreign creditors and governments, and the value of his assets.

The committee originally demanded six years of Trump's tax records in early April under a law that says the Internal Revenue Service "shall furnish" the returns of any taxpayer to a handful of top lawmakers. But Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told the committee in May that he wouldn't be turning over the returns to the Democratic-controlled House.

Mnuchin concluded that the Treasury Department is "not authorized to disclose the requested returns and return information." The Justice Department in a legal opinion backed Mnuchin's position, saying the request lacked a legitimate legislative purpose and was an "unprecedented" use of congressional authority.

The argument is the same one Trump has used in refusing other demands from Congress for financial records from accountants and banks Trump and his family have done business with. Lawsuits over those records were filed in federal courts in Washington and New York, and Trump has lost in those lawsuits' opening rounds.

In its lawsuit Tuesday, the committee said the administration has refused to turn over the documents "in order to shield President Trump's tax return information from Congressional scrutiny." The committee said it's not required to explain to the Treasury Department its reasons for seeking the tax return information but that in this case the committee's need is "evident."

"Without reviewing the requested return materials, the Committee cannot ensure that the IRS's audit process is functioning fairly and effectively, understand how provisions of the tax code are impacted by President Trump's returns or exercise its legislative judgment to determine whether changes to the code may be warranted," the lawsuit said.

The president has "declined to follow the practice of every elected President since Richard Nixon of voluntarily disclosing their tax returns," the lawsuit said.

It's unclear how long it will take to resolve the lawsuit. Fights between Congress and the executive branch can in some cases take years, and the administration may be eager to make the lawsuit last in order to delay providing records. But if, as the committee suggests, the fight comes down to the text of what the law requires, a resolution could come more quickly, though it could be appealed.

Steve Rosenthal, a senior fellow at the nonpartisan Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, said the committee is on strong legal footing with the lawsuit because "it is entitled to oversee and investigate the executive branch, which is a key element of our checks and balances."

The chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Massachusetts Democrat Richard Neal, said in a statement that despite the Treasury Department's "mandatory obligation," it had "failed to comply with the law."

The Treasury Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, has opposed House Democrats' requests for Trump's tax returns, saying partisan motives are behind it and that the request could set a dangerous precedent. Grassley is the only other member of Congress besides Neal authorized by law to request any tax returns from the Treasury secretary.

"It should be alarming to every American that there are attempts by elected officials to weaponize the IRS for partisan political purposes," Grassley said earlier this year.

Associated Press writers Marcy Gordon and Martin Crutsinger contributed to this report.

Meet Big Tech's new foe - a congressman who fought City Hall

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Can the congressman who took on an entrenched machine politician in Rhode Island also stand up to Big Tech?

David Cicilline, the Rhode Island Democrat now leading a House antitrust investigation into the market dominance of Facebook, Google, Amazon and Apple, is about to find out. But he has experience going up against "enormously powerful, very well-financed, very well-connected" special interests, which is how he now terms the technology industry.

That description also fit an earlier Cicilline opponent, former Providence Mayor Vincent "Buddy" Cianci, a charismatic and seemingly indestructible politician who ran the city for more than two decades. Cicilline braved a run to unseat Cianci in 2002 at a time when the incumbent was fending off corruption charges but still intent on winning a seventh term. By that year's end, Cicilline was headed to the mayor's office, Cianci to federal prison, and the seeds were planted for a bitter political rivalry that would last until Cianci died in 2016.

"If you can take on Buddy Cianci, you can certainly take on Mark Zuckerberg," said Darrell West, a former political science professor at Brown University in Providence who now directs the Brookings Institution's Center for Technology Innovation.

Cicilline is adept at social media and drives a Tesla, but until recently hasn't been considered among the tech policy wonks in Congress. As a law student and lawyer, he didn't spend much time studying the nation's century-old antitrust laws, first used to target oil barons and railroad monopolies.

Yet for those who have followed his career, it fits into a trend of siding with the underdog. For Cicilline, the federal government's lack of scrutiny as Google gobbled up its digital advertising competitors and Facebook acquired rivals like Instagram and WhatsApp has enabled the tech giants to corner their market, giving people little choice but to agree to terms of service that exploit their personal data.

"A monopoly's good for nobody, especially for workers," said J. Michael Downey, a president of a Rhode Island public sector union who is enthused about the congressman's latest high-profile cause. "When he takes someone on, I've watched him do good things with it."

Cicilline may be better known by some younger Americans for his championing of LGBT rights, and by older ones for his pithy attacks on President Donald Trump during regular cable appearances. He pushed early for an impeachment inquiry, bucking Speaker Nancy Pelosi despite being part of her leadership team.

Early on, Cicilline followed his father, a Mafia lawyer, into criminal defense work. He got experiences in taking on the "imbalance of power," he said, by suing police for misconduct. He later served as a state representative before taking aim at Cianci, who had already served two long stretches as mayor. (The first ended after Cianci attacked his estranged wife's alleged lover with a lit cigarette and a fireplace log.)

Cicilline pitched himself as an anti-corruption reformer. At one early fundraiser, Cicilline said Cianci's supporters jotted down the license plate numbers of attendees, then used the information to identify and intimidate them.

"He didn't take well to people challenging him," Cicilline told The Associated Press in an interview. He said the sitting mayor also tried to dig up dirt about his legal career.

Cianci later called Cicilline's mayoral bid a "political suicide mission" that succeeded only because a racketeering conviction forced Cianci out of office before the election. Cicilline coasted to victory and served eight years as mayor before being elected to Congress in 2010.

Cianci spent more than four years in federal prison, then returned to Providence as a radio talk show host.

"I'm not a good enemy to have," Cianci wrote in his 2011 autobiography, "Politics and Pasta," in which he took credit for tarnishing Cicilline's reputation with on-air attacks. "But what could Cicilline do to me? Put me in prison? Been there, done that, and I brought home the T-shirt."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 66 of 73

Silicon Valley's tech giants might also not make good enemies. For now, Cicilline is seeking their cooperation and emphasizes that the investigation is "not a prosecution." But he can also wield subpoena power should that approach fail.

Cicilline now runs the Judiciary Committee's antitrust subcommittee, a typically sleepy body that he aims to beef up. Its investigation will explore whether these online platforms are stifling competition, favoring their own services or threatening the democratic process by virtue of their control over how people get information.

Given the popularity of these tech services, Cicilline said it's also important to show Americans "why this misuse of their data, the exclusion of rivals, why the promotion of one product over another without them knowing about it, matters."

Tech companies so far are expressing their willingness to help inform the probe, but some of their proxies complain that Cicilline's approach looks more like a show trial.

"For Cicilline and everybody else in that camp, it's clear these companies are guilty," said Rob Atkinson, president of the industry-backed Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, and a veteran of Rhode Island politics. "The only real question for them is what to do about it."

Cicilline's evolution on unchecked monopoly power followed the lead of another New England Democrat, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. In mid-2016, Warren accused Google, Apple and Amazon of using their online platforms to snuff out competition, threatening not just their competitors but democracy.

She has since rolled out a plan to break up the companies. Cicilline calls that a "last resort."

In 2017, Cicilline began dabbling in antitrust policy as the ranking Democrat on the GOP-run antitrust subcommittee and pushed unsuccessfully for a hearing on how Amazon's acquisition of Whole Foods would affect both consumers and workers. He consulted with groups such as the Open Markets Institute, a think tank that advocates breaking up monopolies.

This year, Cicilline hired Lina Khan, a top attorney at Open Markets, to serve as a subcommittee counsel. She declined comment for this story.

Cicilline and his Republican colleagues on the subcommittee are standing up to "the most powerful corporations we've seen in the world for at least 100 years," said Barry Lynn, director of the Open Markets Institute.

West, the Brookings scholar, said Cicilline's unlikely leadership on this cause — as the representative of a tiny state without a significant tech sector — could work to his advantage as the wealthy tech companies mobilize their allies.

"He's a pretty free agent on this type of topic," West said.

This story has been corrected to include Lina Khan's correct title.

She said, he said: What's next with Taylor Swift's catalog?

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Taylor Swift's feuds can captivate the public almost as much as her music, and her latest emotional salvo against one of music's top managers not only made headlines but got key players in the industry riled up, with the likes of Justin Bieber, Halsey and Demi Lovato publicly choosing sides as accusations and insults were posted furiously on social media.

But days after the storm, experts say Swift and Scooter Braun, who manages Bieber and Ariana Grande and now owns Swift's masters, will have to find a way to work together — both to preserve Swift's rich musical legacy but also make money and do good business.

"Whether anyone likes it or not, Scooter Braun just became one of Taylor Swift's most important business partners (and) these are people that need to work with each other now," said Bill Werde, former editorial director of Billboard and director of the Bandier program for recorded and entertainment industries at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.

"(Scooter) wants her to continue to be the biggest star in the world for as long as possible because that's

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 67 of 73

how he's going to get the best return on his investment," Werde continued. "I think that in the not too distant future you're going to see ... things get better. You know, you're going to see some olive branches."

On Sunday, Braun's Ithaca Holdings announced that it acquired Big Machine Label Group, the label led by Scott Borchetta and home to Swift's first six albums, including the Grammy winners for album of the year, 2008's "Fearless" and 2014's "1989." Swift said in November she signed with Universal Music Group instead of staying at Big Machine because she knew that re-signing with the label would only result in her not owning her future work.

Once the news broke, Swift penned a scathing Tumblr note, saying she was sad and grossed out that her music catalog now belongs to Braun.

"When I left my masters in Scott's hands, I made peace with the fact that eventually he would sell them. Never in my worst nightmares did I imagine the buyer would be Scooter," she said her post. "Any time Scott Borchetta has heard the words 'Scooter Braun' escape my lips, it was when I was either crying or trying not to. He knew what he was doing; they both did. Controlling a woman who didn't want to be associated with them. In perpetuity. That means forever."

"When Taylor decided to make a deal for future records someplace else, she ... certainly knew that Big Machine would be sold probably sooner than later," said Larry Miller, the director of the music business program at New York University's Steinhardt school. "It's unfortunate that she feels the way that she does about the place that her catalog is now going to live."

But what seemed to first be about music ownership and artists' rights turned into dramatic theater, as Swift also wrote about her clashes with Kim Kardashian and West, and claimed she didn't know about the sale of her catalog until the news was announced Sunday. The social media showdown played out throughout the day, with Borchetta providing details of the text he says he sent to Swift about the deal the night before it was announced. He even shared screenshots of a contract between the two of them discussing a possible new deal that would also allow her to own all her masters.

Braun's wife and his clients including Lovato and Bieber showed him support, while Halsey, Todrick Hall, model-actress Cara Delevingne and music video director Joseph Khan were #TeamTaylor. Even country singer Kacey Musgraves jumped in the ring by liking the Instagram post by Braun's wife.

It marked another saga in the drama of Swift, who has had a number of public feuds, from former boyfriend Calvin Harris to Katy Perry (who made up with Swift and recently appeared in her latest video, "You Need to Calm Down").

"I think Taylor, who has led many discussions about what is good for artists in the music business, had an opportunity to lead another one here about control and ownership of your own songs as an artist. But I think she kind of muddled matters by combining this with what felt like a personal vendetta," Werde said. "Now we're all talking about which pop star took whose side."

Swift will release a new album called "Lover" on Aug. 23. Miller said he expects things to work out in the future regarding her catalog.

"About four years ago maybe there was a big Taylor Swift dust up around the launch of Apple Music, right? ... and I'm pretty sure they found a way to work together," Miller said, referencing Swift's 2015 public letter explaining why she was pulling her songs over Apple Music over payments to artists; Apple agreed with Swift's stance and they've worked together ever since.

"Big Machine under its new ownership with Ithaca Holdings, and Taylor and her team ... will find to do what's right for her and for her catalog."

AP analysis: Trump smiles with North Korea, threatens Iran

By DEB RIECHMANN and MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With North Korea, President Donald Trump puts on the charm. But with Iran, he cranks up the pressure with economic sanctions and a stronger military presence in the Persian Gulf. He has warned its leaders they are "playing with fire."

Nuclear weapons are at the heart of the difficult U.S. relations with both Pyongyang and Tehran. But it's

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 68 of 73

in North Korea where Trump has more leeway and perhaps a greater chance of striking a deal.

Kim Jong Un has seemed as willing to meet with Trump as the U.S. president has been to talk and shake hands for the cameras with him. The North Korean leader jumped at the chance to meet Trump at the Demilitarized Zone between the Koreas last weekend.

Trump has made repeated overtures to Iranian leaders, too, but without the same results.

"I think Trump would be equally on a charm offensive with the Iranians if he had a dance partner," said Mark Dubowitz, an Iran nuclear deal skeptic with the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

Also, Israel, which views Iran as its archenemy, is pressuring Trump to take a hard-line approach to Tehran, which has threatened to wipe Israel off the map. There is no big anti-North Korea lobby in the United States pressuring the White House to shun Kim's repressive government.

Trump inherited heavy U.S. sanctions on North Korea and then for months traded fiery rhetoric with Kim, saber rattling that caused jitters across the world. That has given way to flowery correspondence, meetings between the two and this weekend's historic visit when Trump became the first U.S. president to step into North Korea while in office.

Not that Pyongyang has taken big steps in return. Critics point out that North Korea has not moved to "denuclearize" as Trump has demanded. But the country has refrained from conducting nuclear tests or test-firing long-range missiles.

Trump tweeted late Monday that "our teams will be meeting to work on some solutions to very long term and persistent problems. No rush, but I am sure we will ultimately get there.

Not so smooth with Iran.

Trump campaigned on pulling the United States out of the nuclear agreement that Tehran signed with the U.S. and other world powers in 2015. He complained that the deal, which eased economic sanctions in exchange for Iran curbing its nuclear program, didn't address Iranian ballistic missile capabilities or its support of militant groups.

After failing to adjust what Trump condemned as a fatally flawed deal, the U.S. exited the agreement last year and re-imposed sanctions that had been eased when the deal was finalized under the Obama administration.

The pressure campaign evolved not like the Trump-Kim lovefest, but to what seemed like the brink of war.

With its economy diving, Iran lashed out by shooting down a \$100 million, unmanned U.S. surveillance drone and attacking shipping vessels in the Persian Gulf region. Trump said he was "cocked and loaded" to retaliate with limited missile strikes but changed his mind when he learned 150 Iranians could have been killed.

He tweeted last week, "Any attack by Iran on anything American will be met with great and overwhelming force. In some areas, overwhelming will mean obliteration."

On Monday, Iran announced it now has a stockpile of more than 660 pounds (300 kilograms) of low-enriched uranium in violation of the 2015 deal. The U.S. is partly to blame because it failed to renew waivers that allowed Iran to swap its excess to other countries.

But officials say the administration is less concerned about Monday's breach than possible further violations that could reduce the time Iran would need to produce a nuclear weapon. The deal aimed to keep that "breakout time" at one year.

Iran's deputy foreign minister has warned the White House that it's naive to think Iran will wilt under pressure, or that the Iranian people will revolt and throw out its government. He said Iran will not be forced to negotiate by having a knife put to its throat.

As for North Korea, administration officials caution that Trump's charm offensive with Kim does not foreshadow a softening of its insistence that his country must not have nuclear weapons. The New York Times reported Monday that the administration might agree to a nuclear freeze as a first step toward denuclearization.

Under that scenario, which was quickly disputed by U.S. officials, North Korea would not make any new nuclear material, meaning it couldn't expand its arsenal of 20 to 60 nuclear weapons. Under such a deal, North Korea would remain a nuclear power and would still have short and long-term missiles that could

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 69 of 73

threaten U.S. allies like Japan and South Korea as well as the United States.

Stephen Biegun, U.S. special envoy to North Korea, said the report was "far from accurate."

"What is accurate is not new, and what is new is not accurate. No one on our team who knows anything would speak right now anyway," he said in a statement distributed by the State Department.

Trump's hawkish national security adviser John Bolton, who has advocated a tough stance against both North Korea and Iran, also said the administration was not considering a softer approach.

However, Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, said the fact that Bolton was in Mongolia when Trump met Kim at the DMZ suggested there is a "significant split" within the Trump administration.

Democrats have been quick to criticize Trump for his strategy with both Iran and North Korea.

"After three made-for-TV summits, we still don't have a single concrete commitment from North Korea," said former Vice President Joe Biden, who is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination. "Not one missile or nuclear weapon has been destroyed, not one inspector is on the ground. ... North Korea has continued to churn out fissile material and is no longer an isolated pariah on the world stage."

On Iran, Biden said Trump walked away from a deal that was temporarily keeping it from developing a first nuclear bomb and applied economic pressure that has led Tehran to restart its nuclear program and become more, not less aggressive.

"Trump's Iran policy has alienated us from our allies and taken us to the brink of another war in the Middle East," he said.

In its first year, the administration tried to work with European allies to mend what Trump identified as flaws in the nuclear deal, such as its silence on ballistic missiles and Iran's support for destabilizing proxies around the Middle East. The effort to create a separate agreement without Iran's participation ultimately failed.

Michael McFaul, a U.S. ambassador to Russia under President Barack Obama, says that while Trump has said he's open to talks with Iran, he sees little evidence that's the case. He wonders whether complete and verifiable denuclearization is not the goal in Iran or North Korea.

"In Iran, it may be that the real objective is regime change, including the option of U.S. military action," he says.

"In North Korea, it could be that the goal is not complete denuclearization, but an outcome that allows Kim to maintain part of his nuclear arsenal while perhaps dismantling his intercontinental ballistic missile program to reduce the direct threat to U.S. national security.

"This lesser goal could help to explain why Trump is so oddly accommodating toward North Korea."

EDITOR'S NOTE — Riechmann and Lee report on national security for The Associated Press.

This story corrects the spelling of Haass.

Big business to Supreme Court: Defend LGBTQ people from bias By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — More than 200 corporations, including many of America's best-known companies, are urging the U.S. Supreme Court to rule that federal civil rights law bans job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The corporations outlined their stance in a legal brief released Tuesday by a coalition of five LGBTQ rights groups. The brief is being submitted to the Supreme Court this week ahead of oral arguments before the justices on Oct. 8 on three cases that may determine whether gays, lesbians and transgender people are protected from discrimination by existing federal civil rights laws.

Among the 206 corporations endorsing the brief were Amazon, American Airlines, Bank of America, Ben & Jerry's, Coca-Cola, Domino's Pizza, Goldman Sachs, IBM, Microsoft, Morgan Stanley, Nike, Starbucks, Viacom, the Walt Disney Co. and Xerox. Two major league baseball teams, the San Francisco Giants and

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 70 of 73

the Tampa Bay Rays, were among the group.

In their brief, the companies argued that a uniform federal rule is needed to protect LGBTQ employees equally in all 50 states.

"Even where companies voluntarily implement policies to prohibit sexual orientation or gender identity discrimination, such policies are not a substitute for the force of law," the brief argued. "Nor is the patchwork of incomplete state or local laws sufficient protection — for example, they cannot account for the cross-state mobility requirements of the modern workforce."

Such friend-of-the-court briefs are routinely submitted by interested parties ahead of major Supreme Court hearings. The extent to which they might sway justices is difficult to assess, but in this case it's an effective way for the corporations to affirm support for LGBTQ employees.

Federal appeals courts in Chicago and New York have ruled recently that gay and lesbian employees are entitled to protection from discrimination; the federal appeals court in Cincinnati has extended similar protections for transgender people.

The question now is whether the Supreme Court will follow suit, given its conservative majority strengthened by President Donald Trump's appointments of Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. The three cases are the court's first on LGBTQ rights since the retirement last year of Justice Anthony Kennedy, who authored landmark gay rights opinions.

The Obama administration had supported treating LGBTQ discrimination claims as sex discrimination, but the Trump administration has changed course. The Trump Justice Department has argued that the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 was not intended to provide protections to gay or transgender workers.

The companies signing the brief represent more than 7 million employees and \$5 trillion in annual revenue, according to the Human Rights Campaign, the largest of the LGBTQ rights groups organizing the initiative. Other organizers included Lambda Legal, Out Leadership, Out and Equal, and Freedom for All Americans.

"At this critical moment in the fight for LGBTQ equality, these leading businesses are sending a clear message to the Supreme Court that LGBTQ people should, like their fellow Americans, continue to be protected from discrimination," said Jay Brown, a Human Rights Campaign vice president. "These employers know firsthand that protecting the LGBTQ community is both good for business and the right thing to do."

In one of the cases heading to the Supreme Court, the New York-based 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of a gay skydiving instructor who claimed he was fired because of his sexual orientation. The appeals court ruled that "sexual orientation discrimination is motivated, at least in part, by sex and is thus a subset of sex discrimination."

The ruling was a victory for the relatives of Donald Zarda, now deceased, who was fired in 2010 from a skydiving job that required him to strap himself tightly to clients so they could jump in tandem from an airplane. He tried to put a woman with whom he was jumping at ease by explaining that he was gay. The school fired Zarda after the woman's boyfriend called to complain.

A second case comes from Michigan, where a funeral home fired a transgender woman. The appeals court in Cincinnati ruled that the firing constituted sex discrimination under federal law.

The funeral home argues that Congress was not considering transgender people when it included sex discrimination in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. The law prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of "race, color, religion, sex or national origin."

The third case is from Georgia, where the federal appeals court ruled against a gay employee of Clayton County, in the Atlanta suburbs. Gerald Bostock claimed he was fired in 2013 because he is gay. The county argues that Bostock was let go because of the results of a financial audit.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed Bostock's claim in an opinion noting the court was bound by a 1979 decision that held "discharge for homosexuality is not prohibited by Title VII."

State mapmaker brings creativity, whimsy to Ohio road maps

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — If your summer travel plans involve traveling through Ohio and you're still a fan of paper maps, it's time you met Bruce Hull.

He's the guy who's been injecting visual flair, handy information and a hidden bit of his own family history into Ohio's road maps for almost two decades. Hull's artistry has appeared on millions of maps helping drivers navigate the state, which has the nation's busiest highway system after California, Texas and Florida.

As a layout design artist with the Ohio Department of Transportation since 1989, Hull has creative control over the map's look and feel. He selects the images, the design, the paper, even the type of fold that's used.

"Initially, my goal was to go to either New York, Chicago or San Francisco, because those were the big advertising meccas at the time," said Hull, 60, who studied advertising at the Columbus College of Art & Design. "Then life happened."

Hull fell in love, got married and had a daughter.

He also happened to like the variety of his job in communications at the Transportation Department, putting together posters, newsletters, in-house publications and visual panels for road, rail and motorcycle maps that, back then, were assembled by an outside consultant.

In those early days, photos were black-and-white, film was developed in labs, layouts were by hand and color was added using sheets of film cut to fit. Anything resembling desktop publishing was a thing of the future.

"Nothing was ever too technical because it was just impossible to do at the time," said Hull.

The first map he designed on his own came in 2001-2002. That's also when Hull began what would become an inside joke on the maps: including a photo of his daughter.

"Because we had seat belt laws, I was looking for a stock picture of a kid in a car seat. I found one, but it was \$160," he said with an easy laugh. The department balked at the expense. "So I thought, well, I've got a 6-year-old. I'll just throw her in the back of the van and take her picture."

Ashley Hull has appeared in every state map since. Unbeknownst to most of the general public, they've been watching her grow up — in photos while camping, biking, driving or laughing with high school friends.

"She's the most famous person you've never heard of," said department spokesman Matt Bruning.

Hull acknowledges that his daughter's generation — she's 25 now — has largely abandoned printed maps. In the 1990s, Ohio printed 5.25 million maps on average during each four-year gubernatorial term. By last year, that figure had fallen to 2.25 million.

But, with a Dad who's the state mapmaker, abandoning paper wasn't an option for Ashley.

"When she first got her car, she wanted a GPS. So I said, well, you learn to read this first," he said, brandishing one of his paper road maps. "I showed her these are the interchanges, these little numbers are the distances between interchanges, things like that. In case your power dies, you won't get lost."

And those who know Ashley do recognize her from the map, she said.

"It's not like my picture's in Time magazine or something," she said. "But it's just, it's cute to have people point out like, 'Hey I found you in this information center at this park because you're on the map.'"

If you work anywhere near Hull's heavily adorned cubicle, you also might be co-opted into helping out. To determine the fold he'll use, for example, Hull said he slaps a piece of blank paper folded in an accordion or trifold into a co-worker's hand then watches them try to unfold it. The least cumbersome fold prevails.

The process of creating a new map begins with state cartographers, who produce the actual road map. Then a host of other state departments provide content, such as lists of Highway Patrol posts or state campgrounds, and a message from the governor.

Once all that material is in hand, Hull has free rein over the remaining spaces. One year, his design resembled the front of a refrigerator packed with photos of Ohio attractions. He always works to make featured venues reflect the diversity of the state's racial and ethnic groups, its rural, urban and natural landscapes and its cultural and recreational offerings.

Another of Hull's maps featured Ohio emblems, such as the state mammal, bird, insect and flower. Other

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 72 of 73

versions have featured Ohio's scenic byways and Ohio's Native American tribes.

During the state's bicentennial year, in 2003, Hull adorned the map with a timeline of Ohio history. That included another sly family reference: A photo of his great-grandmother, Sophia Mitchell, the first black woman to serve as a mayor in the state.

Follow Julie Carr Smyth at <https://www.twitter.com/jcarrsmyth>.

Asian shares fall back after S&P 500 hits fresh record high

By **ELAINE KURTENBACH** AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Shares fell back in Asia on Wednesday as the euphoria from President Donald Trump's truce with China's Xi Jinping on trade faded.

The retreat followed yet another all-time high for the S&P 500 index. Trading in U.S. markets is subdued ahead of an early closure on Wednesday for the Independence Day holiday.

The Shanghai Composite index sank 1% to 3,014.68 while Japan's Nikkei 225 index lost 0.7% to 21,608.73. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong declined 0.2% to 28,820.89. South Korea's Kospi lost 0.7% to 2,106.23 but Australia's S&P ASX 200 advanced 0.4% to 6,679.50. Shares fell in Taiwan and most Southeast Asian markets.

Trading was subdued ahead of the Independence Day holiday Thursday in the U.S., where markets will close early on Wednesday.

On Wall Street, stocks shook off an early wobble to eke out small gains Tuesday, nudging the S&P 500 index to an all-time high for the second straight day.

Traders are waiting to see what will come from the latest truce in the U.S.-China trade war. They're also looking ahead to a key government jobs report due out Friday, among other potential market-moving developments in the next few weeks.

The S&P 500 rose 0.3% to 2,973.01, the benchmark index's seventh record high this year. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.3% to 26,786.68. The Nasdaq composite added 0.2% to 8,109.09. Small-company stocks fell, sending the Russell 2000 index down 0.6% to 1,560.54.

Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping of China agreed over the weekend to resume trade talks. The United States also agreed not to impose additional tariffs on the world's second-largest economy.

The detente is good news for markets, but tariffs in place have already hurt global economic growth, and investors see that the two sides still face the same differences that caused talks to break down earlier.

In commodities trading, benchmark crude oil gained 34 cents to \$56.59 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It fell \$2.84 to settle at \$56.25 a barrel.

Brent crude, the international standard, added 47 cents to \$62.87 per barrel. It lost \$2.66 to close at \$62.40 a barrel on Tuesday.

The dollar fell to 107.56 Japanese yen from 108.90 yen on Tuesday. The euro rose to \$1.1292 from \$1.1286.

AP Business writers Alex Veiga and Stan Choe contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, July 3, the 184th day of 2019. There are 181 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 3, 1976, Israel launched its daring mission to rescue 106 passengers and Air France crew members being held at Entebbe Airport in Uganda by pro-Palestinian hijackers; the commandos succeeded in rescuing all but four of the hostages.

On this date:

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, July 03, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 003 ~ 73 of 73

In 1775, Gen. George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts.
In 1863, the three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania ended in a major victory for the North as Confederate troops failed to breach Union positions during an assault known as Pickett's Charge.

In 1890, Idaho became the 43rd state of the Union.

In 1944, during World War II, Soviet forces recaptured Minsk from the Germans.

In 1950, the first carrier strikes of the Korean War took place as the USS Valley Forge and the HMS Triumph sent fighter planes against North Korean targets.

In 1971, singer Jim Morrison of The Doors died in Paris at age 27.

In 1979, Dan White, convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the shooting deaths of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, was sentenced to seven years and eight months in prison. (He ended up serving five years.)

In 1987, British millionaire Richard Branson and Per Lindstrand became the first hot-air balloon travelers to cross the Atlantic, parachuting into the sea as their craft went down off the Scottish coast.

In 1988, the USS Vincennes shot down an Iran Air jetliner over the Persian Gulf, killing all 290 people aboard.

In 1996, Russians went to the polls to re-elect Boris Yeltsin president over his Communist challenger, Gennady Zyuganov in a runoff.

In 2003, the U.S. put a \$25 million bounty on Saddam Hussein, and \$15 million apiece for his two sons. (The \$30 million reward for Odai and Qusai Hussein went to a tipster whose information led U.S. troops to their hideout, where the brothers were killed in a gunbattle.)

In 2013, Egypt's first democratically elected president, Mohammed Morsi, was overthrown by the military after just one year by the same kind of Arab Spring uprising that had brought the Islamist leader to power.

Ten years ago: In a surprise announcement, Sarah Palin said she would resign as Alaska governor, effective July 26, 2009. Vice President Joe Biden visited Baghdad, where he pressed Iraqi leaders to do more to foster national reconciliation and offered U.S. assistance in achieving that goal.

Five years ago: Hurricane Arthur struck North Carolina as a Category 2 storm with winds of 100 mph in the late evening, taking about five hours to move across the far eastern part of the state, but causing far less damage than feared.

One year ago: The Trump administration said it would not encourage schools to use race as a factor in the admissions process, rescinding guidance from the Obama era that was meant to promote diversity.

Today's Birthdays: Playwright Tom Stoppard is 82. Writer-producer Jay Tarses is 80. Actor Michael Cole (TV: "The Mod Squad") is 79. Attorney Gloria Allred is 78. Folk singer Judith Durham (The Seekers) is 76. Actor Kurtwood Smith is 76. Country singer Johnny Lee is 73. Humorist Dave Barry is 72. Actress Betty Buckley is 72. Rock singer-musician Paul Barrere (Little Feat) is 71. Actress Jan Smithers is 70. Actor Bruce Altman is 64. Talk show host Montel Williams is 63. Country singer Aaron Tippin is 61. Rock musician Vince Clarke (Erasure) is 59. Actor Tom Cruise is 57. Actor Thomas Gibson is 57. Actress Hunter Tylo is 57. Actress Connie Nielsen is 55. Actress Yeardley Smith is 55. TV chef Sandra Lee is 53. Singer Ishmael Butler is 50. Rock musician Kevin Hearn (Barenaked Ladies) is 50. Actress-singer Shawnee Smith is 50. Actress-singer Audra McDonald is 49. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is 48. Actor Patrick Wilson is 46. Country singer Trent Tomlinson is 44. Actress Andrea Barber is 43. Singer Shane Lynch (Boyzone) is 43. Actor Ian Anthony Dale is 41. Actress/comedian Jule Klausner is 41. Actress Elizabeth Hendrickson is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tonia Tash (Divine) is 40. Country singer-songwriter Sarah Buxton is 39. Actress Olivia Munn is 39. Actress Shoshannah Stern is 39. Rock singer-songwriter Elle King is 30. Actor Grant Rosenmeyer is 28. Actress Kelsey Batelaan is 24.

Thought for Today: "I suppose it can be truthfully said that Hope is the only universal liar who never loses his reputation for veracity." — Robert G. Ingersoll, American lawyer, politician (1833-1899).