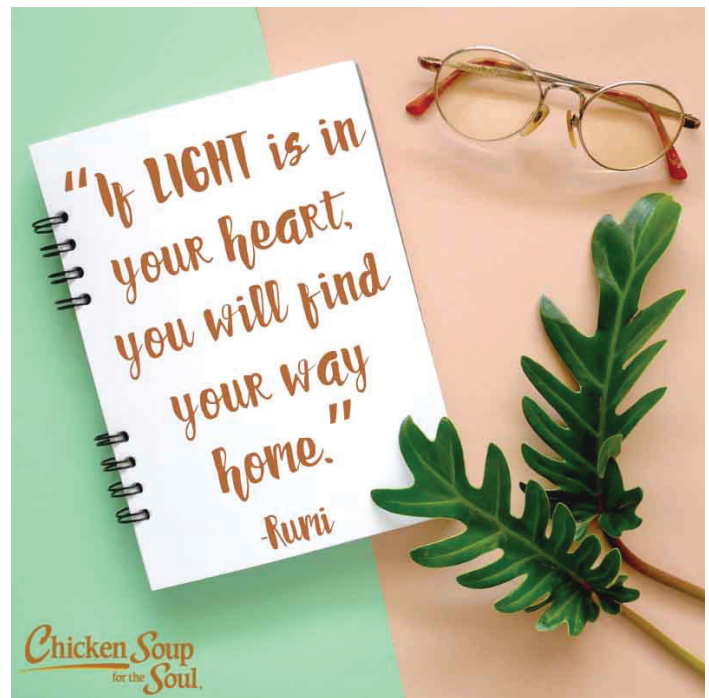


Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 1 of 47

- [2- Hill has Yard of the Week](#)
- [2- Apartment for Rent](#)
- [2- City Police Officer Opening](#)
- [3- Summer Festival](#)
- [4- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
- [5- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column](#)
- [6- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [7- Dr. Holm's Column](#)
- [7- Groton School Positions Available](#)
- [8- Weather Pages](#)
- [9- "Color My World" Ad](#)
- [11- Daily Devotional](#)
- [12- 2019 Groton Events](#)
- [13- 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

Monday, July 15

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

Tuesday, July 16

5:30 p.m.: Junior Legion at Clark, (DH)
Softball hosts Ipswich (U8 at 6 p.m. (1 game), U10 at 7 p.m. (2 games))

Wednesday, July 17

7:00 p.m.: Legion hosts Sisseton

Thursday, July 18

5:00 p.m.: Junior Legion hosts Aberdeen, (DH)
6:00 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees vs. Jacobson at manor Park, (DH) (B)
6:00 p.m.: T-Ball Scrimmage (both)

July 19-21

State Junior Teener Tournament in Elkton

Friday, July 19

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

Sunday, July 21

1:00 p.m.: Groton 2 Amateurs host Redfield
4:00 p.m.: Locke Electric Amateurs at Northville

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 2 of 47



Hill has Yard of the Week

The Yard of the Week last week belonged to Jason and Tara Hill at 907 N. 1st St. Also pictured are their children, Hank and Hazel. The Yard of the Week is sponsored by members of the Groton Garden Club. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Position available for full-time Police Officer

"Position available for full-time Police Officer. Experience and SD Certification preferred. Salary negotiable DOE. Please send application and resume to the City of Groton, PO Box 587 Groton, SD 57445. This position is open until filled. Applications may be found at <https://city.grotonsd.gov/forms/ApplicationForCityEmployee.pdf> For more information, please call 605-397-8422 Equal opportunity employer."

(0704.0710)



2 bedroom apt
\$750/month plus utilities
attached garage
major appliances furnished

480-980-8513
or
605-397-7118

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 3 of 47



The Groton Summer Festival has held Sunday at the Groton City Park. The photo above features people eating under the canopy. Below, the inflatables were put up for a short time before the heavy rain moved in and cut the Summer Festival short. There were still games at the pool after the rain had gone away starting at 3 p.m. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 4 of 47



SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR
KRISTI NOEM



Future-Focused Agriculture

In South Dakota, our way of life is largely rooted in agriculture. It's where many of us learned how to work hard, how to be good stewards of the land, and how to focus on the things that matter most in life. While we treasure the traditions we grew up with, it's important to acknowledge that agriculture is an ever-evolving industry. We must continually grow and learn together to be competitive on the market and prepare our farms and ranches for generations of success. We must be future-focused.

In early July, I had the chance to host my first Governor's Ag Summit – an event designed to bring farmers, ranchers, and industry leaders together to discuss the future of South Dakota agriculture. At the Summit, I led a discussion panel with four young ag professionals. We discussed the challenges of being young producers and agriculturalists, the technological experience the younger generation brings to the table, and the importance of community support for those just starting their careers.

As South Dakota's first farmer-rancher duo to be elected as governor and lieutenant governor, Lt. Governor Rhoden and I are primed to tackle these challenges and make a real impact for producers.

Recently, an economic contribution study found that agriculture's footprint has only increased in South Dakota over the last five years. In 2014, the ag industry contributed \$25.6 billion to our state's economy. Today, that number has increased by nearly \$7 billion dollars. This is largely due to the diversification of product in our state and the increased processing we have seen. With more than one of five South Dakotans employed in the ag industry, these numbers are good news.

This growth doesn't mean much, though, if our overall ag economy isn't functioning as it should. Earlier this month, I reiterated my support for the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which would expand markets, increase stability, and open more opportunities for producers to sell their product. It's time to modernize our trade agreements. It's time for Congress to support American agriculture and ratify the USMCA.

We're also pursuing key initiatives to increase stability at the state level. Right now, we're providing options like the Second Century Habitat Program that will help take producers' least productive acres and allow them to try something new. Establishing grass or other conserving covers on those acres – with the ability to hay or graze – is good for soil health, good for water quality, and good for wildlife. Perhaps most importantly, it's good for a producer's bottom line. I look forward to partnering with producers and groups across the state to expand my Second Century Habitat Program in future years.

We are making good progress in our work to strengthen South Dakota agriculture, and we're doing so with tomorrow in mind. As we continue advancing ag, we must stay future-focused. We will continue developing our ag economy and giving young people the opportunity to thrive as farmers and ranchers in South Dakota for generations to come.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 5 of 47



Showing RESPECT to Native Americans

During my time working as your governor and now U.S. senator, I've had the privilege of establishing friendships with tribal members from all nine reservations in South Dakota. As governor, Jean and I invited tribal leaders to our home to simply break bread and get to know each other on a personal level.

It's a small thing, but we've also made a concerted effort to employ tribal members and people with close ties to the reservations on my staff. I believe those personal relationships help me better understand the challenges facing our tribal communities. It has been an honor to spend time—sometimes simply driving the backroads—with tribal leaders concerned about water quality, education or roads. We've discussed many critical and immediate concerns but one issue that has touched my heart is the emotional toll that our sometimes-dark history continues to have on our Native American neighbors today. We can't change the past but we can continue to reconcile with it, and each other.

Throughout history, Native Americans have been subjected to federal laws that are offensive, immoral and outright racist. For example, there are federal laws in place that allow the government to forcibly remove Native American children from their homes and send them to boarding schools. There are also laws that allow the government to push Native Americans into forced labor as a condition of receiving benefits. It's shocking to read through some of the old laws that made their way through Congress and were signed into law.

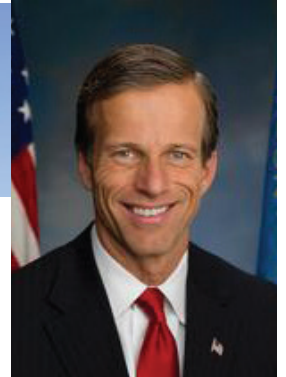
Sadly, a number of these laws are still on the books today. While they are not enforced, there is no reason for them to be a part of our federal code. They are a tragic reminder of past hostility and racism toward Native Americans.

Since 2016, I have introduced legislation called the RESPECT Act that would repeal a number of these outdated laws related to the treatment of Native Americans. Last Congress, my bill passed out of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee unanimously, and passed the full Senate unanimously. Unfortunately, the House of Representatives ran out of time at the end of last Congress to pass it.

That is why I introduced it again this Congress, this time with bipartisan, bicameral support. In the Senate, I was joined by Sens. Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.) and James Lankford (R-Okla.) in introducing it, and the House version of the bill was introduced by my friend Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.) along with Reps. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) and Tom O'Halleran (D-Ariz.). We have strong bipartisan, bicameral support this time around, and I'm optimistic we'll be able to get it across the finish line and signed into law by President Trump.

We can't rewrite the past. But we can keep working together toward furthering respect and unity for the next generation. It's our duty to do everything we can to make the future better for all Americans. Passing the RESPECT Act is one small way we can show understanding, compassion and progress. I'll keep pushing this legislation forward because it's long-past time for these bills to be removed from the federal code of laws.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Mid-Year Progress Report

We're a little more than halfway through the year, so I thought it would be worth reviewing some of the legislative proposals I've been pursuing since the beginning of this Congress, plus my work with the administration to help advance these and other initiatives that will benefit South Dakota and the rest of the United States.

South Dakota's priorities are my priorities, and I believe that's reflected in my work in the Senate, including in the committees on which I serve. As a member of the Agriculture Committee, Commerce Committee, and Finance Committee, I'm uniquely positioned to give South Dakota's issues the national attention they deserve.

While we're only seven months into the new Congress, it's been a busy one so far. I've already sponsored or cosponsored nearly 80 pieces of legislation, and I've cast more than 200 votes on the Senate floor, which doesn't even include all of the bills and nominations I've voted on at the committee level.

One of those many floor votes includes my bipartisan legislation to tackle illegal and abusive robocalls, and it flew through the Senate with near-unanimous support. My bill, which was approved by a vote of 97 to 1, would not only increase the financial penalties involved with making illegal robocalls, but it would add more teeth to the law by giving law enforcement additional tools to hold these bad actors accountable – including the threat of jail time.

I've also led legislative efforts that would permanently repeal the death tax, make annual veteran cost of living adjustments automatic, incentivize healthy living, add certainty to today's evolving "gig" economy, strengthen the agriculture economy, support the Second Amendment, encourage year-round charitable giving, further develop rural broadband technology, and help states with low unemployment rates like South Dakota address workforce shortages, among many other pieces of legislation.

In addition to these legislative efforts, I've worked with the administration on a number of issues (and have kept pressure on them when necessary, too). This work helped lead to Ellsworth Air Force Base being named as the first home for the future B-21 bomber; to ensuring the administration followed through on its commitment to allowing for the year-round sale of 15 percent ethanol-blended fuel – a boon to farmers and consumers; and to addressing the urgent needs of South Dakota's agriculture community during this challenging planting season.

There are more ideas on the horizon, including finding ways to continue building on the strength of our booming economy, helping to further strengthen the agriculture economy, and creating even more opportunities for the American people, but I believe we've made good progress in the early months of this Congress.

I'd be interested in hearing from you, though, about how you think these initiatives line up with what's important to you, your family, or your small business. Please always feel free to call, write, email, or even tweet me (@SenJohnThune) with your feedback. I look forward to hearing from you on these topics or any other ideas you might have.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 7 of 47

Is It Fake News?

It is miraculous to consider how much access and exposure we have to information through our computers, televisions, radios and newspapers. Unfortunately, we need to be on guard because too much of this buzz can be false information.

In an October 2017 article, the Pew Research Center found 43 percent of people in 2016 received their news from Facebook listening for information that aligned with their world view (not necessarily with facts). Pew also found 23 percent had shared, by intention or accident, untrue political messages on social media. We need to be more critical of all sources of information around us. Almost as malignant as fake news are advertisements that pretend to be factually based.

Of course, marketing (sales) can be good and important as it moves commerce, and I'm not saying industry doesn't sponsor credible scientific research. However, marketing can be harmful when selling a weight-loss program that gives false hope, when peddling virility pills that are ineffective or when pushing an outrageously expensive drug that should be used only after first-line medicines are tried. Advertisements can and should be based on truth, but my cynical side sees the words "truth in advertising" as an oxymoron, like "seriously funny," "awfully good" or "found missing." Indeed, marketing motives can be as different from evidence-based science as corn syrup is to leafy green vegetables.

It has been our desire and goal at Healing Words Foundation to find and help spread health information that is not influenced by marketing or sales. What is known today as Prairie Doc® media started in the 1980s with newspaper articles, expanding in the 1990s with a local talk AM-radio show, in 2003 with a television show and in 2010 with social media. Prairie Doc® has been made possible with the help of volunteer physicians and experts, South Dakota State University and its students, our paid and voluntary Prairie Doc® production staff, our Foundation Board of Directors and, most importantly, the unrestricted underwriting of organizations and individuals like you. We feel blessed to have such wonderful talents and gifts allowing us to bring our unbiased and credible public health information to the people.

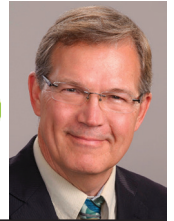
The mission statement of the Healing Words Foundation and all Prairie Doc® programming is enhancing health and diminishing suffering by communicating useful information, based on honest science, provided in a respectful and compassionate manner.

This is a call for all of us to be careful and critical. We don't have to be influenced by fake news but rather need to choose our sources of information carefully. Let this be a time of truth.

For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairiedoc.org and follow

Prairie Doc® on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPTV most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

-0



By Richard P. Holm, MD ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

**The Groton Area School District is hiring for the
2019-2020 School Year.**

**MS/HS Administrative Assistant/Study Hall
Supervisor**

Yearbook Advisor

Assistant Boys Basketball Coach

Applications are available at www.grotonrea.com
under the employment tab. Contact Joe Schwan,
Superintendent with questions at 605-397-2351.

Applications should be sent to
Groton Area School District
Joe Schwan, Superintendent
PO Box 410
Groton, SD 57445

**The Groton Area School District is an Equal
Opportunity Employer.**

Broton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 8 of 47

Today



Patchy Fog
then Sunny

High: 93 °F

Tonight



Chance
T-storms

Low: 69 °F

Tuesday



Chance
T-storms

High: 86 °F

Tuesday
Night



T-storms
Likely

Low: 69 °F

Wednesday



Chance
T-storms

High: 85 °F

Today

Hot and Humid
Highs:
90s

Showers and Tstorms this morning mainly east of I-29
Stronger Storms possible this evening

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
weather.gov/abr

Graphic Created
7/15/2019 5:17 AM

Published on: 07/15/2019 at 1:20AM

Unsettled, hot, and humid weather continues today. Highs will climb into the 90s. Showers and thunderstorms will redevelop by evening.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 9 of 47

Today in Weather History

July 15, 1885: The first of three damaging tornadoes hit 7 miles NNE of Highmore, Hyde County, and moved to the northeast. Two small homes were destroyed before the funnel turned to the east, then northeast and north before lifting. This tornado was estimated to have an F2 strength and was seen in all directions for 20 miles. The second tornado appeared to be motionless 3 miles east of Harrold, and then moved east to Holabird, in Hyde County, where it destroyed two homes and dissipated. A third tornado, this one with an estimated F3 strength, formed to the west of Highmore and moved east into town, then lifted about 4 miles east of town. Three homes were destroyed, and about 20 other buildings were damaged at Highmore. A farmer was killed 2 miles east of town. Losses totaled about \$55,000, which included many new buildings, including a church and a skating rink.

July 15, 1986: Thunderstorms brought locally heavy rainfall to portions of Walworth to Marshall Counties. Three inches of rain in an hour and a half was reported in extreme northwest Marshall County. The highest rainfall amount was seven inches southeast of Bowdle. The rains caused lowland flooding, with water over several roads in Marshall County, including Highway 10, two miles east of Britton. In Britton, 3.86 inches of rain was reported.

July 15, 2006: Record heat occurred across central and north central South Dakota and into parts of northeast South Dakota. Afternoon high temperatures ranged from 105 to as high as 120 degrees. Record highs were set at Pierre, Mobridge, Kennebec, and Timber Lake. Pierre set a new all-time record high of 117 degrees, and Mobridge tied their all-time record high of 116 degrees. Kennebec and Timber Lake both hit a record high temperature of 112 degrees. The coop observer station 17 miles west-southwest of Fort Pierre tied the state record high temperature with 120 degrees. Other high temperatures for the day were 116 degrees at Onida and Mission Ridge, 114 degrees at Murdo, 112 degrees at Redfield and Blunt, 111 degrees at Stephan, 110 degrees at Conde and Gann Valley, and 109 degrees at Aberdeen.

July 15, 2011: A large upper-level high-pressure area built over the region bringing sweltering and humid conditions. This heat was the worst to hit the area since July 2006. Beginning on Friday, July 15th and persisting through Wednesday, July 20th, many locations experienced high temperatures in the 90s to lower 100s, with low temperatures in the 70s at night. Also, humidity levels rose to extreme levels. Surface dew point temperatures in the 70s and lower 80s brought extreme heat index values of up to 110 to 125 degrees. The dew points were some of the highest ever recorded in the region on July 17th. The dew point at Aberdeen tied the previous record with 82 degrees. Sisseton also tied their record with 83 degrees. Watertown came a degree shy of matching their record with 80 degrees.

The prolonged heat took its toll on livestock with fifteen hundred cattle perishing during the heat. Numerous sports and outdoor activities were canceled. Some of the highest heat index values included; 110 degrees at Mobridge; 111 degrees at Watertown; 113 degrees at Miller and Gettysburg; 114 degrees at Wheaton and Faulkton; 116 degrees at Pierre; 118 degrees at Sisseton; and 121 degrees at Aberdeen. The highest heat index value occurred at Leola with a temperature of 98 degrees and a dewpoint of 82 degrees, and the heat index hit 125 degrees. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

1888: The Bandai volcano erupts on the Japanese island of Honshu on this day in 1888, killing hundreds and burying many nearby villages in ash.

1901: The city of Marquette, Michigan set their all-time record high temperature with 108-degree reading.

**“Color My World”
Ladies’ Luncheon & Program
Wednesday, July 17 at noon
Bethesda Lutheran Church,
Bristol
Silent Auction at 10:30 a.m.
Door prizes
Kristi Anderson, speaker
Advance tickets please: \$10
Call Kay Espeland 492-3507 or
Alice Jean Peterson 492-3351**

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 11 of 47



NO ONES PERFECT!

Paul echoed Solomons words when he wrote, All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But Solomon forces us to address the same fact by asking a pointed question no one can escape: Who can say, I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin?

Sometimes we look at sin as a big lump of things we did or did not do. Sin, we believe, has its origin outside of us or is the result of something that happened to us, and we simply have to deal with it the best we can by trying to do better. But that is impossible.

Sin is a heart problem and something we cannot change on our own. No one has ever been able to free themselves from sin. And here we find the reason.

If I were able to talk with Solomon, he might begin by asking, Larry - have you kept your heart pure? Heart, as you will recall, includes the sum total of us - our thoughts, feelings, attitudes, behaviors, values, and goals - that forms the way I relate to everything in life. And if our hearts are not pure, whatever we do will be impure. Only God can purify our hearts through the work of Christ. Only God can free us from an impure heart and the consequences of sin.

When Solomon posed this question, he framed it in such a way that anyone who answered it would be forced to respond by saying, Not I. In his wisdom, he forces us to look inside of ourselves, at our own heart, and answer for our own impurities. We each must answer for our own sins. There is no way for us to escape our individual accountability or responsibility for what we have done. No one has kept their heart pure. No not one!

God alone, through the work of Christ on the cross, can remove our sins and cleanse us!

Prayer: Father, how very grateful we are to have the promise of a pure heart that is available through Christ. May we, through Your grace, accept Him as our Savior and Lord! Amen!

Scripture For Today: Who can say, I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin? Proverbs 20:9

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 12 of 47

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

Boy swept away in flash flooding in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a 12-year-old boy swept away in a drainage canal during flash flooding in Rapid City was able to free himself after the water carried him about five blocks.

First responders were called to the canal Sunday afternoon after witnesses saw the boy in the fast-moving water created by an intense thunderstorm. They said the boy's head went underwater several times. The child managed to escape just before the canal drops below street level.

The Rapid City Journal says he was taken to the hospital to be evaluated. Fire officials urged parents to keep children away from fast-moving water.

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

Grazing a management tool on Lookout Mountain

By **KAIJA SWISHER Black Hills Pioneer**

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Lookout Mountain is a multi-use area in Spearfish, and during favorable weather, multiple uses are visible every day, with hikers, mountain bikers, and others enjoying the recreational space. During certain months, cattle are also part of the mix of users on the mountain, and after re-examining this use over the last year, the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Advisory Board made changes to the grazing lease in 2019 to better meet the management goals and accommodate users.

"Cattle are allowed to graze the entirety of the mountain, but generally are found on the west face near (Interstate) 90," Parks and Recreation Director Tyler Ehnes said. "We are using different management techniques such as water placement and mineral placement to try and get the cattle to disperse over a larger portion of the mountain."

He explained that grazing is used as a management tool on Lookout Mountain.

"Cattle help to control the spread of noxious weeds, naturally till and fertilize the soil, as well as create a natural fire break from I-90 that runs along the mountain's west edge," Ehnes said.

Grazing was first allowed on Lookout Mountain in 2003, after the city obtained the approximately 750-acre property in 2000. Conservation easements were placed on it to govern the property, and the easements state that the purpose is "to preserve and protect in perpetuity and to enhance and restore the significant relatively natural habitat and natural ecosystems" of the property, while allowing multiuse activities.

The Lookout Mountain Land Management Plan received final approval by the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation, the easement holder, in 2014, and this document clarifies the way the city of Spearfish can use and manage the property, as well as how it can designate its trail system.

The plan outlines topics including management areas in allowed/prohibited uses, precautions and warnings, establishment of a trailhead, trail identification/construction, signage, rules and regulations, grazing, fencing, weed control, forest management, erosion control, graffiti and vandalism, debris removal, wildlife habitat maintenance, and public education. Each section lays out the guidelines for the topic.

Since 2014, groups of volunteers have assisted in mapping out the more than 11 miles of trails, some of which are for hiking only, with the rest available to hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders, adding signage, and building above-ground cattle guards, or rollover gates, which are wooden structures that eliminate the need to open and close fence gates. Signs of the overall trail system have been placed at the trailhead, located to the east of Nevada Street, where users can enter the tunnel, equipped with lighting since 2016, that goes under Interstate 90 to safely access the Lookout Mountain trails.

As recreation activity increased on the mountain with the improved trail system and designated trailhead, so did conversation about whether grazing continued to be a complementary use. Ehnes said after hearing complaints about recreation users and cattle interactions, so the city started looking into the issue.

Broton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 14 of 47

"There was talk about stopping grazing altogether, but after conversations with the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service), Lawrence County Conservation District, the Park, Rec, and Forestry Advisory Board, and several others including rec users, it was decided that grazing was needed and a good tool to use to manage the mountain," Ehnes told Black Hills Pioneer . He explained that the topic was presented to the advisory board on multiple occasions for discussion on what a new lease would look like for 2019.

"We ultimately wanted a lease that would limit interactions amongst rec users and create a better timeline for trail reclamation, while at the same time making it desirable for local cattle producers to want to lease," Ehnes said. The board decided to recommend a shorter lease, from June 15 to Sept. 15, versus the previous lease time from May 1 through Oct. 1.

"We wanted the cattle to stay off in the spring while the trails are wet and subject to erosion," Ehnes said. "The shorter timeline also helps to limit rec user/ cattle interaction because we see a much higher use of mountain bikers during the spring when the trails in the hills are still covered in snow. We are allowing more cattle during that shorter time, which is in agreeance with a land management study that was conducted in 2015. In addition, we made the lease a three-year lease versus a one-year in hopes to get lessees more vested in the mountain and help with some of the issues we face."

The Spearfish City Council June 3 unanimously approved a resolution of intent to lease a portion of Lookout Mountain to Rhett Scoggin. The lease states that approximately 756.61 acres are included in the lease, which has a term of three grazing seasons, with a two-year extension option. The property may be grazed from June 15-Sept. 15 each year, and up to 50 cow/calf pairs and 30 yearlings are allowed, with a payment of \$61 per cow/calf pair and \$21 per yearling to be paid to the city per month.

Ehnes said that overall, the interactions between rec users and the cattle are "very few in comparison to the amount of people that use the mountain."

"Most interactions have been when a user gets between a cow and her calf," he said. "I recommend being cognizant of your surroundings, and if you find yourself in an area with the cattle, be slightly more cautious or back out and use another part of the mountain."

Ehnes added that dogs off leashes are more of an issue than the user/cattle interaction and generally a cause for such interactions.

"Most people don't realize that Lookout Mountain is not designated an off-leash area," he said. "Dogs are supposed to be on a leash and are subject to the city's leash laws. A large reason for this is due to off-leash dogs chasing and agitating the cattle. I receive more complaints from people in regards to off-leash dogs than I do for cattle interactions."

Ehnes added that in the event that an off-leash dog were to create an incident with the cattle or other users, the owner of the dog would be at fault.

"Grazing will be part of Lookout Mountain for the foreseeable future," Ehnes said. "Respect the cattle and other users, and interactions will be minimal."

Further information on Lookout Mountain, including the management plan can be found here .

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

Harvard student to help Sioux Falls crack transit code

By **JOE SNEVE** Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Mayor Paul TenHaken wants a City Hall that innovates its way out of persistent challenges like affordable housing, public transportation and government budgeting.

He's already created an Innovation and Technology Department, found room in the budget for an innovation manager and now is piloting a data analyst position to boot.

But the job isn't costing Sioux Falls taxpayers a single dime as Nico Diaz, the 29-year-old Harvard University graduate student, is on loan from the Bloomberg Institute, doing data analytics for the city on the Bloomberg's dime.

"He's been a huge breath of fresh air for perspectives because sometimes you get bogged down working

on a project," said Jason Reisdorfer, director of the Sioux Falls Innovation and Technology Department. Diaz, a Chilean national studying to get his master's degree in public policy at Harvard Kennedy School, is in Sioux Falls as a part of a 10-week program through the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative, of which TenHaken has been a part.

Right now, the Innovation and Technology Department's main effort is to retool the public transit system in a way that serves more citizens while operating more efficiently. Diaz is a part of that work, crunching numbers and building a financial model for whatever public transit eventually evolves into.

He's also working on creating what he called a "data-driven performance strategy" that will enable city officials to use metrics to measure if efforts to create more accessible and affordable housing are working.

"I wanted to come to a city that's already doing a lot of cool stuff with innovation," Diaz told the Argus Leader. "And Sioux Falls is, so that motivated me to come."

Not all cities that are a part of the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative get the assistance of an embedded Bloomberg fellow. But Sioux Falls innovation manager Allie Hartzler said after that organization saw the work that the public transit study group is doing, they were impressed enough to send Diaz, she said.

"We're very lucky to have him," she said.

Creating a data analyst position is part of the long-term vision for the Innovation and Technology Department, Reisdorfer said. So having Diaz for 10 weeks — he'll head back to school in August — gives the city an opportunity to see how much value the position brings to the city government without having to use public resources.

"We were hopeful that he'd come in here and have really great insights into a data analyst type of position and now we're hoping he writes his own job description," Reisdorfer said.

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

Agencies boost efforts to stop wildland firefighter suicides

By KEITH RIDLER Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Shane Del Grosso spent some 30 summers crossing smoke-shrouded mountains and forests to fight increasingly devastating wildfires in the U.S. West.

Toward the end, his skills and experience propelled him to lead a federal multi-agency team that responded to large-scale national disasters. On some days he directed a thousand firefighters and helped coordinate aircraft attacks on massive blazes.

But then came the long offseason lacking the shared-risk camaraderie. Isolation closed in, his family said, along with marital problems that can be exacerbated by first-responder jobs that require missed family events and birthdays.

Del Grosso, 50, killed himself May 9, 2016, not long before the start of another wildfire season.

"I always thought that you'd see it coming, but I guess you don't," said his best friend, Noel Matson, who worked and fought wildfires out of the same U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in Huron, South Dakota, as Del Grosso. "It was maybe that male bravado firefighter thing where you don't talk about what's bothering you."

Federal officials at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise have started making efforts to change that mindset after noticing an increase in wildland firefighter suicides in recent years.

"It's not a profession where people want to reach out for help because they are the help," said Jessica Gardetto, a fire center spokeswoman and former wildland firefighter. "The federal agencies have realized, whether it's suicidal tendencies or just overall mental health, it's a resource that needs to be available — even out on the fire lines."

No figures on wildland firefighter suicides are available because federal agencies often track only fatalities that occur during work hours, and families don't always release a cause of death.

But Gardetto said the wildland firefighting community is small, "and word spreads quickly." Anecdotal

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 16 of 47

reports suggest many of the suicides are happening outside the wildfire season. A month ago, she said, a U.S. Forest Service firefighter based in the U.S. Southwest killed himself. And she said several suicides occurred in Idaho in 2017. One of those was a Boise-based U.S. Bureau of Land Management smokejumper, a firefighter who jumps from airplanes.

Reasons for the rise are unclear, though some cite longer and tougher wildfire seasons and an increase in the number of wildland firefighters who previously served in the military and were already dealing with post-traumatic stress.

In the past several years, the National Interagency Fire Center has bolstered a program that teaches coping skills and offers one-on-one crisis intervention to firefighters dealing with trauma and other issues. Federal agencies also have increased efforts to make firefighters aware that help is available.

It's unclear what kind of help Del Grosso was receiving. His family learned after his death that he'd been diagnosed with PTSD.

"Obviously he couldn't escape whatever demons were haunting him. And that breaks your heart," said his older sister, Stacey Chaney.

Throughout Del Grosso's career with different agencies, his family tracked news reports hoping to get a glimpse of him at work. It was easier after he rose through the ranks to become an incident commander, a job in which he often spoke at news conferences.

He also sent thousands of wildland firefighters into burning forests, and they trusted him to get them out again.

"He relished his role as incident commander," said Matson, Del Grosso's friend and colleague. "He worked well with people and knew just about every position, and everybody respected that."

Friends and family say Hurricane Katrina might have taken the most out of Del Grosso.

He told them it was the worst disaster he'd ever been assigned, but left out the details. Nearly 2,000 people died in the 2005 hurricane and its aftermath, and parts of New Orleans were destroyed.

"I think that's where a lot of his problems started," said his mother, Sharalyn Del Grosso. "Seeing all that death, all that loss, all that death and dying. There were so many people that needed so much, and he couldn't do it. That need of wanting to fix it, to do more, to make it better."

Del Grosso is one of the highest-ranking firefighters to have his name placed on a memorial stone at the Wildland Firefighters Monument at the federally managed fire center in Idaho. The monument honors some 400 firefighters killed by flames, falling trees, vehicle mishaps, airplane crashes and heart attacks.

That Del Grosso's name was included is recognition of some of the challenges wildland firefighters face away from fire lines, said Bill Arsenault, a wildland firefighter and paramedic with the Idaho Falls Fire Department in southeastern Idaho.

"It's huge," he said while walking past the monument's stones, noting the names of some of the firefighters he knew. "Sometimes we only memorialize quote-unquote 'true heroes.' But they were doing the job no different from anyone else. I think it's good that we're recognizing the contribution that Shane made."

National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255

Rapid City man's body recovered from submerged car

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Crews have recovered the body of a 23-year-old man from a submerged car in Rapid Creek in southwestern South Dakota.

A passer-by alerted authorities about an upside-down vehicle in the creek Sunday morning.

The Rapid City/Pennington County Water Rescue Team was dispatched and pulled the man from the car. No one else was in the vehicle.

The victim is identified as Ivan Rice of Rapid City. An autopsy is planned.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is handling the accident investigation.

Some Iranian women take off hijabs as hard-liners push back

By **KARIN LAUB** and **MOHAMMAD NASIRI** Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The simple act of walking has become a display of defiance for a young Iranian woman who often moves in Tehran's streets without a compulsory headscarf, or hijab.

With every step, she risks harassment or even arrest by Iran's morality police whose job is to enforce the strict dress code imposed after the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"I have to confess it is really, really scary," the 30-year-old fire-safety consultant said in a WhatsApp audio message, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of repercussions.

But she is also hopeful, saying she believes the authorities find it increasingly difficult to suppress protests as more women join in. "They are running after us, but cannot catch us," she said. "This is why we believe change is going to be made."

The hijab debate has further polarized Iranians at a time when the country is buckling under unprecedented U.S. sanctions imposed since the Trump administration pulled out of a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers last year. It's unclear to what extent the government can enforce hijab compliance amid an economic malaise, including a currency collapse and rising housing prices.

There's anecdotal evidence that more women are pushing back against the dress code, trying to redefine red lines as they test the response of the ruling Shiite Muslim clergy and their security agencies.

An Associated Press reporter spotted about two dozen women in the streets without a hijab over the course of nine days, mainly in well-to-do areas of Tehran — a mall, a lakeside park, a hotel lobby.

Many other women, while stopping short of outright defiance, opted for loosely draped colorful scarves that show as much hair as they cover. Even in Tehran's Grand Bazaar, frequented by many traditional women, most female shoppers wore these casual hijabs. Still, a sizeable minority of women was covered head-to-toe in black robes and tightly pulled headscarves, the so-called chador.

The struggle against compulsory headscarves first made headlines in December 2017 when a woman climbed atop a utility box in Tehran's Revolution Street, waving her hijab on a stick. More than three dozen protesters have been detained since, including nine who are currently in detention, said Masih Alinejad, an Iranian activist who now lives in New York.

Despite attempts to silence protesters, public debate has intensified, amplified by social media.

Last month, a widely watched online video showed a security agent grab an unveiled teenage girl and violently push her into the back of a police car, prompting widespread criticism.

President Hassan Rouhani and Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, have supported a softer attitude toward women who don't comply with the official dress code. However, hard-liners opposed to such easing have become more influential as the nuclear deal is faltering.

They have called for harsh punishment, even lashes, arguing that allowing women to show their hair leads to moral decay and the disintegration of families. The judiciary recently urged Iranians to inform on women without hijabs by sending photos and videos to designated social media accounts.

"The more women dress in an openly sexual way, the less we'll have social peace, while facing a higher crime rate," Minoos Aslani, head of the women's branch of the paramilitary Basij group, told a rally last week.

Another gathering was attended by several thousand women in chadors. One held up a sign reading, "The voluntary hijab is a plot by the enemy."

Reformist lawmaker Parvaneh Salahshouri said coercion does not work. "What we see is that the morality police have been a failure," said Salahshouri, who wears a headscarf out of religious belief.

Changing hijab rules through legislation is unlikely because of the constraints on parliament, she said.

Instead, women should engage in non-violent civil disobedience, Salahshouri said. She cautioned that it's a slow, difficult road, but that "Iranian women have not given up their efforts."

The hijab controversy goes back to the mid-1930s when police forced women to take off their hijabs, part of a Westernization policy by then-Shah Reza Pahlavi. Under his son and successor, women could choose. Western apparel was common among the elite.

A 2018 survey by a parliament research center indicates that most women wear a casual hijab and only

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 18 of 47

13% opt for a chador.

Attitudes have changed. In 1980, two-thirds believed women should wear hijabs. Today, fewer than 45% approve of government intervention in the issue, the research said.

Iran has seen waves of anti-government protests, including an outcry after a 2009 election many contended was stolen by hard-liners. Those with economic grievances frequently protest.

Alinejad, the activist, argued the campaign against forced hijabs carries symbolic weight, saying that mandatory headscarves were "the symbol that the Iranian government used to take the whole society hostage."

In recent years, she has posted videos and photos of activists, including of women filming themselves as they walk in the streets without a headscarf. Alinejad said she receives more than 20 images a day, but posts only some.

The activists in Iran take risks.

In March, human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh, who has represented female protesters, was sentenced to 38.5 years in prison, of which she must serve 12, according to her husband.

In April, activists Yasaman Aryani, her mother Monireh Arabshahi and Mojgan Keshavarz were arrested after posting a video showing them without headscarves in the Tehran metro. In the video, they distributed flowers to female passengers and spoke of a day when women have the freedom to choose.

Amnesty International said Monday that Iranian authorities have used incommunicado detentions, prolonged solitary confinement and threats against family members to coerce detained activists to retract their opposition to forced veiling in video-taped "confessions." The group said it had detected such a pattern in six cases since April.

Some activists maneuver carefully.

The 30-year-old fire-safety consultant said she tries to avoid policemen when she walks the streets without a hijab. She said she grudgingly complies with the dress code when she delivers lectures or sings in a mixed choir — activities she would otherwise be barred from.

At the high-end Palladium Mall in northern Tehran, several shoppers casually ignored a sign reminding customers that the hijab is mandatory. One woman only pulled up her scarf, which was draped around her shoulders, when she stepped into an elevator and found herself next to a security guard.

Nearby, 20-year-old Paniz Masoumi sat on the stone steps of a plaza. She had dyed some of her hair blue, but kept that funky patch hidden under a loose scarf.

She said police recently impounded her car for two weeks, fining her amid claims that a traffic camera snapped her with a below-standard hijab.

If hijabs were voluntary, she'd throw off hers, Masoumi said. But for now, "I am not looking for trouble."

As Epstein bail fight looms, feds say evidence growing daily

By LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal prosecutors, preparing for a bail fight Monday, say evidence against financier Jeffrey Epstein is growing "stronger by the day" after several more women contacted them in recent days to say he abused them when they were underage..

Prosecutors say Epstein, 66, is a flight risk and danger to the community and should remain incarcerated until he is tried on charges that he recruited and abused dozens of underage girls in New York and Florida in the early 2000s.

His lawyers counter that their client has not committed crimes since pleading guilty to soliciting a minor for prostitution charges in Florida in 2008 and that the federal government is renegeing on a 12-year-old deal not to prosecute him. They say he should be allowed to await trial under house arrest in his \$77 million Manhattan mansion, with electronic monitoring.

In a written submission Friday to U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman, prosecutors revealed new information about their investigation and why they perceive Epstein as dangerous.

They said several additional women in multiple jurisdictions had identified themselves to the govern-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 19 of 47

ment, claiming Epstein abused them when they were minors. Also, dozens of individuals have called the government to report information about Epstein and the charges he faces, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors said they believe Epstein might have tried to influence witnesses after discovering that he had paid a total of \$350,000 to two individuals, including a former employee, in the last year. That came after the Miami Herald reported the circumstances of his state court conviction in 2008, which led to a 13-month jail term and his deal to avoid federal prosecution.

"This course of action, and in particular its timing, suggests the defendant was attempting to further influence co-conspirators who might provide information against him in light of the recently re-emerging allegations," prosecutors said.

The decade-old secret plea deal led to Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta's resignation last week. Acosta came under renewed criticism following Epstein's arrest over the 2008 non-prosecution agreement he oversaw as the U.S. attorney in Miami.

In addition to the charges in the indictment, prosecutors are also reviewing dozens of electronic files seized during a raid on Epstein's residence after his July 6 arrest, finding even more photos than the hundreds or thousands of pictures of nude and seminude young women and girls they had reported prior to a court hearing a week ago.

In their submission to the judge, Epstein's lawyers say their client has had a clean record since he began registering as a sex offender after his Florida conviction.

They said the accusations against Epstein are "outside the margins of federal criminal law" and don't constitute sex trafficking since there were no allegations he "trafficked anybody for commercial profit; that he forced, coerced, defrauded, or enslaved anybody."

Prosecutors said efforts by defense lawyers to characterize Epstein's crimes as "simple prostitution" were "not only offensive but also utterly irrelevant given that federal law does not recognize the concept of a child prostitute — there are only trafficking victims — because a child cannot legally consent to being exploited."

Weakened Barry still poses flood, tornado risks

By REBECCA SANTANA and JONATHAN DREW Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Even though Tropical Depression Barry did not unleash catastrophic flooding in Louisiana, many across the Gulf Coast were urged to take heed of tornado and flash-flood warnings Monday as the storm moved north.

Barry was downgraded from a tropical storm on Sunday afternoon but continued to pose a threat. Much of Louisiana and Mississippi were under flash-flood watches, as were parts of Arkansas, eastern Texas, western Tennessee and southeastern Missouri.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards urged residents to be cautious as they ventured outside after a weekend in which many had sheltered indoors.

He said he was "extremely grateful" that the storm had not caused the disastrous floods that had earlier been forecast. More than 90 people had been rescued in 11 parishes, but there were no reports of weather-related fatalities, Edwards said.

"This was a storm that obviously could have played out very, very differently," he said. "We're thankful that the worst-case scenario did not happen."

Forecasters warned of a continued threat of heavy rains into Monday as the center of the storm trudged inland. The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Sunday parts of south-central Louisiana could still have rainfall totals of up to 12 inches (30 centimeters), with isolated pockets of 15 inches (38 centimeters).

In Mississippi, forecasters said 8 inches (20 centimeters) of rain had fallen in parts of Jasper and Jones counties, with several more inches possible.

Barry's center was moving from northern Louisiana into Arkansas.

New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell said Sunday the city was "beyond lucky" that rainfall there fell well short of early predictions of a deluge that could overwhelm the city's pumping systems.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 20 of 47

"We were spared," she said at a news conference, while noting the city was ready to help nearby parishes hit harder.

About 51,000 customers in Louisiana, 1,800 customers in Mississippi and another 1,700 customers in Arkansas were without power Sunday night, according to poweroutage.us.

Edwards thanked the public for taking officials' warnings seriously over the weekend, but he also reminded residents that it is still relatively early in the Atlantic's hurricane season.

"Based on what we've experienced, I think (we will be) even better prepared for next time — and we do know that there will be a next time," Edwards said.

Drew reported from Raleigh, North Carolina. Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Kevin McGill in New Orleans; Jay Reeves in Mandeville; Rogelio Solis in Morgan City; Jeff Martin in Atlanta; and Jeffrey Collins in Columbia, South Carolina.

For the latest on Tropical Storm Barry, visit <https://apnews.com/Hurricanes> .

Trump's tweets against 4 liberal congresswomen called racist

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Starkly injecting race into his criticism of liberal Democrats, President Donald Trump said four congresswomen of color should go back to the "broken and crime infested" countries they came from, ignoring the fact that all of the women are American citizens and three were born in the U.S. His attack drew a searing condemnation from Democrats who labeled the remarks racist and breathtakingly divisive.

Following a familiar script, Republicans remained largely silent after Trump's Sunday morning broadsides against the four women. But the president's nativist tweets caused Democrats to set aside their internal rifts to rise up in a united chorus against the president.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Trump wants to "make America white again." Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, after jousting for days with Pelosi, said Trump "can't conceive of an America that includes us."

Trump, who has a long history of making racist remarks, was almost certainly referring to Ocasio-Cortez and her House allies in what's become known as "the squad." The others are Reps. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan. Only Omar, from Somalia, is foreign-born.

Ocasio-Cortez swiftly denounced his remarks. "Mr. President, the country I 'come from,' & the country we all swear to, is the United States," she tweeted, adding that "You rely on a frightened America for your plunder." Omar also addressed herself directly to Trump in a tweet, writing: "You are stoking white nationalism (because) you are angry that people like us are serving in Congress and fighting against your hate-filled agenda."

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries of New York, chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, summed up the Democratic response: "Racial arsonist strikes again. Shut. Your. Reckless. Mouth."

With his tweet, Trump inserted himself further into a rift between Pelosi and Ocasio-Cortez, just two days after he offered an unsolicited defense of the Democratic speaker. Pelosi has been seeking to minimize Ocasio-Cortez's influence in the House Democratic caucus in recent days, prompting Ocasio-Cortez to accuse Pelosi of trying to marginalize women of color.

"She is not a racist," Trump said of Pelosi on Friday.

On Sunday, Trump's tone took a turn.

"So interesting to see 'Progressive' Democrat Congresswomen, who originally came from countries whose governments are a complete and total catastrophe, the worst, most corrupt and inept anywhere in the world (if they even have a functioning government at all), now loudly and viciously telling the people of the United States, the greatest and most powerful Nation on earth, how our government is to be run,"

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 21 of 47

he tweeted.

"Why don't they go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came. Then come back and show us how it is done."

He added: "These places need your help badly, you can't leave fast enough. I'm sure that Nancy Pelosi would be very happy to quickly work out free travel arrangements!"

The attacks may have been meant to widen the divides within the Democrat caucus, which has been riven by internal debate over how far left to go in countering Trump and over whether to proceed with impeachment proceedings against the president. Instead, the president's tweets, which evoked the trope of telling black people to go back to Africa, brought Democrats together.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, the Democratic presidential front-runner, tweeted Sunday that Trump "continues to spew hateful rhetoric, sow division, and stoke racial tensions for his own political gain."

"Let's be clear about what this vile comment is: A racist and xenophobic attack on Democratic congresswomen," tweeted Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Democratic presidential candidate.

Another 2020 contender, former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, tweeted at the president: "This is racist. These congresswomen are every bit as American as you — and represent our values better than you ever will."

Few Republicans weighed in on the president's comments. Congressional leaders, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, did not respond to requests for comment, nor did Sen. Tim. Scott of South Carolina, the only Republican black senator.

Mark Morgan, the acting commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in a previously scheduled appearance on "Face the Nation" on CBS, said only: "You're going to have to ask the president what he means by those specific tweets."

Shortly after the tweets, and a later presidential post defending the harsh scenes at a border detention facility where hundreds of migrant men are being held in sweltering, foul-smelling conditions, Trump left the White House to go golfing at his Virginia club.

Trump appeared unbowed Sunday night when he returned to Twitter to say it was "so sad" to see Democrats sticking up for the women. "If the Democrat Party wants to continue to condone such disgraceful behavior," he tweeted, "then we look even more forward to seeing you at the ballot box in 2020!"

It was far from the first time that Trump has been accused of holding racist views.

In his campaign kickoff in June 2015, Trump deemed many Mexican immigrants "rapists." In 2017, he said there good people on "both sides" of the clash in Charlottesville, Virginia, between white supremacists and anti-racist demonstrators that left one counter-protester dead. Last year, during a private White House meeting on immigration, Trump wondered why the United States was admitting so many immigrants from "shithole countries" like African nations.

Repeatedly, Trump has painted arriving immigrants as an "infestation" and he has been slow in condemning acts of violence committed by white supremacists. And he launched his political career with false claims that President Barack Obama was not born in the United States.

Despite his history of racist remarks, Trump has paid little penalty in his own party.

Though a broad array of Republicans did speak out against his reaction to Charlottesville, they have largely held their tongues otherwise, whether it be on matter of race or any other Trump provocation. Fearful of his Twitter account and sweeping popularity among Republican voters, GOP lawmakers have largely tried to ignore the provocative statements.

Sen. Kamala Harris, a Democratic presidential hopeful from California, tweeted, "Let's call the president's racist attack exactly what it is: un-American."

Ocasio-Cortez, who is of Puerto Rican descent, was born in the Bronx, New York, and raised in suburban Westchester County.

Pressley, the first black woman elected to the House from Massachusetts, was born in Cincinnati.

Omar, the first Somali native elected to Congress and one of its first Muslim women, was born in Somalia but spent much of her childhood in a Kenyan refugee camp as civil war tore apart her home country. She immigrated to the United States at age 12, teaching herself English by watching American TV and

eventually settling with her family in Minneapolis.

Tlaib was born in Detroit.

Associated Press writer Hope Yen contributed to this report.

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

Hawaii activists get ready for start of work on telescope

By **CALEB JONES** and **JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER** Associated Press

MAUNA KEA, Hawaii (AP) — Hundreds of demonstrators are gathered at the base of Hawaii's tallest mountain to protest the construction of a giant telescope on land that some Native Hawaiians consider sacred.

State and local officials will try to close the road to the summit of Mauna Kea on Monday morning to allow trucks carrying construction equipment to make their way to the top.

Officials say anyone breaking the law will be prosecuted. Protesters who blocked the roadway during previous attempts to begin construction have been arrested.

Scientists hope the massive telescope they planned for the site — a world-renowned location for astronomy — will help them peer back to the time just after the Big Bang and answer fundamental questions about the universe.

But some Native Hawaiians consider the land holy, as a realm of gods and a place of worship.

Groups of activists sang and prayed at the base of the mountain on Sunday afternoon. They declared the area, which is well off the highway at the intersection of the mountain's access road, a place of refuge and safety.

"This is Hawaiian homelands," said Kealoha Pisciotta, one of the protest leaders. "We're clearly out of their way, we're not obstructing anything, everyone is in ceremony."

The project already has been delayed by years of legal battles and demonstrations, drawing attention from the likes of "Aquaman" actor Jason Momoa, who has Native Hawaiian ancestry and has voiced opposition to the telescope.

Scientists selected Mauna Kea in 2009 after a five-year, worldwide search for the ideal site.

Protests disrupted a groundbreaking and Hawaiian blessing ceremony at the site in 2014. After that, the demonstrations intensified.

Construction stopped in April 2015 after protesters were arrested for blocking the work. A second attempt to restart construction a few months later ended with more arrests and crews pulling back.

But Hawaii's Supreme Court has ruled the construction is legal, permits are in place, and the state has given the company behind the telescope a green light to resume its efforts. The company is made up of a group of universities in California and Canada, with partners from China, India and Japan.

According to the University of Hawaii, ancient Hawaiians considered the location kapu, or forbidden. Only the highest-ranking chiefs and priests were allowed to make the long trek to Mauna Kea's summit above the clouds.

Today, the university leases the land at the summit from the state for existing telescopes and observatories on the summit. A road built for telescope access decades ago is used by thousands of tourists and locals each year, including Native Hawaiians who go there to pray.

Supporters of the \$1.4 billion giant telescope say the cutting-edge instrument will not only make important scientific discoveries but bring educational and economic opportunities to Hawaii.

The telescope's primary mirror would measure 98 feet (30 meters) in diameter. It would be three times as wide as the world's largest existing visible-light telescope, with nine times more area.

Gov. David Ige said unarmed National Guard units will be used to transport personnel and supplies and enforce some road closures, but they will not be used in a law enforcement capacity during planned protests.

In a news conference Sunday, Ige said that he "respected the right of people to protest" at the telescope site as long as protesters behave lawfully.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 23 of 47

"As construction begins, our number one priority is keeping everyone safe," Ige said, adding that he wants to make sure construction workers and truck drivers have unimpeded access to the telescope site.

Kelleher reported from Honolulu.

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. TRUMP TWEETS TO CONGRESSWOMEN CALLED RACIST

Republicans remain quiet while Democrats called the comments breathtakingly divisive; Trump said the women of color should go back to their "broken and crime infested" countries, but all are U.S. citizens and only one is foreign-born.

2. JEFFREY EPSTEIN PREPARES FOR BAIL FIGHT

Prosecutors say the financier is a flight risk and danger to the community and should remain jailed until his trial.

3. WHERE WOMEN ARE PUSHING BACK

Many Iranian women are opting to not wear their hijabs, while others are stopping short of outright defiance, opting for loosely draped colorful scarves that show as much hair as they cover.

4. DEMOCRATS CONFRONT EXPERIENCE VS ENERGY

Separated by 40 years, Joe Biden and Pete Buttigieg represent the generational poles of the crowded Democratic presidential primary.

5. DOWNGRADED, BARRY STILL POSES A THREAT

Much of Louisiana and Mississippi were under flash-flood watches, as were parts of Arkansas, eastern Texas, western Tennessee and southeastern Missouri.

6. TARIFF WAR HELPS COOL CHINA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH

The world's second-largest economy grew 6.2% over a year ago, down from the previous quarter's 6.4%, government data showed Monday. That was the weakest growth since the first quarter of 2009 in the aftermath of the global financial crisis.

7. MOON MISSION SCRAPPED AFTER 'TECHNICAL SNAG'

India aborts the launch of a spacecraft intended to land on the far side of the moon less than an hour before liftoff.

8. SECOND SENTENCE IN CAR ATTACK

Man sentenced to life for driving his car into anti-racism protesters during a white nationalist rally in Virginia is set to be sentenced again to life in state court.

9. POLICE STOP 4 KIDS AFTER 600-MILE DRIVE DOWN AUSSIE COAST

The children, aged 10-14, were involved in a short pursuit and suspected of not paying for gas during their road trip.

10. #METOO MOVEMENT HITS CUBA

Singer Dianelys Alfonso has publicly accused another renowned musician, flutist and bandleader José Luis Cortés, of repeatedly assaulting and raping her during their yearslong relationship.

Apollo 11 moon landing had thousands working behind scenes

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — It took 400,000 people to put Apollo 11's Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the moon a half-century ago.

That massive workforce stretched across the U.S. and included engineers, scientists, mechanics, technicians, pilots, divers, seamstresses, secretaries and more who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to achieve those first lunar footsteps .

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 24 of 47

Some of them will be taking part in festivities this week to mark the 50th anniversary .
A brief look at four:

Amid the sea of white shirts, black ties and pocket protectors inside NASA's firing room for the liftoff of Apollo 11 sat JoAnn Morgan.

July 16, 1969 was her prime-time debut as the first female launch controller. It wasn't easy getting there.

Morgan, 78, who began working for NASA in 1958 while in college, typically got the overnight shift before launches. She'd be replaced by a male colleague a few hours before showtime.

"The rub came on being there at liftoff," she recalled.

And there was the taunting. She'd get obscene phone calls at her desk at Kennedy Space Center and lewd remarks in the elevator.

The situation was even more strained next door at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The old launch-pad blockhouses there had a single restroom — for men. So Morgan found herself dashing to a nearby building for a women's restroom, just as portrayed in "Hidden Figures," the 2016 hit movie.

"I was there. I wasn't going anywhere. I had a real passion for it," Morgan said. "Finally, 99 percent of them accepted that 'JoAnn's here and we're stuck with her.'"

As Apollo 11 loomed, Morgan's boss went to the top to get her on liftoff duty. By then, the harassment had pretty much stopped.

While NASA's countdown clocks ticked toward a 9:32 a.m. launch, Morgan monitored ground instrumentation, everything from fire and lightning detectors to guidance computer data. When the official firing room photo was later taken — showing Morgan with her left hand raised to her chin — she was listening to Vice President Spiro Agnew address the team after the launch.

With Armstrong, Aldrin and Michael Collins on their way, her job was done, at least for Apollo 11. Morgan and her husband Larry, a high school band director, slipped away on vacation and watched the July 20 moon landing on a hotel TV. As they toasted the first lunar footsteps, he told her, "Honey, you're going to be in the history books."

Morgan went on to become Kennedy's first female senior executive. Retired since 2003, she splits her time between Florida and Montana, and encourages young women to study engineering.

Tedd Olkowski was on emergency standby for the launch countdown of Apollo 11.

His job was to help Collins — should the unlikely need arise before liftoff — escape from the Saturn V rocket, descend 32 stories in a high-speed elevator and then slide down a 200-foot (61-meter) tube into a bunker deep beneath the pad.

Armstrong and Aldrin had their own guardian angels, according to Olkowski, space center workers who, like himself, had volunteered for the potentially dangerous assignment.

NASA figured the astronauts, impeded by their cumbersome white spacesuits, could use extra help getting from a burning, leaking or even exploding rocket, all the way down to the so-called rubber room.

The rubber-padded, shock-absorbing room led to a domed, blast-proof chamber 40 feet (12 meters) under Kennedy Space Center's Launch Complex 39A. The dungeon had strap-in chairs, two-way radio and enough food to ride out a cataclysmic event. There was a similar setup under Pad 39B. Neither bunker was ever needed and later abandoned.

Olkowski's regular job was working with the pad's closed-circuit TV system. He was a skinny 24-year-old from Cocoa Beach, but stood 6-foot-3 (1.9 meters) and jumped at the chance to be on an emergency team since he was already out there keeping tabs on the cameras.

With an hour remaining in the countdown, the pad was evacuated by everyone except the Apollo 11 crew. Olkowski joined other workers a safe three miles (5 kilometers) away and watched the world's biggest rocket thunder away on humanity's first moon landing.

"Even though we weren't considered major players in it, we were just there to help the astronauts if they needed help, yeah, I mean it was exciting, especially now when I look back," he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 25 of 47

Soon afterward, Olkowski quit his job to go to college, then spent a career with General Telephone and Electronics Corp. Now 74 and retired, he lives in League City, Texas, next door to NASA's Johnson Space Center.

Olkowski got a chance to meet up with Collins a decade or so ago.

"I said, 'Mike, I know you don't remember me. It was a long, long time ago ...'"

You might say Spencer Gardner was NASA flight director Gene Kranz's right-hand man for Apollo 11.

As Mission Control's flight activities officer in Houston, Gardner occupied the console to the right of Kranz, just across the aisle. Barely 26, Gardner was one of the youngest flight controllers on duty when the Eagle lunar lander settled onto the Sea of Tranquility with Armstrong and Aldrin on July 20, 1969.

His job was to stay on top of the astronauts' timeline. What if, for instance, the moon landing had to be aborted? Everything downstream would need to change. So Gardner constantly was thinking ahead, considering how best to reorganize the flight plan if necessary.

Looking back, Gardner wishes he'd savored the moment of touchdown more. But he had a job to do and there was no time for reflection.

After the Eagle landed and his shift ended, Gardner went to a friend's home, where everyone gathered around a black-and-white TV that night to watch Armstrong's "small step" and mankind's giant leap.

Gardner wasn't on duty for the July 24 splashdown. But he went to Mission Control anyway, joining the flag-waving, cigar-smoking crowd as Apollo 11's astounding voyage came to an end in the Pacific.

Gardner ended up working five more Apollo missions and also attended night law school. He left NASA in 1974 and became an assistant district attorney, then joined a law firm. He still practices law in Houston at age 76.

"This is, to use the 'Hamilton' expression, the room where it happened," he said inside the newly restored Apollo-era Mission Control last month. "Other than the lunar module and the command module, you couldn't get any closer to it than this. We were in the room when it happened, and the sense of completion, I guess, struck me later. We had done what President Kennedy had asked us to do."

Navy frogman Clancy Hatleberg was the first to welcome Apollo 11's moonmen back to Earth.

His mission on July 24, 1969, was to decontaminate Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins and their command module, Columbia, immediately after splashdown in the Pacific.

The astronauts needed to be quarantined. Otherwise, who knows what moon germs might escape.

It may seem silly now, but the possibility of lunar bugs was "a really serious concern" back then, according to Hatleberg, who was 25 at the time and fresh from an underwater demolition team rotation in Vietnam.

Hatleberg was one of four frogmen on the recovery team who jumped into the ocean from a helicopter. The others secured the capsule, then moved upwind in a raft. That's when Hatleberg moved in, carrying disinfectant.

Covered in a protective garment, Hatleberg momentarily opened Columbia's hatch to toss in a bag with three of the outfits. Once the astronauts had the gray garments on, they emerged from the capsule one by one onto a waiting raft.

The first spaceman out offered his hand to shake. Hatleberg paused — shaking hands was not part of the NASA protocol that he'd practiced. He recalled thinking, "I was the last person who could screw the whole thing up."

Hatleberg shook hands anyway.

Once the astronauts were wiped down by Hatleberg with a potent bleach solution, they were lifted into a helicopter and flown to the USS Hornet, where their quarantine mobile home awaited them along with President Richard Nixon.

Hatleberg scoured Columbia before it, too, was transported to the aircraft carrier. He cleaned the raft and the flotation collar that had been around the spacecraft, then punctured them and watched them sink with his own decontaminated garment, any moon bugs swallowed by the sea.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 26 of 47

"There were so many other people whose jobs were more important than mine," Hatleberg said. Looking back, he's still in awe at what the Apollo astronauts accomplished. "They were the ones who risked their lives to take that giant leap for all mankind. They're the heroes and they always will be — in my heart."

Hatleberg — who at 75 is working again as an engineer in Laurel, Maryland — said he always thought Aldrin was the first one he helped from the capsule. That is until a year or so ago, he said, when a Hornet curator pulled out old footage and zoomed in on the name tag.

It read Armstrong.

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

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China's economy growth cools further amid US tariff war

By **JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer**

BEIJING (AP) — China's economic growth sank to its lowest level in at least 26 years in the quarter ending in June, adding to pressure on Chinese leaders as they fight a tariff war with Washington.

The world's second-largest economy grew 6.2% over a year ago, down from the previous quarter's 6.4%, government data showed Monday.

Forecasters expected China's economy to rebound in late 2018 but pushed back that target after President Donald Trump hiked tariffs on Chinese imports to pressure Beijing over its technology development tactics. Now, economists say the slowdown might extend into next year.

Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed last month to resume negotiations on the fight that has battered exporters on both sides. But economists warn their truce is fragile because they still face the same array of disputes that caused talks to break down in May.

"The trade war is having a huge impact on the Chinese economy," Edward Moya of OANDA said in a report. "As trade negotiations struggle for meaningful progress, we are probably not near the bottom for China's economy."

Chinese leaders have stepped up spending and bank lending to keep growth within this year's official target range of 6% to 6.5% and avert politically dangerous job losses. But they face an avalanche of unexpectedly bad news including plunging auto sales.

In the second half of the year, "the external environment may still be more complicated," said a government spokesman, Mao Shengyong, at a news conference.

Quarterly growth was the lowest since China began reporting such data in 1993, according to an employee of the press office of the National Bureau of Statistics, Dong Hui.

In 2009, the NBS reported growth of 6.1% for the first three months of that year. However, Dong said that later was revised up to 6.4%.

Jittery consumers are putting off major purchases, depressing demand for autos, home appliances and other goods.

"I don't think the country's economy is as good as it looks," said Peng Tao, a 26-year-old delivery courier who said he makes 5,000-6,000 yuan (\$750-\$870) a month.

"China has been surely hurt more in the trade war," said Peng. "I am not very happy about job prospects because there just aren't many opportunities out there."

Weaker Chinese activity has global repercussions. China is the biggest export customer for its Asian neighbors and a major market for global suppliers of food, mobile phones, industrial technology and consumer goods.

The International Monetary Fund and private sector economists have cut this year's Chinese growth forecast to as low as 6.2%, a further marked decline after last year's three-decade low of 6.6%.

Growth in retail sales slowed to 8.4% in the first half of 2019, down 0.1 percentage points from the first

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 27 of 47

quarter, the government reported. Growth in factory output decelerated to 6% in the first half, down 0.1 percentage points from the first quarter.

Auto sales, reported earlier, fell 7.8% in June, extending a yearlong contraction in the industry's biggest market. Chinese exports to the United States fell 7.8% in June from a year ago.

Urban families the ruling Communist Party is counting on to help propel consumer-driven growth to offset weak trade are being squeezed by rising living costs and slower wage growth.

Qiu Wanli, who works for an insurance company in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, said her family has little left over each month after paying a mortgage and expenses for her 3- and 6-year-old daughters and two elderly relatives.

"The burden to support the family is fairly heavy," said Qiu, 30. "We rarely travel and have no plans to because of financial conditions."

The fight between the two biggest global traders has disrupted sales of goods from soybeans to medical equipment and rattled financial markets.

The biggest factor in the latest Chinese economic weakness is lackluster activity in construction and industry, according to Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics. He said that was likely to worsen because a boom in real estate development is fading.

"Combined with increasing headwinds from U.S. tariffs and weaker global growth, we expect this to culminate in a further slowdown in economic growth over the coming year," Evans-Pritchard said in a report.

Beijing is pumping money into the economy through higher spending on building highways and other public works. That has shored up growth but set back efforts to reduce reliance on investment, which has pushed debt to levels that prompted credit rating agencies to cut China's credit rating for government borrowing.

Spending on factories, real estate and other fixed assets rose 5.8% in the first half of the year, up 0.2 percentage points from the first five months.

Credit growth to support that has accelerated to dangerously high levels, according to Iris Pang of ING. She said in a report Friday that suggests the economy "would be deteriorating" without stimulus.

"This worries us," she said.

National Bureau of Statistics: www.stats.gov.cn

EU seeks to deescalate Persian Gulf tensions

By RAF CASERT Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union nations were looking to deescalate tensions in the Persian Gulf area on Monday and call on Iran to stick to the 2015 nuclear deal, despite the pullout of the United States from the accord and the re-imposition of U.S. sanctions on Tehran.

Dutch foreign minister Stef Blok said that "it is still not too late, but Iran really has to stick to its obligations."

Iran recently begun surpassing uranium enrichment limits set in its 2015 nuclear deal, saying these moves can be reversed if the other parties to the agreement — Germany, France, Britain, China, Russia and the European Union — come up with enough economic incentives to effectively offset the U.S. sanctions.

But EU foreign ministers first and foremost want to get Iran to respect the terms of the deal again.

"All these gestures are really raising doubt about intentions" of Tehran, said Linas Linkevicius, the foreign minister of Lithuania.

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said it was essential to keep all diplomatic channels open.

"The Middle East is already one of the most unstable regions in the world, but if the different parties were armed with nuclear weapons it would represent an existential threat to mankind," Hunt said.

The leaders of the UK, France and Germany, signatories to the nuclear deal, called for an end to escalation of tensions in the region.

At their regular monthly meeting, the EU foreign minister will also look to drum up further support for

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 28 of 47

the bloc's barter-type system to trade with Tehran and get around possible U.S. sanctions. Ten nations are already on board with the idea.

Iran has said it needs improved economic ties with Europe since the United States has re-imposed harsh sanctions on Tehran's oil exports, exacerbating an economic crisis that has sent its currency plummeting.

Tehran said Sunday it is ready to negotiate with the United States if Washington lifts its punishing economic tensions.

President Hassan Rouhani's official website quoted him as saying, "The moment you stop sanctions and bullying, we are ready to negotiate."

And the day before, Britain's top diplomat said the U.K. will facilitate the release of a seized Iranian tanker if Iran can provide guarantees the vessel would not breach European sanctions on oil shipments to Syria.

Hunt's remarks late Saturday could help de-escalate tensions. In apparent retaliation for the seized tanker, Iranian paramilitary vessels tried to impede the passage of a British oil tanker through the Strait of Hormuz, only turning away after receiving "verbal warnings" from a British navy vessel accompanying the ship, the British government said.

Man faces second sentence in Charlottesville car attack

By The Associated Press undefined

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — A man sentenced to life in prison on federal hate crime charges for deliberately driving his car into anti-racism protesters during a white nationalist rally in Virginia is set to face a state judge who could add another life sentence, plus 419 years.

James Alex Fields Jr., 22, will be sentenced Monday for killing one person and injuring dozens during the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville on Aug. 12, 2017.

Last month, Fields received a life sentence on 29 federal hate crime charges.

A state jury has recommended a sentence of life, plus 419 years. Under state law, Judge Richard Moore is allowed to go lower than the jury's recommendation, but cannot go higher.

Jonathan Turley, a law professor at George Washington University, said judges in Virginia generally tend to stick with the jury's recommended sentence. In Fields' case, the state sentence will be mainly symbolic since he has already received a life sentence on federal charges.

"For his purposes, he has one life to give, so this is a largely academic exercise," Turley said.

People who were hurt in the attack and the family of the woman who was killed are expected to make victim impact statements during Monday's hearing in Charlottesville Circuit Court.

Fields, an avowed white supremacist who kept a photo of Adolf Hitler on his bedside table, drove from his home in Maumee, Ohio, to attend the rally, which drew hundreds of white nationalists to Charlottesville to protest the planned removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. The event also drew counterprotesters who demonstrated against the white nationalists.

Violent skirmishes between the two sides prompted police to declare an unlawful assembly and to order the groups to disband before the rally could even begin. Later that day, Fields plowed his car into a crowd of counterprotesters, killing Heather Heyer, 32, and injuring more than two dozen others.

The event stirred racial tensions around the country. President Donald Trump sparked controversy when he blamed the violence at the rally on "both sides," a statement that critics saw as a refusal to condemn racism.

During Fields' state trial, his attorneys focused on his history of mental illness and traumatic childhood.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump wrong about Dems, census, citizenship

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is spreading falsehoods on issues of race, immigration and American-ness, exhorting four non-white female lawmakers to "go back" to where they came from and crying foul over his failed bid to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 29 of 47

He suggests that the Democratic lawmakers, who recently sparred with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, are foreigners better off leaving the U.S. than trying to tell Americans what to do. In fact, all four of the women, who were elected to the House in 2018, are Americans. All but one were born in the U.S.

Trump and his aides also seek to justify their now-abandoned effort to put a citizenship question on the census, claiming that the government asks many exhaustive questions but can't on this one because of the courts. That's false. The citizenship question has been asked on a separate government survey every year since 2005.

The statements came in a week of exaggerations and untruths by the Trump administration on a number of fronts: claiming an environmental legacy that is not his, falsely accusing special counsel Robert Mueller of being a criminal, and more.

A look at the claims and reality:

DEMOCRATS

TRUMP: "So interesting to see 'Progressive' Democrat Congresswomen, who originally came from countries whose governments are a complete and total catastrophe, the worst, most corrupt and inept anywhere in the world (if they even have a functioning government at all), now loudly ... and viciously telling the people of the United States, the greatest and most powerful Nation on earth, how our government is to be run. Why don't they go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came." — tweets Sunday.

THE FACTS: The women-of-color lawmakers whom Trump is criticizing are American citizens.

He was almost certainly referring to Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and her allies in what's become known as "the squad." The others are Reps. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan. Only Omar, from Somalia, is foreign-born.

Ocasio-Cortez, who is of Puerto Rican descent, was born in the Bronx, New York, and raised in suburban Westchester County. Pressley, the first black woman elected to the House from Massachusetts, was born in Cincinnati.

Omar, the first Somali native elected to Congress and one of its first Muslim women, was born in Somalia but spent much of her childhood in a Kenyan refugee camp as civil war tore apart her home country. She immigrated to the United States at age 12, teaching herself English by watching American TV and eventually settling with her family in Minneapolis.

Tlaib, who is Muslim, was born in Detroit.

Trump appeared to be inserting himself into a rift between Pelosi and the liberal congresswomen. Pelosi has been seeking to minimize Ocasio-Cortez's influence in recent days, prompting Ocasio-Cortez to accuse Pelosi of trying to marginalize women of color.

CENSUS

TRUMP: "We spend — this is another thing that's so crazy: \$20 billion on a census — \$20 billion. ... They go through houses — they go up, they ring doorbells, they talk to people. 'How many toilets do they have?' 'How many desks do they have?' 'How many beds?' 'What's their roof made of?' The only thing we can't ask is, 'Are you a citizen of the United States?' No, isn't it the craziest thing?" — remarks Thursday at social media conference.

KELLYANNE CONWAY, White House counselor: "Think of all the questions that nobody complains are included in our U.S. census every 10 years that include a far, far, far smaller number of Americans, or I would argue, are much more intrusive, invasive and expansive. We're asking about how many toilets are in your house and you don't want to know who's using them? It's absolutely ridiculous." — interview Tuesday with "Fox & Friends."

THE FACTS: To be clear, the 2020 census form being sent to all U.S. households does not ask about the number of toilets, desks or beds, or about roofs.

The decennial census form is limited to questions about age, sex, Hispanic origin, race, relationship and homeownership status. Trump last week backed off including a citizenship question after the Supreme Court last month blocked his effort, disputing the administration's rationale that the information was needed

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 30 of 47

to enforce civil rights laws.

Trump and Conway may have been referring to a long-form section of the census survey that was sent to a portion of U.S. households from 1970 to 2000, not as part of the official census count. That long-form supplement was replaced by the Census Bureau's American Community Survey, a separate poll sent annually to about 3.5 million households, or about 1 in 37.

Both the long-form supplement and the newer poll did previously ask about the existence of flush toilets in the home to help identify geographical needs for housing assistance; but since 2016, the survey only asks about other forms of plumbing such as a sink or bathtub. The current sampling survey also asks about the number of bedrooms in a home, not beds.

Even so, Trump and Conway are wrong to assert that the citizenship question isn't currently being asked by the government. It's been asked on the American Community Survey, the same form that asks about a home's plumbing, every year since 2005.

CONWAY: "Why can't we just ask the question the way it was asked for 50 years before the Obama administration yanked it out of there?" — "Fox & Friends" interview.

THE FACTS: The Obama administration did not pull the citizenship question from the census after 50 years. The Census Bureau hasn't included a citizenship question in its once-a-decade survey sent to all U.S. households since 1950.

From 1970 to 2000, the question was included only in the long-form section of the census survey, which is sent to a portion of U.S. households. After 2000, the question has been asked each year since 2005 on the Census Bureau's American Community Survey, a separate poll also sent to a sample of U.S. households.

The Census Bureau made the switch to that survey in 2005 as a replacement to the long-form supplement, prior to the Obama administration. As a result of that switch, no long form was sent as part of the next-held census in 2010, when Obama was in office. Instead, the citizenship question was asked as part of the 2010 ACS survey.

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

TRUMP, speaking of special counsel Robert Mueller on communications between two FBI employees: "This is one of the most horrible abuses of all. Those texts between gaga lovers would have told the whole story. Illegal deletion by Mueller." — tweet Saturday.

THE FACTS: Trump makes a false accusation that Mueller committed a crime. Mueller had no role in deleting anti-Trump text messages traded by former FBI counterintelligence agent Peter Strzok and ex-FBI lawyer Lisa Page, and there's no basis for saying he was involved in anything illegal.

In fact, once Mueller learned of the existence of the texts, which were sent before his appointment as special counsel, he removed Strzok from his team investigating potential ties between Russia and the Trump campaign.

Trump appears to be referring to the fact that the FBI, for technical reasons, was initially unable to retrieve months of text messages between the two officials. But the FBI was ultimately able to recover them and there's never been any allegation that Mueller had anything to do with that process.

TRUMP, on Mueller's upcoming testimony to Congress, now set for July 24: "They also want to interview the highly ... conflicted and compromised Mueller again." — tweets Thursday.

THE FACTS: Trump makes a groundless charge, as he often does, that Mueller was "highly conflicted and compromised." Mueller, a longtime Republican, was cleared by the Justice Department's ethics experts to lead the Russia investigation.

Trump typically cites a business dispute with Mueller and asserts that Mueller wanted the FBI director position, but that Trump rejected him.

But according to the special counsel's report, when Trump previously complained privately to aides that Mueller would not be objective, the advisers, including then-White House chief strategist Steve Bannon, then-White House counsel Don McGahn and Reince Priebus, chief of staff at the time, rejected his com-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 31 of 47

plaints of an alleged business dispute and possible bad feelings over the FBI job as not representing "true conflicts." Bannon called the claims "ridiculous."

Bannon told Mueller's investigators that while the White House had invited Mueller to speak to the president about the FBI and thought about asking him to become director again, Mueller did not come in looking for a job. Mueller was FBI director from 2001 to 2013.

ENVIRONMENT

ANDREW WHEELER, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency: "From 1970 to 2018, U.S. criteria air pollution fell 74 percent. ... Under your administration, emissions of all the criteria air pollutants continue to decline. For example, the lead and sulfur dioxide have dropped by double-digit percentages over the last two years. Today, we have the cleanest air on record." — remarks on July 8.

THE FACTS: Air quality has not improved since Trump took office and air in the U.S. is not the cleanest on record.

Wheeler specifically is incorrect that emissions for all six of the "criteria" air pollutants tracked by EPA have declined during the Trump administration. Of the six, three actually increased in 2017: carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and two measures of particulate matter pollution. The other three, ozone, lead and sulfur dioxide, did decline.

Indeed, after decades of improvement, progress in air quality stalled. Over the last two years the U.S. had more polluted air days than just a few years earlier, according to EPA data analyzed by The Associated Press.

There were 15% more days with unhealthy air in America both last year and the year before than there were on average from 2013 through 2016, the four years when the U.S. had its fewest number of those days since at least 1980, when the measurement started.

Records for the fewest air polluted days were set during the Obama administration.

It would be premature to blame Trump's anti-regulatory policies for this setback. Scientists say it is too early to see the effects of changes in environmental policy of the Trump administration. Air quality is affected by complex factors, both natural and man-made; last year's western wildfires may have contributed, for example. Along the same lines, Trump cannot plausibly claim that his policies have delivered clean air in a year or two when citing developments that have been trending for years.

How is U.S. air quality doing overall? The Health Effects Institute's State of Global Air 2019 report ranked the U.S. 37th dirtiest out of 195 countries for ozone, also known as smog, worse than the global average for population-weighted pollution. Countries such as Britain, Japan, Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Albania, Cuba, Russia, Vietnam, New Zealand and Canada have less smoggy air. The U.S. ranks 8th cleanest on the more deadly category of fine particles in the air. It's still behind countries such as Canada and New Zealand but better than the global average.

TRUMP: "We've refocused the EPA back on its core mission, and, last year, the agency completed more Superfund hazardous waste clean-ups than any year of the previous administrations and set records in almost every year." — remarks on July 8.

WHEELER: "We're making tremendous environmental progress under President Trump. ... There may be no better example than our renewed focus on Superfund — the federal program that cleans up large, hazardous sites. ... In fiscal year 2018, we deleted the most sites from the National Priorities List in one year since 2005." — remarks on July 8.

THE FACTS: The Trump administration is taking undue credit for cleanup of hazardous industrial sites that was largely done under President Barack Obama and previous administrations. In addition, Wheeler's reference to a "renewed focus" on the Superfund program ignores the fact that the administration recommended cutting the program's budget 15%.

It's true that the EPA announced last year that it had deleted 22 Superfund toxic waste sites from the government's national priorities list, the most since 2005. But it takes years, if not decades, to clean up

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 32 of 47

a Superfund site before it is removed from the list. That means the construction work, such as removing soil or drilling wells to suck out contaminated groundwater, would have been largely done before the Trump administration.

For instance, an analysis of EPA records by The Associated Press found that at seven Superfund sites the EPA took off the list in 2017 and boasted about, the physical cleanup was performed before Trump took office.

Removing sites from the list is a procedural step that occurs after monitoring data show that remaining levels of harmful contaminants meet cleanup targets, which were often set by EPA decades ago.

There are currently more than 1,300 Superfund sites on EPA's National Priorities List at various stages in the cleanup process.

TRUMP: "The previous administration waged a relentless war on American energy." — remarks on July 8.

THE FACT: This accusation is hard to sustain given the rise of U.S. energy under Obama. In 2013, the U.S. became the world's top producer both of natural gas and petroleum hydrocarbons, says the government's U.S. Energy Information Administration. As for crude oil specifically, the agency says the U.S. became the world's top crude oil producer last year. That is largely attributed to the shale oil boom that began late in George W. Bush's administration and proceeded apace during the Obama years.

The boom came because of fracking and other technology, such as horizontal drilling, that made it possible to find a lot more oil and gas without drilling more holes. (As a senator, Obama voted for a 2005 law that exempted fracking from a range of regulations.)

As president, Obama did impose fracking regulations on federal lands that were challenged by industry, then overturned by Trump, but he did little to slow the surge, especially on state and private lands. Altogether, the government issued permits for about 30,000 new oil and gas wells on federal lands during Obama's presidency.

Perhaps the central paradox of the Obama energy policy is that, despite his keen focus on wind and solar power, the greatest energy revolution of the past half century happened on his watch as U.S. petroleum and natural gas production achieved pre-eminence.

TRUMP: "Today, the United States is ranked — listen to this — No. 1 in the world for access to clean drinking water — ranked No. 1 in the world." — remarks on July 8.

THE FACTS: True in this respect: The U.S. is tied with nine other countries as having the cleanest drinking water, according to one leading measure. Yale University's global Environmental Performance Index finds 10 countries tied for the cleanest drinking water.

On environmental quality overall, the index puts the U.S. 27th, behind a variety of European countries, Canada, Japan, Australia and more. Switzerland was No. 1.

VETERANS

ROBERT WILKIE, secretary of veterans affairs, asked if he's achieved progress in fixing VA since being confirmed to the job one year ago: "Since that time, I can say yes. ...The Journal of the American Medical Association says our wait times are now as good or better than in the private sector. And the Annals of Internal Medicine say our care is as good or better than it is in the private sector, across the country. What that means is that morale is up, that VA is in a better place than it has been in the last few years." — interview Wednesday with Fox News.

THE FACTS: The progress he cites in waiting times and quality of care happened before he became VA secretary.

It's true that a study by the medical association that came out in January found veterans got into a VA facility for an appointment faster on average than if they went to a private facility. But the study tracked progress from 2014 to 2017. Wilkie became acting VA secretary in late March 2018 and was confirmed as permanent VA secretary that July.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 33 of 47

Similarly, a study published last December in the Annals of Internal Medicine did find that VA facilities outperform private hospitals in most health care markets throughout the country. But the finding is also based on data from as early as 2014 through June 30, 2017.

Wilkie, in fact, credits the VA's "concerted" effort to improve access to care "since 2014" in a VA press release in January announcing the medical association study's results.

The wait time study covered four specialties, primary care, dermatology, cardiology and orthopedics. It found that in 2014, the average wait to get into VA medical center was 22.5 days, compared with 18.7 days in the private sector, which was not statistically different. By 2017, the wait at VA improved to 17.7 days, while increasing to 29.8 days for private doctors. Waits at VA medical centers were shorter in all specialties except orthopedics.

Associated Press writers Seth Borenstein, Eric Tucker, Matthew Daly, Michael Biesecker, Ellen Knickmeyer and Kevin Freking in Washington, Matthew Brown in Billings, Montana, and Nicky Forster in New York contributed to this report.

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Cuban singer becomes pioneer of #MeToo movement on island

By ANDREA RODRIGUEZ Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Dianelys Alfonso has a brassy presence — brightly colored tattoos, spandex bodysuits, Technicolor hair — and a clarion voice that won her the label "Goddess of Cuba" for her turns on songs ranging from ballads to reggaeton.

Now she's also the center of a new phenomenon in Cuba after publicly accusing another renowned musician, flutist and bandleader José Luis Cortés, of repeatedly assaulting and raping her during their yearslong relationship while she was a vocalist for NG La Banda, one of the best-known Cuban bands of the last three decades.

Since Alfonso's accusations against Cortés on an internet video program last month, many Cubans have declared their support for her online, calling her the pioneer of the #MeToo movement in a country where open discussion of violence against women is rare.

Cortés has not publicly responded to the allegations or to messages seeking comment left by The Associated Press on his band's social media accounts or with his promoters.

Within hours of speaking to video host Alex Otaola and alleging that she had been abused by Cortés, hundreds of Cubans on the island and in its diaspora in the United States, Latin America and Europe began posting messages of support for Alfonso with the hashtags #IBelieveYouGoddess, #MeTooInCuba and #YouAreNotAlone.

Alfonso also has received reams of abusive messages calling her a liar and accusing her of besmirching Cortés' reputation to win greater renown.

"I look at everything happening online and I'm really stunned," the 38-year-old singer told The Associated Press. "I can't really understand what's happening online. I'm just trying to keep getting professional psychological help to deal with everything that's come at me for having told the truth."

Online activism of any kind is relatively new to Cuba, which only began permitting mobile internet this year. Until recently, open discussion of domestic abuse also has been rare in a communist society where the government portrays itself as able to take care of every social problem and where there are only a handful of non-governmental women's rights groups.

The government last year organized a publicity campaign to raise consciousness of domestic violence, with posters and announcements in official media under the slogans "You Are More" and "Evolve," though that appeared to focus more on physical than sexual abuse.

Some 500 Cuban artists and intellectuals have signed an open letter of support for Alfonso that condemns

violence against women on a Facebook page titled, "I Believe You."

Actress and producer Violeta Rodríguez, daughter of Cuban singer Silvio Rodríguez, wrote on her Facebook page last month that she had been abused by a "famous and powerful" Cuban man but had remained silent for years. The post was later deleted, without explanation.

Alfonso was lead singer for NG La Banda from 2003 to 2009, and was involved romantically with Cortés for much of that time. She said Cortés repeatedly hit her, raped her and verbally abused her, in private and in public, during their relationship and after it ended. She said the abuse finally stopped after she left the group in the middle of an Italian tour in 2009 and did not return to Cuba until 2014.

Alfonso's lawyer, Deyni Terry, said Cortés sent the singer a threatening text message after she went public with the accusations. Alfonso reported the threat to police, Terry said, adding that she and her client were investigating whether they can bring charges of abuse and sexual assault against Cortés so many years after the alleged crimes took place.

"Many victims wait years to say what happened and that complicates judicial action, especially in Cuba where many laws are outdated," the lawyer said.

Cuban authorities did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the case.

Terry said the online reaction to Alfonso's accusations appeared to be a sign of changing attitudes on the island.

"People are being more daring, speaking out, talking about taboo topics," she said. "They're taking risks and have more freedom to speak out."

A national poll conducted in 2016 and published this year showed that some 27% of 10,698 women who responded to a questionnaire reported being mistreated or abused by a man over the past 12 months but less than 4% sought help.

The availability of the internet in Cuba has allowed activists for various causes — from animal rights to LGBTQ freedoms — to better organize and advocate over the last seven months. The same may now be happening for women's rights, observers said.

"The internet allows us to have a greater diversity of debates and struggles and bring many problems to light," said Francisco Rodríguez, a gay-rights advocate and blogger.

Follow Andrea Rodríguez on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ARodriguezAP

Biden campaigns as Obamacare's top defender

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

Joe Biden is taking an aggressive approach to defending Obamacare, challenging not just President Donald Trump but also some of his rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination who want to replace the current insurance system with a fully government-run model.

The former vice president will spend much of the coming week talking about his approach to health care, including remarks he'll deliver on Monday in Iowa at a presidential forum sponsored by AARP. His almost singular focus on the 2010 health care law has been on display recently in the early voting states.

In Iowa, he declared himself "against any Republican (and) any Democrat who wants to scrap" Obamacare. Later in New Hampshire, he said "we should not be scrapping Obamacare, we should be building on it," a reference to his approach to add a government insurance plan known as the public option to existing exchanges that sell private insurance.

Biden is hoping his positioning as Obamacare's chief defender could be helpful on several fronts. It's a reminder of his close work alongside President Barack Obama, who remains popular among Democratic voters. And it could reinforce his pitch as a sensible centrist promising to rise above the strident cacophony of Trump and Democrats including Sens. Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris, all single-payer advocates.

Perhaps as important, it's an opportunity for Biden to go on offense ahead of the next presidential debate at the end of July. Biden has spent the past several weeks on defense, reversing his position on

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 35 of 47

taxpayer funding for abortions and highlighting his past work with segregationist senators. Harris slammed him during the first debate, blasting the segregationist comment and criticizing his opposition to federal busing orders to desegregate public schools during the same era.

Each of the episodes raised questions about whether Biden can maintain his front-runner status.

In New Hampshire over the weekend, it was clear Biden wanted to turn the tables as he touted the idea of a "Medicare-like" plan that any American could buy as opposed to a "Medicare-for-all" that would be imposed on everyone.

"I think one of the most significant things we've done in our administration is pass the Affordable Care Act," Biden said. "I don't know why we'd get rid of what in fact was working and move to something totally new. And so, there are differences."

He argued that some of his opponents, with the exception of Sanders, aren't fairly representing the consequences of their proposals.

"Bernie's been very honest about it," Biden said. "He said you're going to have to raise taxes on the middle class. He said it's going to end all private insurance. I mean, he's been straightforward about it. And he's making his case."

Asked specifically whether Harris has been honest about how her plan would affect private insurance, Biden said, "I'll let you guys make that judgment."

During last month's debates, Harris, Warren and Sanders raised their hands when candidates were asked as a group whether they supported eliminating private insurance. A day later, Harris, a Senate co-sponsor of Sanders' single-payer bill, reversed her answer — the second time since her campaign launch that she'd walked back her seeming endorsement of eliminating private insurance.

She explained that she interpreted the debate moderator's question as asking whether she'd be willing to give up her existing coverage as part of a single-payer model. She said she wants private policies to remain "supplemental" options for consumers.

Sanders, meanwhile, hit back at Biden, clarifying that his plan would be a net financial benefit for most households: Their federal taxes would go up, but their private insurance premiums, deductibles and co-pays would be eliminated.

"At a time when Donald Trump and the health insurance industry are lying every day about 'Medicare for All,' I would hope that my fellow Democrats would not resort to misinformation about my legislation," Sanders said in a statement responding to Biden's New Hampshire comments.

Biden hasn't yet introduced his full health care plan, but has said it will be anchored by a "Medicare-like" plan that would be available to anyone — including the 150 million-plus Americans now covered by job-based insurance, a group now ineligible for exchange-based policies. Biden has indicated that income-based subsidies would ensure that any household could get coverage. The idea is to expand coverage immediately and shake up insurance markets long-term by forcing private insurers to compete alongside the government, theoretically pressuring to lower their premiums and out-of-pocket costs for private policy holders.

Biden isn't the only public-option advocate running for president.

Former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper warns that Republicans will brand single-payer as "socialism," hurting Democrats in the general election. Colorado Sen. Michael Bennet echoes Biden's argument with a call to "finish the work we started with Obamacare."

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar touts a public option as the next logical move even for single-payer advocates.

"I think it is a beginning and the way you start and the way you move to universal health care," she said in the first debate.

If anything, the dynamics illustrate Democrats' overall leftward shift on health care.

A decade ago, as Obama pushed for ACA, the public option was effectively the left-flank for Democrats, a reality made obvious when Obama angered House liberals by jettisoning the provision to mollify some moderate Senate Democrats needed to pass the legislation. Now, after Sanders' insurgent 2016 presidential bid and his promise of "health care as a human right," the left has embraced single-payer, with moderates

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 36 of 47

moving to the public option.

Yet with the exception of Biden, the moderates are languishing far back in polls, leaving the former vice president to capitalize on the dividing lines and promising that he would do what Obama couldn't.

"And," he declared, "it can be done quickly."

Associated Press writers Hunter Woodall and Julie Pace contributed from Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Follow Barrow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP>.

India aborts moon mission launch, citing technical glitch

By EMILY SCHMALL Associated Press

SRIHARIKOTA, India (AP) — India aborted the launch on Monday of a spacecraft intended to land on the far side of the moon less than an hour before liftoff.

The Chandrayaan-2 mission was called off when a "technical snag" was observed in the 640-ton, 14-story rocket launcher, Indian Space Research Organization spokesman B.R. Guruprasad said.

The countdown abruptly stopped at T-56 minutes, 24 seconds, and Guruprasad said that the agency would announce a revised launch date soon.

Chandrayaan, the word for "moon craft" in Sanskrit, is designed for a soft landing on the lunar south pole and to send a rover to explore water deposits confirmed by a previous Indian space mission.

With nuclear-armed India poised to become the world's fifth-largest economy, the ardently nationalist government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is eager to show off the country's prowess in security and technology. If India did manage the soft landing, it would be only the fourth to do so after the U.S., Russia and China.

Dr. K. Sivan, chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization, said at a news conference last week that the around \$140-million Chandrayaan-2 mission was the nation's most prestigious to date, in part because of the technical complexities of soft landing on the lunar surface — an event he described as "15 terrifying minutes."

After countdown commenced on Sunday, Sivan visited two Hindu shrines to pray for the mission's success.

Practically since its inception in 1962, India's space program has been criticized as inappropriate for an overpopulated, developing nation.

But decades of space research have allowed India to develop satellite, communications and remote sensing technologies that are helping solve everyday problems at home, from forecasting fish migration to predicting storms and floods.

With the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission this month, the world's biggest space agencies are returning their gaze to the moon, seen as ideal testing grounds for technologies required for deep space exploration, and, with the confirmed discovery of water, as a possible pit stop along the way.

"The moon is sort of our backyard for training to go to Mars," said Adam Steltzner, NASA's chief engineer responsible for its 2020 mission to Mars.

Because of repeated delays, India missed the chance to achieve the first soft landing near the lunar south pole. China's Chang'e 4 mission landed a lander and rover there last January.

India's Chandrayaan-1 mission orbited the moon in 2008 and helped confirm the presence of water. The Indian Space Research Organization wants its new mission's rover to further probe the far side of the moon, where scientists believe a basin contains water-ice that could help humans do more than plant flags on future manned missions.

The U.S. is working to send a manned spacecraft to the moon's south pole by 2024.

Modi has set a deadline of 2022 for India's first manned spaceflight.

Leave the US, Trump tells liberal congresswomen of color

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 37 of 47

WASHINGTON (AP) — Starkly injecting race into his criticism of liberal Democrats, President Donald Trump said Sunday that four congresswomen of color should go back to the “broken and crime infested” countries they came from, ignoring the fact that all of the women are American citizens and three were born in the U.S. His attack drew a searing condemnation from Democrats who labeled the remarks racist and breathtakingly divisive.

Following a familiar script, Republicans remained largely silent after Trump’s morning broadsides against the four women. But the president’s nativist tweets caused Democrats to set aside their internal rifts to rise up in a united chorus against the president.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Trump wants to “make America white again.” Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, after jousting for days with Pelosi, said Trump “can’t conceive of an America that includes us.”

Trump, who has a long history of making racist remarks, was almost certainly referring to Ocasio-Cortez and her House allies in what’s become known as “the squad.” The others are Reps. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan. Only Omar, from Somalia, is foreign-born.

Ocasio-Cortez swiftly denounced his remarks. “Mr. President, the country I ‘come from,’ & the country we all swear to, is the United States,” she tweeted, adding that “You rely on a frightened America for your plunder.” Omar also addressed herself directly to Trump in a tweet, writing: “You are stoking white nationalism (because) you are angry that people like us are serving in Congress and fighting against your hate-filled agenda.”

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries of New York, chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, summed up the Democratic response: “Racial arsonist strikes again. Shut. Your. Reckless. Mouth.”

With his tweet, Trump inserted himself further into a rift between Pelosi and Ocasio-Cortez, just two days after he offered an unsolicited defense of the Democratic speaker. Pelosi has been seeking to minimize Ocasio-Cortez’s influence in the House Democratic caucus in recent days, prompting Ocasio-Cortez to accuse Pelosi of trying to marginalize women of color.

“She is not a racist,” Trump said of Pelosi on Friday.

On Sunday, Trump’s tone took a turn.

“So interesting to see ‘Progressive’ Democrat Congresswomen, who originally came from countries whose governments are a complete and total catastrophe, the worst, most corrupt and inept anywhere in the world (if they even have a functioning government at all), now loudly and viciously telling the people of the United States, the greatest and most powerful Nation on earth, how our government is to be run,” he tweeted.

“Why don’t they go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came. Then come back and show us how it is done.”

He added: “These places need your help badly, you can’t leave fast enough. I’m sure that Nancy Pelosi would be very happy to quickly work out free travel arrangements!”

The attacks may have been meant to widen the divides within the Democrat caucus, which has been riven by internal debate over how far left to go in countering Trump and over whether to proceed with impeachment proceedings against the president. Instead, the president’s tweets, which evoked the trope of telling black people to go back to Africa, brought Democrats together.

“Let’s be clear about what this vile comment is: A racist and xenophobic attack on Democratic congresswomen,” tweeted Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Democratic presidential candidate.

Another 2020 contender, former Texas Rep. Beto O’Rourke, tweeted at the president: “This is racist. These congresswomen are every bit as American as you — and represent our values better than you ever will.”

Few Republicans weighed in on the president’s comments. Congressional leaders, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, did not respond to requests for comment, nor did Sen. Tim. Scott of South Carolina, the only Republican black senator.

Mark Morgan, the acting commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in a previously scheduled appearance on “Face the Nation” on CBS, said only: “You’re going to have to ask the president what he

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 38 of 47

means by those specific tweets.”

Shortly after the tweets, and a later presidential post defending the harsh scenes at a border detention facility where hundreds of migrant men are being held in sweltering, foul-smelling conditions, Trump left the White House to go golfing at his Virginia club.

Trump appeared unbowed Sunday night when he returned to Twitter to say it was “so sad” to see Democrats sticking up for the women. “If the Democrat Party wants to continue to condone such disgraceful behavior,” he tweeted, “then we look even more forward to seeing you at the ballot box in 2020!”

It was far from the first time that Trump has been accused of holding racist views.

In his campaign kickoff in June 2015, Trump deemed many Mexican immigrants “rapists.” In 2017, he said there good people on “both sides” of the clash in Charlottesville, Virginia, between white supremacists and anti-racist demonstrators that left one counter-protester dead. Last year, during a private White House meeting on immigration, Trump wondered why the United States was admitting so many immigrants from “shithole countries” like African nations.

Repeatedly, Trump has painted arriving immigrants as an “infestation” and he has been slow in condemning acts of violence committed by white supremacists. And he launched his political career with false claims that President Barack Obama was not born in the United States.

Despite his history of racist remarks, Trump has paid little penalty in his own party.

Though a broad array of Republicans did speak out against his reaction to Charlottesville, they have largely held their tongues otherwise, whether it be on matter of race or any other Trump provocation. Fearful of his Twitter account and sweeping popularity among Republican voters, GOP lawmakers have largely tried to ignore the provocative statements.

Sen. Kamala Harris, a Democratic presidential hopeful from California, tweeted, “Let’s call the president’s racist attack exactly what it is: un-American.”

Ocasio-Cortez, who is of Puerto Rican descent, was born in the Bronx, New York, and raised in suburban Westchester County.

Pressley, the first black woman elected to the House from Massachusetts, was born in Cincinnati.

Omar, the first Somali native elected to Congress and one of its first Muslim women, was born in Somalia but spent much of her childhood in a Kenyan refugee camp as civil war tore apart her home country. She immigrated to the United States at age 12, teaching herself English by watching American TV and eventually settling with her family in Minneapolis.

Tlaib was born in Detroit.

Associated Press writer Hope Yen contributed to this report.

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

Churches jump into action with threat of immigration sweeps

By SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — As a nationwide immigration crackdown loomed, religious leaders across the country used their pulpits Sunday to quell concerns in immigrant communities and spring into action to help those potentially threatened by the operation.

A Chicago priest talked during his homily about the compassion of a border activist accused of harboring illegal immigrants, while another city church advertised a “deportation defense workshop.” Dozens of churches in Houston and Los Angeles offered sanctuary to anyone afraid of being arrested. In Miami, activists handed out fliers outside churches to help immigrants know their rights in case of an arrest.

“We’re living in a time where the law may permit the government to do certain things but that doesn’t necessarily make it right,” said the Rev. John Celichowski of St. Clare de Montefalco Parish in Chicago, where the nearly 1,000-member congregation is 90 percent Hispanic and mostly immigrant.

While federal immigration officials were mum on details, agents had been expected to start a coordinated

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 39 of 47

action Sunday targeting roughly 2,000 people, including families, with final deportation orders in 10 major cities, including Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Miami.

Activists and city officials reported some U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity in New York and Houston a day earlier, but it was unclear if it was part of the same operation. The Houston advocacy group FIEL said two people were arrested there Saturday. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio confirmed there were three incidents involving ICE on Saturday, but agents didn't succeed in rounding up residents. Speaking at a news conference Sunday in New York, de Blasio called the operation "a political act" by President Donald Trump that had nothing to do with enforcing the law.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan would not answer questions about the operation at an unrelated briefing in Washington on Sunday on the emergency management response to Hurricane Barry.

The renewed threat of mass deportations has put immigrant communities even more on edge since Trump took office on a pledge to deport millions living in the country illegally. While such enforcement operations have been routine since 2003, Trump's publicizing its start, and the politics surrounding it, are unusual. Trump first announced the sweeps last month then delayed to give lawmakers a chance to address the southern border.

With Sunday as the anticipated start, churches have been trying to strategize a response.

Cardinal Blase Cupich, the archbishop of Chicago, wrote a letter to Archdiocese priests this month saying, "Threats of broad enforcement actions by ICE are meant to terrorize communities." He urged priests in the Archdiocese — which serves over 2 million Catholics — not to let any immigration officials into churches without identification or a warrant.

The Rev. Robert Stearns, of Living Water in Houston, organized 25 churches in the city to make space available to any families who wanted to seek sanctuary while they sorted out their legal status. A dozen churches in the Los Angeles areas also declared themselves sanctuaries.

Attendance at church services on Sunday varied.

The early morning crowd for Spanish-language Mass was only slightly less than usual at St. Clare de Montefalco, where stacks of paper advising immigrants of their rights during immigration arrests sat on card tables outside the sanctuary. Multiple attendees, seemingly nervous about the threatened sweeps, declined interviews.

Another Chicago church run by vocal immigrant rights advocates reported a big drop in attendance, however.

Nearly all congregants at Adalberto United Methodist are living in the country illegally, and the Rev. Emma Lozano attributed the large number of no-shows to fear. She said street vendors who sell food outside the church also were absent. She invited the Rev. Jesse Jackson to speak to attendees and hosted a workshop for immigrants, declaring it a "day of faith and resistance."

But that didn't stop Doris Aguirre, who is from Honduras and has a final deportation order, from attending.

She said she will keep fighting her case and for her family, who have mixed citizenship status. Her husband is a naturalized U.S. citizen from Mexico, her son, born in Honduras, has protection from deportation through an Obama-era program for young people, and her daughter, 17-year-old Izaithell Aguirre, was born in the U.S.

The teenager said she worried about her mom.

"I shouldn't let that stop me from doing what I normally would do. I still have to live my life," she said. "We don't want to let all those rumors and news get to us."

In Los Angeles, the Rev. Fred Morris looked out over his congregation at the North Hills United Methodist Hispanic Mission and was relieved to see everyone who usually attends the early Sunday morning service. He had worried many would stay home, fearing Trump's threat of immigration sweeps.

"Everybody is nervous," Morris said. "They are angry, very angry at being terrorized by our president."

Associated Press writers Adriana Gomez in Miami, Colleen Long in Washington, Julie Walker in New York

and Claire Galofaro in Louisville, Kentucky, contributed to this report.

Follow Sophia Tareen on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sophiatareen>

Congo confirms 1st Ebola case in city of Goma

By KRISTA LARSON Associated Press

BENI, Congo (AP) — The Congolese health ministry confirmed an Ebola case in Goma late Sunday, marking the first time the virus has reached the city of more than 2 million people along the border with Rwanda since the epidemic began nearly a year ago.

The health ministry said the man who had arrived earlier Sunday in the regional capital had been quickly transported to an Ebola treatment center. Authorities said they had tracked down all the passengers on the bus the man took to Goma from Butembo, one of the towns hardest hit by the disease.

"Because of the speed with which the patient was identified and isolated, and the identification of all the other bus passengers coming from Butembo, the risk of it spreading in the rest of the city of Goma is small," the health ministry said in a statement.

The virus has killed more than 1,600 people in Congo and two others who returned home across the border to neighboring Uganda. Health experts have long feared that it could make its way to Goma, which is located on the Rwandan border.

The health ministries in Congo's neighbors have been preparing for months for the possibility of cases, and frontline health workers already have been vaccinated.

The confirmed case announced late Sunday in eastern Congo involves a pastor who became ill last Tuesday. He then left Butembo on a bus, and arrived at a health center Sunday showing symptoms of Ebola, the health ministry said.

Violent attacks against health workers and treatment facilities have greatly compromised efforts to combat the epidemic in Butembo.

Eastern Congo is home to a myriad of armed groups, and Mai Mai militia fighters are active near the hardest hit towns. Health teams have been unable to access violent areas to vaccinate people at risk of infection and to bring infected patients into isolation.

Other times the violence against health teams has come from residents who do not want their loved ones taken to treatment centers or buried in accordance with guidelines aimed at reducing Ebola transmission.

While the experimental vaccine is believed to have saved countless lives, not all Congolese people have accepted it. Some falsely believe that the vaccine is what is making people sick, in part because people can still develop the disease after getting the shot if they already had been infected.

Associated Press writer Saleh Mwanamilongo reported from Kinshasa, Congo.

Calls for investigations after power restored in Manhattan

By DEEPTI HAJELA Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A Manhattan power outage that temporarily turned off the bright lights of the big city only lasted for a few hours, but left plenty of lingering questions and calls for investigations on Sunday.

Con Ed President Tim Cawley insisted the Saturday night blackout that darkened more than 40 blocks of Manhattan including Times Square wasn't due to high demand on the electrical grid, but said it would take some time to determine what exactly did happen.

"We think the grid is sound," Cawley said Sunday, adding, "If there are lessons we can apply, we will."

He said the system was prepared to deal with high demand, like that expected this coming week as temperatures rise.

Officials definitively ruled out either cyber- or physical acts of terrorism of any kind.

Thousands of people crowded the streets Saturday evening, using their cellphones as flashlights while

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 41 of 47

they tried to stay cool amid the humid July evening, where temperatures hit the low 80s.

In the theater district, marquees darkened just before evening performances were set to begin. Most Broadway musicals and plays canceled their Saturday evening shows, though some cast members staged impromptu performances in the street.

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer said Sunday the Department of Energy's Office of Electricity should investigate the work being done by Con Edison to maintain and upgrade the city's power grid.

He added that "this type of massive blackout is entirely preventable with the right investments in our grid," encouraging a thorough investigation that could shed light on wider electricity issues that could have national impact.

Gregory Reed, a professor of electric power engineering at the University of Pittsburgh who once worked at Con Ed, said the utility had done a good job in restoring power quickly, but said it underscores a need throughout the country to invest more in infrastructure.

"We have a lot of networks that have aging infrastructure and antiquated systems," he said. "We have to build higher levels of resiliency."

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio both said they would be directing agencies under their control to look into what happened.

The questions raised by the blackout weren't just about the power, they were political as well as de Blasio was criticized for being on the presidential campaign trail when the outage happened.

He returned to the city on Sunday, and insisted that the situation had been well-managed, that he had been in touch with his staff and started his trip back as soon as it became clear the blackout would not be quickly resolved.

"You have to take charge wherever you are, and I did that," he said.

The outage stymied subway service throughout the city, affecting nearly every line. New York City's Emergency Management Department said the A, C, D, E, F, M, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 trains had resumed running in both directions by around 2 a.m. Sunday.

No injuries were reported.

The police and fire departments brought personnel and equipment in from other parts of the city to help, including 400 police officers and 100 traffic agents, as well as 93 additional ambulances.

The outage came on the anniversary of the 1977 New York City outage that left most of the city without power.

Djokovic tops Federer in historic final for 5th at Wimbledon

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — For nearly five tight, tense and terrific hours, Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer traded the lead, playing on and on and on until an unprecedented fifth-set tiebreaker was required to settle their memorable Wimbledon final.

In the end, it was Djokovic who emerged victorious, coming back to edge Federer 7-6 (5), 1-6, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 13-12 (3) and become the first man in 71 years to take home the trophy from the All England Club after needing to erase championship points.

"Unfortunately in these kinds of matches, one of the players has to lose," Djokovic said. "It's quite unreal."

After facing two match points at 8-7 in the last set, he wound up claiming his fifth Wimbledon title and second in a row.

This triumph also earned Djokovic his 16th Grand Slam trophy overall, moving him closer to the only men ahead of him in tennis history: Federer owns 20, Rafael Nadal has 18.

"I just feel like it's such an incredible opportunity missed," said Federer, who actually accumulated 14 more total points, 218-204. "I can't believe it."

He has ruled grass courts since the early 2000s; he has won Wimbledon eight times dating to 2003, and this was his record 12th appearance in the title match. But Djokovic is now 3-0 against Federer in finals at the place and 4-0 against him in five-setters anywhere.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 42 of 47

This one was unlike any other, though.

That's because, while it was reminiscent of Federer's 16-14 fifth-set victory over Andy Roddick in the 2009 Wimbledon final, that score is no longer possible: The All England Club altered its rule this year to do away with never-ending matches and institute a tiebreaker at 12-all in a deciding set.

At one point during the final set Sunday, Djokovic asked chair umpire Damian Steiner whether the change called for the tiebreaker at 10-10. Later, when Djokovic held for an 11-10 lead, it was Steiner who got confused, beginning to call out the score as 11-9, before catching himself.

"I respect whatever the rule is," Federer said when asked what he thinks of the altered setup. "So really, it is what it is, you know?"

Federer and Djokovic pushed each other to the limit in what became as much a test of focus and stamina as it was about skill. It is the longest final in the history of a tournament that dates to the 1870s, eclipsing by nine minutes Nadal's five-set win over Federer in 2008.

Like that one, this is destined to be discussed for years.

"I'll try to forget," joked Federer, who is less than a month shy of his 38th birthday and would have been the oldest man to win a Grand Slam title in the professional era.

"It was a great match. It was long. It had everything. I had my chances. So did he. I thought we played some great tennis. In a way, I'm very happy with my performance, as well," Federer said during the trophy ceremony. "But Novak, it's great. Congratulations, man. That was crazy. Well done."

First, it was Federer who kept falling behind, then coming back. He twice trailed by a set even though he came quite close to winning the match in three: Federer was two points from grabbing the opening set on seven occasions but couldn't do it; he was one point from seizing the third, but again came up short.

Then, Federer was down a break early in the crucible of the fifth. And then, after seemingly gaining the upper hand, standing a single point from winning while serving for the victory at 8-7, 40-15, he faltered.

He sent a forehand wide on the first championship point, and Djokovic produced a cross-court forehand winner on the next. Soon enough, the 32-year-old Djokovic had broken back and on they would play for another 45 minutes.

"Definitely tough to have those chances," Federer said.

Djokovic has done this to him before.

In the semifinals of the 2010 and 2011 U.S. Opens, Djokovic erased two match points each time before coming back to win.

Looking at the bigger picture, there's also this takeaway from Sunday: Nadal's status as Federer's principal nemesis has been well-documented and much-examined over the years — which is a small part of why Friday's semifinal victory for Federer was fraught with meaning. But it's now high time to discuss Djokovic's edge over Federer.

Djokovic has won their past five meetings and holds a 26-22 advantage overall head-to-head, including 10-6 at Grand Slam tournaments and 3-1 at Wimbledon.

By the reverberating sound of things around the old arena Sunday, a vast majority of the spectators were pulling for the popular Federer. Made it seem as though he might be British, not Swiss.

While one person cried out, "We love you both!" — a fitting sentiment, given the high quality and unceasing shifts in momentum — the "Come on, Roger!" count far outnumbered the shouts for his Serbian foe.

Yes, they roared for Federer's ace on the very first point and when he sent the final to a fifth set. They even applauded when he kicked a ball to a ball boy or when he brought his racket around his back to make meaningless contact after Djokovic served a let.

And then there were the "Awwwws." So many "Awwwws" — pained sighs of despair accompanying a missed backhand here, a double-fault there, by their guy.

It wasn't until the fourth set that Federer faced so much as one break point, no small accomplishment against Djokovic, considered by many to be the greatest returner of his, or perhaps any, generation. Still, even though Federer did get broken in that set, he won it to send this match to a fifth.

What already was fun to watch became completely riveting.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 43 of 47

That's not to say the tennis was perfect, because both men showed signs of fatigue and perhaps nerves. Federer's mediocre approach shot provided Djokovic an opening for a backhand pass that earned a break and a 4-2 lead.

Djokovic's double-fault in the next game helped Federer break back, and the ensuing changeover was filled with a fugue of fans' voices chanting the first names of both.

As the newfangled tiebreaker carried the last set alone past the two-hour mark, it was Djokovic who was better. When Federer shanked a forehand off his racket frame, it was over, allowing Djokovic to renew his personal tradition of plucking some blades of Centre Court grass and chewing on them.

"Constant pressure," Djokovic said. "I had to fight and find my game to stay in the match."

More AP tennis coverage: <https://www.apnews.com/apf-Tennis> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Russian opposition rallies for Moscow election candidates

By **MATTHEW BODNER** Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian opposition leaders led a rally in Moscow of about 1,000 people Sunday to protest the city election commission's decision that will keep several opposition candidates off the ballot in a local election.

The unsanctioned rally was billed as a meeting between opposition leaders and voters after the Moscow election commission rejected signatures needed to qualify the candidates for the September city parliament election.

Demonstrators chanted "We are the authority here!" and "Putin is a thief."

Police made no effort to intervene until later in the evening, after the protest crowd had largely dispersed and opposition leaders called for the remaining participants to stage an overnight sit-in at the election commission.

Alexei Navalny, Russia's most prominent opposition leader, was not seen at the protest. The demonstration was led, in various stages, by opposition figures Dmitry Gudkov, Ilya Yashin and Lyubov Sobol.

"We were collecting the signatures under rain and in the heat," Gudkov said. "And you know what (the election commission) told us yesterday? They told us that our signatures are fake. Many of the people who gave me their signatures are here today. Friends, do you agree?"

The crowd responded: "No!"

Yashin, one of the disqualified candidates, called on the crowd to march with him to the mayor's office to state their election demands. They knocked on the doors of city hall, but no one answered.

"I think this is outrageous," Sergei Bukharov, a former Moscow parliament press officer told The Associated Press outside city hall. "And what they say at the election commission, how they explain why they don't admit independent candidates, it's all lies. Those signatures are real."

Opposition activist Sobol, who also is fighting to be on the September ballot, urged protesters to continue down the street to the election commission.

"They are stealing our elections. They are stealing our future," Sobol alleged, going on to accuse Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin of ordering the rejection of the signatures.

The march began fading out after three hours, though a few hundred protesters remained outside the election commission as of 7 p.m. Moscow time (GMT 16:00.)

An election commission spokesman told Yashin that chief Valentin Gorbunov would not meet with the demonstrators Sunday since he was spending the weekend at his cottage outside the city, the Ekho Moskvy radio station reported.

About 30 said they would stage a sit-in overnight in the courtyard of the commission's offices. Moscow police intervened a little over an hour later, dispersing the holdouts and arresting Yashin, Sobol, and several other opposition candidates.

As of 9 p.m. Moscow time (GMT 18:00), at least 38 protesters had been detained, according to arrest monitoring group OVD-Info.

Yashin tweeted from the back of a police van that the demonstration had been brutally dispersed and that he was currently detained with at least 20 other people.

A healthy lifestyle may offset genetic risk for Alzheimer's

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE AP Chief Medical Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A healthy lifestyle can cut your risk of developing Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia even if you have genes that raise your risk for these mind-destroying diseases, a large study has found.

People with high genetic risk and poor health habits were about three times more likely to develop dementia versus those with low genetic risk and good habits, researchers reported Sunday. Regardless of how much genetic risk someone had, a good diet, adequate exercise, limiting alcohol and not smoking made dementia less likely.

"I consider that good news," said John Haaga of the U.S. National Institute on Aging, one of the study's many sponsors. "No one can guarantee you'll escape this awful disease" but you can tip the odds in your favor with clean living, he said.

Results were discussed at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in Los Angeles and published online by the Journal of the American Medical Association.

About 50 million people have dementia, and Alzheimer's disease is the most common type. Genes and lifestyle contribute to many diseases, but researchers only recently have had the tools and information to do large studies to see how much each factor matters.

One such study a few years ago found that healthy living could help overcome genetic risk for heart disease. Now researchers have shown the same to be true for dementia.

Dr. Elzbieta Kuzma and colleagues at the University of Exeter Medical School in England used the UK Biobank to study nearly 200,000 people 60 or older with no signs or symptoms of dementia at the start. Their genetic risk was classified as high, medium or low based on dozens of mutations known to affect dementia. They also were grouped by lifestyle factors.

After about eight years of study, 1.8% of those with high genetic risk and poor lifestyles had developed dementia versus 0.6% of folks with low genetic risk and healthy habits.

Among those with the highest genetic risk, just over 1% of those with favorable lifestyles developed dementia compared to nearly 2% of those with poor lifestyles.

One limitation: Researchers only had information on mutations affecting people of European ancestry, so it's not known whether the same is true for other racial or ethnic groups.

The results should give encouragement to people who fear that gene mutations alone determine their destiny, said Dr. Rudy Tanzi, a genetics expert at Massachusetts General Hospital. Less than 5% of the ones tied to Alzheimer's are "fully penetrant," meaning that they guarantee you'll get the disease, he said.

"That means that with 95% of the mutations, your lifestyle will make a difference," Tanzi said. "Don't be too worried about your genetics. Spend more time being mindful of living a healthy life."

One previous study in Sweden and Finland rigorously tested the effect of a healthy lifestyle by assigning one group to follow one and included a comparison group that did not. It concluded that healthy habits could help prevent mental decline. The Alzheimer's Association is sponsoring a similar study underway now in the United States.

Healthy living also is the focus of new dementia prevention guidelines that the World Health Organization released in February.

Marilynn Marchione can be followed at: @MMarchioneAP

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

Leaked UK memo says Trump axed Iran deal to spite Obama

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A U.K. newspaper has published more leaked memos revealing a British ambassador's blunt assessments of the Trump administration, including one in which the envoy to Washington claimed President Donald Trump pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal to spite predecessor Barack Obama.

In the May 2018 cable published by the Mail on Sunday, U.K. Ambassador Kim Darroch called Trump's decision to abandon the international accord "an act of diplomatic vandalism, seemingly for ideological and personality reasons" because the pact "was Obama's deal."

Darroch wrote the memo after then-Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson visited Washington in a failed attempt to persuade the United States not to abandon the 2015 nuclear agreement.

He alleged the White House had no strategy for what would come after its withdrawal and "no sort of plan for reaching out to partners and allies."

The newspaper published new details from confidential diplomatic cables despite a police warning that making the documents public might be a crime.

Scotland Yard is hunting for the perpetrator who leaked confidential diplomatic cables to the Mail on Sunday. Last week the newspaper published memos from Darroch describing the Trump administration as dysfunctional and inept.

The publication of the ambassador's unguarded views, meant for a small group of ministers and senior officials in London, cost him his job.

Trump responded by calling Darroch "very stupid" and a "pompous fool" in a Twitter fusillade, and the White House cut off contact with the British envoy.

Darroch announced his resignation Wednesday, saying "the current situation is making it impossible for me to carry out my role as I would like."

He remains formally in the post while a successor is chosen for one of Britain's most important diplomatic jobs.

British politicians and officials are embarrassed at the leak of Darroch's frank — though widely shared — opinions about Trump. And they are angry that a British ambassador was forced to step down because of pressure from a foreign leader.

Some also blame Johnson, who is likely to become Britain's next prime minister, for refusing to publicly defend Darroch after Trump posted disparaging tweets about the ambassador for two days. Darroch has said Johnson's silence contributed to his decision to quit.

British officials have said they have no evidence that hacking was involved in the documents' release, and that the culprit is likely to be found among politicians or civil servants in London.

Rumors are swirling in government circles in London about who was behind the leak, widely seen as benefiting supporters of Brexit and Trump.

The journalist who reported the cables, Isabel Oakeshott, is a strong supporter of Brexit and an ally of Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage, who also is Britain's leading champion of Trump.

Farage has accused Darroch of lacking enthusiasm for Britain's departure from the EU and said he should be replaced with "a non-Remainer who wants a trade deal with America."

Police are investigating the leak as a potential breach of the Official Secrets Act, which bars public servants from making "damaging" disclosures of classified material. Breaking the act carries a maximum sentence of two years in prison, though prosecutions are rare.

Contentiously, police issued a warning to journalists that publishing the documents "could also constitute a criminal offence."

Both Johnson and Jeremy Hunt, his rival in the race to be Britain's next leader, defended the media's right to publish. And the Mail on Sunday said publication was in the public interest.

"Our readers across the globe now have important information about how Britain tried, but failed, to stop President Trump abandoning the Iran nuclear deal," the newspaper said in a statement.

"What could be more in the public interest than a better understanding of how this position was reached,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 46 of 47

which may have serious consequences for world peace?"

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, July 15, the 196th day of 2019. There are 169 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 15, 1976, a 36-hour kidnap ordeal began for 26 schoolchildren and their bus driver as they were abducted near Chowchilla, California, by three gunmen and imprisoned in an underground cell. (The captives escaped unharmed; the kidnapers were caught.)

On this date:

In 1799, French soldiers in Egypt discovered the Rosetta Stone, which proved instrumental in deciphering ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs.

In 1834, the Spanish Inquisition was abolished more than 3 1/2 centuries after its creation.

In 1870, Georgia became the last Confederate state to be readmitted to the Union. Manitoba entered confederation as the fifth Canadian province.

In 1910, the term "Alzheimer's disease" was used to describe a progressive form of presenile dementia in the book "Clinical Psychiatry" by German psychiatrist Emil Kraepelin, who credited the work of his colleague, Alois (al-WAH') Alzheimer, in identifying the condition.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon delivered a televised address in which he announced that he had accepted an invitation to visit the People's Republic of China.

In 1983, eight people were killed when a suitcase bomb planted by Armenian extremists exploded at the Turkish Airlines counter at Orly Airport in Paris.

In 1985, a visibly gaunt Rock Hudson appeared at a news conference with actress Doris Day (it was later revealed Hudson was suffering from AIDS).

In 1996, MSNBC, a 24-hour all-news network, made its debut on cable and the Internet.

In 1997, fashion designer Gianni Versace (ver-SAH'-chay), 50, was shot dead outside his Miami Beach home; suspected gunman Andrew Phillip Cunanan, 27, was found dead eight days later, a suicide. (Investigators believed Cunanan killed four other people before Versace in a cross-country spree that began the previous March.)

In 2002, John Walker Lindh, an American who'd fought alongside the Taliban in Afghanistan, pleaded guilty in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, to two felonies in a deal sparing him life in prison.

In 2008, in an All-Star game that began at dusk and ended at 1:37 a.m. the next morning, the American League defeated the National League 4-3 in 15 innings at Yankee Stadium.

In 2010, after 85 days, BP stopped the flow of oil from a blown-out well in the Gulf of Mexico using a 75-ton cap lowered onto the wellhead earlier in the week.

Ten years ago: A Russian-made Iranian jetliner carrying 168 people crashed after taking off from Tehran, killing everyone aboard. After more than a month's delay, space shuttle Endeavour and seven astronauts thundered into orbit on a flight to the international space station.

Five years ago: Israel resumed heavy bombing of Gaza after the Islamic militant group Hamas rejected an Egyptian truce plan and instead unleashed more rocket barrages at the Jewish state. A suicide bomber blew up a car packed with explosives near a busy market and a mosque in eastern Afghanistan, killing at least 89 people. More than 20 people died when a Moscow subway train derailed during rush hour.

One year ago: President Donald Trump arrived in Finland for a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Earlier, in an interview with CBS News, Trump named the European Union as a top adversary of the United States. France won its second World Cup title, beating Croatia 4-2 in the final in Moscow. Novak Djokovic (NOH'-vak JOH'-kuh-vich) captured his fourth Wimbledon title, defeating Kevin Anderson 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (3); it was Djokovic's 13th major trophy, but his first in more than two years. A wildfire that killed a California firefighter forced the closure of a key route into Yosemite National Park.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, July 15, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 015 ~ 47 of 47

Today's Birthdays: Author Clive Cussler is 88. Actor Patrick Wayne is 80. Rhythm-and-blues singer Millie Jackson is 75. Rock singer-musician Peter Lewis (Moby Grape) is 74. Singer Linda Ronstadt is 73. Rock musician Artimus Pyle is 71. Arianna Huffington, co-founder of The Huffington Post, is 69. Actress Celia Imrie is 67. Actor Terry O'Quinn is 67. Rock singer-musician David Pack is 67. Rock musician Marky Ramone is 67. Rock musician Joe Satriani is 63. Country singer-songwriter Mac McAnally is 62. Model Kim Alexis is 59. Actor Willie Aames is 59. Actor-director Forest Whitaker is 58. Actress Lolita Davidovich is 58. Actress Shari Headley is 56. Actress Brigitte Nielsen is 56. Rock musician Jason Bonham is 53. Actress Amanda Foreman is 53. Rock musician Phillip Fisher is 52. Rhythm-and-blues singer Stokley (Mint Condition) is 52. Actor-comedian Eddie Griffin is 51. Actor Stan Kirsch is 51. Actor Reggie Hayes is 50. Actor-screenwriter Jim Rash is 48. Rock musician John Dolmayan is 47. Actor Scott Foley is 47. Actor Brian Austin Green is 46. Rapper Jim Jones is 43. Actress Diane Kruger is 43. Actress Lana Parrilla (LAH'-nuh pa-REE'-uh) is 42. Rock musician Ray Toro (My Chemical Romance) is 42. Actress Laura Benanti is 40. Actor Travis Fimmel is 40. Actor Taylor Kinney is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kia Thornton (Divine) is 38. Actor-singer Tristan "Mack" Wilds is 30. Actress Medalion Rahimi is 27. Actor Iain Armitage (TV: "Big Little Lies" "Young Sheldon") is 11.

Thought for Today: "A sure way to lose happiness, I found, is to want it at the expense of everything else." — Bette Davis, American actress (1908-1989).