

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 19, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 050 ~ 1 of 26

- [2- Weekly Vikings Roundup](#)
- [3- NE Mental Health Ad](#)
- [4- Weather Pages](#)
- [7- Daily Devotional](#)
- [8- 2019 Groton Events](#)
- [9- News from the Associated Press](#)



OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Aug. 20 Faculty Inservice
- Aug. 20 Open House / Picnic (5-7:30)
- Aug. 21 Faculty Inservice
- Aug. 22 1st Day of School

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings are now 2-0 this preseason after defeating the Seattle Seahawks 25-19 on Sunday. Kirk Cousins and the rest of the Vikings' offensive starters had two drives. The first drive lasted 11 plays but ended with a punt. The second drive was much better and included back-to-back bombs from Cousins to Thielen, moving the ball from the Vikings' 15-yard line to the Seahawks' six. The Vikings couldn't find the endzone, however, and settled for a field goal.

As a team, the Vikings threw for 272 yards, two touchdowns and one interception. Kyle Slotter played the entire second half, once again giving fans a glimpse of his potential. He finished the game completing 11 of 13 passes for 118 yards and a touchdown.

The Vikings' ground game issues from the first preseason game followed them home. Against the Seahawks, the Vikings ran the ball 39 times but only averaged 3.5 yards per carry. There were a few big runs, but for the most part the running backs couldn't find any room to run. Laquon Treadwell led the team in receiving yards (four catches, 47 yards). He has been on the trade block all offseason, and Mike Zimmer confirmed that after the game, saying "We're trying to showcase him a little bit, I guess."

Defensively, the Vikings had trouble containing Russell Wilson, giving up 82 passing yards over Wilson's only two drives in the game – but they still made enough plays to hold the Seahawks to a punt and a field goal. Taking a step back and looking at the whole game, the Vikings' defense only gave up 145 passing yards and 76 rushing yards. The Seahawks' offense was also held out of the endzone, with the only Seattle touchdown coming courtesy of a Sean Mannion interception.

The player of the game on offense was Brandon Zylstra. Fighting for a roster spot and needing to make some plays, Zylstra stepped up in this game. He caught all five passes that were thrown his way for 37-yards and a touchdown. We'll just have to wait and see if he did enough to get more playing time this preseason.

On defense, the player of the game was Jayron Kearse. He might be listed as a safety, but Kearse plays his best when he's lined up closer to the line of scrimmage. Kearse had three tackles in the game, and all three were tackles for a loss.

Looking ahead, the Vikings remain home and will host the Arizona Cardinals on Saturday, August 24. The game will start at noon (CT). The third preseason game is referred to as the dress rehearsal for the starters, so expect to see most of them play into the second half. The Cardinals will be a good test for the Vikings' defense. Arizona spend their first overall pick on quarterback Kyler Murray from Oklahoma and have revamped their offense to fit his unique skill set. He is the type of athletic quarterback that has given the Vikings' defense trouble. I have a feeling coach Zimmer will have some blitzes dialed up to try and rattle the rookie QB. Skol!

What did you think of the Vikings' second preseason game? Reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWright-NFL) and let me know

We need our farmers.

We need them physically strong. We need them mentally strong.

Northeastern Mental Health Center is now offering counseling services for farmers and their families-**at no cost.**

With the current state of the industry, we understand that farm families can feel overwhelmed in times of stress, instability, and uncertainty.

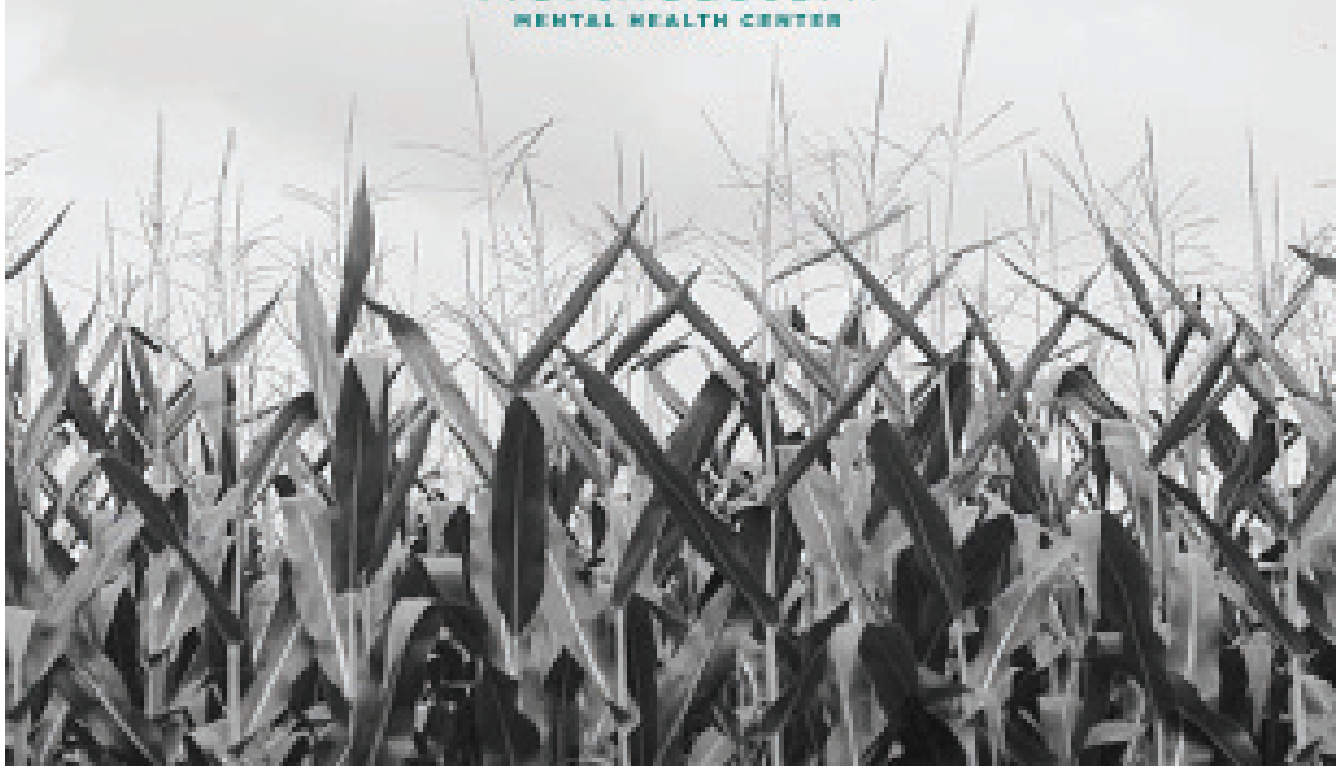
We're here to help.

Call 605-225-1010 for more information.

Northeastern Mental Health Center services the counties of Brown, Campbell, Day, Edmunds, Faulk, Marshall, McPherson, Potter, Spink and Wakarusa.



Northeastern
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 19, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 050 ~ 4 of 26

Today



Sunny

High: 84 °F

Tonight



Slight Chance
T-storms

Low: 66 °F

Tuesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 80 °F

Tuesday
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 53 °F

Wednesday



Sunny

High: 76 °F

 **Warm and Breezy Today** 

 **Partly Cloudy and Breezy Today**

 **Showers and Storms Developing by Evening**

 National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD 

Published on: 08/19/2019 at 12:19AM

Exiting high pressure will leave warmer and breezier conditions in its wake. Highs in the lower 80s to lower 90s are expected. Low pressure will move in this evening bringing showers and thunderstorms through tonight.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 19, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 050 ~ 5 of 26

Today in Weather History

August 19, 1899: An estimated F3 tornado passed 3 miles north of Clear Lake. The tornado killed a man by flying debris as five homes, and many barns were destroyed.

August 19, 1983: Between 0155 and 0330 CST, thunderstorm winds blow through Brown County. At 0155, an estimated 64 mph wind gust was observed on the southeast corner of Warner. A 60 mph wind gust was measured at the Aberdeen Airport at 0218. By 0330 an estimated wind gust of 75 mph was observed in Ordway.

August 19, 1991: A thunderstorm produced about five inches of rain, strong winds, and hail in Ridgeview, Dewey County. Three-grain bins were blown over. One of the bins hit a house causing considerable damage. Wind gusts were estimated to be 60 mph. High winds continued into Sully and Hughes Counties.

1890: An estimated F3 tornado hit South Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. About 400 buildings were destroyed in the industrial and more impoverished residential section of town. The death toll was 16 and damage was estimated at \$400,000.

1896: The famous Cottage City (Oak Bluffs) waterspout occurred off Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. The vortex was 3,600 feet high, formed three times, and was well photographed.

1788 - A small but powerful hurricane inflicted great havoc upon forests along a narrow track from New Jersey to Maine. A similar storm track today would cause extreme disaster in the now populated area. (David Ludlum)

1969 - 'Never say die' Camille let loose a cloudburst in Virginia resulting in flash floods and landslides which killed 151 persons and cause 140 million dollars damage. Massies Hill VA received 27 inches of rain. (David Ludlum)

1986 - The temperature at San Antonio, TX, soared to an all-time record high of 108 degrees. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - Thunderstorms moving out of southeastern Nebraska spread severe weather into eastern Kansas and western Missouri during the day. Thunderstorms in Nebraska produced hail three inches in diameter at Albion, and high winds which downed a large tent at Waterloo injuring a dozen persons. Thunderstorms in Kansas produced baseball size hail northwest of Topeka, and wind gusts to 80 mph at Fulton. Ten persons were injured in a thunderstorm at Princeton KS, and damage to crops in southern Franklin County KS was estimated at 3.5 million dollars. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Raleigh, NC, reported a record hot temperature reading of 103 degrees. Afternoon thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced wind gusts to 75 mph in southern Pittsburgh County. Thunderstorms in Indiana produced 4.50 inches of rain at Morgantown. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Early morning thunderstorms deluged southeastern Delaware with six to ten inches of rain in four to six hours, with local reports of 13 to 20 inches of rain. Twenty-six major roads were closed or damaged, and fourteen bridges were washed out. Flooding caused nearly four million dollars damage to local businesses. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 19, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 050 ~ 6 of 26

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 72 °F at 4:32 PM

Low Temp: 52 °F at 7:07 AM

Wind: 13 mph at 1:53 AM

Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 103° in 1976

Record Low: 34° in 2004

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 56°F

Average Precip in Aug.: 1.40

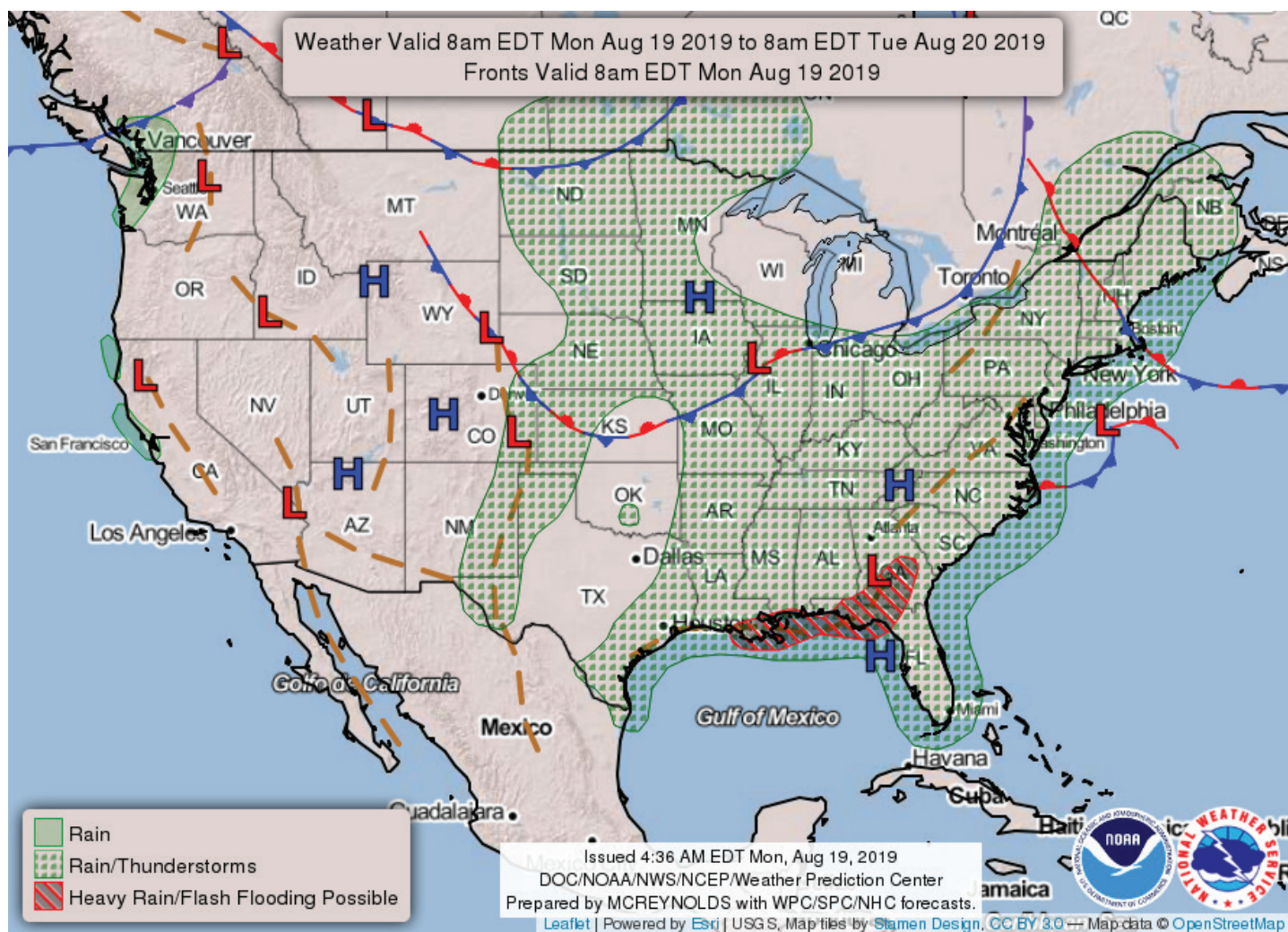
Precip to date in Aug.: 2.98

Average Precip to date: 15.26

Precip Year to Date: 19.57

Sunset Tonight: 8:35 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:40 a.m.





FAITHFULNESS IS MUTUAL

Memories are a gift from God. However, what we do with them, how they affect us or the difference they have on our way of living is what matters most.

When we recall the many gifts that God grants to us each day, do we take enough time to pause and thank Him and share the fact of His love, grace, and mercy with others?

When He brings healing and wellness to us and our loved ones, do we give Him the credit He deserves or do we think that He is obligated to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves?

When our financial needs are met and we have a surplus, do we give a thank you offering to God and praise Him for blessing us and giving us more than we deserve?

A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished, is a proverb worth noting carefully. God does indeed bless those who are faithful - often much more than can be imagined or deserved. Unfortunately, there are those who believe they have earned what they have accumulated and therefore do not need to give God credit or praise, thanksgiving or respect. How sad.

We have what we have because of Gods grace. Whatever we have is a result of Him showing us His favor. The strength and abilities I have come from Him and the opportunities I have to use them come from Him. If we use them to get rich without recognizing its all because of Him, we can expect a tragic ending. We must use Gods gifts for Gods glory.

Prayer: We pray, Father, for grateful hearts. May we never cease to recognize Your goodness and faithfulness are to be used to bring honor and glory to Your Name. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 28:20 A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 19, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 050 ~ 8 of 26

2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 08/07/2019 Storybook Land Theatre Performace at Granary Rural Cultural Center
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/12/2019 St. John's Lutheran Luncheon
- 09/20/2019 Presbyterian Luncheon
- 09/28/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 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

- 01/26/2020 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
Groton Hosting State B American Legion Baseball Tournament
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Services set for deputy who died after on-duty crash

ROCK RAPIDS, Iowa (AP) — Services are being held Monday for a northwest Iowa sheriff's deputy who died after her patrol vehicle crashed

A Mass is scheduled at 10 a.m. in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for Deputy Stephanie Schreurs, who died Tuesday. She was injured Aug. 9 when her vehicle ran off a road while entering a sharp curve in Lyon County. She was flown to a Sioux Falls hospital.

Burial is set at a cemetery in Alvord, Iowa.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds has ordered all state flags lowered to half-staff in honor of Schreurs, 24-year veteran of the Lyon County Sheriff's Department.

Sanford Lab's water treatment plant filters wastewater

By ALEX PORTAL Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Ever since the wastewater treatment plant reopened in 2008, the Sanford Underground Research Facility located on the Yates Shaft campus has been making improvements and modifications to its treatment process.

"The main change that we've made to the plant is putting in capabilities to deal with the iron that we get in the water from the underground," said Mike Headley, laboratory director at the Sanford Lab.

Headley explained that after mining activities ceased in 2002, the shafts and drifts were allowed to fill with water that seeped in through the ground. That water accumulated and drew out the iron oxide from the rock walls of the mine.

"I don't actually believe that it's a permit requirement for us to remove that (iron)," Headley said. "But we're not really anxious (to) send water over the hill that's orange."

Instrumental in upgrading the facility is Ken Noren, foreman at the wastewater treatment plant. Noren said he's been able to reduce the amount of chemicals used in the treatment process from almost 1,000 gallons every two weeks, down to around 200 gallons per year, a feat Noren attributes to simply being vigilant.

"Watching it, changing it, and not listening to the sales rep," he said. "(They say), 'You need three gallons of this, and also you need to use cold water.' Nah, use hot water."

Noren explained that when water is heated, the molecule expands, which allows the chemical to enter it and do its job more efficiently, thereby lessening the amount of chemical product, which needs to be



Ken Noren, foreman at the wastewater treatment plant at Sanford Lab, stands next to one of the filtration systems, which uses bacteria to remove ammonia and other pollutants from water siphoned from underground on Aug. 5, 2019 in Lead, S.D. Ever since the wastewater treatment plant reopened in 2008, the Sanford Underground Research Facility located on the Yates Shaft campus has been making improvements and modifications to its treatment process. (Alex Portal /Black Hills Pioneer via AP)

Broton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 19, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 050 ~ 10 of 26

mixed with the water.

Other innovations implemented by Noren and his team have cut the power usage of the plant by nearly 1,000 kilowatts.

"This plant, in the future, will be gravity-run," Noren said. "We'll only run power to do backwashes, and that'll only be about an hour a day."

Although some chemical use is still necessary to treat the water as it passes through the plant, the filtration process is all natural.

The process starts in a 2-million-gallon holding tank where water pumped from as low as the 5,667-foot level underground is mixed with water piped in from the Grizzly Gulch Tailings. Noren explained this serves a dual purpose as the cool rainwater from the tailings has to be treated before it can be released back into the environment, and the warm water brought up from underground at the lab must be cooled to less than 75 degrees before it can be dumped into Whitewood Creek. From there, the water is gravity-fed to the first of three filtration stations on its journey to becoming clean and fresh, the Black Hills Pioneer reported.

The first filtration system the water goes through is comprised of minerals housed in tanks, where the water is forced through layers of anthracite coal, fine garnet, coarse garnet, and finally, a layer of clean gravel.

"I classify the coal as the main unit that does most of the work," Noren said.

Once a day, water is sent back through the tanks in the reverse direction to cleanse the filter of all the iron and dirt content drawn out from the water; this process is called "backwashing." Noren said anywhere between 50 to 60 pounds of iron is collected from that singular filtration process every day. Once enough debris has accumulated, it is then trucked to a landfill. The backwashed water is collected and reintroduced later in the process.

Another element that must be removed from the water is ammonia, and that's where Noren enlists the help of some friends.

The water flows through a series of bacteria-covered disks, which remove all traces of ammonia from the water.

"Instead of cheeseburgers, (the bacteria) eat ammonia," Noren explained. "Why they picked that, eh, not my problem, they like it."

As the bacteria eat the ammonia, they release nitrates back into the water.

"But we've learned here that if you starve the bacteria enough, they will eat their nitrates, too," he said. "We show no ammonia, and very little nitrates."

Finally, the water is sent through one last filter using the same method as the first leg of its journey, in order to remove any remaining unwanted elements, including any bacteria that may have broken free from the disks. Noren said the whole process from start to finish takes around 36 hours and pumps 1,850 gallons of fresh, clean water out into Whitewood Creek every minute.

"The water going down the creek is somebody else's drinking water," he said. "So if I can be responsible up here, they can have better quality down there."

The treatment process is tough on the harmful materials that taint the water coming from the old mines; however, it's done in such an environmental and eco-friendly way that many unsuspecting travelers can find themselves being hurtled through the drainage spout which cascades down the hillside from the lab, affectionately called the "Pluma Plunge," and empties out into Whitewood Creek along Highway 85.

"Believe it or not, we have shrimp, crayfish, and leeches in this water. . . . They'll make it all the way through the system," Noren said.

"It shows me I'm doing my job right. If (that) stuff can survive (the treatment process), other things in the creeks can survive, too," he said.

14-year-old Sioux Falls TV star got her invention patented

By TREVOR MITCHELL Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — It took three long years and a couple setbacks, but Allie Weber finally has a patent.

The journey for the 14-year-old inventor and host of Mythbusters Jr. started in fifth grade, when she invented the Frost Stopper, a glove that uses a temperature sensor to let you know if you're at risk of getting frostbite. It's paired to a hat with headphones that make a loud, annoying noise to inform you it's time to go inside.

Allie got the idea when she got frostbite on her pinky finger after she was sledding outside and her gloves got wet.

The experience left her fearful of playing in the cold, so she made the Frost Stopper, testing the sensor with an ice pack and then again with a trip to Great Bear Recreation Park.

With the invention complete, she entered it in the 2016 Spark Lab Global Invent-It Challenge.

Allie took the grand prize: a patent for her invention.

"It was really a dream come true," Allie said. "I get to hold this in my hand and say 'I have a patent.'"

The process was an involved one, Allie said. She had to send in sketches she'd made of the invention, as well as details about how she might alter in the future.

For example, the current version of the Frost Stopper has to be plugged in to work, and Allie's working to make it wireless.

Last year, Allie was even informed that the patent had been denied — a scary thought, until a patent lawyer informed her and her family that this was actually a common occurrence that wouldn't be hard to overcome.

On June 15, when it became official, Allie was thrilled.

Her age aside, only 4% of patents between 2006 and 2016 are owned solely by women or teams of women, making her a member of two exclusive clubs, Argus Leader reported.

Patent attorney Jeff Proehl said it's hard to tell how many patents are held by people under the age of 18, as the application does not require the age of the applicant.

But he's only personally dealt with one or two in his career, he said.

"I'd have to give her some credit," Proehl said, "it's pretty rare."

Allie has always had big ideas, said her mother, Kara Weber, and seeing those ideas come to life has started to feel more normal than surprising.

"We are always proud of the hard work she puts toward all she does," she said.

For now, Allie is figuring out her high school class load, but expects to continue updating her Twitter



Allie Weber, 14, owns a patent for her "Frost Stopper" gloves she designed as a fifth-grader for the Spark Lab Global Invent-It Challenge. Weber's gloves are temperature sensing and have a built in frost bite warning system. Weber has since designed other inventions and hopes to inspire other young girls to pursue their dreams. (Abigail Dollins/

The Argus Leader via AP)

account and YouTube channel while she figured out her next big thing.

And she hopes that she can serve as an example for others who want to chase their dreams. "Being able to inspire the next generation of STEM girls is really great," she said.

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

Longtime Rapid City church member fills many needs

By TANYA MANUS Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Sloppy joes are Phyllis Harper's way of showing God's love.

For 32 years, she has led a team of volunteers from Bethel Assembly of God Church who prepares and serves dinner once a month at Cornerstone Rescue Mission. This week, Harper is retiring from her longtime volunteer role.

Harper, 88, is known in her family and church for her cooking. Her brownies and other recipes are in the Bethel church cookbook, and her talents have been an ideal fit for the Cornerstone meal preparation ministry.

"The church needed somebody to take it on and so I did. I ended up doing it for 32 years!" Harper said, laughing. "I had really good help."

Harper calls and organizes dozens of volunteers who donate hamburger, or contribute salad, canned vegetables, fruit, rolls, and pans of homemade brownies, cake or bar cookies. Harper

and four or five volunteers transport the food to Cornerstone. There, they prepare the sloppy joes using 30 pounds of hamburger, three bags of frozen chopped onions, two bottles of ketchup, two jars of salsa, a dozen packets of seasoning mix and cans of tomato sauce, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Six volunteers then dish up and serve dinner. "They really like our sloppy joes," Harper said. "I know we're a blessing to the people that come through the line that need the food, and we always have fun fixing the food."

Harper and her team feed between 100 and 175 people each month, said Deb Berg, volunteer coordinator at Cornerstone Rescue Mission.

"I wish I had a thousand Phyllises," Berg said. "It's a big undertaking to cook the food for that many people and serve it. It's just amazing how long Phyllis has stuck with us. How do you even thank somebody for that?"

"Phyllis is not a quitter," said Carol Gossard, Harper's sister. "We inherited that from our parents. Our mother taught Sunday school until she was about 84. That's the way our folks were. If they were in it for God, they were in it. Phyllis gives it her whole heart."

Harper has been an integral part of Bethel Assembly of God Church for much of her life. Her parents were charter members of the church, which celebrates its 70th anniversary this year.



In this Aug. 8, 2019, photo Phyllis Harper prepares sloppy joes for the Cornerstone Rescue Mission as a volunteer through Bethel Assembly of God Church in Rapid City, S.D.

(Kent Bush/Rapid City Journal via AP)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 19, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 050 ~ 13 of 26

Rev. Earl Harper was the first pastor from 1949 to 1969. Phyllis married Jack Harper, the pastor's son, in 1952. The couple raised three sons and were involved at Bethel Assembly of God when their family wasn't stationed elsewhere during his Air Force career. Jack passed away in 2002.

Harper taught Sunday school and the Missionettes group for school-aged girls for many years and sang in Bethel's choir. Currently, in addition to the Cornerstone meal preparation, Harper visits people who are in poor health, and provides rides to doctor's appointments and church.

"She loves the interaction of serving the people," said Susan Walter, who was Bethel's church secretary for 27 years. "She is a cornerstone at the church."

Harper is stepping down from the meal preparation ministry now that the church has found another volunteer, Angie Langstaff, to run it.

"I'm very thankful that I've had the good health to do it this long," Harper said, adding that she might still volunteer to make a dessert for the Cornerstone meal simply because she enjoys baking.

Harper is looking forward to becoming more active in a women's prayer group and spending time with her three sons, eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

"They just don't make them like Phyllis anymore," Berg said. "Everything she's done, everything Bethel Assembly has done — that's a lot of meals and they've fed a lot of people. 'Thank you' never feels like it's enough."

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

2 plead guilty in kidnapping, assault on Yankton reservation

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two South Dakota men have pleaded guilty for their roles in a kidnapping and assault on the Yankton Sioux Indian Reservation.

The U.S. Attorney's office says 23-year-old Gavin Little of Marty and 24-year-old Christian Garcia of Yankton entered their pleas last week in federal court.

The indictment charged Little with kidnapping and Garcia with assault resulting in serious bodily injury.

The government says in late November, Little and Garcia, along with two juveniles, assaulted a man at a home on the reservation.

After the man was unconscious, Little loaded him into a vehicle and drove off. Little abandoned the vehicle after a chase and ran away. Tribal officials found the unconscious man in the vehicle.

Little faces up a life in federal prison while Garcia faces up to 10 years.

After Amash dumped Trump, his district may do same to him

By SARA BURNETT Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — Eirran Betka-Pope was on her lunch break when she spotted hundreds of Donald Trump supporters protesting outside the office of Rep. Justin Amash, the first Republican on Capitol Hill to say Congress should begin impeachment proceedings against the president.

The protesters, who stood on the sidewalk with "Squash Amash" signs, saw his comments as the ultimate betrayal of a president they adore. But for Betka-Pope, a Trump critic, Amash's actions were commendable — and worthy of a counterprotest. The 32-year-old from Grand Rapids, who works in theater and sketch comedy, put on a Trump mask she happened to have in her car and joined the crowd on the sidewalk. She held up a piece of paper that read "I suck."

For the next half-hour, Betka-Pope stood silently as some people insulted her. A few passing drivers honked in support. More than one person flashed a middle finger.

Betka-Pope happily took the abuse for the congressman. But the one thing the Democrat says she won't do to show her appreciation for Amash is vote for him.

"There are other candidates more aligned with my values," she said.

Amash's is another cautionary tale for GOP lawmakers who consider opposing Trump, whose job ap-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 19, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 050 ~ 14 of 26

proval rating among Republicans has hovered around 90% for the past year, according to Gallup. Those who stand against him quickly find it is a lonely place to be and may spell the end of their political career. In the era of tribal politics, the worst thing to be may be a politician without a tribe.

The biggest winners to come out of Amash's big stand may be Democrats. Amash ultimately left the GOP and is running for his seat as an independent. He is flirting with running for president as a Libertarian, a threat that could wound Trump one more time. More than 200,000 Michigan voters supported a third-party candidate in 2016, when Trump won the state by just over 10,000 votes.

If Amash goes that route, he could help a Democrat win, just as he could if he stays in the race for the Grand Rapids-area House race. His exodus from the GOP has set up a three-way race that could divide right-leaning voters and help the Democratic nominee win what was once a GOP stronghold. Democrats now see it as one of their best chances to pick up a House seat next year.

"I think this was a district everybody was eyeing when we thought we'd be running against one Republican," said Brian Stryker, a Democratic pollster who's working for Hillary Scholten, a Democrat seeking the nomination. "It's better to have two Republicans on the ballot."

Once a bedrock of Republicanism in the state, Kent County has become more Democratic as Grand Rapids and its suburbs have grown diverse and better educated in recent years, thanks to growth in several universities and the medical sector. The boyhood home of Gerald Ford and hometown of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos now looks a lot like the politically divided suburban districts Democrats flipped in 2018 to win control of the House.

Democrats and Republicans vying for the seat are both raising money easily, with two Democrats on pace to surpass Amash and one Republican already doing so. In a cruel twist for the congressman, Democrats say they're poised to hammer Amash for the times he voted with his former party, such as his support for a House bill to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

Amash, the son of Arab Christian immigrants from Palestine and Syria, has always charted his own path. As a young state lawmaker he earned the nickname "Mr. No," holding a hard line against government spending and what he viewed as overreach. He came to Congress in 2010 with the class of small government, tea party Republicans. He quickly stood out as an ideological purist, even in a class of professed purists.

His willingness to buck GOP leaders earned him his first primary challenge in 2014 from a Republican businessman with establishment backing angry that Amash voted against a GOP budget that included a business tax cut. But Amash survived by digging in, holding regular town halls and explaining every vote he took on his Facebook page.

He went on to win the general election by 20 percentage points. Amash won easily again in 2016, even



In this May 28, 2019, file photo, Rep. Justin Amash, D-Mich., greets the crowd before holding a town hall meeting at Grand Rapids Christian High School's DeVos Center for Arts and Worship. Democrats may be the biggest winners from Amash's impeachment stand against President Donald Trump. Amash has left the Republican Party, is running for re-election as an independent and is flirting with a White House bid as a libertarian _ a threat that could wound Trump one more time. (Cory Morse/The Grand Rapids Press via AP)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 19, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 050 ~ 15 of 26

as he criticized Trump for caring more about accumulating power than following the constitution.

Since then Trump appears to have only firmed up support with Republican voters, while more Democrats moved in. Amash's independence looked more like a liability than an asset.

Anna Timmer, a former Amash supporter who volunteered for his first congressional campaign in 2010, said voters like herself were willing to overlook his opposition to Trump then because many Republicans were unsure about him as well.

"People didn't know what they were going to get with Trump," Timmer said. But by 2018 they knew what they were getting — and they liked it, she said. On Amash, she said: "I think he saw the writing on the wall."

Amash won re-election last year by 11 percentage points — half the margin he had two years earlier and one of his closest races since taking office. Before the year ended, several conservatives and Trump loyalists started talking about mounting primary challenge in 2020.

Amash laid out his position on impeachment in May with a series of tweets, saying special counsel Robert Mueller's report on Trump's conduct during and after the 2016 presidential election includes "multiple examples of conduct satisfying all the elements of obstruction of justice." The politically powerful DeVos family said it would no longer give him money. GOP state Rep. Jim Lower announced his candidacy two days later, and raised \$50,000 in roughly 48 hours.

Amash announced he was leaving the Republican party on July 4, writing in a Washington Post op-ed that "modern politics is trapped in a partisan death spiral."

Trump responded by calling Amash "one of the dumbest & most disloyal men in Congress."

Since making his decision, the 39-year-old congressman has been difficult to pin down on his future. His office and campaign declined to make him available for an interview. Speaking to a reporter from Reason magazine at a Libertarian Party convention last month, Amash said he's still weighing whether he should run for Congress or for the White House as a Libertarian.

"If I feel I can be effective on the national stage, spreading the message of liberty and the message of respect and love then that's what I'll do," he said.

Asked by the Detroit News if he could play a spoiler for Trump in Michigan next year, Amash dismissed the idea.

"Who knows?" he said. "Maybe he'd deny me Michigan."

Associated Press researcher Jennifer Farrar contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that Grand Rapids was the boyhood home of Gerald Ford, not his birthplace.

34% of economists in survey expect a US recession in 2021

WASHINGTON (AP) — A number of U.S. business economists appear sufficiently concerned about the risks of some of President Donald Trump's economic policies that they expect a recession in the U.S. by the end of 2021.

Thirty-four percent of economists surveyed by the National Association for Business Economics, in a report being released Monday, said they believe a slowing economy will tip into recession in 2021. That's up from 25% in a survey taken in February. Only 2% of those polled expect a recession to begin this year, while 38% predict that it will occur in 2020.

Trump, however, has dismissed concerns about a recession, offering an optimistic outlook for the economy after last week's steep drop in the financial markets and saying on Sunday, "I don't think we're having a recession." A strong economy is key to the Republican president's 2020 reelection prospects.

The economists have previously expressed concern that Trump's tariffs and higher budget deficits could eventually dampen the economy.

The Trump administration has imposed tariffs on goods from many key U.S. trading partners, from China



President Donald Trump speaks with reporters before boarding Air Force One at Morristown Municipal Airport in Morristown, N.J., Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

and Europe to Mexico and Canada. Officials maintain that the tariffs, which are taxes on imports, will help the administration gain more favorable terms of trade. But U.S. trading partners have simply retaliated with tariffs of their own.

Trade between the U.S. and China, the two biggest global economies, has plunged. Trump decided last Wednesday to postpone until Dec. 15 tariffs on about 60% of an additional \$300 billion of Chinese imports, granting a reprieve from a planned move that would have extended duties to nearly everything the U.S. buys from China.

The financial markets last week signaled the possibility of a U.S. recession, adding to concerns over the ongoing trade tensions and word from Britain and Germany that their economies are shrinking.

The economists surveyed by the NABE were skeptical about prospects for success of the latest round of U.S.-China trade negotiations. Only 5% predicted that a comprehensive trade deal would result, 64% suggested a superficial agreement was possible and nearly 25% expected nothing to be agreed upon by the two countries.

The 226 respondents, who work mainly for corporations and trade associations, were surveyed between July 14 and Aug. 1. That was before the White House announced 10% tariffs on the additional \$300 billion of Chinese imports, the Chinese currency dipped below the seven-yuan-to-\$1 level for the first time in 11 years and the Trump administration formally labeled China a currency manipulator.

As a whole, the business economists' recent responses have represented a rebuke of the Trump administration's overall approach to the economy.

Still, for now, most economic signs appear solid. Employers are adding jobs at a steady pace, the unemployment rate remains near a 50-year low and consumers are optimistic. U.S. retail sales figures out last Thursday showed that they jumped in July by the most in four months.

The survey showed a steep decline in the percentage of economists who found the \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts over the next decade "too stimulative" and likely to produce higher budget deficits that should be reduced, to 51% currently from 71% in August 2018.

Afghanistan vows to crush Islamic State havens after attack

By RAHIM FAIEZ Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghanistan's president on Monday vowed to "eliminate" all safe havens of the Islamic State group as the country marked a subdued 100th Independence Day after a horrific wedding attack claimed by the local IS affiliate.

President Ashraf Ghani's comments came as Afghanistan mourns at least 63 people, including children, killed in the Kabul bombing at a wedding hall late Saturday night. Close to 200 others were wounded. Fresh violence was reported Monday as an Afghan official said at least 66 people were wounded in a series of explosions in the eastern city of Jalalabad. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Many outraged Afghans are asking whether an approaching deal between the United States and the Tali-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 19, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 050 ~ 17 of 26



In this photo released by the Afghan Presidential Palace, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani inspects the honor guard during Independence Day celebrations at Defense Ministry in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, Aug. 19, 2019. Afghanistan's president is vowing to eliminate all safe havens of the Islamic State group as the country marks a subdued 100th Independence Day after a horrific wedding attack claimed by the local IS affiliate. (Afghan Presidential Palace via AP)

ban to end nearly 18 years of fighting — America's longest war — will bring peace to long-suffering civilians. The wedding hall bomber detonated his explosives in the middle of a dancing crowd, and the IS affiliate later said he had targeted a gathering of minority Shiites, whom it views as apostates deserving of death.

Both the bride and groom survived, and in an emotional interview with local broadcaster TOLONews the distraught groom, Mirwais Alani, said their lives were devastated within seconds. Even as victims' loved ones mourned, there were fears that funerals and memorials could also be targeted.

A sharply worded Taliban statement questioned why the U.S. failed to identify Saturday's attacker in advance. Another Taliban statement marking the independence day said to "leave Afghanistan to the Afghans."

More than anything in their nearly year-long negotiations with the U.S., the Taliban want some 20,000 U.S. and allied forces to withdraw from the

country. The U.S. for its part wants Taliban assurances that Afghanistan — which hosted al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden before 9/11 — will not be a launching pad for global terror attacks.

The U.S. envoy in talks with the Taliban, Zalmay Khalilzad, on Sunday said the peace process should be accelerated to help Afghanistan defeat the IS affiliate. That would include intra-Afghan talks on the country's future, a fraught process that could take years.

But Ghani on Monday asserted that the Taliban, whom the U.S. now hopes will help to curb the IS affiliate's rise, are just as much to blame for the wedding attack. His government is openly frustrated at being sidelined from the U.S. talks with the insurgent group, which regards the Afghan government as a U.S. puppet.

The Taliban "have created the platform for terrorists" with their own brutal assaults on schools, mosques and other public places over the years, the president said.

More than 32,000 civilians in Afghanistan have been killed in the past decade, the United Nations said earlier this year. More children were killed last year — 927 — than in any other over the past decade by all actors, the U.N. said, including in operations against insurgent hideouts carried out by international forces.

Details have yet to emerge on Monday's blasts in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province, where both the Taliban and the IS affiliate are active. Noor Ahmad Habibi, deputy spokesman for the provincial governor, said some 10 explosions took place and that most people had minor injuries. And in the capital of neighboring Laghman province, Miterlam, governor's spokesman Asadullah Dawlatzai said a mortar attack by the Taliban slightly wounded six people.

"We will take revenge for every civilian drop of blood," Afghanistan's president declared. "Our struggle will continue against (IS), we will take revenge and will root them out." He urged the international com-

munity to join those efforts.

Ghani asserted that safe havens for militants are across the border in Pakistan, whose intelligence service has long been accused of supporting the Taliban. The IS affiliate's claim of the wedding attack said it was carried out by a Pakistani fighter seeking martyrdom.

Ghani also called on people in Pakistan "who very much want peace" to help identify militant safe havens there.

Last month after meeting with President Donald Trump, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan insisted he will do his best to persuade the Taliban to open negotiations with the Afghan government to resolve the war.

Trump on Sunday told reporters he doesn't want Afghanistan to be a "laboratory for terror" and he described discussions with the Taliban as "good." He was briefed on Friday on the progress of the U.S.-Taliban talks, of which few details have emerged.

Some analysts have warned that Trump's eagerness to bring at least some troops home ahead of next year's election could be weakening the U.S. stance in the negotiations as the Taliban might see little need to make significant concessions.

In a message marking Afghanistan's independence and "century of resilience," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called the weekend wedding bombing "an attack against humanity." It was one of many international expressions of condemnation pouring in following the attack.

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. AFGHANISTAN'S VOW AFTER HORRIFIC WEDDING ATTACK

President Ashraf Ghani pledges to "eliminate" all safe havens of the Islamic State group after it claimed responsibility for the deadliest attack in the capital this year, with 63 killed and 182 wounded.

2. WHO THE US IS SECRETLY TALKING TO IN VENEZUELA

A socialist party boss has been covertly contacted by the U.S. as close allies of President Nicolás Maduro's inner circle seek guarantees they won't face prosecution for alleged abuses and crimes if they cede to growing demands to remove him, the AP finds.

3. WHEN A NUMBER OF ECONOMISTS EXPECT A US RECESSION

Thirty-four percent of economists surveyed by the National Association for Business Economics, in a report being released Monday, said they believe a slowing economy will tip into recession in 2021.

4. WHO IS DOWNPLAYING THREATS OF A RECESSION

President Trump offered an opti-



Relatives grieve near the coffins of victims of the Dubai City wedding hall bombing during a mass funeral in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, Aug.18, 2019. The deadly bombing at the wedding in Afghanistan's capital late Saturday that killed dozens of people was a stark reminder that the war-weary country faces daily threats not only from the long-established Taliban but also from a brutal local affiliate of the Islamic State group, which claimed responsibility for the attack. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 19, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 050 ~ 19 of 26

mistic outlook of the economy saying, "We're doing tremendously well. Our consumers are rich. I gave a tremendous tax cut and they're loaded up with money."

5. HE DUMPED TRUMP, NOW THIS LAWMAKER'S DISTRICT MAY DUMP HIM

Rep. Justin Amash was the first Republican on Capitol Hill to call for impeachment proceedings against the president. Now he finds himself a cautionary tale for GOP lawmakers who consider opposing Trump, whose job approval rating among Republicans has hovered around 90% for the past year, according to Gallup.

6. PIONEERING WOMAN IN LOUISIANA POLITICS BLAMED FOR KATRINA HAS DIED

Gov. Kathleen Blanco, who held office from 2004 to 2008, died Sunday at 76. She shouldered much of the blame for the devastating 2005 hurricane that killed more than 1,400 people, displaced hundreds of thousands.

7. DISAPPOINTMENT, UNDERSTANDING AS CHINESE K-POP STARS BACK BEIJING ON HONG KONG

Lay Zhang, Jackson Wang, Lai Kuan-lin and Victoria Song were among the K-pop singers who recently uploaded a Chinese flag and declared themselves as "one of 1.4 billion guardians of the Chinese flag" on their official Weibo social media accounts.

8. WHY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PALM TREES HAVE DIED IN FLORIDA

The iconic trees are under attack from a fatal disease, spread by a rice-sized, plant-hopping insect that turns them to dried crisps in months, with no chance for recovery once they become ill.

9. WHAT'S BEHIND WORSENING SEOUL-TOKYO TRADE DISPUTE

Tokyo's moves to impose trade curbs on Seoul have struck a nerve in South Korea. Japan's annoyed about the perception that Seoul continuously keeps alive history issues that Tokyo, which has repeatedly expressed remorse for its wartime actions, says have been settled.

10. A HEALTHY TIGER WOODS IS OUT FOR THE SEASON

His time ended at Medinah, where he won two PGA Championship titles at the peak of his game and his health. It will be the 15th time in his career that Woods did not show up to defend a title on the PGA Tour.

Notre Dame cleanup resumes with anti-contamination measures

PARIS (AP) — Specialists shoring up fire-damaged Notre Dame Cathedral were returning to the Paris site on Monday for the first time in nearly a month, this time wearing disposable underwear and other protective gear after a delay prompted by fears of lead contamination.

Activity at the worksite resumed Monday under strict new lead-protection measures for the stonemasons, cleanup workers and scientists working on the site, according to the Culture Ministry. They include throwaway full-body clothing, obligatory showers and a new decontamination zone to ensure that they don't track pollution outside the site.

The workers are clearing out hazardous debris and studying and consolidating the medieval monument — a crucial first step to prepare the fragile cathedral for a yearslong, multimillion-euro reconstruction effort.

But even this first step is taking longer than expected because of lead worries.

Hundreds of tons of lead melted in the April 15 fire that decimated Notre Dame's roof and toppled its spire, spewing toxic dust into the air. Some environmental activists and residents say French authorities underplayed the lead poisoning risks in the aftermath of the blaze.

Under pressure from labor inspectors, the Paris regional administration ordered the consolidation work halted in July pending new worker-protection measures.

Now multiple lead-prevention operations are underway in the area around Notre Dame. Experts are carrying out a deep clean of neighborhood schools and are spraying chemical agents and vacuuming surrounding streets to remove any residual lead.

The regional health authority said last month that the main lead risk was inside the cathedral itself and its forecourt, and that no dangerous lead levels had been registered since the fire in the surrounding streets, where tourists and residents circulate.

Didier Durand, whose stone-working company Pierrenoel has eight employees working on the cathedral,



Catholic clergymen and pilgrims take part in an emotional procession with the statue of the Virgin Mary rescued from the April blaze past the fire-ravaged Notre Dame Cathedral to celebrate the Assumption of the Virgin in Paris, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019. (AP Photo/Francois Mori)

said he's eager to get back to work. "Notre Dame hasn't been saved yet," he told broadcaster France-Info. "We haven't stabilized the buttress structure yet.... and we're losing a lot of time."

The cathedral, its adjacent park and its forecourt have been closed to the public since April 15 and are likely to stay that way for years. French President Emmanuel Macron has said he wanted Notre Dame rebuilt within five years but reconstruction experts doubt that's possible.

AP Exclusive: US talks secretly to Venezuela socialist boss

By JOSHUA GOODMAN Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — The U.S. has made secret contact with Venezuela's socialist party boss as close allies of President Nicolás Maduro's inner circle seek guarantees they won't face prosecution for alleged abuses and crimes if they cede to growing demands to remove him, according to a senior Trump administration official.

Diosdado Cabello, who is considered the most-powerful man in Venezuela after Maduro, met last month in Caracas with someone who is in close contact with the Trump administration, the official told The Associated Press. A second meeting is in the works but has not yet taken place.

The AP is withholding the intermediary's name and details of the encounter with Cabello out of concern the person could suffer reprisals. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because they aren't authorized to discuss the talks, which are still preliminary. It's not clear whether the talks have Maduro's approval or not.

Cabello, 56, is a major power broker inside Venezuela, who has seen his influence in the government and security forces expand as Maduro's grip on power has weakened. But he's also been accused by U.S. officials of being behind massive corruption, drug trafficking and even death threats against a sitting U.S. senator.

The administration official said that under no circumstances is the U.S. looking to prop up Cabello or pave the way for him to substitute Maduro. Instead, the goal of the outreach is to ratchet up pressure on the regime by contributing to the knife fight the U.S. believes is taking place behind the scenes among competing circles of power within the ruling party.

Similar contacts exist with other top Venezuelan insiders, the official said, and the U.S. is in a listening mode to hear what it would take for them to betray Maduro and support a transition plan.

Cabello did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

But an aide said the U.S. has been increasingly knocking on his door, desperately looking to establish contact. The aide rejected the notion Cabello was somehow betraying Maduro, saying that Cabello

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 19, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 050 ~ 21 of 26

would only meet with Americans with the president's permission and if it contributes to lifting sanctions he blames for crippling the oil-dependent economy. The aide spoke on the condition of anonymity because he isn't authorized to discuss political affairs publicly.

A person familiar with the July encounter said Cabello appeared savvy and arrived to the meeting with the U.S.-backed envoy well prepared, with a clear understanding of Venezuela's political problems. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because they aren't authorized to discuss the matter.

As Venezuela's crisis grinds on, a predictable pattern has emerged where Juan Guaidó, who the U.S. and dozens of other countries recognize as Venezuela's rightful leader, has been unable to woo the military and take power but Maduro lacks enough strength to apprehend his rival or rescue the collapsed economy amid ever-tightening U.S. sanctions. This month, the U.S. slapped a new round of sanctions that seizes all of the Maduro government's assets in the U.S. and threatens to punish companies from third countries that continue to do business with him.

Talks sponsored by Norway between the opposition and government have been slow-going and were suspended this month by Maduro, who accused Guaidó of celebrating the U.S.' "brutal blockade." Neither Cabello, the Venezuelan military or U.S. government are a party to those talks.

To break the stalemate, some conspirators are looking to the U.S. to devise a plan to protect government insiders who turn against Maduro from future prosecution. The U.S. has repeatedly said it would offer top socialists relief from sanctions if they take "concrete and meaningful actions" to end Maduro's rule. In May, it quickly lifted sanctions against Maduro's former spy chief, Gen. Manuel Cristopher Figuera, after he defected during a failed military uprising.

As head of the constitutional assembly, Cabello has the power to remove Maduro, a position that could come in handy in any negotiated transition. But to date he's run the institution, which the U.S. considers illegitimate, as a rubber-stamping foil to the opposition-controlled congress, showing no signs of possible deception.

It's not clear who initiated the contact with Cabello. But the U.S. official said Cabello was talking behind the back of the embattled socialist despite his almost daily displays of loyalty and frequent harangues against President Donald Trump.

An opposition politician briefed on the outreach said Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino and Interior Minister Néstor Reverol are among those in indirect contact with the Americans, underscoring the degree to which Maduro is surrounded by conspirators even after an opposition-led military uprising in April was



In this Jan. 24, 2019 file photo, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, right, speaks with Constitutional Assembly President Diosdado Cabello at the Supreme Court during an annual ceremony that marks the start of the judicial year in Caracas, Venezuela. The U.S. has opened up secret communications with Cabello as members of Maduro's inner circle seek guarantees they won't face retribution if they cede to growing demands to remove him, a senior administration official told The Associated Press on Saturday, Aug. 17, 2019. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos, File)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 19, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 050 ~ 22 of 26

easily quashed. The politician spoke on the condition of anonymity because they aren't authorized to discuss the talks. The AP was unable to verify the opposition politician's account.

Cabello has long been seen as a rival to Maduro, someone who has more pragmatic economic views and is less ideologically aligned with communist Cuba. He sat to the right of Hugo Chávez when the late socialist designated Maduro, to his left, to be his successor in his last public appearance before dying of cancer in 2013.

By all accounts Cabello was not among the high-placed officials who were in on a plot to remove Maduro in April, when Guaidó and his mentor Leopoldo López appeared on a bridge in eastern Caracas surrounded by a small contingent of armed troops. Since the uprising's failure, the retired army lieutenant has seen his influence in the government and security forces expand, with the appointment of close allies to head the army and the feared SEBIN intelligence police.

He also remains popular with the Chavista base, having crisscrossed the country the past five years with a much-watched program on state TV that is a vehicle for pounding the opposition and U.S.

"A fraternal salute, brother President," Cabello said in the most-recent program, where Maduro called in as a special guest. "We have no secrets, no lies here. Every time we do something we will inform the people, so that with a clear conscience they can take informed decisions and fix positions."

The U.S. has tried to negotiate with Cabello before. In 2015, Thomas Shannon, who was then counsellor to Secretary of State John Kerry, met with Cabello in Haiti to pave the way for legislative elections that the opposition won by a landslide.

But until now, the Trump administration has shown deep scorn for Cabello, hitting him with sanctions last year for allegedly organizing drug shipments and running a major graft network that embezzled state funds and invested the stolen proceeds in Florida real estate. The U.S. also believes he discussed a plot to kill Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, who has called him "Venezuela's Pablo Escobar."

"Cabello is one of the worst of the worst inside of Venezuela," said Fernando Cutz, a former senior national security adviser on Latin America to both President Barack Obama and Trump. "If the strategy is to try to negotiate with the mafia boss, he's your guy. But that's a strategy that carries some heavy risks."

Follow Goodman on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/APjoshgoodman>

Trump dismisses worries of recession, says economy is strong

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

BERKELEY HEIGHTS, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump dismissed concerns of recession on Sunday and offered an optimistic outlook for the economy after last week's steep drop in the financial markets.

"I don't think we're having a recession," Trump told reporters as he returned to Washington from his New Jersey golf club. "We're doing tremendously well. Our consumers are rich. I gave a tremendous tax cut and they're loaded up with money."

A strong economy is key to Trump's re-election prospects. Consumer confidence has dropped 6.4% since July. The president has spent most of the week at his golf club in New Jersey with much of his tweeting focused on talking up the economy.

Aides sought to reinforce that message during a series of appearances on the Sunday talk shows.

Larry Kudlow, Trump's top economic adviser, dismissed fears of a looming recession and predicted the economy will perform well in the second half of 2019. He said that consumers are seeing higher wages and are able to spend and save more.

"We're doing pretty darn well in my judgment. Let's not be afraid of optimism," Kudlow said.

Kudlow acknowledged a slowing energy sector, but said low interest rates will help housing, construction and auto sales.

Kudlow also defended the president's use of tariffs on goods coming from China. Before he joined the administration, Kudlow was known for opposing tariffs and promoting free trade during his career as an economic analyst. Kudlow said Trump has taught him and others that the "China story has to be changed

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 19, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 050 ~ 23 of 26

and reformed.”

“We cannot let China pursue these unfair and unreciprocal trading practices,” Kudlow said.

Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke said the U.S. needed to work with allies to hold China accountable on trade. He said he fears Trump is driving the global economy into a recession.

“This current trade war that the president has entered our country into is not working,” O'Rourke said. “It is hammering the hell out of farmers across this country.”

Last month, the Federal Reserve reduced its benchmark rate — which affects many loans for households and businesses — by a quarter-point to a range of 2% to 2.25%. It's the first rate cut since December 2008 during the depths of the Great Recession. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell stressed that the Fed was worried about the consequences of Trump's trade war and sluggish economies overseas.

“Weak global growth and trade tensions are having an effect on the U.S. economy,” he said.

Breaking with historical norms, Trump has been highly critical of Powell as he places blame for any economic weakness on the nation's central bank for raising interest rates too much over the past two years.

“I think I could be helped out by the Fed, but the Fed doesn't like helping me too much,” Trump complained Sunday.

Peter Navarro, who advises Trump on trade policy, shared that sentiment.

“The Federal Reserve chairman should look in the mirror and say, ‘I raised rates too far, too fast, and I cost this economy a full percentage point of growth,’” Navarro said.

Trump acknowledged at least a potential impact on consumers when he paused a planned 10% tariff hike for many items coming from China, such as cellphones, laptops, video game consoles, some toys, computer monitors, shoes and clothing.

“We're doing (it) just for Christmas season, just in case some of the tariffs could have an impact,” the president told reporters in New Jersey.

Navarro would not go even that far, saying Sunday “there's no evidence whatsoever that Americans consumers are bearing any of this.”

Kudlow was interviewed on NBC's “Meet the Press” and “Fox News Sunday.” O'Rourke spoke on NBC, and Navarro appeared on CNN's “State of the Union” and CBS' “Face the Nation.”

Trump's trade war with China has been a target of criticism by Democrats vying to challenge him in 2020.

“There is clearly no strategy for dealing with the trade war in a way that will actually lead to results for American farmers or American consumers,” said Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, a Democratic presidential candidate. He said on CNN that it was “a fool's errand” to think tariff increases will compel China to change its economic approach.

Trump maintained that China's economy is struggling because of the tariffs and would like to make a trade deal with the U.S. He said he could make a “bad deal” and the stock markets would go up, “but it



President Donald Trump speaks with reporters before boarding Air Force One at Morristown Municipal Airport in Morristown, N.J., Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

wouldn't be the right thing to do."

"I'm just not ready to make a deal yet," Trump said. "China would like to make a deal. I'm not ready."

Kathleen Blanco: Louisiana gov brought down by Katrina dies

By MELINDA DESLATTE Associated Press



In this Nov. 6, 2007 file photo, Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco is greeted by students of Maplewood Middle School in Sulphur, La. Blanco, who became Louisiana's first female elected governor only to see her political career derailed by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, died Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019. She was 76. (Brad Puckett/American Press via AP, File)

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Even after Hurricane Katrina ended her political career and as cancer ate away her strength, former Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco still described her life as "charmed." With strength in her faith and her family, the state's first elected female governor time and again refused to wallow in disappointment or disaster.

Blanco called it an "honor and blessing" to lead Louisiana through the fury and destruction of Katrina. As she knew her end was near from an incurable melanoma, Blanco talked of her final months as a "wonderful time for me."

A pioneering woman in Louisiana politics, Blanco died Sunday in hospice care in Lafayette. She was 76.

"She was a woman of grace, faith and hope. She has left an eternal mark on all who knew her, because she was generous and unconditional in her love, warm in her embrace and genuinely interested in the welfare of

others," Blanco's family said in a statement issued by Gov. John Bel Edwards' office.

A Democrat, Blanco held Louisiana's top elected job from 2004 to 2008, and served in state government offices for more than two decades. But her legacy rests with Katrina, the devastating August 2005 hurricane that killed more than 1,400 people in Louisiana, displaced hundreds of thousands and inundated 80% of New Orleans.

Historians will continue to debate whether any governor could have been prepared for such a catastrophe, but Blanco shouldered much of the blame after images of thousands stranded on rooftops and overpasses were broadcast to the world, and the government was slow to respond to the desperation.

Blanco was criticized as unprepared, overwhelmed and indecisive. While she successfully fought for billions in federal aid, the recovery she guided moved ploddingly.

Blanco said Louisiana's miseries were worsened by a Republican-led White House desperate to blame someone else for its disaster response failures.

"I just thought I could shout more loudly than the noise around me, but in the end I couldn't. There was just too much pain," she once said.

Despite the criticism, Blanco said it an "honor and blessing" to lead Louisiana through Katrina and the follow-up blow of Hurricane Rita, which wrecked southwest Louisiana a month later.

"Katrina certainly left its mark and Rita left her mark on Louisiana. It made us tougher people though.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 19, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 050 ~ 25 of 26

It made us stronger," the former governor said in July as she neared death.

Blanco had a rare eye cancer that she battled successfully in 2011, but it later returned and spread to her liver. She announced in December 2017 that she was being treated for the incurable melanoma.

Edwards, a Democrat mentored by Blanco, ordered flags at state buildings around Louisiana flown at half-staff through Blanco's funeral, scheduled for Saturday. A public service for the former governor will be held Thursday at the Louisiana Capitol.

"She led Louisiana through one of our darkest hours, when hurricanes and the failure of the federal levee system devastated much of our state," Edwards said in a statement Sunday. "I hope history will remember Gov. Blanco as a tireless advocate for Louisiana, who fought fiercely for our state to rebuild."

Until her campaign for governor, Blanco spent much of her political career moving steadily and quietly through state politics, rarely creating waves.

A former high school business education teacher from the small Cajun village of Coteau, Blanco launched into politics as a consultant with her husband Raymond on local redistricting issues before going on to serve 24 years in elective office. Her first stop, in 1984, was a seat in the state House. Then came positions on the state utility regulatory commission and as lieutenant governor.

Before Blanco's election as governor, political insiders often dismissed her as a lightweight — honest and hardworking but lacking in substance. She stunned many political prognosticators in the 2003 election by defeating Republican Bobby Jindal. In a memorable final debate appearance, when asked about a defining moment in her life, she tearfully recounted the 1997 death of her 19-year-old son Ben in an industrial accident.

Jindal later succeeded Blanco as governor after Katrina stopped her plans to seek a second term.

"Kathleen loved Louisiana and served the state for decades. She faced every struggle, including her last, with good cheer and a strong will," Jindal said on Twitter.

More than a decade after the storms, views of Blanco are generally more sympathetic.

She gets praise for running a corruption-free government and championing education. She helped raise K-12 public school teacher pay and plowed hundreds of millions of dollars into colleges. She's been applauded for her successful push for a state takeover of failing public schools in New Orleans after Katrina.

After announcing her diagnosis, Blanco offered no recriminations or angst. She talked of final days being surrounded by family and friends, described old political foes having "a chance to make up" and thanked Louisiana residents for "their abiding love."

"While she knew that her name would forever be linked with hurricanes Katrina and Rita, it was her dying wish that she be remembered for her faith in God, commitment to family and love of Louisiana," her family's statement said.

Follow Melinda Deslatte on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/melindadeslatte>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Aug. 19, the 231st day of 2019. There are 134 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 19, 1934, a plebiscite in Germany approved the vesting of sole executive power in Adolf Hitler.

On this date:

In 1812, the USS Constitution defeated the British frigate HMS Guerriere off Nova Scotia during the War of 1812, earning the nickname "Old Ironsides."

In 1814, during the War of 1812, British forces landed at Benedict, Maryland, with the objective of capturing Washington D.C.

In 1848, the New York Herald reported the discovery of gold in California.

In 1909, the first automobile races were run at the just-opened Indianapolis Motor Speedway; the win-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 19, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 050 ~ 26 of 26

ner of the first event was auto engineer Louis Schwitzer, who drove a Stoddard-Dayton touring car twice around the 2.5-mile track at an average speed of 57.4 mph.

In 1942, during World War II, about 6,000 Canadian and British soldiers launched a disastrous raid against the Germans at Dieppe, France, suffering more than 50-percent casualties.

In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford won the Republican presidential nomination at the party's convention in Kansas City.

In 1980, 301 people aboard a Saudi Arabian L-1011 died as the jetliner made a fiery emergency return to the Riyadh airport.

In 1982, Soviet cosmonaut Svetlana Savitskaya became the second woman to be launched into space.

In 1987, a gun collector ran through Hungerford, England, 60 miles west of London, killing 16 people, including his mother, before turning his gun on himself.

In 1990, Leonard Bernstein conducted what turned out to be the last concert of his career at Tanglewood in Lenox, Mass. with the Boston Symphony Orchestra; the program ended with Beethoven's Symphony No. 7.

In 2003, a suicide truck bomb struck U.N. headquarters in Baghdad, killing 22, including the top U.N. envoy, Sergio Vieira de Mello. A suicide bombing of a bus in Jerusalem killed 22 people.

In 2004, Google began trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market, ending the day up \$15.34 at \$100.34.

Ten years ago: Suicide bombers struck Iraq's finance and foreign ministries, killing more than 100 people. Four members of an elite Army special operations unit were killed when their helicopter crashed on a Colorado mountain during a training mission. Don Hewitt, the TV news pioneer who'd created CBS' "60 Minutes," died at his Long Island, New York, home at age 86.

Five years ago: A video released by Islamic State militants purported to show the beheading of American journalist James Foley as retribution for U.S. airstrikes in Iraq. The New York Islanders announced the team had been sold to a former Washington Capitals co-owner Jon Ledecky and London-based investor Scott Malkin.

One year ago: Former CIA Director John Brennan, whose security clearance had been revoked by President Donald Trump, told NBC's "Meet the Press" that he was considering taking legal action to try to prevent Trump from removing clearances from other current and former officials. "Crazy Rich Asians," in its opening weekend in American theaters, was the top money-making film.

Today's Birthdays: Actor L.Q. Jones is 92. Actress Debra Paget is 86. USTA Eastern Tennis Hall of Famer Renee Richards is 85. Former MLB All-Star Bobby Richardson is 84. Actress Diana Muldaur is 81. Rock musician Ginger Baker (Cream, Blind Faith) is 80. Singer Johnny Nash is 79. Actress Jill St. John is 79. Singer Billy J. Kramer is 76. Country singer-songwriter Eddy Raven is 75. Rock singer Ian Gillan (Deep Purple) is 74. Former President Bill Clinton is 73. Actor Gerald McRaney is 72. Tipper Gore, wife of former Vice President Al Gore, is 71. Actor Jim Carter is 71. Pop singer-musician Elliot Lurie (Looking Glass) is 71. Rock musician John Deacon (Queen) is 68. Bluegrass musician Marc Pruett (Balsam Range) is 68. Actor-director Jonathan Frakes is 67. Political consultant Mary Matalin is 66. Actor Peter Gallagher is 64. Actor Adam Arkin is 63. Singer-songwriter Gary Chapman is 62. Actor Martin Donovan is 62. Pro Football Hall-of-Famer Anthony Munoz is 61. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ivan Neville is 60. Actor Eric Lutes is 57. Actor John Stamos is 56. Actress Kyra Sedgwick is 54. Actor Kevin Dillon is 54. Country singer Lee Ann Womack is 53. TV reporter Tabitha Soren is 52. Country singer-songwriter Mark McGuinn is 51. Actor Matthew Perry is 50. Country singer Clay Walker is 50. Rapper Fat Joe is 49. Olympic gold medal tennis player Mary Joe Fernandez is 48. Actress Tracie Thoms is 44. Actor Callum Blue is 42. Country singer Rissi Palmer is 38. Actress Erika Christensen is 37. Actress Melissa Fumero is 37. Pop singer Missy Higgins is 36. Actor Peter Mooney is 36. Actress Tammin Sursok is 36. Country singer Karli Osborn is 35. Olympic silver medal snowboarder Lindsey Jacobellis is 34. Actor J. Evan Bonifant is 34. Rapper Romeo is 30. Actor Ethan Cutkosky is 20.

Thought for Today: "Cheer up! The worst is yet to come!" — Philander Chase Johnson, American author (1866-1939).