

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 1 of 57

- [1- Death Notice: Mary Bertsch](#)
- [2- SD News Watch: S.D. among worst for 'Brain Drain' as best and brightest continue to flee the state](#)
- [8- Secretary Perdue Statement on New Draft Suspension Agreement on Fresh Tomatoes from Mexico](#)
- [9- Jeff Thaler named CEO of Full Circle Ag](#)
- [10- NE Mental Health Ad](#)
- [11- Mosquito Control last night](#)
- [12- Gospel Solutions to Social Issues](#)
- [13- Weather Pages](#)
- [16- Daily Devotional](#)
- [17- 2019 Groton Events](#)
- [18- 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.

Death Notice: Mary Bertsch
Mary Maxine Ann (Hearnen) Bertsch, 90, passed away August 22, 2019 at Avantara of Groton. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.



Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Soccer: Boys Varsity Game vs Belle Fourche (Home)

Aug 23 at 3:00 PM

Groton Area High School , Groton Soccer Complex

Soccer: Girls Varsity Game vs Belle Fourche (Home)

Aug 23 at 5:00 PM

Groton Area High School , Groton Soccer Complex

Football: Boys Varsity Game vs McLaughlin Mustangs - Game Cancelled

Aug 23 at 7:00 PM

500 N 1st St, Groton, SD 57445, USA

Game cancelled by forfeit.



S.D. among worst for 'Brain Drain' as best and brightest continue to flee the state

By: Nick Lowrey

Despite years of effort to reverse the trend, South Dakota remains among the worst states in the nation in terms of losing its most highly educated citizens to other areas of the country, according to a new report from Congress.

The loss of skilled, educated residents can slow the state's economic growth as well as cause further political polarization in the state and nation, the new study shows. Brain drain has also been shown to weaken the ability of communities to support basic institutions such as churches and little leagues.

The affects of brain drain are especially acute in rural states like South Dakota. Recruiting of doctors

and nurses to work at rural hospitals has become more difficult, which in turn has made accessing health-care services tougher. Finding high-quality teachers to work in rural schools has become more difficult too, causing some districts to increase class sizes. Some employers in high-paying fields such as medicine and technology must recruit foreign workers through visa programs to fill open jobs.

According to the study, called "Losing our Minds: Brain Drain Across Across the United States," South Dakota's most highly educated citizens are moving away at a higher rate than in nearly every other state. The report also contradicts the commonly held conception that highly educated people leave the state in their 20s and return in their 30s to raise families.

A combination of factors likely is driving younger, more highly educated people away from South Dakota. Jeremy Rud, a Madison, S.D. native who earned a bachelor's degree from South Dakota State University in 2014 and went on to earn a master's in linguistics from the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colo., just finished three years of teaching at SDSU. He said his reason for leaving South Dakota, now for the second time, was about a search for more cultural diversity.

"I don't have any specific vendetta against South Dakota, it's just that my specific cultural tastes lie elsewhere," Rud said. "I also want a greater diversity of ideas, languages and access to the rest of the world."

Rud was getting ready to move to California — the number two destination for highly educated South Dakotans who migrate — to pursue a Ph.D in linguistics when he spoke with South Dakota News Watch. Another part of his decision to move was a lack of opportunity to advance in his career field. He said he's not alone in his desire for better opportunities.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 3 of 57

"I have so many friends that have a master's degree that now live in Minnesota," Rud said.

Published in April 2019 by the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, the new study found that highly educated South Dakotans who leave the state tend to end up in Minnesota, California or Colorado by the time they reach 40. California and Colorado both tend to be hubs for the migration of highly educated people from all over the country. The fact that such hubs exist points to much bigger problems for the country as a whole, the study said.

Increasingly, people are congregating themselves geographically and along educational lines, said Rachel Sheffield, a senior policy adviser for the committee. Highly educated people, who tend to hold more liberal viewpoints, are concentrating themselves in cities in California, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Texas, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Washington, D.C, she said. Conservatives, meanwhile, are tending to stay in more rural areas. The two groups are interacting less, Sheffield said, which is exacerbating political divisions.

"If you're not interacting with people with different political viewpoints, then you are less likely to have a face to go with differing viewpoints; that could lead to seeing different political viewpoints as connected to this unrelatable group that you never talk to and it's easier to demonize people you don't actually know," Sheffield said.

Another problem identified in the study is that as certain areas have attracted more of the country's highly educated people, they also have attracted a greater share of the nation's venture capital and wealth. Entrepreneurs, particularly those in high-tech fields, face heightened pressure to move to areas such as Boston or Silicon Valley. That, in turn, has led to yet more highly educated people concentrating in those areas as more jobs that required their skills are created. The economies of those select portions of the country have boomed, while the economic fortunes of other areas grew far more modestly or in some cases actually shrank.

South Dakota is on the low end of the spectrum in economic growth. The state's growth in annual Gross Domestic Product is generally smaller than national GDP growth. Since 2012, South Dakota's GDP growth has averaged just shy of 1 percent every year, which is less than half of the 2.3 percent average national GDP growth.

Despite continued growth in the state's population between 2010 and 2017, the share of South Dakota's population that is between the ages of 18 and 64 shrank by 1.8 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

State officials and universities, meanwhile, are trying to find ways to keep educated people in the state. Start-up incubators at SDSU, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology and the University of South Dakota



Jeremy Rud, a Madison, S.D. native is preparing to leave the state and head to California where he hopes to land a good job. Rud said his reasons for leaving South Dakota, now for the second time, include a search for more cultural diversity and better job opportunities. Photo: Submitted

are helping highly educated South Dakota residents get their research or business ideas off the ground.

Dakota State University in Madison is planning to open a new computer technology research and development laboratory in October to lure top technology talent. The state Legislature passed a .5% sales tax increase in 2016 to generate new revenues to boost teacher pay to keep top educators from leaving after graduation.

Communities such as Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Aberdeen are making efforts to deepen the scope and breadth of their entertainment and cultural events to help keep young people in the state, said South Dakota Board of Regents Executive Director Paul Beran, who made keeping graduates from leaving one of his top three priorities when hired in 2018.

"I think you'd be putting your head in the sand if you didn't think (brain drain) was a problem," Beran said.

Low pay, fewer opportunities

LeighAnn Dunn, a special education teacher who earned her bachelor's degree in speech pathology and audiology from USD with financial help from the federal G.I. Bill, said school districts in South Dakota aren't capable of paying her or others a truly livable wage. Dunn has also earned a master's degree in multi-categorical special education from USD and is about a year away from earning a doctorate in education.

Dunn, 35, teaches in a state that borders South Dakota and commutes to work from her home in Vermillion (she did not want to name which state.) She said the higher pay, incentives for continuing education and good job security offered in her current position are more than worth the extra commute and even paying income tax in a state where she does not reside.



South Dakota Board of Regents Executive Director Paul Beran said the state's brain drain problem is exacerbated by the high cost of college attendance. Beran has made keeping S.D. graduates in the state after their schooling a top priority. Photo: Nick Lowrey, South Dakota

News Watch

"My pay, with my education, is almost double what I'd get in South Dakota and it increases yearly ... If I worked in South Dakota, I could not afford even to get a home loan," Dunn said. "The cost of living might be low but we are really behind the times in our wages around the state."

In 2017, average teacher salaries in states surrounding South Dakota ranged between \$5,300 and \$11,200 more per year than in the Rushmore State. Dunn said many of her classmates have left the state in pursuit of higher pay.

"I can't imagine myself coming back to teach in South Dakota, which is bad because I've got a lot of training and a lot of expertise," Dunn said.

The congressional study looked at data from each U.S. Census taken between 1940 and 2000 as well as data from the Census Bureau's 2010 and 2017 American Community Surveys. The study specifically targeted

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 5 of 57

people between the ages of 31 and 40 who were considered to be in the top one-third of educational attainment for the U.S. In 2017 — essentially those who had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

The study looked at two measures of brain drain. "Gross brain drain" is the number of highly educated people born in the state who choose to leave. "Net brain drain" is the gap between the number of highly educated people who were born in a state and choose to leave and the number of highly educated people who move into the state from somewhere else.

In every census since 1960, South Dakota was shown to have experienced a net loss of people in the top third of educational attainment. In 2017, the most recent year for which data is available, South Dakota had the second-highest rate of gross brain drain in the country. None of South Dakota's neighbors, meanwhile, made the top 10 list for gross brain drain, meaning they retained more of their highly educated children into their 40s. Vermont had the nation's highest rate of gross brain drain.

South Dakota also had the third-highest rate of net brain drain in 2017, meaning the state was third worst in the country at replacing its losses of highly educated people with highly educated people from somewhere else. North Dakota topped the net brain drain list and Delaware was number two. Iowa came in at number four on the net brain drain list.

The loss of native-born residents is another of the problems for states with high rates of gross brain drain identified in the congressional study. Highly educated people who live and work in the state they grew up in often have a better picture of a state's needs than highly educated people who move in from somewhere else, the study said.

Nick Kelly, 28, who holds a master's degree in engineering management from SDSM&T, said the decision to leave South Dakota mainly had to do with a lack of job options, the absence of a large airport and lack of cultural opportunities. He now lives in Bloomington, Minn., just outside of Minneapolis with his wife — who holds a master's degree in biomedical engineering from SDSM&T — and their child. Both Kelly and his wife were able to find good paying jobs in engineering there, he said.

Kelly said that while he was in school and looking for jobs at engineering career fairs, he was disappointed to see that most in-state jobs dealt with chemical engineering in the ethanol industry. He wasn't interested in those. Most of the other employers at the job fairs weren't recruiting for positions in South Dakota, Kelly said.

"There just weren't very many opportunities," he said.

A Mitchell-based company did offer him a job after he graduated, Kelly said. The offer wasn't good enough to keep him in the state in part because his wife wouldn't have been able to pursue her own career goals



Special education teacher LeighAnn Dunn teaches in one of South Dakota's neighboring states because the pay is roughly double what she can make in her home state. She holds a master's degree in multi-categorical special education and is about a year away from earning a doctorate in education. Photo: Submitted

there. Kelly now works for an electronics company that designs equipment which makes shipping packages more efficient, a job he said he wouldn't have found in South Dakota.

Many South Dakota college graduates say they don't want to leave the state. Ray Hespen graduated from SDSM&T in 2009 with a degree in mining engineering. He said he loved Rapid City and the Black Hills and had a goal to get a job at a Rapid City cement plant so he could stay. The plant was about the only employer in the Black Hills at that time that needed mining engineers. Unfortunately, there weren't any openings.

Hespen spent four years touring around the country and chasing job opportunities. He started his career in Tulsa, Okla., then moved to California, then to Chicago, then went to Baltimore and finally landed in Colorado in 2013. That year, Hespen and his friend, David Kingman, founded Property Meld, a company based around a software program that automates parts of the property management business as a way to save money and improve customer service.

"I moved to Denver as kind of a hedge. If my company didn't work out, I figured I could find something there," Hespen said.

As Property Meld gained traction and started growing, Hespen said, he was able to move back to the Black Hills after nearly a decade of looking for a job there.

"What's crazy is, I had to start a business to come back," Hespen said.

Slowing the drain

Property Meld's first official headquarters was an office at Ascent Innovation, a business incubator created by the Rapid City Development Corporation on the SDSM&T campus. Business incubators provide space for new businesses as well as free or low-cost business services. They also aim to allow entrepreneurs such as Hespen collaborate with fellow business owners.

Ascent Innovation is one of several business incubators that have been built on or near university campuses around the state. The idea is to allow university students and researchers to take their ideas from the lab to the open market and, ultimately, to create the types of job opportunities that will prevent highly educated people from leaving the state in the first place, said Joseph Wright, associate vice president for research and economic development at SDSM&T.

"There are plenty of students who would want to stay in the state if we had the kind of jobs that



Ray Hespen saw few opportunities to land a good job as a mining engineer in the Black Hills after graduating from the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in 2009. He traveled the country to find a good job before eventually diving into entrepreneurship with his company, Property Meld. Hespen said being his own boss was the only way he would return to the Black Hills. Photo: Submitted

Broton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 7 of 57

attract that kind of talent," Wright said.

One such success story in Rapid City is VRC Metal Systems, which recently moved to a new facility outside of Ellsworth Air Force Base. The company makes machines that spray metals onto other surfaces at such a high speed that they permanently bond to the surface. The process can be used to repair everything from aircraft to bridges.

Hespen's company, though, isn't hiring too many engineers or software developers in South Dakota. He said most of his local employees do have bachelor's degrees but are working in sales, tech support and marketing. The company's software developers, including company co-founder David Kingman, work remotely from areas outside the state.

Thanks to the internet, a growing number of workers in the technology sector are able to work remotely. Dakota State University in Madison is hoping to capitalize on the trend with its new cyber security research facility called Madison Cyber Labs.

"Many (computer technology) students get scholarships and grants that require them to work for government agencies after they graduate. Those students have nowhere in South Dakota to go to fulfill those requirements," DSU President José-Marie Griffiths said.

Madison Cyber Labs is intended to function both as a research and development hub and as a potential satellite office for private companies and federal agencies engaged in cyber security.

"Many agencies are looking to open satellite offices," Griffiths said.

Sometimes, just giving graduates a better picture of what jobs are available in South Dakota can help keep them in the state or lure them back, Griffiths said.

The state Department of Labor and Regulation has been working to do that for the better part of a decade through its Dakota Roots program, which is aimed at bringing talented people back to South Dakota. Around 4,100 people have been placed across a wide array of jobs through Dakota Roots, said Dawn Dovre, who manages the program.

Dakota Roots doesn't target people based on education and is open to everyone but there are some highly educated people who have been placed in jobs through the program, Dovre said. "We've seen a little bit of everything," she said.

Still, she added, it's easier to keep workers in South Dakota than to try to recruit them back later.

Reducing the cost of college could go a long way to keeping graduates in the state, said Beran, CEO



Part of Dawn Dovre's job is managing the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation Dakota Roots program, which has helped bring about 4,100 people who left South Dakota return to live in the state.


Photo: Nick Lowery, South Dakota News Watch

of the Board of Regents. The state's public universities have some of the highest net costs of attendance in the nation, according to BOR data, and federal data show that many graduates in South Dakota carry high levels of college debt.

"Where we are failing right now is making sure everyone who is capable of getting into the next level of education is getting there," Beran said.

South Dakota's brain drain isn't going to be slowed by a single program or initiative, Beran said. Cities across the state will need to support entrepreneurs, push for the expansion of broadband internet service, look for ways to deepen their sense of community and broaden their cultural horizons.

"There are going to be many small solutions," Beran said. "That, ultimately, is going to be what makes the state strong."



**ABOUT
NICK LOWREY**
Nick Lowrey, based in Pierre, S.D., is an investigative staff reporter for South Dakota News Watch. A South Dakotan for more than 20 years, he is a former editor of the Pierre Capital Journal.

Secretary Perdue Statement on New Draft Suspension Agreement on Fresh Tomatoes from Mexico

(Washington, D.C., August 21, 2019) - U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue issued the following statement after U.S. Department of Commerce announced a new Draft Suspension Agreement on Fresh Tomatoes from Mexico:

"I want to thank my colleagues at the U.S. Department of Commerce for working diligently to reach a mutually beneficial agreement for tomato growers in both the U.S. and Mexico. Protecting America's tomato producers from the glut of Mexican imports is yet another example of President Trump's commitment to ensuring our farmers have the ability to succeed in international markets, as well as right here at home. Tomato producers across America, including those in Arizona, California, the Carolinas, Florida, and Georgia will benefit from the elimination of the unfair trade practices we have seen from these Mexican tomato imports," said Secretary Perdue. "America's farmers are the most productive on earth and President Trump recognizes that - I thank him for his continued work to secure fair trade that benefits our nation's producers and consumers alike. When it comes to trade and agriculture, we have a mutually dependent relationship with Mexico and reaching a compromise here allows us to refocus our efforts towards quick passage by Congress of the broader U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement."

Jeff Thaler named CEO of Full Circle Ag



September 1 is the beginning of a new chapter for Full Circle Ag. Following the retirement of David Andresen, Jeff Thaler has been hired to fill the CEO position. Jeff comes to Full Circle Ag with a wealth of knowledge and 24 years of experience in the retail and wholesale ag marketplace. He and his family currently reside in Groton, South Dakota, and are extremely excited to be a part of the Full Circle Ag family. "I am looking forward to being part of a team that is focused on exceeding the needs of the member-owners, while delivering results with a focus on the future."

In addition to joining the Full Circle Ag family and the Groton community, Jeff is looking forward to the fishing and hunting opportunities that the area provides. In his spare time, Jeff is in the process of restoring his grandfather's 1949 Chevy pickup. Being an SDSU alumni and a Philadelphia Eagles fan, he is looking forward to the upcoming football season.

Full Circle Ag is thankful to have had David Andresen for 24 years and wish him the best in his retirement. They warmly welcome Jeff Thaler and look forward to what the future holds for the member-owned cooperative.

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.

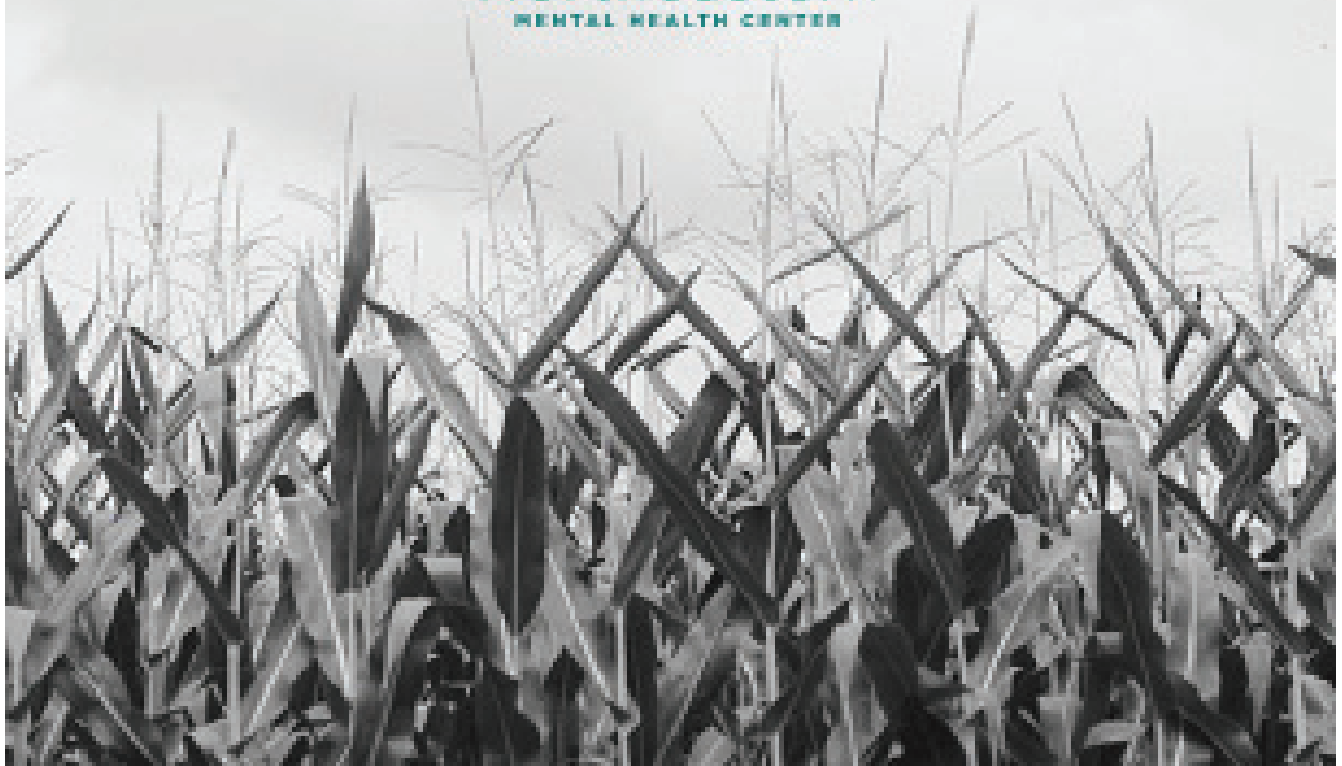
We're here to help.

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.

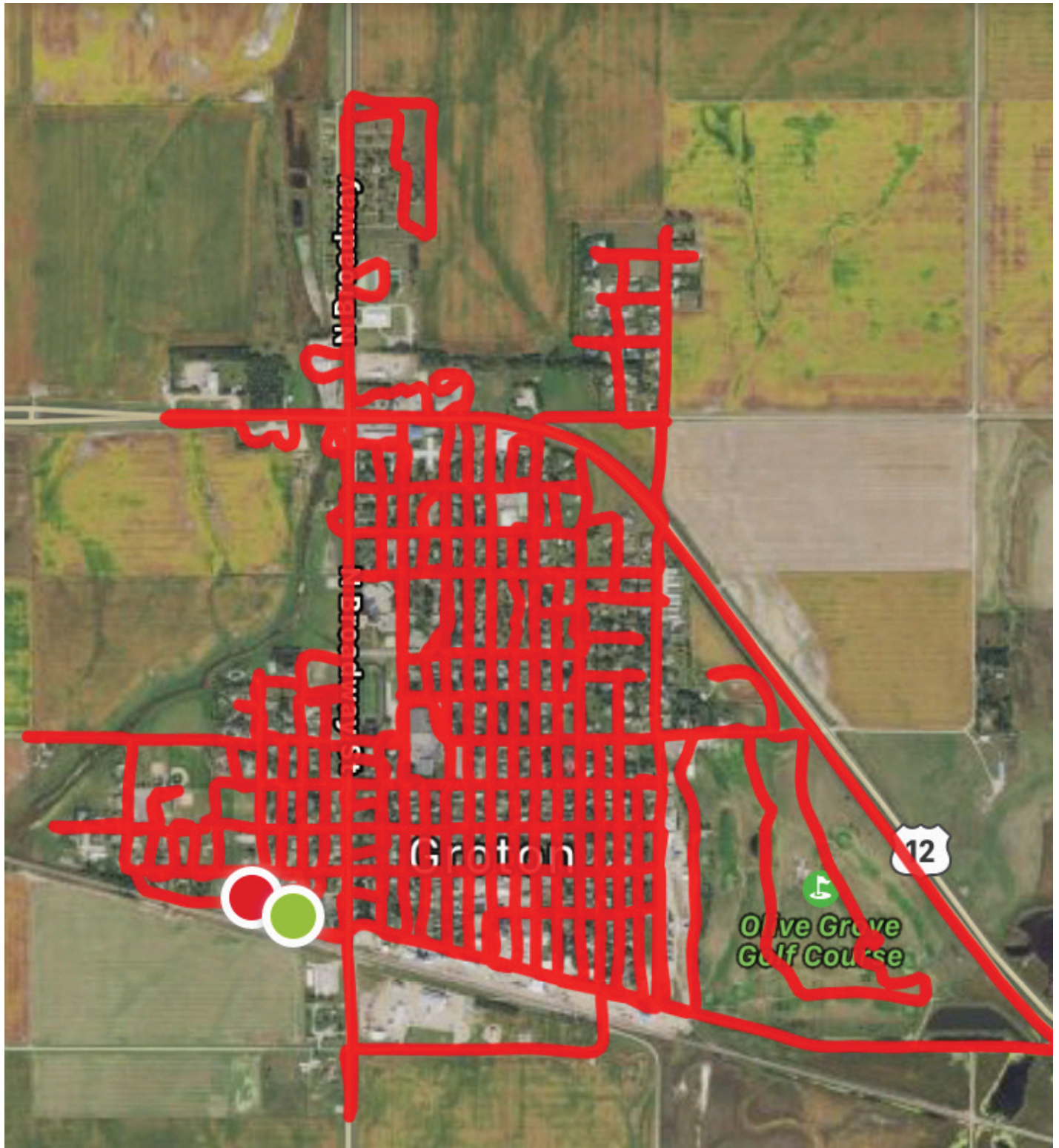


Northeastern
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER



Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 11 of 57



The City of Groton conducted adult mosquito control last night, doing streets, alleys and avenues. The wind was SE at 10-15 mph, temperature was in the mid 60s and about 38 miles was covered. Fifteen gallons of Evolver 4x4 was used during the control.



*Adults and Students . . . come
learn what social issues are
involving our youth
in our community.*

Solutions **to** **Social Issues**

SPONSORED BY LOCAL CHURCHES

Youth Groups Welcome ~ Large Groups please RSVP 605/377-0709

Seminars are:

September 11 at United Methodist Church:

Drugs & Alcohol

October 9 at Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church:

Sex Trafficking and Date Violence






November 6 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church:


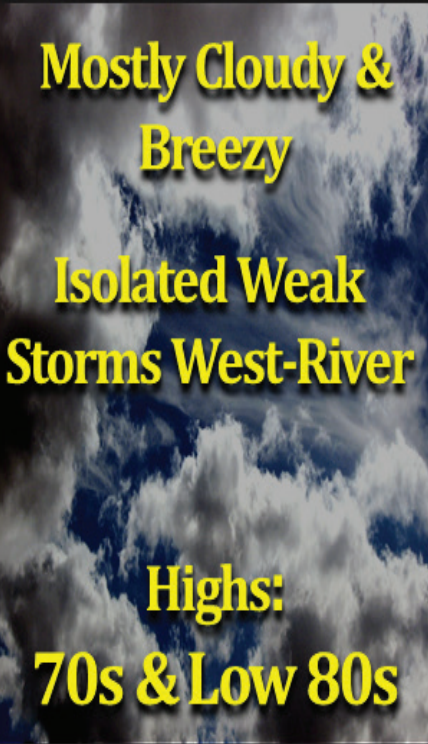
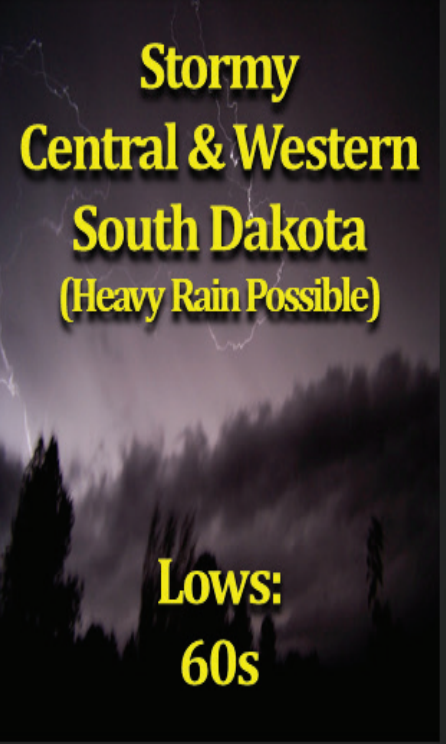

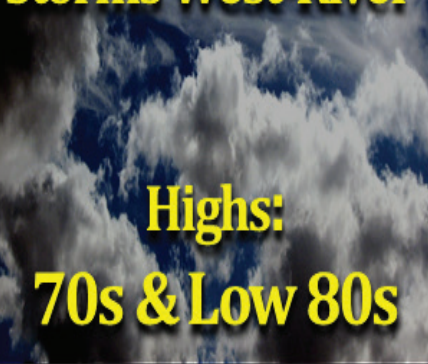


Suicide and Bullying

Light Meal at 5:45 p.m. ~ Seminar begins at 6:30 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 13 of 57

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
				
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms and Breezy	Chance T-storms and Breezy	Chance T-storms then Showers Likely
High: 80 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 78 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 76 °F

This Morning	Today	Tonight
 Breezy	 Mostly Cloudy & Breezy Isolated Weak Storms West-River	 Stormy Central & Western South Dakota (Heavy Rain Possible)
 Isolated Weak Storms West-River (Sever Weather Unlikely)	 Highs: 70s & Low 80s	 Lows: 60s
 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION		Updated: 8/23/2019 4:33 AM Central

Published on: 08/23/2019 at 12:37AM

We'll be watching a broad weather system make its way out of the Rockies and into the western Dakotas over the next 24 hours. This system will bring increasing chances for storms, and while it doesn't look like coverage will be that widespread, the storms that do move across the area could generate heavy rain. The severe weather threat is low through Saturday PM.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 14 of 57

Today in Weather History

August 23, 1960: Lightning and damaging winds caused damage to occur from Hand and Sanborn Counties to Marshall and Roberts Counties. A small airplane was destroyed, and the high winds broke windows in Miller. Also, roofs, TV antenna, utility lines, and trees were damaged in Kingsbury and Marshall Counties.

August 23, 1998: Winds gusting to 65 mph in and around Milbank, in Grant County, took the roof off a mobile home and wrapped it around a utility pole. The people inside the mobile home were uninjured. The Summit Dairy Barn had sustained significant damage. The high winds also blew a shed and a large tennis court fence down. Several trees along with many large tree branches were down all over town. Strong winds were also reported in Day and Roberts Counties. Winds of 60 mph also downed many tree branches north of Watertown.

1724: An event is known as the "Great Gust of 1724" occurred on this day. Almost all tobacco and much of the corn crops were destroyed by this violent tropical storm, which struck the Chesapeake Bay. Intense floods of rain and a huge gust of wind were seen on the James River. Some homes were wrecked, and several vessels were driven ashore. The storm was likely followed by a second hurricane just five days later causing rain for many straight days that caused the Virginia floods of 1724.

1933: A hurricane made landfall near Nags Head, North Carolina and tracked up the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake-Potomac hurricane moved over Norfolk, Virginia, and Washington, DC. A seven-foot tide flooded businesses in Norfolk, Virginia. Described in the American Meteorological Society's August 1933 weather review as "one of the most severe storms that have ever visited the Middle Atlantic Coast."

1992: While South Florida residents were preparing for Hurricane Andrew, folks in western Montana were dealing with early season snowfall. Some snowfall amounts include 8.3" in Great Falls, 6.2" in Helena, and 5.1" in Cut Bank. This snowfall is the first significant snowfall on record in western Montana in August.

2005: Hurricane Katrina formed from Tropical Depression Twelve over the southeastern Bahamas. Katrina would become the costliest (\$81.2 billion) and one of the most deadly hurricanes (1,836 lives) in U.S. history.

1906 - Thunderstorms deluged Kansas City, MO, with six inches of rain during the early morning, including nearly three inches in thirty minutes. (The Kansas City Weather Almanac)

1921 - Denver, CO, was drenched with 2.20 inches of rain in one hour, a record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1933 - The Chesapeake-Potomac hurricane moved over Norfolk VA and Washington D.C. A tide seven feet above normal flooded businesses in Norfolk, and damage in Maryland was estimated at seventeen million dollars. (David Ludlum)

1970 - Dry thunderstorms ignited more than one hundred fires in the Wenatchee and Okanogan National Forests of Washington State. Hot, dry, and windy weather spread the fires, a few of which burned out of control through the end of the month. More than 100,000 acres burned. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A cold front brought autumn-like weather to the Northern and Central Plains Region. Afternoon highs were in the 50s and 60s across parts of Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska that just two days earlier were in the 90s or above 100 degrees. Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rain in New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced hail an inch in diameter, wind gusts to 64 mph, and 2.62 inches of rain at Tucson AZ resulting in three million dollars damage. Cool weather prevailed in the northeastern U.S. Hartford CT reported a record low of 42 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced heavy rain with flash flooding in West Virginia. Pickens, WV, reported 4.80 inches of rain in 24 hours. Evening thunderstorms in Mississippi deluged Alta Woods with 4.25 inches of rain in less than an hour. Thunderstorms also produced heavy rain in southeastern Kentucky, and flooding was reported along Big Creek and along Stinking Creek. The Stinking Creek volunteer fire department reported water levels 12 to 14 feet above bankfull. Fort Worth TX hit the 100 degree mark for the first time all year. Strong winds ushering cool air into northwest Utah gusted to 70 mph, raising clouds of dust in the salt flats. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

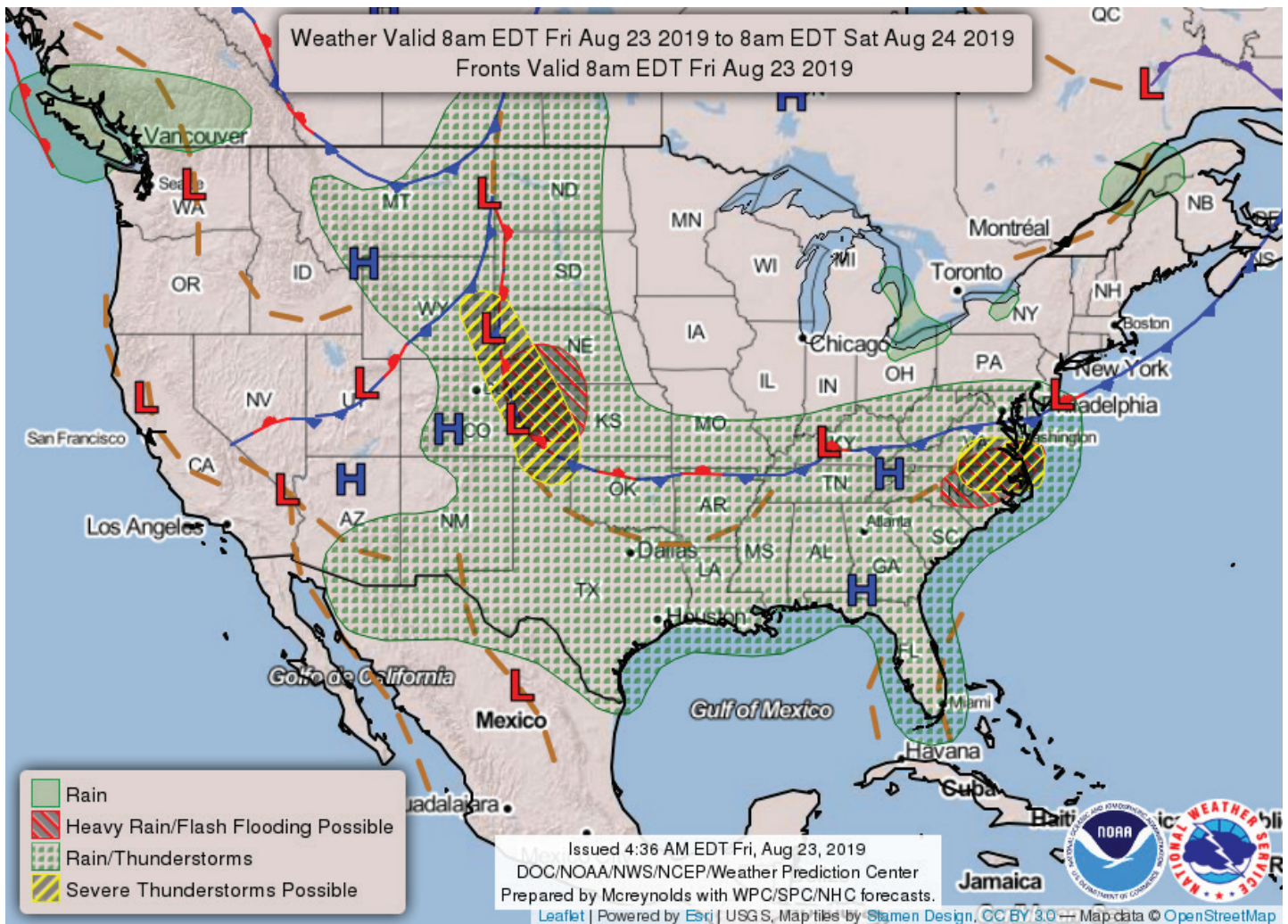
Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 15 of 57

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 78 °F at 4:54 PM
Low Temp: 56 °F at 5:17 AM
Wind: 15 mph at 11:37 AM
Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 106° in 2003
Record Low: 39° in 1987
Average High: 81°F
Average Low: 55°F
Average Precip in Aug.: 1.72
Precip to date in Aug.: 2.98
Average Precip to date: 15.58
Precip Year to Date: 19.57
Sunset Tonight: 8:28 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:45 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 16 of 57



BEING GOOD AND DOING GOOD

Character counts. Character makes a difference. Character can be measured. Character is the difference that God brings to our lives. Character matters because God matters. When He is present and in control of our lives, everything changes because He changes everything. We view life differently because we view life through His eyes, hear voices through His ears, feel pain as He feels pain, and He gives willingly as He willingly gave us His Son.

This wife of noble character has an impact on every aspect of her husband's life: She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. Imagine an obituary that included that statement, and ended with the words that included whatever he accomplished in life was because of her homemaking talents and dedication to the well-being of her family. Certainly a stretch in today's environment. But, that's the implication and message.

An important message in this verse is that the wife is focused on the career of her husband and her home. If the wife has a career outside of the home, it is secondary to everything else. This is far different from what we see in society today. The career of the husband and the management of the home is first and foremost according to Solomon.

Notice one small, three-letter word: her. It may be a subtle implication but the burden for managing the home seems to shift from the wife to the husband if she is called home before him. Husbands and fathers need to be in training to assume her tasks if necessary.

Prayer: We pray Lord, for husbands and fathers who willingly become involved in caring for their wife and their homes. May they accept their responsibility. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 31:12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 17 of 57

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 Associated Press

Nebraska court to rule on state's approval of pipeline path

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska Supreme Court is expected to rule on a lawsuit challenging state regulators' decision to approve a route for the Keystone XL pipeline through the state.

The decision on Friday could clear yet another major roadblock for the project or force pipeline developer TC Energy to reapply for state approval of a new route, a setback for the company that would lead to more months of delay.

Environmental groups, Native American leaders and some landowners are seeking to overturn the Nebraska Public Service Commission's 2017 vote to green-light the pipeline. Commissioners voted 3-2 to approve a route, but not the one the company would have preferred.

Opponents say the alternative route that was approved didn't get the same level of public scrutiny and input as the preferred route.

Ethanol producer blames Indiana plant closure on Trump's EPA

CLOVERDALE, Ind. (AP) — The owner of a western Indiana ethanol plant is blaming its shut down on the Trump administration allowing some refineries to not blend ethanol with gasoline as required under federal law.

South Dakota-based ethanol producer Poet says it will cease production by mid-October at its Cloverdale plant, one of four it operates in Indiana. A company notification says 50 workers will lose jobs from the closure.

The company says production is being cut at half of its 28 plants where corn is processed into ethanol. Poet says it's consolidating jobs at plants in Iowa, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Minnesota, South Dakota and Missouri.

The Environmental Protection Agency has issued gasoline refinery exemptions removing 2.6 billion gallons (9.8 billion liters) of ethanol from production.

Poet calls those exemptions "bailouts to oil companies."

Sanford Health fires surgeon amid federal investigation

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sanford Health has fired one of its surgeons who is the subject of a federal fraud investigation, a month after three top hospital executives defended him against the allegations.

Neurosurgeon Wilson Asfora owns a company that sells devices used in spine surgeries. Two Sanford doctors in 2016 filed a lawsuit accusing Asfora of illegally profiting by using those devices in unnecessary spine surgeries at Sanford Health in violation of anti-kickback laws. The U.S. Department of Justice is investigating.

Asfora's attorney, Steve Landon, told the Argus Leader this week that the surgeon's termination is effective Sept. 24.

"Dr. Asfora received notice of termination from Sanford— he is not resigning or retiring," Landon said. "Like Sanford, he believes the allegations made in the lawsuit are bogus and he will vigorously defend against them."

Sanford Health didn't respond to the newspaper's request for comment.

Last month, Sanford CEO Kelby Krabbenhoft, Chief Operating Officer Matthew Hocks and Chief Medical Officer Allison Suttle sent an email to employees, calling the allegations against Asfora "bogus."

Earlier this month, the hospital suspended its use of some of Asfora's medical devices. Micah Aberson, Sanford's executive vice president said the suspension was not related to deficiencies or clinical outcomes.

"The distraction of the economics related to the device is what we want to remove from the conversation," Aberson said last month.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 19 of 57

Sanford settled a similar whistleblower lawsuit in 2014 after a former Sanford Health employee made similar accusations that Asfora was improperly profiting from one of his medical devices.

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

25-year sentence for fatal reservation shooting

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Kyle man has been sentenced to 25 years in prison for a fatal shooting on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Jamie Shoulders was sentenced in federal court in Rapid City after pleading guilty to second-degree murder for killing Christopher Janis, a 42-year-old Marine veteran with a wife and two children.

Judge Jeffrey Viken ordered Shoulders Tuesday to pay nearly \$28,000 in restitution to Janis' wife and spend five years on supervised release after prison. Prosecutors say the shooting happened near Sharps Corner during a drug deal in 2017.

The Rapid City Journal reports officials say Janis was selling some of his prescription hydrocodone painkillers so he could take his wife to Deadwood for her birthday.

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

10 years in prison for manslaughter in boyfriend's death

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls woman accused of driving away after her boyfriend fell off the hood of her vehicle and later died has been sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Forty-four-year-old Jayme Knudson earlier pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the death of Erik Lunstra. The 46-year-old Lunstra died of his injuries on Sept. 10, 2018, two days after he fell from Knudson's vehicle.

The Argus Leader reports Second Circuit Court Judge Susan Sabers told Knudson she would have given her additional time in prison if she were able. Ten years is the maximum for manslaughter.

Defense attorney Lyndee Kamrath asked for probation for Knudson, who she said had a clean record and good job history. Kamrath says Knudson recognizes she should have called police that night, but was in fear.

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

APNewsBreak: US government issues final Utah monument plan

By BRADY McCOMBS Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The U.S. government's final management plan for lands in and around a Utah national monument that President Donald Trump downsized doesn't include many new protections for the cliffs, canyons, waterfalls and arches found there, but it does include a few more safeguards than were in a proposal issued last year.

The Bureau of Land Management's plan for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southwestern Utah codifies that the lands cut out of the monument will be open to mineral extraction such as oil, gas and coal as expected, according to a plan summary the agency provided to The Associated Press.

The agency chose an option that doesn't add any areas of critical environmental concern, increases lands open to cattle grazing and could raise the potential for "adverse effects" on lands and resources in the monument, the document shows.

At the same time, the agency tweaked the plan from last year to call for new recreation management plans to address impacts on several highly visited areas, opens fewer acres to ATVs and nixes a plan that would have allowed people to collect some non-dinosaur fossils in certain areas inside the monument.

The agency also determined that no land will be sold from the 1,345 square miles (3,488 square kilometers) cut from the monument. Last year, Interior Department leaders rescinded a plan to sell 2.5 square

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 20 of 57

miles (6.5 square kilometers) of that land after it was included in the draft management proposal and drew backlash from environmentalists.

Conservation and paleontology groups have vehemently opposed the downsizing of the monument and have lawsuits pending challenging the move.

Harry Barber, the acting manager at Grand Staircase, said in an interview with the AP that the plan reflects changes made after considering input from the public, an assessment that enough protections are in place already, and the voices of all different groups who use the lands.

"There are people who graze livestock, people that like to hunt, people that like to hike, people that like to trail run," said Barber, who has worked at the monument since it was created. "We're trying to be fair."

He pushed back against the notion that the lands now outside the monument will be left abandoned, saying the lands are still subject to rules and polices like all federally managed land.

Interest in oil, gas and coal has been limited so far and no project has been approved, Barber said. The lands are home to a major coal reserve but there's little market demand.

"It's not a free-for-all," Barber said. "That seems to be what I hear a lot, people feeling like now anybody can go out and do anything they want to do on these lands. But, they need to realize that we still have our rules and policies."

But to Steve Bloch, legal director at the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance conservation group, it's unforgivable to cut the monument in half and downgrade the excluded lands into what he calls "garden variety public lands."

"Grand Staircase-Escalante is one of the nation's public land crown jewels and from the outset the Trump administration was hell-bent on destroying this place," Bloch said.

To Bloch's organization and other conservation groups that have lawsuits pending challenging the Trump administration's decision to shrink Grand Staircase and Bears Ears National Monument, also in Utah, spending time on the plans is a waste of taxpayer resources. They think the government should have waited to see how the courts rule.

President Bill Clinton created the monument in 1996 using the Antiquities Act, which sets guidelines calling for the "smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected."

In 2017, Trump shrunk the monument from nearly 3,000 square miles (7,770 square kilometers) to 1,569 square miles (4,064 square kilometers) after a review of 27 national monuments by then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. Trump downsized the Bears Ears National Monument, created by President Barack Obama in 2016, by about 85%.

Trump said scaling back the two monuments reversed federal overreach and earned cheers from Republican leaders in Utah who lobbied him to undo protections by Democratic presidents that they considered overly broad.

Conservation groups have called Trump's decision as the largest elimination of protected land in American history and believe they will prevail in their legal challenge.

Past presidents have trimmed national monuments 18 times, but there's never been a court ruling on whether the Antiquities Act also lets them reduce one.

David Polly, a paleontologist at Indiana University and past president of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, said he's relieved no fossil collection will be allowed inside the monument but worries that allowing people to take non-dinosaur fossils in many areas of the lands cut could lead to problems. The fossils in the area are rare because it's an ancient river bed and not an ocean bed and some items like petrified wood can be hard to distinguish from a dinosaur bone.

"It may be accidentally encouraging people to end up breaking the rules," Polly said.

Democrats take a look at a practical health care approach

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Democratic voters appear to be reassessing their approach to health care, a pragmatic shift on their party's top 2020 issue.

While "Medicare for All" remains hugely popular, majorities say they'd prefer building on "Obamacare" to expand coverage instead of a new government program that replaces America's mix of private and public insurance.

Highlighted by a recent national poll, shifting views are echoed in interviews with voters and the evolving positions of Democratic presidential candidates on a proposal that months ago seemed to have growing momentum within their party. Several have endorsed an incremental approach rather than a government-run plan backed by Sens. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.

It could mean trouble for Sanders and his supporters, signaling a limit to how far Democratic voters are willing to move to the left and an underlying skepticism that Americans will back such a dramatic change to their health care.

"We hear Medicare for All, but I'm not absolutely certain what that means and what that would then mean for me," said Democrat Terrie Dietrich, who lives near Las Vegas. "Does it mean that private insurance is gone forever?"

Dietrich, 74, has Medicare and supplements that with private insurance, an arrangement she said she's pretty comfortable with.

She thinks it's important that everyone has health care, not just those who can afford it. She said she would support Medicare for All if it was the only way to achieve that.

But "I don't think we can ever get it passed," Dietrich added.

Erin Cross, her 54-year-old daughter and also a Democrat, said she's not comfortable with switching to a system in which a government plan is the only choice. She said Democrats won't be able to appeal to Republicans unless they strike a middle ground and allow people to keep their private insurance.

"We've got to get some of these other people, these Republican voters, to come on over just to get rid of Trump," she said.

Democratic presidential candidates also have expressed skepticism.

California Sen. Kamala Harris' new plan would preserve a role for private insurance. New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker is open to step-by-step approaches. Meanwhile, health care moderates including former Vice President Joe Biden have been blunt in criticizing the government-run system envisioned by Sanders.

In Nevada, the early voting swing state that tests presidential candidates' appeal to labor and a diverse population, moderate Democrats have won statewide by focusing on health care affordability and preserving protections from President Barack Obama's law.

Nationwide, 55% of Democrats and independents who lean Democratic said in a poll last month they'd prefer building on Obama's Affordable Care Act instead of replacing it with Medicare for All. The survey by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation found 39% would prefer Medicare for All. Majorities of liberals and moderates concurred.

On a separate question, Democratic support for Medicare for All was a robust 72% in July, but that was down from 80% in April, a drop Kaiser says is statistically significant but not necessarily a definitive downward trend.

That said, Kaiser pollster Liz Hamel said it wouldn't be surprising if it turned into one. On big health care ideas, she said, "as the public starts seeing arguments for and against, we often see movement."

The Kaiser survey also found broad backing for the public-option alternative that moderates are touting, a government plan that would compete with but not replace private insurance. Eight-five percent of Democrats supported that idea, along with 68% of independents. Republicans were opposed, 62% to 36%.

Large increases in federal spending and a significant expansion of government power are often cited as arguments against Medicare for All. However, the main criticism Democrats are hearing from some of their own candidates is that the Sanders plan would force people to give up their private health insurance.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 22 of 57

Under the Vermont senator's legislation, it would be unlawful for insurers or employers to offer coverage for benefits provided by the new government plan.

Ohio Rep. Tim Ryan argued during the last round of Democratic debates that that's problematic for union members with hard-fought health care plans secured by sacrificing wage increases. However, Sanders has long asserted his plan will allow unions to obtain bigger wage increases by taking health care out of the equation.

In interviews with The Associated Press, union workers in Nevada said they worried about how Medicare for All would affect their coverage.

Chad Neanover, prep cook at the Margaritaville casino-restaurant on the Las Vegas Strip, said he would be reluctant to give up the comprehensive insurance that his union has fought to keep. He has asthma, and his wife is dealing with diabetes. The union's plan has no monthly premium cost and no deductible.

"I don't want to give up my health insurance. I've personally been involved in the fight to keep it," said Neanover, 44. "A lot of people have fought to have what we have today."

Savannah Palmira, a 34-year-old union construction worker in Las Vegas, said she's open to supporting Medicare for All, but wants to know specifically what it would look like, how the country would transition and how it would affect her plan.

"That's one of the biggest things that I love about being in the union, is our quality health care," Palmira said.

Medicare for All backers say their plan has been unfairly portrayed.

"The shift in polling on Medicare for All is a direct result of mischaracterizations by opponents," said Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., a Sanders campaign co-chair.

People are most interested in keeping their own doctors, Khanna added, and Medicare for All would not interfere with that.

Longtime watchers of America's health care debate see new energy among Democrats, along with a familiar pattern.

"The long-standing history of health reform is that people want to hang on to what they have," said Georgetown University public policy professor Judith Feder, who was a health policy adviser in the Clinton administration.

Nonetheless, she noted a common interest among Democrats: "People want affordable, reliable, stable coverage."

Alonso-Zaldivar reported from Washington.

Global worry over Amazon fires escalates; Bolsonaro defiant

By MARCELO SILVA de SOUSA Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Amid global concern about raging fires in the Amazon, Brazil's government complained Thursday that it is being targeted in smear campaign by critics who contend President Jair Bolsonaro is not doing enough to curb widespread deforestation.

The threat to what some call "the lungs of the planet" has ignited a bitter dispute about who is to blame during the tenure of a leader who has described Brazil's rainforest protections as an obstacle to economic development and who traded Twitter jabs on Thursday with France's president over the fires.

French President Emmanuel Macron called the wildfires an international crisis and said the leaders of the Group of 7 nations should hold urgent discussions about them at their summit in France this weekend.

"Our house is burning. Literally. The Amazon rain forest — the lungs which produces 20% of our planet's oxygen — is on fire," Macron tweeted.

Bolsonaro fired back with his own tweet: "I regret that Macron seeks to make personal political gains in an internal matter for Brazil and other Amazonian countries. The sensationalist tone he used does nothing to solve the problem."

Onyx Lorenzoni, the president's chief of staff, earlier in the day accused European countries of exag-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 23 of 57

generating environmental problems in Brazil in order to disrupt its commercial interests.

"There is deforestation in Brazil, yes, but not at the rate and level that they say," said Lorenzoni, according to the Brazilian news website globo.com.

His allegation came after Germany and Norway, citing Brazil's apparent lack of commitment to fighting deforestation, decided to withhold more than \$60 million in funds earmarked for sustainability projects in Brazilian forests.

The debate came as Brazilian federal experts reported a record number of wildfires across the country this year, up 84 percent over the same period in 2018. Satellite images show smoke from the Amazon reaching across the Latin American continent to the Atlantic coast and Sao Paulo, Brazil's biggest city, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres tweeted: "In the midst of the global climate crisis, we cannot afford more damage to a major source of oxygen and biodiversity. The Amazon must be protected."

Federal prosecutors in Brazil's Amazon region launched investigations of increasing deforestation, according to local media. Prosecutors said they plan to probe possible negligence by the national government in the enforcement of environmental codes.

Bolivia is also struggling to contain big fires, many believed to have been set by farmers clearing land for cultivation.

Bolsonaro said there was a "very strong" indication that some non-governmental groups could be setting blazes in retaliation for losing state funds under his administration. He did not provide any evidence.

Bolsonaro, who won election last year, also accused media organizations of exploiting the fires to undermine his government.

"Most of the media wants Brazil to end up like Venezuela," he said, referring to political and economic turbulence in the neighboring South American country.

London-based Amnesty International blamed the Brazilian government for the fires, which have escalated international concern over the vast rainforest that is a major absorber of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

The rights group this year documented illegal land invasions and arson attacks near indigenous territories in the Amazon, including Rondonia state, where many fires are raging, said Kumi Naidoo, Amnesty's secretary general.

"Instead of spreading outrageous lies or denying the scale of deforestation taking place, we urge the president to take immediate action to halt the progress of these fires," Naidoo said.

The WWF conservation group also challenged Bolsonaro's allegations about NGOs, saying they divert "the focus of attention from what really matters: the well-being of nature and the people of the Amazon."

Brazil contains about 60 percent of the Amazon rainforest, whose degradation could have severe consequences for global climate and rainfall. Bolsonaro, who has said he wants to convert land for cattle pastures and soybean farms, won office after channeling outrage over the corruption scandals of the former government.

Filipe Martins, an adviser to Bolsonaro, said on Twitter that the Brazilian government is committed to fighting illegal deforestation and that many other countries are causing environmental damage.

The Amazon will be saved by Brazil and not "the empty, hysterical and misleading rhetoric of the mainstream media, transnational bureaucrats and NGOs," Martins said.

Sergio Bergman, Argentina's environment minister, appealed for people to overcome political or ideological divisions to protect the environment. He spoke at a five-day U.N. workshop on climate change in Brazil's northern state of Bahia.

"We all, in a way, understand that it is not possible to keep using natural resources without limits," Bergman said.

Associated Press journalists Victor Caivano in Salvador, Brazil, and Christopher Torchia in Caracas, Venezuela, contributed to this report.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 24 of 57

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. HOW DEMOCRATS VIEW HEALTH CARE

"Medicare for All" remains hugely popular, but in a recent poll, majorities of Democratic liberals and moderates say they would prefer to build on "Obamacare" to expand coverage.

2. FEDERAL MONUMENT RULING A MIXED BAG

A Utah national monument that Trump downsized doesn't include many new protections but it does include a few more safeguards than were in a proposal issued last year, AP learns.

3. US OFFICIALS CONFIRM ISRAELI STRIKE IN IRAQ

U.S. officials say that Israel was responsible for the bombing of an Iranian weapons depot in Iraq last month, the first known Israeli airstrike in Iraq since 1981.

4. WHERE CHILD PROTECTIVE WORKERS GET 'REAL LIFE' EXPERIENCE

Experts say an Illinois welfare agency under fire for high-profile deaths of children has become a national standout when it comes to giving workers hands-on training.

5. INVESTORS HOPE POWELL'S SPEECH OFFERS CLARITY

The Federal Reserve chair will deliver the keynote address in Wyoming as market watchers seek clarity on whether last month's first rate cut in a decade marked the start of a period of easier credit.

6. CANADA HALTS HONG KONG CONSULATE STAFF TRAVEL

The Canadian Consulate bans its staff from leaving the city on official business after a British Consulate employee was detained in mainland China.

7. DEMOCRATS SEE OPENING ON ECONOMY

White House hopefuls are trying to strike a balance between leveling blame on Trump and avoiding the appearance of cheering for a downturn that could hamper his reelection.

8. 'I-95 KILLER' EXECUTED IN FLORIDA

Gary Ray Bowles, a serial killer who preyed on older gay men during an eight-month spree that left six dead, is executed by lethal injection.

9. 'OUR HOUSE IS BURNING'

French President Emmanuel Macron and superstar soccer player Cristiano Ronaldo are calling for urgent action to combat the fires that are devastating the Amazon.

10. NASA SALUTES ROLLING STONES WITH RED PLANET ROCK

The space agency named a little stone for the legendary rockers after its InSight robotic lander captured it rolling across the surface of Mars.

Canada halts Hong Kong consulate staff travel after UK case

By KELVIN CHAN Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Accountants in Hong Kong marched Friday in support of the pro-democracy movement, while the Canadian Consulate banned its staff from leaving the city on official business after a British Consulate employee was detained in mainland China.

The head of the cabin crew union for Hong Kong airline Cathay Dragon said she had been fired in retaliation for supporting the movement, adding to the chill in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory where protesters have been rallying for more than two months.

Demonstrators were planning to form 40 kilometers (25 miles) of human chains Friday night to show their resolve. They said the "Hong Kong Way" was inspired by the "Baltic Way," when people in the Baltic states joined hands 30 years ago in a protest against Soviet control.

The Canadian Consulate didn't say whether the travel restriction on local staff was related to the detention of the British Consulate employee, Simon Cheng Man-kit. He went missing two weeks ago after going on a business trip from Hong Kong's high-speed rail terminal to Shenzhen, a mainland city just across the border.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 25 of 57

"At present, locally engaged staff will not undertake official business travel outside of Hong Kong," the Canadian Consulate said in a statement.

During a daily briefing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China respects Canada's decision, but countered it with a Confucius quote: "A gentleman is open and poised; a petty man is unhappy and worried."

Geng elaborated that those who are "above board" will have their rights guaranteed in China, while people with "an ulterior motive to engage in illegal activities" may have to be "extremely cautious."

Cheng had worked for the British Consulate since December 2017 as an international trade and investment officer for the Scottish government. He and other local staff at consulates and embassies support diplomats but don't have diplomatic passports themselves.

China said this week that Cheng is a Hong Kong resident who had been placed in administrative detention for 15 days for violating public order regulations. It did not elaborate.

The Global Times, a Communist Party-owned nationalistic tabloid, reported Thursday that Chen was detained for "soliciting prostitutes." Police in Shenzhen did not respond to requests for confirmation of the report.

China often uses public order charges against political targets and has sometimes used the charge of soliciting prostitution. Ou Shaokun, an anti-corruption activist, alleged in 2015 that he was framed by authorities in southern Hunan province who said they found him in a hotel room with a prostitute.

The U.K.'s Foreign and Commonwealth Office said in a statement that they are still urgently seeking further information about Cheng's case.

"Neither we nor Simon's family have been able to speak to him since detention," the office said. "That is our priority and we continue to raise Simon's case repeatedly in China, Hong Kong and London and have sought to make contact with Simon himself."

Geng, the foreign ministry spokesman, said Friday that Cheng's case is merely a public security issue and not a "diplomatic matter."

A few thousand accountants gathered in a city square around noon and marched to government headquarters, becoming the latest profession to back the movement publicly following rallies by lawyers, teachers and medical workers.

One participant, Sarah Wong, said accountants are usually quiet because they are focused on getting the numbers right, but they cannot remain silent anymore.

Kenneth Leung, a lawmaker who represents the accounting industry, said that the now-suspended extradition bill that sparked the protests would have affected accountants, because many of them have clients in mainland China and travel there.

The legislation would have allowed suspects to be extradited to the mainland to face trial.

"The profession as a whole needs to come out to express their concerns and grievances," he said.

Rebecca Sy, the airline union head, told a news conference that Cathay Dragon dismissed her without giving a reason, but that the firing came after she was pulled from a flight at short notice and asked by an airline representative to confirm that a screenshot from Facebook was from her account.

Cathay Dragon is owned by Hong Kong's main carrier, Cathay Pacific, which has come under pressure from Chinese authorities for employing people who support the protests.

The company said in a statement that Sy's departure "has nothing to do with her union leadership role or her union activities."

Sy said her firing was a symptom of a larger problem.

"It's not just about the termination of the job, it's also the whole issue, it's terrifying. All my colleagues are all terrified," Sy said. "I feel so sorry for them because I'm no longer in that position to protect them. I used to be the one to stand behind them, to back up all of my colleagues."

The Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions called her firing a "blatant suppression and retaliation on her participation in the anti-extradition bill movement and her actions to mobilize her colleagues to participate as a trade union leader."

The Canadian government updated its travel advice for China on Thursday to warn of stepped-up border

checks on smartphones.

"Increased screening of travelers' digital devices has been reported at border crossings between mainland China and Hong Kong," the advisory said.

There have been reports that Chinese immigration officers are inspecting phones for photos related to the protests.

Associated Press video journalist Johnson Lai in Hong Kong and writer Yanan Wang in Beijing contributed to this report.

Japan leader says S. Korea ending intel deal damages trust

By KAORI HITOMI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said South Korea's decision to cancel a deal to share military intelligence, mainly on North Korea, is damaging mutual trust and vowed Friday to work closely with the U.S. for regional peace.

Abe also accused South Korea of not keeping past promises. The intelligence agreement started in 2016. "We will continue to closely coordinate with the U.S. to ensure regional peace and prosperity, as well as Japan's security," he said ahead of his departure for the Group of Seven summit of industrialized nations in France.

South Korea announced Thursday it would terminate the intelligence deal because Tokyo's decision to downgrade South Korea's preferential trade status had caused a "grave" change in the security cooperation between the countries. Seoul says it will downgrade Tokyo's trade status as well, a change that would take effect in September.

Senior South Korean presidential official Kim Hyun-chong on Friday defended his government's decision. He told reporters that "there is no longer any justification" for South Korea to continue the deal because of Japan's claim that basic trust between the countries had been undermined.

South Korea has accused Japan of weaponizing trade to punish it over a separate dispute linked to Japan's brutal colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula from 1910 to 1945. Japan denies any retaliation.

Kim accused Japan of having ignored South Korea's repeated calls for dialogue and other conciliatory steps to resolve the bitter trade and history disputes. He said Japan's "breach of diplomatic etiquette" had undermined "our national pride."

Japan has long claimed all wartime compensation issues were settled when the two countries normalized relations under a 1965 treaty.

But South Korea's Supreme Court last year ruled that the deal did not cover individual rights to seek reparations and has ordered compensation for victims of forced labor under Japan's colonial rule.

South Korea's decision on the military intelligence pact came as a surprise to many and underlined how much relations with Japan have deteriorated.

The U.S. sees both South Korea and Japan as important allies in northern Asia amid continuing threats from North Korea and China. The Pentagon expressed "strong concern and disappointment" over the collapse of the agreement.

Kim said South Korea will push to bolster its alliance with the United States. He said South Korea will also try to actively use a trilateral intelligence-sharing channel with the United States and Japan. Before the 2016 bilateral deal was forged, Seoul and Tokyo used that three-way channel to exchange intelligence via the United States.

China, North Korea's last major ally, which earlier criticized the intelligence deal, said Friday that it respects South Korea's "independent right of a sovereign state" to take the step.

"The bilateral arrangements between the relevant sides should be in favor of regional peace and stability and the peace process of the peninsula. It should not harm the interests of any third parties," Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said in a daily briefing.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 27 of 57

Despite ample signs of friendly relations between their people, such as the popularity of K-pop in Japan and of Japanese animation in South Korea, the nations are entangled in a history that has bred animosity.

"The weight of past history influences current relations," said Daniel Sneider, lecturer in international policy at Stanford University, noting that generations that never directly experienced the colonial and wartime past can still be affected.

Sneider compared the situation to the divisive legacy of the U.S. Civil War, which remains relevant for many Americans. He also warned that an easy exit for the Japan-Korea tensions was not in sight.

"Korea certainly was a historical victim in that sense from the countries around it. That's very embedded in the historical memory that is created for Koreans. It's in their school curriculum, and it's in their popular culture," he said.

"They have this narrative of victimization, in which Japan certainly comes at the top of the list."

Koichi Ishizaka, an expert on intercultural communication and a professor at Rikkyo University in Tokyo, called for more dialogue, noting that Abe likely feels he gains political points with some voters by slamming South Korea.

"The situation is escalating, and it's hard to see how the spiraling conflict can be stopped," he said. "Although cordial exchange between the people is working for a brighter future, politics has taken a step back and has not caught up with that."

Liberal South Korean President Moon Jae-in has declared that his country will "never again lose" to Japan, although he later softened his tone and said he was willing to talk with Tokyo.

South Koreans have held massive rallies and started a boycott of Japanese products.

The tit-for-tat actions could lead to economic damage that's bigger for South Korea than Japan. Major South Korean manufacturers, including Samsung, rely heavily on materials and components imported from Japan.

Associated Press writers Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul, Yuri Kageyama in Tokyo and Christopher Bodeen in Beijing contributed to this report.

Follow Hyung-jin Kim on Twitter <https://twitter.com/hyungjin1972>

Follow Yuri Kageyama on Twitter <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

Climate change turns Arctic into strategic, economic hotspot

By **DAVID RISING** and **SETH BORENSTEIN** Associated Press

TASIILAQ, Greenland (AP) — From a helicopter, Greenland's brilliant white ice and dark mountains make the desolation seem to go on forever. And the few people who live here — its whole population wouldn't fill a football stadium — are poor, with a high rate of substance abuse and suicide.

One scientist called it the "end of the planet."

When U.S. President Donald Trump floated the idea of buying Greenland, it was met with derision, seen as an awkward and inappropriate approach of an erstwhile ally.

But it might also be an Aladdin's Cave of oil, natural gas and rare earth minerals just waiting to be tapped as the ice recedes.

The northern island and the rest of the Arctic aren't just hotter due to global warming. As melting ice opens shipping lanes and reveals incredible riches, the region is seen as a new geopolitical and economic asset, with the U.S., Russia, China and others wanting in.

"An independent Greenland could, for example, offer basing rights to either Russia or China or both," said Fen Hampson, the former head of the international security program at the Centre for International Governance Innovation think tank in Waterloo, Ontario, who is now a professor at Carleton University.

He noted the desire by some there to secede as a semi-autonomous territory of Denmark.

"I am not saying this would happen, but it is a scenario that would have major geostrategic implications, especially if the Northwest Passage becomes a transit route for shipping, which is what is happening in the Russian Arctic."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 28 of 57

In April, Russian President Vladimir Putin put forward an ambitious program to reaffirm his country's presence in the Arctic, including efforts to build ports and other infrastructure and expand its icebreaker fleet. Russia wants to stake its claim in the region that is believed to hold up to one-fourth of the Earth's undiscovered oil and gas.

China sees Greenland as a possible source of rare earths and other minerals and a port for shipping through the Arctic to the eastern U.S. It called last year for joint development of a "Polar Silk Road" as part of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative to build railways, ports and other facilities in dozens of countries.

But while global warming pushes the cold and ice farther north each year, experts caution that the race to the Arctic is an incredibly challenging marathon, not a sprint.

The melting of the Greenland ice sheet creates uncertainty and danger for offshore oil and gas developers, threatening rigs and ships.

"All that ice doesn't suddenly melt; it creates icebergs that you have to navigate around," said Victoria Herrmann, managing director of the Arctic Institute, a nonprofit focused on Arctic security.

On the other hand, while mining in Greenland has been expensive due to the environment, development costs have fallen as the ice has melted, making it more attractive to potential buyers, she said.

Strategically, Greenland forms part of what the U.S. views as a key corridor for naval operations between the Arctic and the North Atlantic. It is also part of the broader Arctic region, considered strategically important because of its proximity to the U.S. and economically vital for its natural resources.

Hampson noted it was an American protectorate during World War II, when Nazi Germany occupied Denmark, and the U.S. was allowed to build radar stations and rent-free bases on its territory after the war. That includes today's Thule Air Force Base, 1,200 kilometers (745 miles) south of the North Pole.

After the war, the U.S. proposed buying Greenland for \$100 million after flirting with the idea of swapping land in Alaska for parts of the Arctic island. The U.S. also thought about buying Greenland 80 years earlier.

Trump "may not be as crazy as he sounds despite his ham-fisted offer, which clearly upset the Danes, and rightly so," Hampson said.

Greenland is part of the Danish realm along with the Faeroe Islands, another semi-autonomous territory, and has its own government and parliament. Greenland's 56,000 residents got extensive home rule in 1979 but Denmark still handles foreign and defense policies, with an annual subsidy of \$670 million.

Its indigenous people are not wealthy, and vehicles, restaurants, stores and basic services are few.

Trump said Sunday he's interested in Greenland "strategically," but its purchase is "not No. 1 on the burner."

Although Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen called Trump's idea to purchase Greenland an "absurd discussion," prompting him to call her "nasty" and cancel an upcoming visit to Copenhagen, she also acknowledged its importance to both nations.

"The developments in the Arctic region calls for further cooperation between the U.S. and Greenland, the Faeroe Islands and Denmark," she said. "Therefore I would like to underline our invitation for a stronger cooperation on Arctic affairs still stands."

Greenland is thought to have the largest deposits outside China of rare earth minerals used to make batteries and cellphones.

Such minerals were deemed critical to economic and national security by the U.S. Interior Department last year, and as demand rises "deposits outside of China will be sought to serve as a counterbalance to any market control that could be exerted by a single large producer," said Kenneth Medlock, senior director at the Center for Energy Studies at Rice University.

Off Greenland's shores, the U.S. Geological Survey estimates there could be 17.5 billion undiscovered barrels of oil and 148 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, though the remote location and harsh weather have limited exploration. Around the Arctic Circle, there's potential for 90 billion barrels of oil.

Only 14 offshore wells were drilled in the past 40 years, according to S&P Global Analytics. So far, no oil in exploitable quantities has been found.

"It's very speculative, but in theory they could have a lot of oil," said Michael Lynch, president of Strate-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 29 of 57

gic Energy & Economic Research Inc. "It's perceived as being the new Alaska, where the old Alaska was thought to be worthless and turned out to have huge reserves. And it's one of the few places on Earth that's lightly populated, and it's close to the U.S."

Michael Byers, an Arctic expert at the University of British Columbia, suggests there are better approaches for Washington than the politically awkward suggestion of purchasing Greenland.

"There's no security concern that would be dealt with better if Greenland became a part of the United States. It's part of the NATO alliance," he said. "As for resources, Greenland is open to foreign investment. Arctic resources are expensive and that is why there is not more activity taking place. That's the barrier. It's not about Greenland restricting access."

That's been the approach taken by China, which has had mixed success. Greenland officials have visited China to look for investors but Beijing's interest also has provoked political unease.

In 2016, Denmark reversed plans to sell Groennedal, a former U.S. naval base that the Danish military had used as its command center for Greenland after a Hong Kong company, General Nice Group, emerged as a bidder, according to defencewatch.dk, a Danish news outlet.

Last year, then-U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis successfully pressured Denmark not to let China bankroll three commercial airports on Greenland, over fears they could give Beijing a military foothold near Canada, The Wall Street Journal reported.

Beijing's biggest Greenland-related investment to date is an ownership stake by a Chinese company in Australia-based Greenland Minerals Ltd., which plans to mine rare earths and uranium.

"People talk about China, but China can access Arctic resources through foreign investment," Byers said. "And foreign investment is a lot cheaper than trying to conquer something."

Rising reported from Berlin. Cathy Bussewitz in New York, Joe McDonald in Beijing, Frank Jordans in Berlin, Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow, Rob Gillies in Toronto, Ben Fox in Washington and Jan M. Olsen in Copenhagen contributed.

Democrats see opening on economy, resist cheering recession

By JULIE PACE AP Washington Bureau Chief

PROLE, Iowa (AP) — Campaigning under the stifling August sun, Joe Biden assailed President Donald Trump's trade war with China, accusing him of squandering a strong economy and putting Americans' financial security at risk.

But he was quick to add that he was not hoping for the worst.

"I never wish for a recession. Period," the former vice president and current Democratic presidential candidate told reporters in Prole, Iowa.

Biden's comments highlight the delicate balance for Democrats as the U.S. economy flashes recession warning signs. In town halls and speeches across the country this week, candidates leveled blame on Trump, arguing that his aggressive and unpredictable tariff policies were prompting gloomy economic forecasts. Yet they also strained to avoid the appearance of cheering for a downturn that would inflict financial pain on millions of Americans, but potentially help their party's political fortunes in 2020.

For more than two years, the combination of solid growth, low unemployment and a rising stock market has been a bulwark for Trump, helping him maintain the support of many independents and moderate Republicans who are turned off by his incendiary statements and pugnacious personality. According to a new Associated Press-NORC poll, a higher percentage of Americans approve of Trump's handling of the economy than his overall job performance.

"If there is a recession and the economy is doing worse, not better, than when Donald Trump started, it is hard to see how the majority of the American people, even those who have looked the other way on so many of his indiscretions, will decide to give him a shot at another four years," said Jennifer Psaki, a former White House and campaign adviser to President Barack Obama.

Trump's advisers privately have the same concern, particularly given that the president's path to victory

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 30 of 57

is already narrow. Well aware that a sitting president almost always gets the credit or the blame for the state of the American economy, Trump and his team have tried to point the finger elsewhere, namely in the direction of Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, accusing him of slowing growth by not lowering interest rates.

"Our Federal Reserve does not allow us to do what we must do. They put us at a disadvantage against our competition," Trump said Thursday on Twitter.

Shifting blame to others has been a frequent tactic for Trump, even to those within his own administration. (Trump nominated Powell as Fed chair last year.)

Some Democrats said he shouldn't get away with it this time.

"Do not allow him to escape the accountability that he deserves for what he is doing to this economy," said Beto O'Rourke, a presidential contender and former Texas congressman. "He'll try to blame every other person. The blame rests with Donald Trump. Now it's incumbent on all of us to call this out."

For months, the strong American economy has posed complications for Democrats trying to unseat Trump. Although Trump inherited an economy on the rise from his predecessor, Barack Obama, gains have indisputably continued under his watch. Unemployment is near a 50-year low at 3.7%. Consumer and business confidence has been strong, fueling record highs on Wall Street, even though the most recent signs show that consumer confidence could be ebbing.

Rather than trying to undercut those markers or predict doom ahead, most Democratic candidates have focused on economic inequalities, arguing that the wealthy were reaping the benefits far more than middle- and working-class Americans. In particular, Candidates have hammered Trump's 2018 tax law, which gave large-scale tax cuts to the rich and corporations and more moderate benefits to the middle class. And they've slammed the tariffs for burdening farmers across the heartland.

One exception has been Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who has openly warned about the prospect of another economic decline. In July, she wrote an essay predicting that a rise in consumer and corporate debt was imperiling the longest expansion in U.S. history.

"Whether it's this year or next year, the odds of another economic downturn are high — and growing," Warren wrote.

Biden in particular appeared to shift close to Warren's warnings this week, as analysts said that a slow-down, if not a full-blown recession, could hit before next year's election. During a two-day campaign swing through Iowa, Biden reminded voters that the Obama administration handed Trump a strong economy that could quickly come undone.

"Donald Trump inherited a growing economy from the Obama-Biden administration, just like he inherited everything in his life. And now he's squandered it, just like he's squandered everything he inherited in his life," said Biden, making sure to remind voters of his own role in revitalizing the economy during the last administration.

Other Democrats were more cautious, particularly about leaving the impression that the party sees a political benefit from an economic decline.

"I just think it's very important that we be clear as a party that we don't want a recession," said John Delaney, the former Maryland congressman who is mired at the bottom of the pack in the crowded Democratic primary field. "I don't want anything to happen, even if it's good politics, if it hurts workers."

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

Making a case to women: Trump female defenders go on offense

By JILL COLVIN and ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The Trump campaign has a message for its female supporters: It's time to come out of hiding.

"There's a lot of people that are fearful of expressing their support, and I want you ladies to know it's OK to have felt that way, but we need to move past that or the Democrats win," said Tana Goertz, a Trump

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 31 of 57

campaign adviser, at an Iowa "Women for Trump" event on Thursday.

The Iowa event, held in the back room of a barbecue joint in a Des Moines suburb, was one of more than a dozen in battleground states nationwide as part of a push to make the president's case on the economy and train volunteers.

The move is a recognition of the president's persistent deficit with women — an issue that has the potential to sink his chances for reelection. Over the course of his presidency and across public opinion polls, women have been consistently less supportive of President Donald Trump than men have. Suburban women in particular rejected Republicans in the 2018 midterm by margins that set off alarms for the party and the president.

Trump himself called into a gathering of hundreds in Tampa, Florida, and insisted, to cheers: "We're doing great with women, despite the fake news."

But polling suggests his challenges persist. The most recent Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll found just 30% of women approve of the way the president is doing his job, compared to 42% of men. Notably, there was no gap between Republican men and women — 80% of both groups said they approved of his job performance in the August poll.

At an event in Troy, Michigan, a Detroit suburb viewed as key contested territory, Michigan Republican Party Chairwoman Laura Cox acknowledged that Trump's style is a turnoff for some female voters. But she told the audience of 100 women to focus instead on what Trump had accomplished during his first term.

"I get it. I say, 'Listen, you never wonder what he thinks about people,'" she said. "Some people may not like what he says. But he delivers and has a very good track record of deliverables. And that's what's important. I try to get people focused on that, not the personality."

In Iowa, Goertz listed a number of ways that she said women are benefiting from Trump's presidency, including low unemployment, job creation and "safety" — and she said his immigration policy was a winner there.

"When I lay my head down at night, I want to know that my children are safe, that a terrorist is not going to come into our country," she said.

Similar events were scheduled in 13 battleground states, including North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Georgia and Ohio. The events, led by surrogates including White House counselor Kellyanne Conway and former Fox News host Kimberly Guilfoyle, sought to train attendees to be volunteers and what the campaign describes as "ambassadors" for the reelection effort.

Among the women in attendance in Troy was Cara McAlister, a sales representative from the nearby suburb of Bloomfield Township. She said Trump's 2016 candidacy inspired her to get more involved politically, and she became a GOP precinct delegate and canvassed door to door for him.

She has friends who were afraid to reveal their support for Trump because they fear backlash. So she invites them to meetings like Thursday's gathering.

"They really enjoy being in an atmosphere where they feel free to express their support for the president," said McAlister, who was wearing a white "Make America Great Again" cap and blue Trump-Pence shirt and who described herself as "middle age." "They tend to want to go to another event."

In Iowa, Joyce Lawson, a 30-year-old barbershop owner from Norwalk, said she finds herself targeted by friends for her conservative views.

"I'm afraid of people saying off-key stuff, like you're racist, you're with the Klan, just random uneducated stuff, and name-calling. So I want to have facts to stand up for my views," she said.

Trump has turned off higher-income, college educated and younger women "because of how he speaks, how he tweets," said Republican pollster Frank Luntz, while retaining the support of older women and women with lower incomes and without college degrees.

That contrast is evident in Iowa, a state Trump won by more than 9 percentage points in 2016, but one that has historically been seen as a potential swing state.

Some Republican women here, like Des Moines resident Pat Inglis, have become more fervent Trump supporters over his first term.

"He's helped this country more than anybody else in the last 20 years," the 70-year-old retiree said. She

added that Democratic attacks against the president, and the leftward tilt of the Democratic Party, have made her all the more enthusiastic toward Trump.

Others like Mary Miner, a lifelong Republican and small-business owner from rural Iowa, were driven away from the GOP by Trump.

"I'm astonished anyone could support him," the 61-year-old Miner said. "If my party is going to support that, I'm done with 'em. I'm a Democrat and that's it."

Recent focus groups show that women have dug in on their views, suggesting there are fewer women open to being persuaded, Luntz said.

"It's become more pronounced where those who don't like him are overtly hostile and those who do like him will stand up for him aggressively," Luntz said. "They are even more outspoken than men. They are even more dismissive. It's spoken with attitude and with venom. And I think it's because they take it personally."

As a result, he said, the election is likely to come down to a very narrow demographic — married professional mothers with teenagers, he says — who credit Trump for a booming economy but are turned off by his style.

"They like what he's done, but they don't like how he's done it," he said. "Do you want to focus on the ingredients, or do you want to focus on the casserole?"

Colvin reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Hannah Fingerhut and Josh Boak in Washington and David Eggert in Troy, Mich., contributed to this report.

Embattled Illinois welfare agency praised for training lab

By SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The troubling scene inside the dingy Chicago apartment seems real: dangling exposed wires, open pill bottles near a sleeping baby and a kitchen strewn with dog feces and cockroaches.

But the mock apartment — with a lifelike infant doll, candles emitting foul smells and plastic insects — is part of a new simulation lab to train workers who investigate child abuse claims across Illinois.

"Sometimes textbooks, they sugarcoat things. Teachers sugarcoat things, but this is real life," said Beth Brown of Murphysboro, who recently trained at the so-called "dirty apartment." "This is what you're going to experience."

Illinois' use of such experiential training focused on child welfare workers is being held up by experts as a national leader as the state plans to expand with a third simulation lab and its university experts write new research on the topic. But the accolades come as the agency faces serious systemic deficiencies, with some of its investigators under fire for high-profile deaths — including a 5-year-old suburban Chicago boy this year. The agency is under multiple court orders, including for high caseloads, leading the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois and others to question the expansion.

"Training is a great thing, but all the training in the world isn't going to fix the foundational problems that DCFS is struggling with," said ACLU attorney Heidi Dalenberg, who was involved in the caseloads court order.

More than 700 front-line employees have undergone simulation training in Illinois with hundreds more expected to follow suit. Child investigators and experts call it invaluable preparation for a dangerous, high-burnout job at the heart of child protective work.

The use of simulation training isn't unusual for first-responders: Many medical schools have opened multimillion-dollar facilities. However, it's a newer concept in child welfare, said Victor Vieth, a longtime expert who has trained child protective workers nationwide. The first child welfare simulation labs emerged roughly 15 years ago at universities. Dozens have since added them, and it has spread to state agencies.

New Jersey has trained child welfare workers at a New Brunswick academy for about five years. Kansas started offering child protective employees simulation training in 2017. The University of South Carolina Upstate opened a training center in 2010 used by thousands of teachers, students and social service workers.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 33 of 57

But Illinois is notable in targeting front-line workers through multiple centers and its university experts use the data for some of the first research on the topic. While some state-of-the-art facilities are pricey, Illinois has spent relatively little. The first lab opened in 2016 inside a home on the University of Illinois Springfield campus that was a gift. In Chicago, DCFS officials spent roughly \$60,000 to convert existing office space into a lab that opened in April. A third is expected downstate within a year.

The state requires all new investigators, who follow hotline calls alleging abuse and neglect, undergo a week of simulation training. That was extended this year to veteran front-line workers, following an outside report on the agency's systemic issues and high-profile deaths.

The labs use real cases, which Illinois officials say helps others avoid missteps. Early Springfield trainings were based on a child who died during a DCFS investigation.

"Once they go into a home, they have to use all of their senses," said Monico Whittington-Eskridge, a DCFS deputy director in Chicago. "We are giving a picture of what are some of the typical things that they may encounter when they go into a home. Not every home is a potential dirty home."

The Chicago lab includes another apartment with less obvious potential trouble: a cabinet of empty liquor bottles. There's a courtroom to practice witness testimony and space set up as a doctor's office or police station. All have cameras, two-way mirrors and microphones for observation.

The Associated Press recently observed the Chicago lab where more than 60 employees have trained, including walking through the "dirty apartment." Investigators are taught to look for possible issues as they follow up on abuse claims, for instance asking about the open prescription pill bottles near the baby or checking if televisions are anchored down to protect young children. It all factors into the eventual determination of whether abuse or neglect claims are founded and whether the child will be removed from the home.

The state hires actors to portray family. Trainees are instructed to remain calm, plainly state facts and avoid accusations, in hopes of building trust to learn critical details.

Brown knocked on the door of the "dirty apartment" and encountered distraught, mistrusting parents. "We don't abuse our children at all. We take very good care of our kids," said the actor playing the mother, who grew emotional. "You're not coming to take our kids, are you?"

"That is not my intention," Brown responded. "This may not even be an accurate report. My job is to see if it is accurate. I'm not here to accuse you of anything."

Brown's supervisor later entered to debrief, praising her calm demeanor and reminding her not to keep her back to the door, a safety precaution in the risky job.

Veteran investigator Stephen Mittens, who'll soon undergo the training, has witnessed gunfire. Last year, an investigator died after being attacked while trying to take a child into custody.

"Oftentimes we're walking into families' homes into some of the worst situations," Mittens said.

Investigators are also the first blamed when things go wrong, he said. That includes the death of Andrew "AJ" Freund, the 5-year-old who had extensive DCFS contact for abuse. His parents face murder charges. An investigator and supervisor were removed from casework. Attorneys said they were overloaded, a longtime problem and under court supervision at DCFS.

The agency's other issues have been well-publicized and exacerbated by ongoing state budget problems, including inadequate care for juveniles with mental health problems, a hotline with slow response and over a dozen agency directors in the past decade. There's also high turnover, typical of child welfare agencies. The Seattle foundation Casey Family Programs estimates average turnover rates from 20% to 40%.

First-year Gov. J.B. Pritzker has allocated funds for more investigators and agency officials have conducted a full review.

Some experts suggest the simulation training could help, particularly with burnout. Illinois researchers are studying data from the centers. UIS professor Betsy Goulet, who helped design the centers, said early signs suggest trainees are less likely to leave.

For Brown, 40, the simulations are refreshing after the classroom.

"It's not something that a teacher can tell you what to do," she said. "This is something you need to

experience in order to get better and understand the job.”

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

Investors hope Powell’s speech offers clarity. But will it?

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Against the backdrop of a vulnerable economy, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell takes center stage Friday with the financial world seeking clarity on whether last month’s first Fed rate cut in a decade likely marked the start of a period of easier credit.

The confusion has only heightened in the days leading to the annual gathering of global central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, at which Powell will give the keynote address.

Investors are looking for a clearer signal from Powell that he and other members of the Fed’s interest rate committee support further rate cuts to counter a slowing global economy and calm turbulent markets. Yet they might not get it.

Minutes of the Fed’s July meeting released Wednesday showed that although officials voted 8-2 to cut their benchmark rate by a quarter-point, there was a wider divergence of opinion on the committee than the two dissenting votes against the rate cut had indicated.

The minutes showed that two Fed officials favored a more aggressive half-point rate cut, while some others adopted the polar opposite view: They felt the Fed shouldn’t cut rates at all.

The minutes depicted the rate cut as a “mid-cycle adjustment,” the phrase Powell had used at his news conference after the rate cut. That wording upset traders who interpreted the remark as suggesting that the Fed might not be preparing for a series of rate cuts to support an economy that’s struggling with a global slowdown and escalating uncertainty from President Donald Trump’s trade war with China.

There was even a difference of opinion among the Fed members who favored a rate cut, the minutes showed, with some concerned most about subpar inflation and others worried more about the threats to economic growth.

Comments Thursday from Fed officials gathering in Jackson Hole reflected the committee’s sharp divisions, including some reluctance to cut rates at least until the economic picture changes.

“I think we should stay here for awhile and see how things play out,” said Patrick Harker, the president of the Fed’s Philadelphia regional bank.

Esther George, president of the Fed’s Kansas City regional bank and one of the dissenting votes in July, said, “While I see downside risk, I wasn’t ready to act on that relative to the performance of the economy.”

George said she saw some areas of strength, including very low unemployment and inflation now closer to the Fed’s target level. She said her decision on a possible future rate cut would depend on forthcoming data releases.

Robert Kaplan, president of the Fed’s Dallas branch indicated that he might be prepared to support further rate cuts.

If “we are seeing some weakness in manufacturing and global growth, then it may be good to take some action,” Kaplan said.

George was interviewed on Fox Business Network; Harker and Kaplan spoke on CNBC.

The CME Group, which tracks investor bets on central bank policy, is projecting the likelihood that the Fed will cut rates at least twice more before year’s end.

Adding to the pressures on the Fed, Trump has kept up his attacks on the central bank and on Powell personally, arguing that Fed officials have kept rates too high and should be cutting them aggressively.

Trump has argued that a full percentage-point rate reduction in coming months would be appropriate — a suggestion that most economists consider extravagantly excessive as well as an improper intrusion on the Fed’s political independence.

The president contends that lower rates in other countries have caused the dollar to rise in value and thereby hurt U.S. export sales.

"Our Federal Reserve does not allow us to do what we must do," Trump tweeted Thursday. "They put us at a disadvantage against our competition."

Earlier in the week, he had told reporters, "If the Fed would do its job, you would see a burst of growth like you have never seen before."

Powell has insisted that the White House criticism has had no effect on the Fed's deliberations over interest rate policy.

Serial killer who preyed on gay men executed in Florida

By BRENDAN FARRINGTON Associated Press

STARKE, Fla. (AP) — Gary Ray Bowles, a serial killer who preyed on older gay men during an eight-month spree that left six dead, was executed by lethal injection Thursday at Florida State Prison.

The sentence was carried out at 10:58 p.m., according to the office of Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Bowles received the death penalty for the November 1994 murder of Walter Hinton in Jacksonville Beach. Hinton was Bowles' sixth and final known victim in a series of killings in an eight-month span in 1994 that terrorized the Interstate 95 corridor and won him the nickname the "I-95 killer."

It began in Daytona Beach with the murder of John Hardy Roberts. In between, there were victims in Rockville, Maryland; Savannah, Georgia; Atlanta; and Nassau County, Florida. In each case, Bowles had a signature: He stuffed the victims' throats with objects — towels, rags, toilet paper, dirt, leaves and even a sex toy.

Bowles did not say anything before his execution, but said in a handwritten statement dated Thursday that he was sorry for his actions.

"I'm sorry for all the pain and suffering I have caused. I hope my death eases your pain," Bowles wrote. "I want to tell my mother that I am also sorry for my actions. Having to deal with your son being called a monster is terrible. I'm so very sorry. I never wanted this to be my life. You don't wake up one day and decide to become a serial killer."

The execution itself proceeded with nothing unusual happening, other than Bowles speaking to himself perhaps in prayer before the procedure was carried out.

Investigators say if he hadn't been caught, he would have kept on killing.

"He probably enjoyed it after a while," said Thomas Youngman, a Daytona Beach detective assigned to the Roberts murder. "Why do you kill people after the first one? The first one could be a mistake, maybe. But then the second, all right, I'll maybe give you that. But the third, fourth fifth and sixth? When do you stop?"

It wasn't hard for Daytona Beach police to figure out who killed Roberts, the first victim in March 1994: Bowles left a probation document at the scene and also was caught on an ATM camera trying to withdraw money from Roberts' account. What proved more difficult was capturing him, something they were unable to do until after five other men in three states had been slain.

Bowles, 57, was raised in West Virginia, where he experienced drugs and violence at a young age. His father was a coal miner who died of black lung before he was born. His mother remarried multiple times, and his first two stepfathers were abusive, according to court records. His mother and brother testified that Bowles began drinking, smoking marijuana and huffing glue when he was 11 years old. When he was 13, he fought back against his second stepfather, smashing a rock in his head and nearly killing him, according to court records.

That's when Bowles left home. Investigators say Bowles survived by letting gay men perform sex acts on him for money, though he has maintained he is straight,

"I had a question about him being gay. He told me he was not, and I said, 'What do you describe yourself as?' He said, 'A hustler,'" Youngman said. "He'd befriend these old guys and have sexual relations with them, but I think they performed on him. He said he did not perform on them."

He also had a history of violence against women.

He was convicted of beating and raping his girlfriend while living in Tampa in 1982 and sentenced to eight

years in prison. The victim had severe injuries, including tears on her vagina and anus. Former Savannah detective John Best remembers hearing details of the crime as he investigated the murder of 72-year-old World War II veteran Milton Bradley.

"The Tampa detective, I remember her exact quote, 'I've seen better looking bodies in an autopsy,'" Best said.

Best still suspects that Bowles is bisexual and also believes he might have killed women. He said during an interview with detectives, Bowles freely admitted to killing his male victims, almost in a boastful manner, but when asked if there were female victims, he hemmed and hawed.

"He never gave us a yes or no answer," Best said. "It was, 'Let's change the subject.'"

Associated Press writer Curt Anderson in St. Petersburg, Florida, contributed to this story.

Rohingya shun repatriation to Myanmar, want safety guarantee

By TOFAYEL AHMAD and JULHAS ALAM Associated Press

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh (AP) — None of the thousands of Rohingya Muslims living in crowded refugee camps in Bangladesh turned up for a planned repatriation to Myanmar on Thursday, demanding they first be guaranteed safety and citizenship.

"Not a single Rohingya wants to go back without their demands being met," Bangladesh refugee commissioner Abul Kalam told reporters.

More than 700,000 Rohingya fled across the border to Bangladesh after Myanmar's military began a harsh counterinsurgency campaign against them two years ago, a campaign that involved mass rapes, killings and the burning of homes. A U.N.-established investigation has recommended top generals be prosecuted over the crackdown.

Rohingya Muslims have long demanded that Myanmar give them citizenship, safety and their own land and homes they left behind. The Buddhist-majority nation has refused to recognize Rohingya as citizens or even as one of its ethnic groups, rendering them stateless, and they also face other forms of state-sanctioned discrimination.

Myanmar had cleared more than 3,000 refugees from more than 1,000 families as eligible for repatriation and said the operation to return them would begin Thursday.

Kalam said none of the 295 families interviewed by the Bangladesh government and the U.N. refugee agency had agreed to return to Myanmar.

"I'll go to Myanmar only if I have citizenship. Otherwise they will shoot and burn us," 26-year-old Abdul Hossain told The Associated Press.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said her government will not force the refugees to return and the repatriation will only happen if they are willing.

The UNHCR said in a statement Thursday that many Rohingya interviewed actually want to go home if the conditions are met.

"Many stated that they do hope to go home to Myanmar as soon as conditions allow and that assurances regarding their citizenship status, freedom of movement, and security in Myanmar could be provided," it said, adding that U.N. agencies need access to the refugees' home areas.

"Building confidence is essential," it said, calling for "more predictable and effective access to refugees' places of origin and potential areas of return in Rakhine state."

Officials said the situation in the camps was calm on Wednesday and Thursday, unlike last November when thousands protested what they feared might be a forced repatriation.

Nevertheless, Ramzan Begum said her mother-in-law had fled their home in the refugee camp Wednesday night and had not returned on Thursday.

"She told us she will not go back (to Myanmar) and left the home last night," Begum said.

Many refugees have said they want to go back under direct U.N. supervision, not under the Myanmar government.

A U.N.-established investigation last year recommended the prosecution of Myanmar's top military commanders on charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity for the crackdown on the Rohingya. Myanmar dismissed the allegations.

The U.N. Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar released a new report Thursday concluding rapes of Rohingya by Myanmar's security forces were systemic and demonstrated the intent to commit genocide. The report said the discrimination Myanmar practiced against the Rohingya in peacetime aggravated the sexual violence toward them during times of conflict.

Alam reported from Dhaka.

Key Mueller cooperator Gates testifies in trial of DC lawyer

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rick Gates, a key cooperator in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation, testified Thursday against a prominent Washington attorney accused of concealing information from the Justice Department about work done for the government of Ukraine.

Gates, a former campaign aide to President Donald Trump who pleaded guilty last year in Mueller's investigation, took the stand as a government witness against Greg Craig. It was the latest installment of Gates' effort to secure leniency in exchange for his cooperation with multiple Justice Department probes. Among those is the case against Craig, an offshoot of Mueller's investigation into potential ties between the Trump campaign and Russia and part of an ongoing Justice Department crackdown on unregistered lobbying in the U.S. on behalf of foreign governments and other entities.

Gates spent hours describing the international political consulting work he and business associate Paul Manafort — a co-defendant in the Mueller investigation who also has pleaded guilty and is serving more than seven years in prison — did for a pro-Russia Ukrainian political party and how Craig came to be involved in some of those efforts.

The work that drew the Justice Department's attention occurred in 2012, when Craig and his law firm at the time — Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom — were engaged by the government of Ukraine to review the prosecution of Yulia Tymoshenko, a former Ukrainian prime minister, and produce a report on whether the trial met Western standards of justice. Tymoshenko was a political opponent of then-Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, a longtime Manafort patron and a political figure whom Gates said he and Manafort had helped get elected.

The report was billed as independent, but critics have said it whitewashed a politically motivated prosecution, and Gates acknowledged on the witness stand that the document was conceived as a way to counter international criticism that Tymoshenko had been denied a fair trial. Prosecutors have also said the project was part of an effort by Ukraine to improve its international standing.

Gates testified that Manafort arranged for the hiring of Skadden to prepare the report, and said he served as an intermediary for the firm and worked with Craig on a publicity plan for the document. That included giving an embargoed copy to New York Times reporter David Sanger.

Though the article "was not the greatest," it was at least viewed "neutrally" and helped inform other coverage, Gates said. Overall, Gates said he considered the strategy a success given the credibility he believed was associated with the publication and the reporter.

"From our standpoint, the success of it was very great," Gates said.

When a prosecutor asked whether Craig had carried out the role he had committed to with regard to The Times, Gates answered, "Yes, he did."

An email from Manafort to Craig stated: "The pro has emerged again. The initial rollout has been very effective and your backgrounding has been key to it all. At least today, everyone in Kyiv is quite happy."

Craig, who has called the prosecution unprecedented and unjustified, did not register his work with a Justice Department unit tasked with enforcing the Foreign Agents Registration Act. Prosecutors said he

resisted registering because it feared it would prevent him or others at the firm from getting federal jobs in the future, and because he believed doing so would have meant disclosing that a third-party had paid more than \$4 million for the report.

The FARA law, enacted in 1938 to unmask Nazi propaganda in the United States, requires people to disclose to the Justice Department when they advocate, lobby or perform public relations work in the U.S. on behalf of a foreign government or political entity.

Though prosecutors have not charged Craig with failing to register, they said he gave misleading information when the Justice Department's FARA unit contacted the firm about the work and whether it required registration.

Earlier this year, the law firm itself paid more than \$4.6 million and publicly acknowledged it had failed to register with the government for its work for the Ukraine.

Craig was charged in April in a two-count indictment, but the judge overseeing the case dismissed one of the charges before trial.

Craig's lawyers deny that he lied to the government or his law firm. They acknowledged that Craig spoke to reporters about the report but denied it was part of a public relations campaign that would run afoul of the law.

During cross-examination, defense lawyer Paula Junghans sought to distance Craig from Gates and tried to cast doubt on the idea that her client was doing the bidding of the Ukraine government.

She showed excerpts from the report that pointed to serious problems with the Tymoshenko trial, part of the defense team's argument that the document's conclusions were actually harmful — not favorable — to the client's interest.

One excerpt said: "Under Western standards, we find that the decision to detain Tymoshenko for the entire balance of her trial and after the trial had concluded — until sentencing — without adequate justification or review raises concerns about whether she was inappropriately deprived of her liberty prior to her conviction."

In addition, Junghans sought to undermine Gates' credibility by noting the wide-ranging tax and financial fraud conspiracy he admitted to last year, and the fact that prosecutors agreed not to charge him with certain conduct in exchange for his cooperation.

"You've committed quite a few (crimes), haven't you?" Junghans asked.

"Yes," Gates replied.

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

Money crunch after Planned Parenthood quits federal program

By **LINDSAY WHITEHURST** and **DAVID CRARY** Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Planned Parenthood clinics in several states are charging new fees, tapping financial reserves, intensifying fundraising and warning of more unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases after its decision to quit a \$260 million federal family planning program in an abortion dispute with the Trump administration.

The fallout is especially intense in Utah, where Planned Parenthood has been the only provider participating in the nearly 50-year-old Title X family planning program and will now lose about \$2 million yearly in federal funds that helped 39,000 mostly low-income, uninsured people. It plans to maintain its services — which include contraception, STD testing and cancer screening — but is considering charging a small copay for patients who used to get care for free.

Planned Parenthood in Minnesota is in a similar situation, serving about 90% of the state's Title X patients, and plans to start charging fees due to the loss of \$2.6 million in annual funding.

The organization is concerned about the spread of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

"We believe there will be a public health crisis created by this denial of care," said Sarah Stoesz, the

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 39 of 57

Minnesota-based president of Planned Parenthood North Central States. "It's a very sad day for the country."

Planned Parenthood and several other providers withdrew from the program earlier this week rather than comply with a newly implemented rule prohibiting participating clinics from referring women for abortions.

Anti-abortion activists who form a key part of President Donald Trump's base have been campaigning to "defund Planned Parenthood." Among its varied services it is a major abortion provider, and the activists viewed the grants as an indirect subsidy.

About 4 million women are served nationwide by the Title X program, which makes up a much bigger portion of Planned Parenthood's patients than abortion. But the organization said it could not abide by the abortion-referral rules because it says they would make it impossible for doctors to do their jobs.

Misty Dotson, a single mother in Utah, started going to Planned Parenthood as doctors' bills for treating recurring yeast infections mounted. The services became even more important when she gave up her employer-sponsored health insurance because she couldn't afford the \$500 monthly bill.

She is unsure what she'd do if the family planning services she gets stop.

"It would put me in a very dangerous position," said Dotson, who works as an executive assistant for an accounting and consulting firm. "It covers so many things: STD testing, emergency contraception, birth control, lifesaving cancer screenings ... you name it, they have treated me for it."

Planned Parenthood said it's dedicated to maintaining its current services in Utah, but CEO Karrie Galoway acknowledged it won't be easy and could cause some "pain on all sides."

She said the organization plans to lean heavily on donors to make up the funding gap while staff members assess how they'll cope. Among the possibilities are instituting copays of \$10-\$15 per visit, shortening hours and trimming spending. She doesn't plan to lay off staff, but said she may not be able to fill jobs when people leave or retire.

Minnesota is planning fees as well.

"We'll continue to offer all services, and keep clinic doors open, but we'll be charging patients on a sliding scale who we didn't charge before," Stoesz said. "Vulnerable people who previously were able to access birth control and STD testing for free will no longer be able to do so."

Elsewhere, the impact of Planned Parenthood's withdrawal will vary from state to state.

In the Deep South there will be little impact because Planned Parenthood did not provide Title X services in most of the region's states. Governments in some Democratic-controlled states, including Hawaii, Illinois, New York and Vermont, say they will try to replace at least some of the lost federal funding.

In Washington state, Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee — fresh from quitting the presidential campaign — vowed to join that group of states. His administration is pulling Washington out of Title X because of the new rule and will ask the Legislature to make up for the \$4 million in federal funding that will be lost.

"We will not comply with their dangerous, unconstitutional, illegal rules," Inslee said Thursday. "We will make sure this health care continues."

The chief operating officer for Planned Parenthood of the Greater Northwest and Hawaiian Islands, Rebecca Gibron, said Southern Idaho could be hit hard by the changes, with other health care providers in the area saying they can't fill the gap if the roughly 1,000 low-income women served by Planned Parenthood in Twin Falls are no longer able to receive care.

"This was not money that can simply be made up by raising dollars from donors," Gibron said. "We have rent to pay, we have staff salaries ... there are limits to what we are able to do in terms of providing free care without the Title X program."

Among other providers withdrawing from Title X is Maine Family Planning, which oversees a network that serves about 23,000 patients per year and will be losing \$1.8 million in annual funding. Its CEO, George Hill, said the organization will rely on reserves and intensify fundraising efforts to bridge the gap while seeking more aid from the state.

In anticipation of the changes, Democrats in neighboring New Hampshire added about \$3.2 million in the state budget they passed earlier this year to make up for the federal funding. But that's on hold after Republican Gov. Chris Sununu vetoed the budget in June for other reasons.

Planned Parenthood will continue to participate in Medicaid, the federal health-coverage program for

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 40 of 57

low-income Americans. That's Planned Parenthood's biggest source of government funding — about \$400 million or more annually in recent years. The Republican-controlled legislatures in Texas, Iowa and Missouri have taken steps to block that flow of funds in their states.

Maryann Martindale, executive director of the Utah Academy of Family Physicians, said most Title X clients earn slightly too much money to qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford employer-based or private health insurance.

Crary reported from New York. Associated Press writers Brady McCombs in Salt Lake City; Patrick Whittle in Portland, Maine; Holly Ramer in Concord, New Hampshire; and Rebecca Boone in Boise, Idaho, contributed to this report.

This story corrects the first name of the Utah mother using Planned Parenthood for health care. It is Misty, not Mindy.

As global economic picture dims, solutions seem out of reach

By PAUL WISEMAN, DAVID McHUGH and JOSH BOAK AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — As global leaders gather on two continents to take account of a darkening economic outlook, this is the picture they face:

Factories are slumping, many businesses are paralyzed, global growth is sputtering and the world's two mightiest economies are in the grip of a dangerous trade war.

Barely a year after most of the world's major countries were enjoying an unusual moment of shared prosperity, the global economy may be at risk of returning to the rut it tumbled into after the financial crisis of 2007-2009.

Worse, solutions seem far from obvious. Central banks can't just slash interest rates. Rates are already ultra-low. And even if they did, the central banks would risk robbing themselves of the ammunition they would need later to fight a recession. What's more, high government debts make it politically problematic to cut taxes or pour money into new bridges, roads and other public works projects.

"Our tools for fighting recession are no doubt more limited (than) in the past," said Karen Dynan, an economist at Harvard University's Kennedy School.

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have downgraded the outlook for worldwide growth. On Thursday, Moody's Investors Service said it expects the global economy to expand 2.7% this year and next — down from 3.2% the previous two years. And it issued a dark warning: Get used to it.

"The new normal will likely continue for the next three to four years," the credit rating agency said.

Concerns are rising just as central bankers meet in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and leaders of the Group of Seven advanced economies gather this weekend in the resort town of Biarritz in southwestern France. A spotlight will shine, in particular, on whatever message Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell sends in a speech Friday in Jackson Hole.

The dour global outlook partly reflects President Donald Trump's combative trade conflicts with China and other countries. A realization has taken hold that Trump likely will keep deploying tariffs — and in some cases escalating them — to try to beat concessions out of U.S. trading partners.

"The trade uncertainty is here to stay," said Madhavi Bokil, senior credit officer at Moody's.

Squeezed by tightening protectionism, global trade is likely to grow just 2.5% this year, its slowest pace in three years, the IMF says. Manufacturers, whose fortunes are closely tied to trade, are struggling. J.P. Morgan's global manufacturing index dropped in July for a third straight month, hitting the lowest level since 2012.

The global funk also reflects the pull of gravity: The economies of Europe and Japan, fueled by central banks' easy-money policies, overexerted themselves a couple of years ago and are now returning to their more typical state: Sluggishness.

The IMF expects China's economy, the world's second biggest, to grow 6.2% this year — the weakest

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 41 of 57

since 1990 — and just 6% next year. Trump's trade war is certainly a factor. The president has imposed tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports and is set to tax nearly \$300 billion more before year's end. China's slowdown is also being orchestrated in part by the officials in Beijing, who are trying to contain lending to control the country's runaway debts.

And an economic chill in China sends shivers into the many countries — from copper-producing Chile to iron ore-making Australia — that feed Chinese factories with raw materials.

Then there's Europe. In the 19 countries that use the euro currency, growth slowed to an anemic 0.2% in the second quarter from the quarter before. The eurozone, which maintains close trade ties with the U.S. and China, has been sideswiped by the collision between Trump and President Xi Jinping. What's more, Trump has threatened to impose significant tariffs on European auto imports.

Even more than the tariffs themselves, uncertainty over whether the trade disputes will be resolved is chilling investment and purchasing. Despite cheap borrowing costs from central bank stimulus, investment in new plants is lagging — an ominous sign that bosses don't foresee future prosperity.

In Europe's usual economic powerhouse, Germany, the economy shrank 0.1% in the second quarter from the quarter before. If output should fall for a second straight quarter, Germany would find itself on the verge of a recession.

Some of Germany's troubles originate closer to home. Its major automakers have been compelled to sink billions into technology to meet stricter emissions tests, and some have endured delays in doing so. BMW lost money on its car business for the first time in a decade in the first quarter. Daimler posted its first net loss since 2009 in the second quarter.

Brexit is another risk for Europe. Prime Minister Boris Johnson says the UK will leave the 28-country European Union and its free-trade zone on Oct. 31, with or without a divorce deal. Not knowing what will happen is a nagging source of uncertainty.

Facing such risks, the European Central Bank has signaled that it could launch new monetary stimulus as early as next month. As recently as December, the ECB had been confident enough in the European economy to halt a nearly four-year, \$2.6 trillion euro (\$2.9 trillion) bond purchase program. That optimism has vanished.

The U.S. economy, now enjoying a record-breaking 10-year expansion, still shows resilience. American consumers, whose spending accounts for 70% of U.S. economic activity, have driven the growth.

Retail sales have risen sharply so far this year, with people shopping online and spending more at restaurants. Their savings rates are also the highest since 2012, which suggests that consumers aren't necessarily stretching themselves too thin, according to the Commerce Department.

But Trump's tariffs loom over the U.S. economy. The import taxes he plans to impose on China on Sept. 1 and again on Dec. 15 are likely to hit ordinary Americans more than the earlier rounds of tariffs.

Already, companies are delaying investments because they don't know where to put new factories, seek suppliers or find customers until they have a better idea where the trade disputes are going. "Uncertainty is high," said Eric Lascelles, chief economist at RBC Global Asset Management. "Businesses everywhere are sitting on their hands."

"All forecasts for the U.S. economy in the second half of this year and beyond are contingent on the trade war," Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, concluded in a note Thursday.

For all the global gloom, RBC's Lascelles said policymakers aren't without options. Even with short-term interest rates near zero, central banks can aggressively buy bonds to pump money into the financial system — the so-called quantitative easing the Federal Reserve, the ECB and the Bank of Japan used to revive growth during and after the financial crisis.

And even with the heavy debt burdens, governments could capitalize on low rates to borrow cheaply if they decided to stimulate their economies with tax cuts or stepped-up spending, Lascelles said.

McHugh reported from Frankfurt, Germany.

North Dakota agency disregarded policy on spill reporting

By JAMES MacPHERSON Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota's Health Department disregarded its own policy in updating the volume of a 2015 pipeline spill at a natural gas processing plant, and it remains unclear whether promised quarterly inspections of the site have been done in the past two years as cleanup continued.

Oklahoma-based Oneok Partners LP reported a 10-gallon (38-liter) spill of natural gas liquids, or "condensate," from an underground pipeline at its Garden Creek gas plant near Watford City in July 2015. The company told the state last October that it had recovered 240,000 gallons (908,400 liters) of the liquid gas. The second sum was not put into an incident report that can be accessed on the agency's website.

"It should have been updated," State Environmental Quality Chief Dave Glatt said Thursday. "It was in a file, but people (the public) didn't know where to find it."

An incident report has not been done since June 2017. At that time, the report said the spill site would be inspected quarterly. Glatt said he was investigating whether that had happened.

He said the agency is now working to develop a user-friendly tracking system on its website to update the status and include all documents on reported spills.

"It's all going to be right there," Glatt said, adding that he did not know when it would be in place.

Glatt previously had told The Associated Press that the agency does not update initial public reports on spills and was considering such a move. But the agency's website already described such a policy.

"When Department of Environmental Quality staff investigate reported incidents, they will update the information and record it in the update section of each report, producing a new version of the summary report with the next web page update cycle," the website says. "The web page is updated routinely."

Glatt said Thursday that the agency is not obliged to update information "unless we have something to update." He added: "I can't tell you we were 100% good on that."

Records show regulators updated the "general environmental incident summary" three times concerning the spill but left blank sections for "updated volume." Glatt said the agency did not have "good numbers" on the spill until the October update from the company.

"Our policy is to put in good numbers," Glatt said.

Glatt did not know how many times the site had been inspected but emphasized that regulators had been out to the factory near Watford City this week, following a story from environmental blog DeSmog, which reported that the spill may be as large as 11 million gallons (9 million imperial gallons). The blog cited an unidentified person who provided a draft document on a cleanup plan.

The company said the actual amounts of the release still aren't known.

The initial 2015 spill report said it "impacted areas" outside of the plant but regulators said this week that it had been contained within the factory's boundaries. Some groundwater was affected at the Garden Creek site, regulators said,

Glatt said groundwater monitoring wells have been placed completely around the natural gas factory.

Oneok said the release was caused by "hairline cracks" in a 2-inch-wide (5-centimeter-wide) underground pipe at the facility. Regulators don't know how long the line had been leaking, but they said it was repaired immediately after being discovered.

Glatt said the company has moved all of its underground pipelines above ground since the spill.

North Dakota is the No. 2 oil producer behind Texas, and oil and natural gas production has soared in the past decade. Glatt said his agency, which numbers more than 150 people, is not lacking for inspectors to keep tabs on spills.

He said everyone at the agency "is a potential inspector."

Cyberattacks on Texas cities put other governments on guard

By KATHLEEN FOODY Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Cyberattacks that recently crippled nearly two dozen Texas cities have put other local governments on guard, offering the latest evidence that hackers can halt routine operations by locking

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 43 of 57

up computers and public records and demanding steep ransoms.

Government agencies that fail to keep reliable backups of their data could be forced to choose between paying ransoms or spending even more to rebuild lost systems. Officials are increasingly turning to cybersecurity insurance to help curb the growing threat.

"I think we're entering an epidemic stage," said Alan Shark, executive director of the Public Technology Institute, which provides training and other support for local government technology employees. "The bad actors have been emboldened."

The attacks, which have been happening for years, can set governments back decades. Libraries can't use electronic checkout systems. Police can't access electronic records, and utility bills must be paid with paper checks rather than online.

Protection is expensive, particularly for smaller cities whose employees may not be trained on the latest ransomware, which often spreads through emails containing malicious links or attachments. Hackers can also entice users to visit a compromised website and then encrypt files stored on a computer or network until a payment is made.

In Keene, a community of about 6,000 people about 45 miles (72 kilometers) southwest of Dallas, problems began Friday when computers used by its roughly 50 employees locked up and prevented any credit card payments, officials said.

Three other cities identified themselves as victims. A spokeswoman for the city of Borger declined to comment on security efforts or costs, and messages for officials in Wilmer and Kaufman were not returned.

The Department of Homeland Security and the FBI are working with the affected cities but declined to release the names of all 22 governments or provide any detail about how the hackers gained access to their systems.

Cities of all sizes have been targeted in recent years, including Atlanta, Baltimore, Newark, New Jersey and Savannah, Georgia.

After a 2018 malware attack, Savannah officials canceled traffic court for weeks. Everything from 311 call center requests to city permits and licenses were halted or delayed. Information Technology Director Mark Revenew remained reluctant to discuss details more than a year later, including how investigators believe the city's systems were compromised.

"These guys are like bank robbers," Revenew said. "They look at what attacks work and then they replicate it."

Baltimore officials refused a demand for about \$76,000 in bitcoin to restore access to the city's network. Federal prosecutors last year indicted two Iranian men for ransomware attacks on more than 200 victims, including Atlanta and Newark. The attacks netted more than \$6 million and cost the affected governments and companies more than \$30 million.

According to the FBI, more than 1,400 ransomware attacks were reported last year, and victims reported paying \$3.6 million to hackers.

The FBI does not say how many of those reports came from state or local governments, but other research suggests they are a growing target for hackers. Intelligence analyst Allan Liska recorded 62 ransomware attacks yet this year on government entities, already exceeding last year's total of 54 based on local media reports.

Liska said his review has found government entities are less likely to pay a ransom than private companies or individuals. Attacks on government generate more attention, though, and hackers seem to be seeking infamy along with a payout.

Governments are among a growing number of clients shopping for cybersecurity insurance. Some customers get the coverage as part of a larger package while others buy a stand-alone cyber policy. Insurers reported taking in more than \$2 billion in premiums for cyber coverage last year, according to the insurance brokerage firm Aon's June report.

In June, several Florida cities decided to pay hackers hundreds of thousands of dollars for a key to decrypt captive data, but officials told residents that they were only on the hook for a deductible. Most of

the cost was to be covered by insurers.

The FBI and most professional cybersecurity associations oppose such payouts because they help attackers continue to target other victims. But some officials desperate to get their systems back see it as a better option than paying millions to recreate thousands of lost government records.

Shark said he's heard of governments paying as much as \$20,000 for cyber insurance but considers that an investment against a system rebuild that could cost millions.

Cybersecurity experts caution that the policies are no replacement for basic cyber "hygiene," including backing up systems and data, training employees on the risks of clicking unknown links and regularly installing updates to hardware and software.

Insurers typically require cyber clients to complete those steps before issuing a policy and failing to do so risks a denied claim after an attack, said Dan Lohrmann of Security Mentor Inc., a training company.

"Elected officials are getting the message that this is not just a technology issue or a security issue but a government competence issue," he said.

In the northern suburbs of Chicago, seven communities banded together in 2014 to share the cost of contracting with a cybersecurity firm for added technical support and training. Amy Ahner, the director of administrative services for one of the members, said she advocated for the village of Glenview's purchase of cyber insurance. She saw it as secondary to security efforts.

"I have insurance on my car," she said. "But what matters most is how I drive it every day."

Follow Kathleen Foody on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/katiefoody>

Sanders, Harris set for showdown in delegate-rich California

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD and KATHLEEN RONAYNE Associated Press

SOUTH PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Bernie Sanders has promised to win the California presidential primary in March, but home-state Sen. Kamala Harris is defending her turf — putting the two on a collision course in a state both see as a critical steppingstone to the White House.

Sanders' campaign advisers rank California among what they call the crucial "first five" contests. By making a strong showing in those states — Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada, South Carolina and California — they believe Sanders can establish himself as the dominant candidate in the crowded Democratic field by early March. On Thursday, he rolled out a proposal to combat climate change, a major plank of his campaign, in a Northern California community ravaged by wildfire.

Harris, meanwhile, has locked down endorsements from most of the state's Democratic elected officials and recently announced having 10 paid staffers in California. Both candidates are in the state this week to address Democratic Party leaders in San Francisco.

But investing in California, the biggest prize in the presidential sweepstakes with 495 delegates, remains a gamble for both. It's far from clear that the effort will be money well spent if the candidates don't place near the top in the earlier states and if their campaigns are flagging by the time Californians start voting. (Mail-in ballots start going out Feb. 3 for the March 3 primary.) And in a state where most campaigning happens on the airwaves, having a grassroots network in San Francisco or Los Angeles may not save a candidate who is already sinking.

At this point, no other Democrats are betting on California like Harris and Sanders. Former Vice President Joe Biden has five staff members in the state, with several focused on fundraising. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren has no paid staff but is building a robust volunteer corps. Sanders, a Vermont senator, has 11 staffers on his payroll.

The problem for candidates: "How do you budget for a California primary when you don't know how you've done in the first four states?" asked longtime Democratic strategist Bill Carrick, who is based in Los Angeles.

"The first four states are incredibly consequential to who actually ends up a contender" in California, he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 45 of 57

Still, Sanders' campaign could spend \$25 million or more chasing votes, a sign of his campaign's commitment to the strategy. To manage the campaign in sprawling California, Sanders' campaign has broken up the state into five regions and started to build organizations in those areas. The idea is to target places like the Los Angeles region and the San Francisco Bay Area as states within a state, honing in on local concerns. On a recent swing, he discussed immigration in San Diego, homelessness in Los Angeles and housing in San Francisco, where a typical one-bedroom apartment rents for \$3,500.

In each area "we look at it like it's Iowa, like it's New Hampshire," said campaign spokesman Joe Calvello. Harris' campaign is relying on lawmakers backing her candidacy to amplify her message in their home districts. They're also helping raise money for her — she sent out a plea for donations Tuesday, warning that Sanders has raised \$45 million this year and has a large grassroots organization returning from his 2016 presidential campaign.

Harris also benefits from a campaign team with a long winning record in California. The consulting firm running her campaign, SCRB Strategies, is led by longtime San Francisco political hand Ace Smith, who is well versed in the state's diverse geographic areas and complicated delegate rules and has worked for Hillary Clinton and former California Gov. Jerry Brown.

Being California's home-state senator is a benefit and a liability, said Brian Brokaw, a longtime Harris adviser who does not have a formal role with the campaign.

"It's an opportunity in that it's a state where she's poised to do very well and has a strong base of support — and needs to do well," Brokaw said. "But at the same time, we live in a world of finite resources and having to spend money in your home state typically isn't at the top of any candidate's priority list."

Sanders and Harris present generational, gender and racial contrasts for voters. Sanders, 77, is white; Harris, 54, is the daughter of immigrants from India and Jamaica.

But they aren't necessarily chasing the same voters. Sanders is firmly anchored in the party's liberal wing. But the shape of Harris' coalition remains largely unknown, said Carrick.

"Is she going to try to take votes from Biden or Bernie or Warren?" he asked.

Sanders turned in a noteworthy second-place finish in California to eventual nominee Clinton in 2016, taking 46% of the vote and carrying 27 of 58 counties. For his army of veteran volunteers, the job has changed. They spent the last election introducing the self-described democratic socialist to voters.

The fight this time is for indecisive voters who are also giving a strong look to Harris, Warren and other candidates who share similar ideas.

In 2016, "People were like, 'It's Hillary. Who is Bernie?'" said volunteer Sanders organizer Melissa Michelson. But this time, she finds voters a bit confused with the array of choices.

In making a pitch to Democrats, "the response I get a lot is, 'Waiting and seeing,'" Michelson said.

Despite residing in Los Angeles, Harris has held few public events in California since launching her campaign in Oakland. Instead, most of her visits have been for closed-door fundraisers.

But her campaign has been mobilizing volunteers through "Camp Kamala" training events in San Diego and Los Angeles.

Most of the volunteer events listed on Harris' website are aimed at other states, like an organizing rally in North Carolina and phone banks in Nevada and South Carolina. Sanders' website lists about 20 upcoming volunteer events in the Los Angeles area alone.

With intense competition in a large field, Sanders appears to be aiming at a broader range of voters this time: He recently did a video interview with Grammy-winning rapper Cardi B.

Ronayne reported from Sacramento, Calif.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee announces run for 3rd term

By RACHEL LA CORTE Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who has ended his climate change-focused 2020 presidential bid, announced Thursday that he'll seek a third term as governor.

Inslee sent the email detailing his plans hours before he was to appear at a news conference at Planned Parenthood in Seattle regarding the Title X family planning program. He wrote that Washington state "shows the economic power of progressive action."

"We have provided the nation a road map for innovation, economic growth, and progressive action," he wrote. "And we're not done yet."

Inslee, who made fighting climate change the central theme of his presidential campaign, announced Wednesday night that he was ending his campaign after nearly six months.

Inslee said that he was confident that Democrats would select a nominee who would champion climate change issues but that it had become clear that he wouldn't be the person selected. Inslee said he was not endorsing anyone but would support whoever is the nominee.

"I believe we're going to have a candidate to fight this battle," he said on MSNBC. "I'm inspired by the people I've met across the country. I'm not going to carry the ball but we're going to make sure somebody is."

While the filing deadline for the state's 2020 elections isn't until next May, three Democrats had already signaled they would run for governor, but only if Inslee didn't: Attorney General Bob Ferguson, Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz and King County Executive Dow Constantine. The political dominos continued with Democratic candidates lining up to run for attorney general and lands commissioner if Ferguson and Franz end up not seeking reelection to their posts.

Franz said Wednesday night that she's not disappointed that she won't be entering the governor's race, saying that she loved her current job and has "a lot of work to do."

State Republican Party Chairman Caleb Heimlich said that he thinks Inslee could be vulnerable in a reelection bid.

"Getting elected to a third term is a tough task," he said. "And doing so on the heels of a failed presidential campaign where you sent a message to voters that you want a different job, that doesn't sit very well."

A few Republicans have already announced plans to run for governor, including Phil Fortunato, a state senator, and Loren Culp, the police chief of Republic, in eastern Washington. A Republican has not occupied the governor's office in more than three decades.

Governors in Washington state aren't subject to term limits, though most haven't served more than two terms. The last three-term governor in Washington was Republican Gov. Dan Evans, who served from 1965 until 1977.

Inslee, 68, became the third Democrat to end his presidential bid after U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell of California pulled out of the primary last month, followed by former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper last week.

While Inslee had qualified for the first two presidential debates this summer, he struggled to gain traction in the crowded Democratic field and was falling short of the requirements needed to appear on two high-profile stages next month: the third DNC debate in Houston and a CNN town hall focused on climate change, Inslee's key issue.

He had recently hit one of the markers — 130,000 unique donors. But he had yet to reach 2% in any poll and would have needed to hit that level of support in four qualifying polls.

Inslee is a former congressman and served as Democratic Governors Association chairman in 2018, when the party flipped seven Republican-held gubernatorial seats. He kicked off his campaign in March in Seattle, standing in front of a blue-and-green campaign logo with an arc of the Earth, declaring climate change the nation's most pressing issue.

Inslee was a champion for the clean energy industry in Congress and wrote a book on the topic. And he's pushed for state policies to curb greenhouse gas emissions blamed for global warming. On the day he announced his presidential bid, the state Senate passed a key piece of his legislative climate agenda,

a measure that seeks to eliminate fossil fuels like natural gas and coal from the state's electricity supply by 2045. The measure was later passed by the House and signed by Inslee in May.

In addition to pushing for a dedicated debate on climate change, Inslee's campaign has been rolling out climate proposals, including calling for the nation's entire electrical grid and all new vehicles and buildings to be carbon pollution free by 2030. He's also proposed a clean break between the federal government and the fossil fuel industry, ending tax breaks for oil companies and banning all drilling and extraction on federal lands and beneath federal waters.

Inslee released his sixth and final climate proposal, a plan focused on agriculture and farmers, hours before he announced he was dropping out of the race.

In a video released Tuesday on Twitter, Inslee thanked supporters for helping him pass the 130,000 individual donor mark.

"Together we have put the climate crisis front and center in the 2020 race," he said. "And thanks to you, every candidate knows they have to have a robust plan to defeat the climate crisis."

S. Korea cancels Japan intelligence deal amid trade dispute

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea said Thursday it will terminate an intelligence-sharing deal with Japan that focused on classified information about North Korea, a surprise announcement that is likely to set back U.S. efforts to bolster security cooperation with two of its most important allies in the Asian region.

South Korea attributed the decision to its bitter trade dispute with Japan, which has plunged the two countries' relations to their lowest point since they established diplomatic ties in 1965. Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono called the decision "extremely regrettable" and summoned the South Korean ambassador to protest the linking of trade and security issues.

The U.S. expressed disappointment in the decision. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the U.S. hopes that "each of those two countries can begin to put that relationship back in exactly the right place." The U.S. is urging Japan and South Korea to continue to talk, he said.

Many experts had predicted that South Korea would be unlikely to spike the 3-year-old intelligence-sharing deal for the sake of its relations with the United States. South Korea has been seeking U.S. help in resolving the trade dispute, and Seoul and Washington have also been working together to restart stalled talks on stripping North Korea of its nuclear weapons.

South Korea's presidential office said it terminated the intelligence deal because Japan's recent decision to downgrade South Korea's trade status caused a "grave" change in security cooperation between the countries.

"Under this situation, the government has determined that maintaining the agreement, which was signed for the purpose of exchanging sensitive military intelligence on security, does not serve our national interests," Kim You-geun, the deputy director of South Korea's presidential national security office, said in a nationally televised statement.

He said South Korea would formally notify Japan of its decision before Saturday, the deadline for an extension of the pact for another year.

Japanese Foreign Minister Kono said in a statement that the decision "was an action that completely misjudged the current security environment in the region and is extremely regrettable."

He said South Korea's linking of trade and security was "absolutely unacceptable, and we firmly protest to the South Korean government."

Since early last month, Japan has imposed stricter controls on exports to South Korea of three chemicals essential for manufacturing semiconductors and display screens — key export items for South Korea — and decided to remove South Korea from a list of countries granted preferential trade status.

South Korea accuses Japan of weaponizing trade to punish it over a separate dispute linked to Japan's brutal colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula from 1910 to 1945. Japan denies that, saying its steps were taken because of unspecified security concerns.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 48 of 57

The Japanese trade curbs triggered an outburst of anti-Japan sentiment in South Korea. Many South Korean citizens rallied in the streets, canceled planned holiday trips to Japan and launched widespread boycotts of Japanese beer, clothes and other products. The South Korean government, for its part, decided to downgrade Japan's trade status.

Some experts say the tit-for-tat actions could eventually hurt South Korea's economy more than Tokyo's. Many big South Korean manufacturers including Samsung rely heavily on materials and components imported from Japan, while Japan doesn't import many vital materials from South Korea.

Liberal South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who earlier declared his country would "never again lose" to Japan, used the Aug. 15 anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japan to extend an olive branch. Moon said Seoul will "gladly join hands" if Tokyo wanted to talk.

The Pentagon on Thursday expressed "strong concern and disappointment" in the collapse of the agreement.

"We strongly believe that the integrity of our mutual defense and security ties must persist despite frictions in other areas" of the South Korea-Japan relationship," said Lt. Col. Dave Eastburn, a Pentagon spokesman. "We'll continue to pursue bilateral and trilateral defense and security cooperation where possible."

On Wednesday, the top U.S. envoy on North Korea, Stephen Biegun, told reporters in Seoul that he appreciated what he called "strong and continued cooperation between the U.S., South Korea and Japan."

The intelligence deal went into effect in 2016, reportedly at the strong urging of the United States, which wants to boost three-day security cooperation to better cope with North Korea's nuclear threat and a rising China. The United States stations a total of 80,000 troops in the two Asian countries, the core of America's military presence in the Asia-Pacific region.

Experts said the deal enabled a quicker exchange of information between Seoul and Tokyo, because they had previously exchanged intelligence via the United States. In 2012, the countries nearly forged a similar deal but it was scrapped at the last minute following a vehement backlash in South Korea.

However, it is unclear how effective the deal has been for both countries, especially on intelligence on North Korea, one of the world's most secretive countries. But there has been a general consensus that South Korea needed information gathered by Japanese satellites and other high-tech systems, while Japan enjoyed signal, voice and human intelligence from South Korea.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said in a statement Thursday that it will try to maintain a "stable and perfect combined security posture" with the United States regardless of the termination of the intelligence deal. It called the South Korean-U.S. alliance "powerful."

South Korean government and ruling party officials have publicly questioned how Seoul could share intelligence with a country that questioned Seoul's handling of sensitive materials imported from Japan. Without providing concrete evidence, some Japanese officials including Prime Minister Shinzo Abe have suggested that some critical Japanese materials with potential military applications exported to South Korea may have reached North Korea. Seoul flatly denies that.

The fate of the deal had divided people in South Korea. Some argued that South Korea should do whatever it could to inflict pain on Japan, and that just floating the idea of ending the intelligence deal could force the United States to persuade Japan to lift its trade curbs. But some stressed that the deal's cancellation would impair relations with the United States at a time when South Korea faces many security challenges including the stalemated North Korean nuclear talks.

Moon's government has lobbied hard to facilitate talks between the U.S. and North Korea on the nuclear crisis. But the diplomacy has remained largely stalemated for months, and North Korea now says it won't go through South Korea to talk to the United States. The North recently test-fired a series of short-range missiles and other weapons capable of striking much of South Korea.

Last month, a Russian military plane allegedly violated South Korean airspace in the first such trespassing by a foreign warplane since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. Russian and Chinese warplanes allegedly also made a highly unusual joint entrance to South Korea's air defense identification zone, in what analysts said was an attempt to see how the Seoul-Washington-Tokyo security cooperation worked.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 49 of 57

South Korea's main conservative opposition party accused the Moon government of confusing "genuine courage" with "foolhardy courage." The Liberty Korea Party said security coordination with Washington and Japan needed to be solidified in the face of strengthening cooperation among Russia, China and North Korea.

"We would have lots of things to lose from the deal's termination," said analyst Go Myong-Hyun of the Seoul-based Asan Institute for Policy Studies. "If the U.S. turned its back on South Korea, we would be completely isolated in Northeast Asia."

On Thursday evening, about 30 anti-Tokyo activists gathered near the Japanese Embassy in Seoul to welcome the intelligence deal's termination. Jubilant participants held placards that read "The scrapping of the South Korea-Japan deal is a people's victory."

Associated Press journalists Lee Jin-man in Seoul, South Korea, and Mari Yamaguchi and Yuri Kageyama in Tokyo contributed to this report.

AP-NORC poll: 62% disapprove of how Trump's handling his job

By STEVE PEOPLES and HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — About 6 in 10 Americans disapprove of President Donald Trump's overall job performance, according to a new poll released Thursday by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, which finds some support for the president's handling of the U.S. economy but gives him weak marks on other major issues.

Just 36% of Americans approve of the way Trump is handling his job as president; 62% disapprove.

The numbers may be ugly for a first-term president facing reelection in 14 months, but they are remarkably consistent. Trump's approval rating has never dipped below 32% or risen above 42% in AP-NORC polls since he took office.

No other president has stayed within so narrow a band. Since Gallup began measuring presidential approval, Trump is the only president whose rating has never been above 50%. Still, several — Harry Truman, Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush — logged ratings worse than Trump's lowest rating so far at some point during their time in office.

Trump's poor grades in the AP-NORC poll extend to his handling of several key issues: immigration, health care, foreign policy and guns. Views of the Republican president's handling of the economy remain a relative bright spot despite fears of a potential recession, but at least 60% of Americans disapprove of his performance on other issues. The consistency suggests the president's weak standing with the American people is calcified after two years of near-constant political crises and divisive rhetoric at the White House.

The new survey was conducted shortly after back-to-back mass shootings in Texas and Ohio left dozens dead and renewed calls from Americans for answers from their elected officials. Trump pledged immediate action in the immediate aftermath of the attacks but has since shifted back and forth on whether to push for stronger background checks on people seeking to buy guns.

"He does whatever's politically expedient. He's awful," said 60-year-old Robert Saunders, a retired police officer from New Jersey who's not registered with either major political party and vowed not to vote for Trump in 2020.

According to the poll, 36% approve of Trump on gun policy, while 61% disapprove, numbers that mirror his broader approval rating.

In response to the shootings, Trump said that he would pursue policy options with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and that he would like to see "very meaningful background checks." Earlier this week, however, Trump said the U.S. already has significantly strict background checks in place and that many of his supporters are gun owners. On Wednesday, however, he again backed tighter background checks while speaking to reporters at the White House.

Seven in 10 Republicans express approval of Trump's handling of gun policy in the new poll, among his lowest ratings from the GOP. Self-identified moderate and liberal Republicans were slightly less likely than

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 50 of 57

conservative ones to express approval, 64% versus 74%.

Beyond guns, Trump remains overwhelmingly popular within his own party.

Nearly 8 in 10 Republicans approve of Trump's overall job performance, while 20% disapprove. As has been the case for his entire presidency, Democrats overwhelmingly oppose his leadership: 94% of Democrats disapprove in the new survey.

Independents remain decidedly low on Trump as well, with about two-thirds disapproving of Trump's performance.

Significantly more Americans approve of Trump's handling of the economy, although even on that issue he remains slightly underwater: 46% approve and 51% disapprove of his performance.

Trump's current economic rating represents a 5 percentage point drop from the same time last year, but for a president who has struggled to win over a majority of American voters on any issue, the economy represents a relative strength.

Even some Democrats approve: Just 5% of Democrats approve of his job performance overall, but 16% approve of his handling of the economy. Independents are closely divided — 44% approve and 47% disapprove — while 86% of Republicans approve of his economic leadership.

"He's kind of a bully, but I've seen some improvement," said Mandi Mitchell, a 38-year-old registered Democrat from North Carolina. "Our unemployment rate has definitely dropped."

Mitchell, who is studying for her doctoral degree, said she didn't vote for Trump in 2016 but might in 2020.

"I'm not going to be too hard on him," she said. "I just think he doesn't address America properly."

Amid regular distractions from the president's social media feed, Trump's team has worked to highlight rising retail sales and the solid labor market with its 3.7% unemployment rate as sources of strength. The U.S. economy appears to be showing vulnerabilities after more than 10 years of growth, however. Factory output has fallen and consumer confidence has waned as Trump has ramped up his trade fight with China.

Trump rattled the stock and bond markets this month when he announced plans to put a 10% tax on \$300 billion worth of Chinese imports. The market reaction suggested a recession might be on the horizon and led Trump to delay some of the tariffs that were scheduled to begin in September, though many others remain.

"The economy is doing OK, but he's doing a horrible job for the country," said 67-year-old John Sollenberger, of Philadelphia.

He said he left the Republican Party after Trump's rise and is now a registered independent.

"To me, it's the vitriol that comes out of him," Sollenberger explained. "He's obviously a racist. He's anti-immigrant. He foments discontent with so many people it doesn't matter what the economy's doing really."

Those who remain in the Republican Party do not share the negative assessment.

Greg Traylor, a 53-year-old small businessman from North Canton, Ohio, acknowledged that Trump is "rough around the edges," but he praised his work on immigration and his support for Israel. On the economy, Traylor cheered Trump's hard-line stance with China, while acknowledging it may cause some short-term pain.

"He's got balls of steel," Traylor said.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,058 adults was conducted Aug. 15-19 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.2 percentage points. Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods and later were interviewed online or by phone.

Fingerhut reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Online:

AP-NORC Center: <http://www.apnorc.org/>

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 51 of 57

Foot on table: British PM at home in French president palace

PARIS (AP) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson apparently wasn't sweating it despite the high stakes subject of his talks with the president of France: Brexit.

So relaxed was he during his Thursday visit to Paris that he sat deep in an upholstered chair in an Elysee Palace salon — and briefly put his foot on a coffee table.

President Emmanuel Macron, facing his guest from a chair on the other side of the small round table, appeared to make his guest feel at home.

Macron modernized the palace furniture after his 2017 election, casting off formality for high-toned comfort and a more relaxed style.

The two men joked, with Macron slapping his hand on the table. Johnson put his foot on it, while Macron pointed to the floor — where feet belong. Boris then said "sorry" with a wave and laugh.

The informal posture of the two, acting like clowning chums despite differences over Britain's expected fall departure from the EU, may be the new normal in the often-tense world of diplomacy. After all, Macron squeezed the thigh of President Donald Trump during a meeting in Paris in November.

The Elysee later called Thursday's encounter "complete" and "constructive."

Danish ex-PM attacks Trump for comments on defense spending

By JAN M. OLSEN Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — A former Danish prime minister on Thursday lashed out at U.S. President Donald Trump for his tweet about military spending, saying defense willingness is not just about the amount of money spent.

Lars Loekke Rasmussen's comment is the latest in an escalating spat between the U.S. and Denmark after Trump scrapped a visit to the country, saying current Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen was "nasty" when she rejected his idea of buying Greenland as an absurdity.

Loekke Rasmussen, who led the country until June, tweeted Thursday to Trump: "We have had (proportionally) exactly the same numbers of casualties in Afghanistan as US. We always stands firm and ready."

Trump, who has urged NATO members to do more to meet the alliance's goal of committing 2 percent of gross domestic product to defense, earlier tweeted that "Denmark is only at 1.35%."

"We will not accept that our defense willingness is only about percentages," Loekke Rasmussen tweeted. "I told you at the NATO Summit in Brussels last year."

In January, Denmark agreed to increase its long-term defense spending after a coalition in Parliament agreed to add 1.5 billion kroner (\$223 million) to the already agreed-upon defense budget for 2023, which would put defense spending at 1.5 percent of gross domestic product for that year. The U.S. spends about 3.4% of its GDP on defense.

Trump abruptly canceled his planned Sept. 2-3 visit to Denmark on Tuesday, after Frederiksen had called Trump's idea to buy Greenland "an absurd discussion."

Trump said her comment "was nasty. I thought it was an inappropriate statement. All she had to say was say, 'No, we wouldn't be interested.'"

Frederiksen said the U.S. remains one of Denmark's close allies.

The political brouhaha over the world's largest island comes from its strategic location in the Arctic. Global warming is making Greenland more accessible to potential oil and mineral resources. Russia, China, the U.S., Canada and other countries are racing to stake as strong a claim as they can to Arctic lands, hoping they will yield future riches.

Frederiksen has said that Denmark doesn't own Greenland, which belongs to its people. It is part of the Danish realm along with the Faeroe Islands, another semi-autonomous territory, and has its own government and parliament, the 31-seat Inatsisartut.

The sparsely populated island, which is four times zones behind Copenhagen, became a Danish colony in 1775 and remained that way until 1953, when Denmark revised its constitution and made the island a province.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 52 of 57

In 1979, Greenland and its 56,000 residents, who are mainly indigenous Inuits, got extensive home rule but Denmark still handles its foreign and defense policies, as well as currency issues.

Denmark pays annual subsidies of 4.5 billion kroner (\$670 million) to Greenland whose economy otherwise depends on fisheries and related industries.

On Wednesday, the U.S. State Department said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo spoke with his Danish counterpart and "expressed appreciation for Denmark's cooperation as one of the United States' allies and Denmark's contributions to address shared global security priorities."

Spokesperson Morgan Ortogus said Pompeo and Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeppe Kofod "also discussed strengthening cooperation with the Kingdom of Denmark — including Greenland — in the Arctic."

"Appreciate frank, friendly and constructive talk with @SecPompeo this evening, affirming strong US-DK bond," Kofod tweeted Wednesday evening. "U.S. & Denmark are close friends and allies with long history of active engagement across globe."

Follow the AP's full coverage of Greenland at <https://apnews.com/Greenland>

Report shows US deficit to exceed \$1 trillion next year

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal budget deficit is expected to balloon to more than \$1 trillion in the next fiscal year under the first projections taking into account the big budget deal that President Donald Trump and Congress reached this summer, the Congressional Budget Office reported.

The return of \$1 trillion annual deficits comes despite Trump's vow when running for office that he would not just balance the budget but pay down the entire national debt.

"The nation's fiscal outlook is challenging," said Phillip Swagel, director of the nonpartisan CBO. "Federal debt, which is already high by historical standards, is on an unsustainable course."

The office on Wednesday upped this year's deficit projection by \$63 billion and the cumulative deficit projection for the next decade by \$809 billion. The higher deficit projections come even as the CBO reduced its estimate for interest rates, which lowers borrowing costs, and as it raised projections for economic growth in the near term.

The number crunchers at CBO projected the deficit for the current fiscal year will come to \$960 billion. In the next fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1, it will exceed \$1 trillion.

The CBO said the budget deal signed into law earlier this month, which took away the prospect of a government shutdown in October and the threat of deep automatic spending cuts, would boost deficits by \$1.7 trillion over the coming decade. Increased spending on disaster relief and border security would add \$255 billion. Downward revisions to the forecast for interest rates will help the picture, trimming \$1.4 trillion.

Swagel said the federal debt will rise even higher after the coming decade because of the nation's aging population and higher spending on health care.

To put the country on sustainable footing, Swagel said, lawmakers will have to increase taxes, cut spending or combine the two approaches.

The CBO projects that the economy will expand more slowly, from 2.3% this year to 1.8% on average in the next four years. The assumption reflects slower growth in consumer spending and government purchases, as well as the effect of trade policies on business investment.

It also projects the unemployment rate will remain close to its current level of 3.7% through the end of 2020 and then rises to 4.6% by the end of 2023.

The CBO's estimate is the first to reflect the hard-won budget and debt deal signed into law earlier this month.

"The recent budget deal was a budget buster, and now we have further proof. Both parties took an already unsustainable situation and made it much worse," said Maya MacGuineas, president of the private Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

MacGuineas said lawmakers should ensure the legislation they enact is paid for and redouble efforts

to control the growth in health care costs and restore the solvency of the Social Security program. Her organization is focused on educating the public on issues with significant fiscal policy impact.

Senior White House adviser Kellyanne Conway pivoted to the president's desire to fund the military and other programs when asked about the report.

"We're always concerned about the deficit," Conway said. "We also need to fund a lot of the projects and programs that are important to this country."

Italian populist mixes religious symbols with his politics

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Matteo Salvini slipped the rosary out of his pocket right before Premier Giuseppe Conte began his speech to Parliament. He took it out and kissed it again midway through the address, just as Conte began admonishing him for exploiting his Catholic faith for political ends.

The interior minister's blatant brandishing of Catholic symbols has gone down as one of the most significant exchanges of his successful bid to topple Conte's 14-month-old government, which collapsed Tuesday after Salvini's League party withdrew its support.

While right-wing populists in the U.S. and Europe have increasingly invoked their Christian roots to justify policies against Muslims and other migrants, Salvini's gestures and rhetoric have carried particular resonance here since they directly challenge those of Italy's other major figure: Pope Francis.

Francis has made caring for migrants a hallmark of his papacy, traveling to the Sicilian island of Lampedusa in 2013 in his first trip as pope to comfort would-be refugees who survived shipwrecks and smugglers to reach Europe. He brought 12 Syrians home with him when he visited a refugee camp in Lesbos, Greece, three years later, and he has turned over Vatican apartments to house new arrivals to Italy.

Salvini's challenge to Francis' core message has not gone unnoticed by the Vatican or the Italian Catholic Church, although it remains to be seen whether his explicit religious display will resonate with rank-and-file Italians. While Italy is a majority Catholic country, many Italians don't go to church regularly and support abortion, contraception and other secular practices that are anathema to orthodox Catholic doctrine.

Former Premier Matteo Renzi of the opposition Democratic Party was quick to point out Salvini's apparent hypocrisy, noting that if he were such a good Catholic, he would also know that the Gospel verse Matthew 25 reads: "I was a stranger and you did not invite me in" — essentially a God-given mandate for all Christians to welcome the most vulnerable of foreigners.

"If you believe in those values, let those people disembark who are now stuck at sea, hostages of a shameful government policy," Renzi told Salvini in Parliament, referring to the weeks-long standoff over a boatload of migrants rescued by an aid group.

Giuseppe Orsina, political science professor at Rome's Luiss University, said Salvini's message is falling on an Italian electorate that has always been highly politicized and polarized, and that he didn't think voters would be swayed one way or the other by his newly emphasized faith.

"Those who liked Salvini before will read it positively, and those who are against him will read it badly," Orsina said. But he noted that Salvini, like all populists, is a keen observer of public opinion and adapts accordingly.

"If he does it, it's because there has been a positive reaction," he said.

Salvini is hoping to force early elections that could see his right-wing League continue its soaring popularity alongside other populist forces in Europe that have capitalized on anti-migrant, anti-EU sentiment. The 5-Star Movement, which had governed Italy alongside the League in an uncomfortable alliance after inconclusive elections last year, must weigh now whether it can cobble together an alternative majority in Parliament.

For months, Salvini — a divorced father of two children by two different women — has been kissing rosaries, invoking the Madonna and quoting St. John Paul II at political rallies to try to get Italian Catholics to support his nationalist message.

He has lashed out when questioned on it, as he did on Tuesday when Conte admonished him for his

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 54 of 57

politicized displays of faith during a speech in the Senate.

"Those with institutional responsibilities should avoid putting religious symbols alongside political slogans," Conte said, putting his hand on Salvini's shoulder as he announced his resignation and the formal end of the government.

As Conte continued, Salvini put his hand into his pants pocket, pulled out the rosary, and discreetly bent down to kiss it. When it was his turn to respond with a speech of his own, Salvini told Conte he was wrong to think Italians vote based on whether he kisses a rosary or invokes the Madonna for protection.

"Italians vote with their head and heart, and I am proud to proclaim that I believe," Salvini said. "And I never asked for protection for me, but for the Italian people."

The exchange was the most dramatic of a day spelling the end of Western Europe's first populist government. "The Last Kiss," read the headline in Wednesday's *La Repubblica*, reporting Conte's resignation under a photo of Salvini kissing the crucifix.

While Italians witnessed pious displays of Catholicism in the immediate post-World War II period, which was marked by visceral anti-communism, Italian politicians in general respected the constitutional separation of church and state, said Massimo Faggioli, a theologian at Villanova University in Philadelphia.

"Salvini has changed this," said Faggioli, recalling that Salvini is a fan of the "other pope" — retired Pope Benedict XVI, who has become the nostalgic standard-bearer for the right wing of the U.S. and European church that is vehemently opposed to Francis, exemplified by former White House adviser Steve Bannon and conservative U.S. Cardinal Raymond Burke.

"So his use of the rosary, his sympathy for Cardinal Burke and his preference for Benedict XVI over Francis is clearly instrumental," Faggioli said. "But Italians tend to be cynical in these things and they do not mind too much the sudden changes in a politician."

One of Francis' top advisers, though, does.

The Rev. Antonio Spadaro, editor of the Jesuit magazine *Civiltà Cattolica* and a key hand behind Francis' communications strategy, has been one of Salvini's fiercest critics, regularly tweeting his disapproval of the latest in Italian politics.

"We have seen an exploitation of rosaries, crucifixes — images that are dear to the devotion of believers that have been taken from their context to serve politics," Spadaro lamented to *La Repubblica* this week. While church teaching exhorts Catholic politicians to act coherently with their faith, "today we are seeing that sovereignty forces need to base themselves on religion to impose themselves."

Spadaro acknowledged that Francis' message to look out for the least in society is "uncomfortable" today. "But in reality, what is uncomfortable is the Gospel," he said.

Cardinal Gualtiero Bassetti, who heads the Italian bishops' conference which has been badly divided over Salvini's rise, said he had a more lay vision of political life that keeps blatant displays of faith out of the public sphere.

"Religiosity should be expressed in church and places of worship," he said Wednesday when asked about Salvini's rosary display in Parliament.

Francis himself has declined to be drawn into Italy's political maneuvering, regularly ducking questions about it during his in-flight news conferences. But he has made his anti-populist position clear and recently made his own statement about the power of Catholic symbols.

Marking an important feast day dedicated to the Virgin Mary on Aug. 15, Francis blessed 6,000 rosaries destined for Christians in Syria who had lost loved ones in the country's civil war.

"Prayer made with faith is powerful!" he told pilgrims in St. Peter's Square. "Let us continue to pray the rosary for peace in the Middle East and the whole world."

Ex-Colorado Gov. Hickenlooper says he's running for Senate

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper said Thursday that he will run for the U.S. Senate, becoming the immediate front-runner in a crowded Democratic field vying for the right to challenge Republican incumbent Cory Gardner.

He made his announcement via a video message in which he blasted Washington lawmakers over soaring prescription drug prices, the failure to act on climate change and the use of public lands by developers.

"I know changing Washington is hard, but I want to give it a shot," he says. "I'm not done fighting for the people of Colorado."

Hickenlooper last year brushed off entreaties from Washington Democrats to challenge Gardner, widely seen as the most vulnerable Republican senator in the country. Instead he mounted a longshot presidential campaign that collapsed before it ended in mid-August. Many Colorado Democratic and Republican strategists began to view a Hickenlooper entry into the Senate race as inevitable at that point.

Hickenlooper, an oil geologist turned brewpub owner who decided to run for Denver mayor in 2003 and won two gubernatorial elections, has loomed over Colorado politics for two decades. But his moderate, consensus-oriented approach may not be as good a fit in a state shifting to the left. Numerous Democrats — all younger than the 67-year-old former governor — announced their challenges to Gardner after Hickenlooper shifted his sights to the White House, and none has indicated he or she would step aside now. Indeed, one, state Sen. Angela Williams, warned "this won't be a coronation."

Some of the candidates raised almost as much campaign money as Hickenlooper did in his brief presidential bid. But national Democrats have been nervous that a messy and expensive primary would lead to a damaged challenger facing Gardner, widely acknowledged as a skilled politician and fundraiser. Though he will have to fight for the nomination, Hickenlooper is widely viewed as the front-runner because of his high name identification in the state and good standing among its Democrats.

Hickenlooper told The Associated Press on Thursday that he didn't anticipate his presence in the Senate primary would nudge any other Democrats out of the running, lauding the "tremendous amount of talent in the field."

"Everyone's going to make their own case to voters," he said, touting his own long record in business and public office.

Though Hickenlooper initially strongly rejected the idea of running for the Senate, saying he wasn't cut out for the job, he reined in his denials as his presidential campaign stumbled. Hickenlooper kept conversations open with the top Senate Democrat, Chuck Schumer, who continued to press him to run. Democratic groups commissioned polls to convince him that he'd be the favorite, and a group that advocates for scientific-minded members of Congress started a draft Hickenlooper campaign.

Asked about his previous disinterest in the Senate, where Democrats face long odds in their push to reclaim the majority next year, Hickenlooper said that he asked himself whether to "sit back and criticize Washington" or to "try to fix it."

"I spent a lot of time thinking about that and decided this was no time to walk away," he said.

Hickenlooper was not very involved in the details of legislative horse-trading during his eight years as governor and is known to yearn for an executive role. But, given the record of his presidential run, the Senate race seemed like his best path to Washington. Republicans hope that the governor damaged his reputation with his presidential bid and that the Democratic Party's generational struggles will wound him further in the primary.

Associated Press writer Elana Schor contributed from Washington.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 56 of 57

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Aug. 23, the 235th day of 2019. There are 130 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 23, 1927, amid worldwide protests, Italian-born anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were executed in Boston for the murders of two men during a 1920 robbery. (On the 50th anniversary of their executions, then-Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis issued a proclamation that Sacco and Vanzetti had been unfairly tried and convicted.)

On this date:

In 1775, Britain's King George III proclaimed the American colonies to be in a state of "open and avowed rebellion."

In 1913, Copenhagen's Little Mermaid statue, inspired by the Hans Christian Andersen story, was unveiled in the harbor of the Danish capital.

In 1914, Japan declared war against Germany in World War I.

In 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union agreed to a non-aggression treaty, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, in Moscow.

In 1960, Broadway librettist Oscar Hammerstein (HAM'-ur-STYN') II, 65, died in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

In 1973, a bank robbery-turned-hostage-taking began in Stockholm, Sweden; the four hostages ended up empathizing with their captors, a psychological condition now referred to as "Stockholm Syndrome."

In 1979, Soviet dancer Alexander Godunov (GUD'-u-nawf) defected while the Bolshoi Ballet was on tour in New York.

In 1982, Lebanon's parliament elected Christian militia leader Bashir Gemayel president. (However, Gemayel was assassinated some three weeks later.)

In 1999, The Dow Jones industrial average soared 199.15 to a then-record of 11,299.76.

In 2008, Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama introduced his choice of running mate, Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware, before a crowd outside the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Ill.

In 2003, Former priest John Geoghan (GAY'-gun), the convicted child molester whose prosecution sparked the sex abuse scandal that shook the Roman Catholic Church nationwide, died after another inmate attacked him in a Massachusetts prison.

In 2013, a military jury convicted Maj. Nidal Hasan in the deadly 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas, that claimed 13 lives; the Army psychiatrist was later sentenced to death. Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, the U.S. soldier who'd massacred 16 Afghan civilians, was sentenced at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, to life in prison with no chance of parole.

Ten years ago: Reality TV contestant Ryan Jenkins, suspected of killing his wife, former model Jasmine Fiore (fee-OR'-ee), was found hanging in a motel in Hope, British Columbia, Canada, an apparent suicide. Eric Bruntlett turned an unassisted triple play to finish Philadelphia's wild 9-7 victory over the New York Mets. Stefania Fernandez, Miss Venezuela, won the 2009 Miss Universe pageant in the Bahamas; she succeeded fellow Venezuelan Dayana Mendoza, the previous year's winner.

Five years ago: Israel bombed an apartment tower in downtown Gaza City, collapsing the 12-story building in an unprecedented strike. Hundreds of Russian aid trucks returned home from eastern Ukraine, a day after a bitterly disputed crossing.

One year ago: Mark David Chapman, the killer of former Beatle John Lennon, was denied parole for a 10th time. The long-running rift between President Donald Trump and Attorney General Jeff Sessions exploded into a public smackdown, with Trump accusing Sessions of failing to take control of the Justice Department and Sessions responding that he "will not be improperly influenced by political considerations." The United States and China imposed tariff increases on an additional \$16 billion of each other's goods.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Vera Miles is 89. Actress Barbara Eden is 88. Political satirist Mark Russell is 87. Pro Football Hall of Famer Sonny Jurgensen is 85. Actor Richard Sanders is 79. Ballet dancer Patricia

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 054 ~ 57 of 57

McBride is 77. Former Surgeon General Antonia Novello is 75. Pro Football Hall of Famer Rayfield Wright is 74. Country singer Rex Allen Jr. is 72. Actor David Robb is 72. Singer Linda Thompson is 72. Actress Shelley Long is 70. Actor-singer Rick Springfield is 70. Country singer-musician Woody Paul (Riders in the Sky) is 70. Queen Noor of Jordan is 68. Actor-producer Mark Hudson is 68. Actor Skipp Sudduth is 63. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Mike Boddicker is 62. Rock musician Dean DeLeo (Army of Anyone; Stone Temple Pilots) is 58. Country musician Ira Dean (Trick Pony) is 50. Actor Jay Mohr is 49. Actor Ray Park is 45. Actor Scott Caan is 43. Country singer Shelly Fairchild is 42. Figure skater Nicole Bobek (BOH'-bek) is 42. Rock singer Julian Casablancas (The Strokes) is 41. Retired NBA player Kobe Bryant is 41. Actress Joanne Froggatt is 39. Actress Jaime Lee Kirchner is 38. Neo-soul musician Andy Wild (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 38. Actress Annie Ilonzeh is 36. Dance musician Sky Blu is 33. Actress Kimberly Matula is 31. NBA player Jeremy Lin is 31.

Thought for Today: "All life is a concatenation of ephemeralities." — Alfred E. Kahn, American economist (1917-2010).