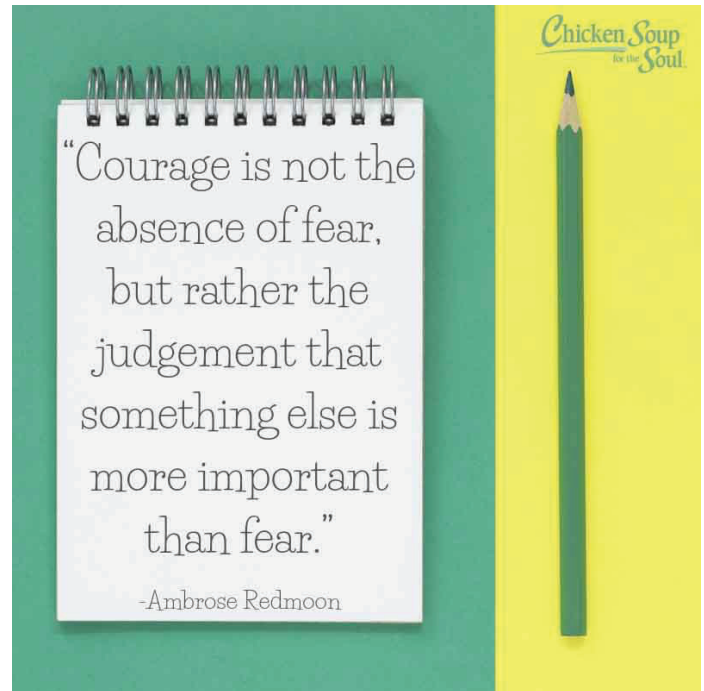


# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 1 of 58

- [2- Flooded Field](#)
- [3- Marzahn lead Groton with 20 kills in win over Hamlin](#)
- [3- High Water Causes GFP to Declare No Wake Zones on Lakes Brandt, Madison, Herman and Mitchell](#)
- [4- Volleyball Photo Page](#)
- [5- Colestock signs up with Presentation Volleyball Program](#)
- [6- Tonight on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [7- Mesonet Records Highest Wind Speed During EF2 Tornado](#)
- [7- Langford Front Porch Help Wanted](#)
- [7- Roberts County Democratic Party Steak Fry Dinner Ad](#)
- [8- UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL SECURITY SPOUSES' BENEFITS](#)
- [8- Class of '69 Reunion](#)
- [8- Groton Area Preschool Screening Ad](#)
- [9- Groton Legion to celebrate Legion's Centennial](#)
- [10- Weather Pages](#)
- [13- Daily Devotional](#)
- [14- 2019 Groton Events](#)
- [15- News from the Associated Press](#)



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

## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

### 13 - Friday

- 4 p.m.: Girls Soccer hosts West Central
- 7 p.m.: Football hosts Sisseton
- C&MA: Men's Bible Study at Dairy Queen, 6:30 a.m.
- Breakfast:** Rolls
- Lunch:** Chicken Quesadilla, Green Beans
- Senior Menu:** Turkey sub sandwich, potato salad, fruit, ice cream sundae.

### 14 - Saturday

- 9 a.m.: Groton 5th-6th FB hosts Groton Jamboree
- 9 a.m.: Groton 4th FB hosts WVYF Gold
- 1 p.m.: Girls Soccer at SF Christian
- 3 p.m.: Boys Soccer at SF Christian
- SEAS Catholic: Service, 4:30 p.m.

### 15 - Sunday

- St. John's Bible Study, 8 a.m.; Worship with Communion, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10 a.m.
- Emmanuel: worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday school, 10 a.m.; Nursing Home, 3 p.m.
- SEAS Catholic: service, 9 a.m.
- C&MA: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; Worship, 10:45 a.m.
- UMC: Fellowship, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
- Presbyterian: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.



## Flooded Field

Sump pumps were being used yesterday to try and remove the water from the football field. Groton received nearly five inches of rain in the past few days and with the ground being saturated, the water has no where to go. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 3 of 58

## Marzahn lead Groton with 20 kills in win over Hamlin

Groton's volleyball team went to 5-0 on the season with a 3-1 win over Hamlin. The match was played in Groton and was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Allied Climate Professionals, Bahr Spray Foam, BaseKamp Lodge, DeHoet Trucking, Groton Auto Works, Hanlon Brothers, John Sieh Agency, Milbrandt Enterprises and Professional Management Services.

Groton surged ahead early in the first game, but Hamlin came back to tie the game as late as 17 apiece. The Chargers had a brief one-point lead before the Tigers scored the last six points to secure a 25-18 win. Nicole Marzahn had seven kills, one block and a teamed block with Stella Meier while Indigo Rogers had two kills, Eliza Wanner one kill, Kaylin Kucker had two ace serves including the game winning ace serve, and Payton Colestock had one ace serve. Abby Abraham led Hamlin with four kills.

If anything could go wrong, it did for the Tigers in the second game. Hamlin went up 14-3. The Tigers had a six point rally at the end of the game but the Chargers went on for the 25-13 win. Rogers had two kills while Madeline Fliehs, Wanner and Marzahn each had one kill in the second game.

The two teams battled it out to start the third game with the game being tied three times as the Chargers had the early lead. Groton tied the game at five and then had rallies of four and seven points and scored the last three points of the game for the 25-13 win. Marzahn had six kills, Rogers two, Wanner one, Tady Glover had one kill and one ace serve, Kucker had an ace serve and Fliehs had a block. Hamlin earned just four points in that game.

Groton Area jumped out to a 7-1 lead in the fourth game and Hamlin never threatened for the rest of the game as the Tigers went on for the 25-13 win. Marzahn had six kills, Wanner and Rogers each had two kills, Colestock had two ace serves and Meier, Fliehs and Kucker each had a kill. Hamlin earned six points in the final set.

For the game, Marzahn finished with 20 kills and two blocks, Rogers had eight kills, Wanner had five kills, Kucker had three ace serves and a kill, Colestock had three ace serves, Fliehs had two kills and a block, Glover had a kill and a block and Meier had a kill and a kill.

Ally Abraham led Hamlin with nine kills and two ace serves while Kami Wadsworth had four kills, McKenna Prouty had three kills and two blocks.

Groton won the junior varsity match, 20-25, 25-22 and 15-8; and the C team lost their match, 25-16, 15-25 and 13-15.

The Tigers will be hosting Mobridge-Pollock on Tuesday with the JV/C matches to start at 5 p.m.

## Schinkel's header propels soccer team over JV Christian

The boys soccer team won a hard fought game 1-0 over James Valley Christian. Anthony Schinkel scored a header off a corner kick by Jackson Cogley in the second half for the win.

## High Water Causes GFP to Declare No Wake Zones on Lakes Brandt, Madison, Herman and Mitchell

PIERRE, S.D. – High lake levels have caused South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Secretary Kelly Hepler, to declare temporary "no wake zones" on Lake Brandt, Lake Madison and Lake Herman in Lake County and Lake Mitchell in Davison County.

In an executive order from earlier this year, Governor Kristi Noem named Hepler a temporary designee, giving him the ability to create such restrictions.

The no wake zones will be within 300 feet of the shoreline for the entire lake.

The no wake zones will be in place until high water conditions subside.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 4 of 58



**Eliza Wanner**



**Nicole Marzahn**



**Allyssa Locke in the  
JV Match**

Photos by Paul Kosel



**Tadyn Glover**





## Colestock signs up with Presentation Volleyball Program

Groton Area's Payton Colestock signed up with Presentation College on Thursday to play on their volleyball program. Pictured are PC's head coach Chelsea Albrecht and Assistant Coach Hailey Swenson. (Courtesy Photo)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 6 of 58

It's Football Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Sisseton  
Redmen**

**VS**



**Groton Area Tigers**

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019

7:00 p.m. at Groton

**Broadcast Sponsored By:**

**Doug Abeln Seed Company**

**Aberdeen Chrysler Center**

**Allied Climate Professionals**

**Bahr Spray Foam**

**BaseKamp Lodge**

**DeHoet Trucking**

**Groton Auto Works**

**Hanlon Brothers**

**John Sieh Agency**

**Milbrandt Enterprises**

**Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass**

**Olson Development**

**Professional Management Services**

**Touchdown Sponsor: Patios Plus**



## Mesonet Records Highest Wind Speed During EF2 Tornado

BROOKINGS, S.D. - The South Dakota Mesonet station in Sioux Falls measured 70 mph wind gusts at 11:30 p.m. on the night of September 10, about the time the EF2 tornado struck.

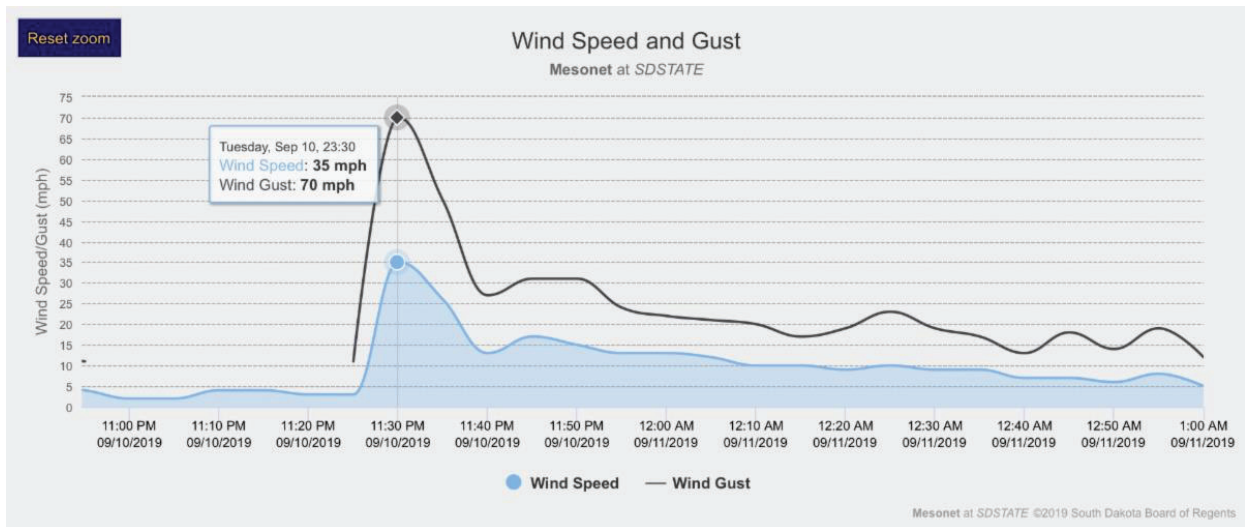
"The wind speed measured by the Mesonet is the highest known wind speed measured in the Sioux Falls area throughout the duration of the storm," said South Dakota Mesonet Director Nathan Edwards.

A damage survey by the National Weather Service estimated winds of up to 125 mph were possible where the tornado touched down about two miles away.

The winds were accompanied by heavy rainfall of up to 1.15 inches per hour at the Sioux Falls station. More than double the amount of rainfall in the Sioux Falls area was recorded at surrounding South Dakota Mesonet stations.

The South Dakota Mesonet is a state-wide network of 26 stations operated by South Dakota State University for agriculture, public safety, research and the public.

For current weather updates, visit [mesonet.sdstate.edu](http://mesonet.sdstate.edu).



South Dakota Mesonet wind speed graph from the night of September 10 in Sioux Falls.

## Langford Front Porch Help Wanted



Immediate opening for a FT General Manager at The Front Porch Bar & Grill, Langford SD. This person will ensure a profitable and efficiently run restaurant/bar operation through innovative

menus, events, staff management and business operations. Wage DOE. Must be 21 years old. Contact Paula Jensen at (605) 228-5963 or email resume by September 30, 2019 to [langfordfrontporch@venturecomm.net](mailto:langfordfrontporch@venturecomm.net).

## Roberts County Democratic Party

is hosting a

### STEAK FRY DINNER

Friday, September 20, 2019 • 6:30 p.m.

Valley View Golf Course

Speaker will be Joel Heitkamp

KFGD morning show "News & Views"

TICKET PRICE: \$50

To purchase tickets call: Gary Hanson 268-0448

Jason Frerichs 605-949-2204, Dave Gleason 237-1923

## UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL SECURITY SPOUSES' BENEFITS

Your spouse's benefit amount could be up to 50 percent of your spouse's full retirement age amount, if you are full retirement age when you take it. If you qualify for a benefit from your own work history and a spouse's record, we always pay your own benefit first. You cannot receive spouse's benefits unless your spouse is receiving his or her retirement benefits (except for divorced spouses). If you took your reduced retirement first while waiting for your spouse to reach retirement age, when you add spouse's benefits later, your own retirement portion remains reduced, which causes the total retirement and spouses benefit together to total less than 50 percent of the worker's amount. You can find out more about this at [www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/quickcalc/spouse.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/quickcalc/spouse.html).

On the other hand, if your spouse's retirement benefit is higher than your retirement benefit, and he or she chooses to take reduced benefits and dies first, your survivor benefit will be reduced, but may be higher than what your spouse received.

If the deceased worker started receiving reduced retirement benefits before their full retirement age, a special rule called the retirement insurance benefit limit may apply to the surviving spouse. The retirement insurance benefit limit is the maximum survivor benefit you may receive. Generally, the limit is the higher of:

- The reduced monthly retirement benefit to which the deceased spouse would have been entitled if they had lived, or
- 82.5 percent of the unreduced deceased spouse's monthly benefit if they had started receiving benefits at their full retirement age (rather than choosing to receive a reduced retirement benefit early).

Knowing how your finances affect your spouse's benefit can help both of you avoid future impacts on your incomes. We have decades of experience, and the information to go with it. Access a wealth of useful information and use our benefits planners at [www.socialsecurity.gov/planners](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners).

## *Groton Class of '69 50th Year Reunion*

Saturday, Sept 21st  
Olive Grove Golf Course  
The public is invited to attend after  
6:30 to renew acquaintances  
with OLD friends



## 2019 Groton Area Elementary Preschool Developmental Screening for 3 year olds September 24 and 25

Parents of children age 3 in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to either confirm their screening time or set up a time. Letters will be send out the week of September 16. If your child is already receiving services or enrolled at Groton Elementary School they will not need to be screened. If your child has already been screened but you have concerns please contact the elementary school. If you are new to the district and have a child under the age of 5, we also ask you to contact the elementary school.

The Developmental Screening will take place at Groton Area Elementary School.





# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 9 of 58

*Tribute to 100  
years of the  
American Legion*



*Coffee and  
Birthday  
Cake*

THE AMERICAN LEGION

1919

2019

100  
*Years*

*Please help us celebrate a Century  
of the American Legion*

VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA

Friday, Sept 20, 2019 ~ 3:30 p.m., Groton Legion Post #39

1 free drink to any Veteran

**Program to include**

**Legion history**

**Local performers singing songs from the following periods**

**WW I ~ WW II ~ Korea ~ Vietnam to present time**

**MILITARY RITES AT THE CONCLUSION IN HONOR OF OUR DECEASED COMRADES PERFORMED BY GROTON POST #39**

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 10 of 58

Today



Decreasing  
Clouds

High: 65 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 49 °F

Saturday



Mostly Sunny

High: 77 °F

Saturday  
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 54 °F

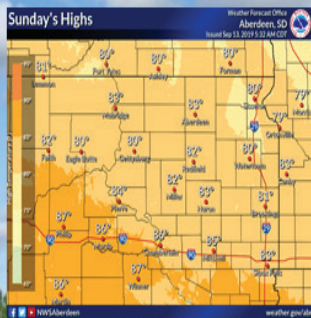
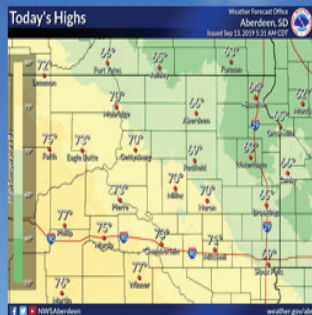
Sunday



Sunny

High: 82 °F

## Warming Temps Through the Weekend!



Drier pattern for the  
next several days



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 9/13/2019 5:41 AM Central

Published on: 09/13/2019 at 1:44AM

We're entering a pattern of warmer and drier conditions over the next several days, beginning today! Clouds may linger today over eastern portions of the forecast area, but we'll see high temperatures rise into the 60s and low 70s for most areas. For this weekend, mostly dry conditions can be expected as highs warm into the 70s and 80s.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 11 of 58

## Today in Weather History

September 13, 1928: An estimated F4 tornado traveled across Yankton and Turner County. An entire farm was swept away just as the family was about to enter the storm cellar. A man and his daughter were killed. A woman was killed in the town of Davis, in Turner County. Nine homes were destroyed, 52 were damaged, and 13 people were injured in Davis.

1944: The destroyer USS Warrington was sunk by the Great Atlantic Hurricane 300 miles east of Cape Canaveral, Florida. 247 men were lost in the tragedy.

1988: Hurricane Gilbert smashed into the Cayman Islands, and as it headed for the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico strengthened into a monster hurricane, packing winds of 175 mph. The barometric pressure at the center of Gilbert reached 26.13 inches of mercury, a record for any hurricane in the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, or the Atlantic Ocean. Gilbert covered much of the Gulf of Mexico, producing rain as far away as the Florida Keys.

1922 - The temperature at El Azizia in Libya soared to 136 degrees to establish a world record. To make matters worse, a severe ghibi (dust storm) was in progress. (The Weather Channel)

1928 - Hurricane San Felipe crossed Puerto Rico resulting in the highest winds, the heaviest rains, and the greatest destruction in years. The hurricane produced much damage in the Virgin Islands, and later hit the Bahamas and Florida. (David Ludlum)

1984 - Hurricane Diana, after making a complete loop off the Carolina coast, made landfall and moved across eastern North Carolina. Diana deluged Cape Fear with more than eighteen inches of rain, and caused 78 million dollars damage in North Carolina. (Storm Data)

1987 - Showers and thunderstorms produced heavy rain in the northeastern U.S. Flooding was reported in Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Greenwood NY received 6.37 inches of rain. A dike along a creek at Prattsburg NY gave way and a two million dollar onion crop left on the ground to dry was washed away. The prolonged rains in the eastern U.S. finally came to an end late in the day as a cold front began to push the warm and humid airmass out to sea. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Hurricane Gilbert smashed into the Cayman Islands, and as it headed for the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico strengthened into a monster hurricane, packing winds of 175 mph. The barometric pressure at the center of Gilbert reached 26.13 inches (888 mb), an all-time record for any hurricane in the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, or the Atlantic Ocean. Gilbert covered much of the Gulf of Mexico, producing rain as far away as the Florida Keys. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Unseasonably cool weather prevailed over the Central Plains Region, with a record low of 29 degrees at North Platte NE. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the Pacific Northwest, with a record high of 96 degrees at Eugene OR. Thunderstorms over south Texas produced wind gusts to 69 mph at Del Rio, and two inches of rain in two hours. (National Weather Summary)

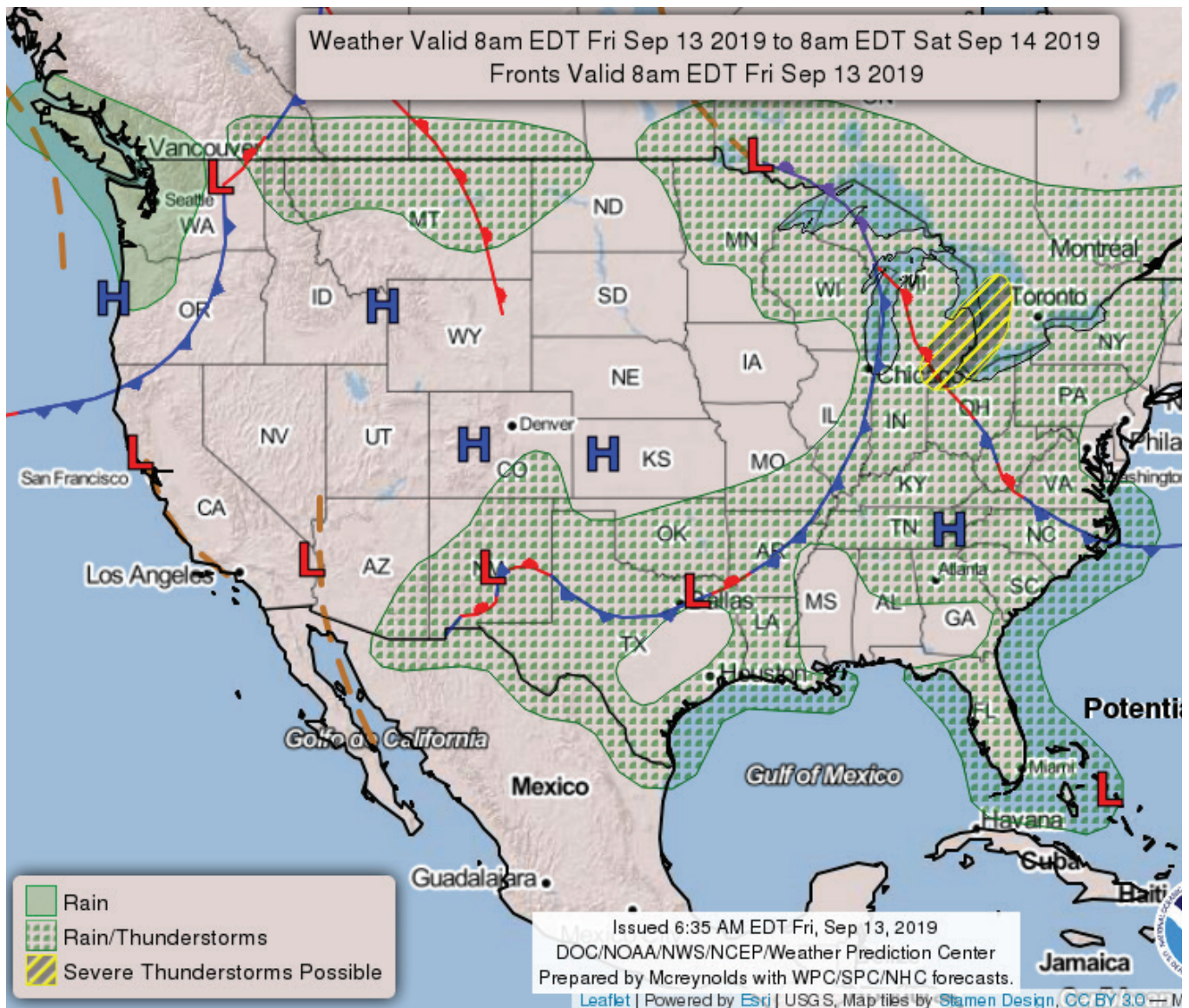
# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 12 of 58

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp:** 60 °F at 2:17 PM  
**Low Temp:** 53 °F at 7:59 AM  
**Wind:** 23 mph at 5:01 AM  
**Day Rain:** This morning: 0.00

**Record High:** 97° in 1927  
**Record Low:** 26° in 1902  
**Average High:** 73°F  
**Average Low:** 47°F  
**Average Precip in Sept.:** 0.91  
**Precip to date in Sept.:** 4.86  
**Average Precip to date:** 17.20  
**Precip Year to Date:** 24.62  
**Sunset Tonight:** 7:49 p.m.  
**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 7:11 a.m.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 13 of 58



## HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?

A homeless man was found dead trying to climb into a dumpster. When they looked in his pockets for his identification, they discovered several checks. They were worth thousands of dollars, but they did him no good. He never surrendered them to receive their cash value.

As we read God's Word, we find promise after promise – all having value to the believer. But as with the checks of the homeless man, they must be "turned into cash" to have any value for the Christian. We must go to God, through His Word, to claim His promises to meet our every need.

James said that God "does not resent your asking. But when you do ask Him, be sure you really expect Him to answer, for a doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea..."

There are times when it is easier to believe in God than it is to believe in the fact that He deeply cares for each of us and our every need. Surely, if He is bound by His Word, then we can go to Him "in faith believing." We must always remember one simple fact: nothing is so small that it escapes His concern, or that any problem is so large that He cannot solve it.

We limit God by the limitations we place on Him. The problems we have with our faith are our problems – not God's. "Whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you," said Jesus. What more can He say to assure us of His love and concern for our best?

Prayer: Father, give us a faith that is larger than our problems and a willingness to trust in Your power. Remind us that You are bigger than the universe You created. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: James 1:1-8 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 14 of 58

## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 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, 10 a.m. Sharp (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, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 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, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/14/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 15 of 58

News from the  Associated Press

## Volleyball

Avon def. Alcester-Hudson, 21-25, 25-10, 25-22, 24-26, 15-10  
Brandon Valley def. Yankton, 25-9, 25-15, 25-13  
Burke def. St. Mary's, Neb., 25-8, 25-11, 25-14  
Centerville def. Flandreau Indian, 25-21, 25-15, 25-18  
Chamberlain def. Crow Creek, 25-17, 25-13, 25-11  
Clark/Willow Lake def. Lake Preston, 25-15, 25-11, 25-15  
Colman-Egan def. Estelline/Hendricks, 7-25, 25-20, 25-19, 25-19  
Dupree def. Bison, 19-25, 25-23, 25-19, 22-25, 15-12  
Edgemont def. Guernsey-Sunrise, Wyo., 25-14, 21-25, 25-13, 25-16  
Elk Point-Jefferson def. Canton, 27-25, 25-13, 25-21  
Faulkton def. Potter County, 25-12, 25-16, 25-16  
Freeman def. Gayville-Volin, 25-22, 25-21, 26-28, 26-24  
Great Plains Lutheran def. Wilmot, 25-23, 25-11, 25-13  
Groton Area def. Hamlin, 25-18, 13-25, 25-13, 25-13  
Herreid/Selby Area def. Timber Lake, 25-15, 25-20, 25-21  
Highmore-Harrold def. Iroquois/Doland, 25-15, 25-7, 25-22  
Hill City def. Spearfish, 25-17, 20-25, 25-12, 25-22  
Hulett, Wyo. def. Harding County, 17-25, 25-17, 25-9, 25-20  
Ipswich def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-11, 25-19, 25-16  
Kadoka Area def. Wall, 23-25, 25-14, 25-22, 25-19  
Lead-Deadwood def. Belle Fourche, 25-22, 22-25, 25-15, 25-23  
Little Wound def. Red Cloud, 25-22, 25-22, 25-17  
Mobridge-Pollock def. Leola/Frederick, 25-20, 25-19, 26-28, 25-20  
New Underwood def. Lyman, 25-9, 25-16, 25-16  
North Central def. McLaughlin, 25-22, 25-14, 27-25  
Northwestern def. Warner, 25-10, 25-15, 25-13  
Pine Ridge def. Todd County, 25-12, 25-16, 25-10  
Rapid City Christian def. Faith, 25-23, 25-23, 25-27, 25-23  
Rapid City Stevens def. Rapid City Central, 25-18, 27-25, 25-22  
Redfield def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 22-25, 25-23, 25-23, 26-24  
Sioux Falls Christian def. West Central, 25-17, 25-8, 25-13  
Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Harrisburg, 18-25, 25-20, 25-18, 25-13  
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Pierre, 25-21, 25-21, 18-25, 25-12  
Sisseton def. Milbank Area, 25-17, 25-17, 25-17  
St. Thomas More def. Douglas, 25-7, 25-16, 25-11  
Tea Area def. Dell Rapids, 25-20, 25-13, 25-14  
Tiospa Zina Tribal def. Britton-Hecla, 25-11, 25-14, 25-21  
Waverly-South Shore def. Waubay/Summit, 25-21, 25-23, 25-21  
Webster def. Deuel, 25-11, 25-16, 25-6  
White River def. Bennett County, 25-14, 25-7, 25-18  
Wolsey-Wessington def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-21, 25-17, 25-19  
Wynot, Neb. def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-6, 25-22, 25-12  
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 16 of 58

Platte-Geddes vs. Bon Homme, ppd.  
Kimball/White Lake vs. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, ppd.  
Bridgewater-Emery vs. Irene-Wakonda, ppd. to Oct 7.

## South Dakota flooding prompts evacuations, school closures

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Heavy rain soaking much of southeastern South Dakota pushed the Big Sioux River to record levels on Thursday, flooded roads, closed schools and blocked travelers.

More than 7 inches of rain fell over two days near Madison, South Dakota. Up to 30 homes were evacuated Thursday morning, with many of those residents jumping into the bucket of a front-end loader to reach safety, Madison Police Sgt. Aaron Talich said.

A creek that flows through the center of Madison is back in its banks, Talich said Thursday afternoon. But residents near a creek that flows through the south side of Madison have been notified about that creek rising, he said.

Dakota State University was closed Thursday because of the flooding in Madison, which is northwest of Sioux Falls, and a no-travel advisory was issued in Lake County. Students on campus were urged to conserve water by not showering or doing laundry due to an overload at the city treatment plant.

The Big Sioux River above Dell Rapids surpassed March's record-breaking flooding of 1,489.5 feet, the Argus Leader reported. The river was last recorded at 6 p.m. on Thursday at 1,489.09 feet, according to the National Weather Service. Flood stage is 1,481 feet.

Floodwaters closed Interstate 90 from Plankinton to Sioux Falls, the South Dakota Department of Transportation said late Thursday afternoon.

According to the National Weather Service, up to 11 inches of rain fell over two days in parts of South Dakota.

Meanwhile, Xcel Energy said the number of customers still without power after three tornadoes struck Sioux Falls this week was down to about 1,200.

## Sage grouse numbers stumble in Montana, across US West

By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Montana's greater sage grouse population has fallen more than 40% over the past three years, mirroring recent declines across the U.S. West for the wide-ranging bird species that federal officials rejected for protections in 2015.

State wildlife officials estimate there were about 44,000 ground-dwelling sage grouse in Montana this spring. The figure is included in a report to be delivered to state lawmakers later this month.

Sage grouse once numbered in the millions but have seen their range that stretches across portions of 11 states diminished by oil and gas drilling, wildfires, grazing and other pressures.

Grouse numbers also continued to drop in 2019 in Oregon, Idaho, Nevada and Wyoming. Weather can affect populations from year to year, and wildlife officials say those short-term cycles are most directly responsible for the recent declines.

Montana's drop from almost 78,000 grouse in 2016 was traced to an extreme drought in eastern parts of the state in 2017 that had prolonged impacts, said Catherine Wightman with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

The decline coincides with increased efforts to conserve grouse habitat, including by working with private landowners to adopt grazing and other practices that are more beneficial to the bird.

"That doesn't mean those plans are not working and doing the right thing," said Wightman. "We're seeing this overall decline. The analysis shows overall the (population) peaks are getting a little lower and the valleys are getting a little lower. What we'd like to do is stabilize our numbers."

Wyoming's population drop was measured by counting the number of male birds strutting on grouse breeding grounds known as leks, said Sara DiRienzo with Wyoming Game and Fish. The number of birds per lek has dropped about 20 percent since 2018 and more than 40 percent since 2016, according to



agency figures.

This year's numbers are still above the low levels reached in 2013, DiRienzo said, and likely reflect dry conditions and extreme winter weather that caused many chicks to die.

Wyoming does not have an overall population estimate.

Brian Rutledge with the National Audubon Society said the population drops should not be written off just because they are cyclical, since ongoing habitat loss makes it harder for the bird's numbers to rebound each time they drop.

"We're not in a position to say this is OK. We have too many things working against us," he said.

In Oregon, bird numbers this year reached their lowest number since reliable estimates have been recorded beginning in 1996, said sage grouse conservation coordinator Lee Foster with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The state counted approximately 14,000 grouse, less than half the state's target of 30,000 birds.

"I'm very hopeful we're at the bottom this year," Foster said. "There is cause for concern even if the trend fits within what we would expect with the population cycle."

Grouse numbers in Idaho have dropped more than 50 percent since 2015. Nevada reported an 8 percent decline this year in lek counts of male birds.

The bird's population also was down in Utah, with the 2019 lek count marking a 61% decline from 2015, according to state wildlife officials. Part of that low number was attributed to a snow pack that lingered longer than usual, preventing people from getting to some of the areas they normally count, said Blair Stringham of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

The 2015 decision not to protect sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act came after state and federal officials crafted sweeping conservation plans for the birds across their range.

Under Republican President Donald Trump, the Interior Department has relaxed restrictions on mining and drilling that were included in the original plans adopted under his Democratic predecessor, Barack Obama. Impacts from those changes are expected to be long-term and not reflected in the latest population numbers.

---

AP writers Brady McCombs in Salt Lake City and Scott Sonner in Reno, Nevada, contributed to this report.

---

Follow Matthew Brown at <https://twitter.com/matthewbrownap>

## **Packers' revamped defense looks to slow Dalvin Cook**

**By KEITH JENKINS AP Sports Writer**

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — The Green Bay Packers strolled into Chicago for the season opener boasting a revamped defense with several expensive additions, and suffocated quarterback Mitchell Trubisky and the Bears' offense.

Defensive coordinator Mike Pettine's unit will see an entirely different challenge in running back Dalvin Cook on Sunday when the Packers (1-0) host the Minnesota Vikings (1-0), another NFC North foe.

Cook rushed for 111 yards and two touchdowns on 21 carries against the Atlanta Falcons last week. It was the third-year back's third 100-yard outing in his 16th career game.

"Yeah, the run game, I mean it all starts, that running back, he's an elite runner," Packers coach Matt LaFleur said. "Dalvin Cook's an elite runner, and they did a nice job up front. They took it to Atlanta, quite frankly, last week."

When healthy, Cook has proven to be one of the prime runners in the league. But staying healthy has been the biggest challenge of Cook's young career.

Cook, a 2017 second-round pick, played only four games as a rookie, suffering a torn ACL. Cook battled injury again last season, missing a chunk after a hamstring injury in a 29-29 tie at Lambeau Field in Week 2.

Cook said he's not thinking about last season's injury or last season's tie.

"Different team, different mindset, different coaches, everything's different," he said. "You've got to

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 18 of 58

expect different things. I can't really talk about what we did last year."

The Packers allowed just 46 yards on the ground in the opener, with inside linebacker Blake Martinez leading the team with five tackles and a sack. Outside linebackers Za'Darius Smith and Preston Smith and safety Adrian Amos, all acquired in March through free agency, combined for five tackles, 2½ sacks and an interception. The Smiths combined for 10 total quarterback pressures; Za'Darius Smith had six, which leads the league.

"The guys that they brought in are pretty good players," Cook said of the Green Bay defense. "They kind of added some rangy, long guys. I think their defensive speed is a plus for them, and they kind of fly around. I think that's what's going to get their defense charged up. I think we've got to kind of limit that for those guys and match speed for speed. We can do that."

## REUNITED

If there's anyone who knows what to expect from Minnesota quarterback Kirk Cousins, it's LaFleur. LaFleur was Cousins' position coach in Washington in 2012 and 2013. Washington was LaFleur's first stop in the NFL.

"If you let him sit back there and have time, he's going to pick you apart because he's extremely accurate," LaFleur said of Cousins.

Cousins, who sent a congratulatory text message to LaFleur after the first-year Packers coach picked up his first career win in Chicago, played sparingly under LaFleur as Cousins backed up 2012 AP Offensive Rookie of the Year Robert Griffin III.

Cousins had just 10 pass attempts in the win last week, the fewest of any game he's started in his career.

"I have no interest in dropping back 50 times if we don't need to," he said. "I like to win the way we did last week if that's the way it can happen. I'll play whatever game is called, whatever game we need, and all that really matters is that we find a way at the end to win. I'm not going to nitpick or look at any of the steps along the way to get there."

## SIMPLY DOMINANT

Aaron Rodgers has seven games with a passer rating of 130-plus against Minnesota, the most by a quarterback against one team in NFL history. Rodgers has 24 touchdowns and zero interceptions in those seven games (6-1).

"It's just high-percentage passes," he said. "You're trying to find in the progression what guys give you the best chance of a completion and the lowest chance of a negative play. This is the way I've played and we've played here for a long time. We take care of the football."

## STOUT DEFENSE

Two of Minnesota's biggest defensive stars have shined brightest against Green Bay. Free safety Harrison Smith, who had a team-high eight tackles last week, has five career interceptions against the Packers. The eight-year veteran has 20 career picks. Meanwhile, defensive end Everson Griffen has 12½ sacks in 19 career games against Green Bay.

"You have Pro Bowl-caliber players on every level of the defense, great inside linebackers, two guys off the edge who can rush really, really well, and then a back end that can really cover, one of the top safeties in the league in Harrison, and obviously a great corner combo with Trae and Xavier," Rodgers said. "They do a great job of playing their scheme. They've been together for a while. They're a tough team to try to attack."

## OFFENSIVE FOCUS

Both LaFleur and Green Bay offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett said the offense needs to operate more efficiently on first and second downs on Sunday to avoid third-and-long situations. The Packers converted only 2 of 12 third-down opportunities in the opener.

## INJURY CONCERNS

The Vikings placed receiver Josh Doctson on injured reserve Thursday with a hamstring injury. Minnesota signed the 2016 first-round pick just before the start of the season after he was released by Washington. Doctson was inactive for Week 1.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 19 of 58

Green Bay left tackle David Bakhtiari, who appeared on the team's injury report Wednesday with a back issue, was not in pads on Thursday. LaFleur wouldn't say whether Bakhtiari was held out for precautionary reasons or if it means his availability for Sunday is in question.

Follow Keith Jenkins on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MrKeithJenkins>

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## **I-80 traffic stops yield more than 200 lbs of marijuana**

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. (AP) — The Nebraska State Patrol says two traffic stops on Interstate 80 in western Nebraska turned up more than 200 pounds of marijuana and other drugs.

The patrol says the first stop occurred Wednesday morning near North Platte, and a search of the car found three pounds of marijuana, 39 THC vaping cartridges, 59 grams of marijuana edibles and other THC drugs and paraphernalia. Three people in the care, all from New York state, were arrested on drug counts.

The second stop happened Wednesday evening west of Lexington, and a search turned up 198 pounds of marijuana, 800 dosage units of THC edibles, 79 THC vaping cartridges, 18 ounces of psychedelic mushrooms and other drug items.

The driver, a 50-year-old man from Fargo, North Dakota, was arrested on various charges.

## **Minnesota confirms outbreak of deadly deer disease**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A deadly deer virus has been confirmed in a group of whitetails in central Minnesota. Epizootic hemorrhagic disease, known as EHD, isn't contagious but can sharply reduce deer herds before the danger concludes with the first frost, according to state wildlife officials.

The outbreak in Stearns County is said to have killed up to 20 or more deer. Two deer carcasses were tested for the disease and both were positive at National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced the lab results Wednesday, the Star Tribune reported.

"All of our neighboring states have been dealing with EHD for years," said DNR Wildlife Research Manager Lou Cornicelli. "So it was always a question of when it would show up in Minnesota."

The rapidly developing disease is carried by biting midges, also known as gnats and no-see-ums. Most deer die within 36 hours of exhibiting signs of the virus.

The disease initially showed up in Minnesota last year on a deer farm, ultimately killing six animals.

The DNR urged the public to report deer deaths, Cornicelli said, particularly when numbers of deer die in proximity to each other for unknown causes.

Deer stricken by EHD have frequently died near water because fevers caused by the virus make them thirsty.

Michelle Carstensen, a DNR wildlife health group leader, said Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota and Iowa were previously struck hard by EHD.

The virus triggers mouth ulcerations, head swelling and neck and lung hemorrhaging. It's not known to spread to humans.

Information from: Star Tribune, <http://www.startribune.com>



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 20 of 58

## Vikings-Packers Preview Capsule

By The Associated Press

MINNESOTA (1-0) at GREEN BAY (1-0)

Sunday, 1 p.m. ET, Fox

OPENING LINE — Packers by 3

RECORD VS. SPREAD — Vikings 1-0; Packers 1-0

SERIES RECORD — Packers lead 60-54-3

LAST MEETING — Vikings beat Packers 24-17, Nov. 25, 2018

LAST WEEK — Vikings beat Falcons 28-12; Packers beat Bears 10-3

AP PRO32 RANKING - Vikings No. 7, Packers No. 11

VIKINGS OFFENSE - OVERALL (26), RUSH (4), PASS (32).

VIKINGS DEFENSE - OVERALL (13), RUSH (9), PASS (18).

PACKERS OFFENSE - OVERALL (31), RUSH (27), PASS (28).

PACKERS DEFENSE - OVERALL (5), RUSH (5), PASS (10).

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES - Minnesota is 5-1-1 in last seven meetings with Green Bay, its best seven-game stretch in 117-game series since going 6-1 from 1990-93. ... Vikings RB Dalvin Cook rushed for 111 yards and two touchdowns on 21 carries last week. It was third-year back's third 100-yard outing in 16th career game. ... QB Kirk Cousins attempted only 10 passes, career low for game he started. Cousins averaged 43 attempts in two games against Packers last year. ... WR Adam Thielen has 43 receptions for 578 yards and five TDs in last five games against Packers. ... Five of FS Harrison Smith's 20 career interceptions have come vs. Packers. ... DE Everson Griffen has 12½ sacks in 19 career games vs. Packers. ... Green Bay has scored 23 points in 11 of last 13 home games against Vikings. ... Green Bay is 4-1-1 in home September matchups against Vikings. Green Bay is 13-6-2 against Minnesota at Lambeau Field since 2000. ... Packers are 12-8-1 against Vikings with Aaron Rodgers as starting quarterback. ... Rodgers has seven career games with passer rating of 130-plus against Minnesota, most by quarterback by one team in NFL history. ... New Packers coach Matt LaFleur served as Cousins' quarterbacks coach in Washington in 2012 and 2013. ... Fantasy tip: Rodgers has thrown 20 interceptions and three interceptions in last 15 games against Vikings.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Producers can contract to sell cattle on new online site

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man has created a new online site where livestock producers can contract to sell their cattle.

Kim Ulmer, who owns a livestock and machinery marketing company in Huron, said he created the American Mercantile Exchange in response to volatile market conditions.

The first contract sales on the American Mercantile Exchange were Sept. 3. Four loads of cattle were up for sale and all four sold, Ulmer told the Aberdeen News.

"It's in its early stages," Ulmer said. "But it's important to give it a try. If you don't do it, what's the other option?"

Sales will be limited to cattle that are close to sale weight until the mercantile has a larger database of buyers and sellers, Ulmer said.

Ulmer said selling cattle through his exchange is different from an auction barn because it eliminates the need for farmers to take the cattle to auction and sell on a particular day. Buyers and sellers are both vetted to ensure the sales represent the actual purchase of cattle and that the sellers are licensed, bonded dealers, he said. All cattle for sale are reviewed and photographed before the sale.

After the cattle are sold, delivery agents handle the next step, Ulmer said.

South Dakota does not allow for online auction sales, so American Mercantile Exchange was set up as an Indiana corporation, Ulmer said. His company and others will then be associated as listing, delivery or marketing representatives.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 21 of 58

"The main thing is to protect the 700,000 family producers," Ulmer said.

Ulmer has been critical of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and its effect on livestock prices. While forward-contracting happens on the Chicago exchange, he said, those contracts are bought and sold by speculators often without the actual purchase of cattle.

"We feel like there's nothing else we can do to get this corrected," he said.

With current market conditions, prices rise and fall every 30 to 60 days, Ulmer said. By selling on the American Mercantile Exchange, farmers and ranchers can arrange for the sale of cattle when prices are high instead of waiting for cattle to reach sale weight and taking the prices offered the day of the auction, he said.

As the exchange is currently set up, auctions will be scheduled every other Tuesday. Ulmer said that eventually he would like to have weekly auctions followed by timed auctions on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for contracts that don't sell during the live auctions.

Ulmer said his goal is to have contract sales across the U.S. For now, the contracts are from the Upper Midwest, he said.

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

## Judge won't dismiss assault case due to lack of recording

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge in Rapid City has rejected a motion to dismiss a sexual assault case after the defense argued federal agents failed to collect a recording that could have been helpful to the defendant's case.

Judge Jeffrey Viken ruled this week the FBI's failure to collect a cell phone audio recording of the 17-year-old girl after the alleged rape did not violate Tolin Gregg's due process since he had similar evidence he could use at trial.

The Rapid City Journal says the audio was recorded by Gregg just after the alleged assault in December 2016. Gregg says the girl never talked about being assaulted in the recording. Gregg claims he had consensual sex with the girl.

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

## MetaBank® and NationalLink Extend Relationship Through 2021

SIOUX FALLS, S.D., Sept. 12, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- MetaBank®, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Meta Financial Group, Inc.® (NASDAQ: CASH) ("Meta") and a leader in delivering innovative payment, financing and banking solutions to partners throughout the country, today announced a three-year extension of its relationship with NationalLink. Meta began working with NationalLink as its ATM sponsor in 2005.

NationalLink is one of the largest independent ATM companies with over 15,000 ATMs serving customers across the U.S. It also has ATMs in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Through its ATM sponsorship services, Meta provides NationalLink ATMs with access to national and regional debit networks.

"NationalLink is a leader in the ATM industry, with deep expertise and a wide reach," said Sheree Thornsberry, Meta EVP and Head of Payments. "We're thrilled to extend our 13-year relationship with them. We look forward to working together to develop creative financial solutions for their partners and clients."

"Meta has been an exceptional business partner to us for more than a decade," said Sam Kandah, NationalLink President and CEO. "They offer the breadth and depth we need in an ATM sponsor partner, and offer a unique combination of relationships and resources that help us succeed in an evolving market."

Meta is a leader in providing innovative financial solutions to consumers and businesses in under-served niche markets, and believes in financial inclusion for all.

Meta works with high-value niche industries, rapid-growth companies and technology adopters to grow their businesses and build more profitable customer relationships. MetaBank is one of the largest issuers of prepaid cards in the U.S., having issued more than a billion cards in partnership with banks, program

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 22 of 58

managers, payments providers and other businesses, and offers a total payments services solution that includes ACH origination, wire transfers and more.

About Meta Financial Group, Inc.®

Meta Financial Group, Inc. ® (Nasdaq: CASH ) is the holding company for the financial services company MetaBank® ("Meta"). Founded in 1954, Meta has grown to operate in several different financial sectors: payments, commercial finance, tax services, community banking and consumer lending. Meta works with high-value niche industries, strategic-growth companies and technology adopters to grow their businesses and build more profitable customer relationships. Meta tailors solutions for bank and non-bank businesses, and provides a focused collaborative approach. The organization is helping to shape the evolving financial services landscape by directly investing in innovation and complementary businesses that strategically expand its suite of services. Meta has a national presence and over 1,200 employees, with corporate headquarters in Sioux Falls, S.D. For more information, visit the Meta Financial Group website or LinkedIn.

About NationalLink

NationalLink Incorporated was founded in 1992 as a merchant services acquirer and has grown since to become an industry leader providing complete ATM and cash handling solutions to retailers and financial institutions. With a growing network of over 16,000 ATMs, NationalLink offers a complete range of services including ATM Processing, deployment, repairs, and armored services as well as smart safe sales and management. In addition, NationalLink owns and manages an eCommerce and ATM community website, [www.ATMTrader.com](http://www.ATMTrader.com). The company provides services in all 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For more information, visit [www.nationallink.com](http://www.nationallink.com) and see how NationalLink can help grow your business.

## South Dakota man dies in Nebraska bridge crash

SOUTH YANKTON, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a South Dakota man died after his vehicle struck a guardrail on the south side of a bridge connecting South Dakota and Nebraska.

The crash occurred just after 3:30 p.m. Wednesday on the Nebraska side of the U.S. Highway 81 bridge over to Yankton, South Dakota.

The Cedar County Sheriff's Office identified the man as 21-year-old Joshua Hauger, who lived in Yankton. The crash is being investigated.

## AP FACT CHECK: Dems claim Trump inspired El Paso killings

By CALVIN WOODWARD and HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ten Democrats seeking the presidency tripped over some details as they sparred in a debate thick with policy and personal stories. Several made provocative accusations that President Donald Trump inspired the deadly shooting in El Paso, Texas, last month.

On the policy front, Bernie Sanders claimed his approach to health care has a stamp of approval from everyone who studies such matters, which is not the case. Joe Biden misrepresented recent history when he said the administration he served as vice president didn't put migrant kids in "cages."

Here's a look at some of the assertions in the third round of Democratic primary debates, the first to have all qualifying contenders square off in one night:

BETO O'ROURKE, former U.S. representative from Texas, on last month's mass shooting in El Paso: "Everything that I've learned about resilience, I've learned from my hometown of El Paso, Texas, in the face of this act of terror, that was directed at our community, in large part by the president of the United States. It killed 22 people, and injured many more, we were not defeated by that. Nor were we defined by that."

JULIAN CASTRO, former U.S. housing secretary: "Look, a few weeks ago a shooter drove 10 hours inspired by this president to kill people who look like me and people who look like my family."

THE FACTS: Nobody has claimed that Trump "directed" the shooting, as O'Rourke suggested.

Earlier in the debate, O'Rourke had said the shooter was "inspired to kill by our president," an accusation also made by Castro.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 23 of 58

It is difficult to know for sure what led the gunman to open fire inside a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, killing 22 people. The suspect posted a manifesto online before the shooting that echoed Trump's comments on immigration. Yet he said his own views "predate Trump and his campaign for president."

The screed spoke of what the suspect called a "Hispanic invasion of Texas," railed against immigrants and warned of an imminent attack. Nearly all of the victims had Latino last names.

**BERNIE SANDERS:** "We have the highest child poverty rate of almost any country on Earth."

**THE FACTS:** This oft-repeated line by the Vermont senator is an exaggeration.

There are nearly 200 countries in the world, many with people mired in extreme poverty that most Americans would struggle to fathom. Poverty is also a relative measure in which someone who is poor in one nation might look rather prosperous in another.

But the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development updated its child poverty report in 2018. The United States had an above average level of child poverty, but it was not at the bottom of the 42 nations listed in the report. The United States still fared better than Russia, Chile, Spain, India, Turkey, Israel, Costa Rica, Brazil, South Africa and China.

**JOE BIDEN:** "We didn't lock people up in cages, we didn't separate families."

**THE FACTS:** His comment about cages is wrong.

The "cages" — chain-link enclosures inside border facilities where migrants have been temporarily housed, separated by sex and age — were built and used by the Obama administration. The Trump administration has been using the same facilities as the Obama administration.

Democrats routinely accuse Trump of using cages for children without acknowledging the same enclosures were employed when Biden was vice president.

The Obama administration also separated migrant children from families under certain limited circumstances, like when the child's safety appeared at risk or when the parent had a serious criminal history.

But family separations as a matter of routine came about because of President Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" enforcement policy last year. More than 2,500 children were separated from their parents at the border and a government watchdog has said it's possible thousands more were separated. Obama had no such policy.

**SANDERS:** "Every study done shows that 'Medicare for All' is the most cost-effective approach to providing health care to every man, woman and child in this country."

**THE FACTS:** Not exactly.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said in a report earlier this year that total spending under a single-payer system, such as the one proposed by Sanders, "might be higher or lower than under the current system depending on the key features of the new system."

Those features involve details about payment rates for hospitals and doctors, which are not fully spelled out by Sanders, as well as the estimated cost of generous benefits that include long-term care services and no copays and deductibles for comprehensive medical care.

A report this year by the nonprofit Rand think tank estimated that "Medicare for All" would modestly raise national health spending, the opposite of what Sanders intends.

Rand modeled a hypothetical scenario in which a plan similar to legislation by the Vermont senator had taken effect this year. It found that total U.S. health care spending would be about \$3.9 trillion under "Medicare for All" in 2019, compared with about \$3.8 trillion under the status quo.

Part of the reason is that "Medicare for All" would offer generous benefits with no copays and deductibles, except limited cost-sharing for certain medications. Virtually free comprehensive medical care would lead to big increases in the demand for services.

**KAMALA HARRIS, on Trump:** "The only reason he has not been indicted is because there was a memo

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 24 of 58

in the Department of Justice that says a sitting president cannot be charged with a crime.”

THE FACTS: We don't know that it's the only reason. Former special counsel Robert Mueller didn't go that far in his report on Russian intervention in the 2016 election and obstruction of justice.

Harris, a California senator, is referring to a Justice Department legal opinion that says sitting presidents are immune from indictment. Mueller has said his investigators were restrained by that rule, but he also said that they never reached a determination as to whether the president committed a crime.

In Mueller's congressional testimony in July, he said his team never started the process of evaluating whether to charge Trump.

Associated Press writers Josh Boak, Colleen Long, Michael Balsamo, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Mary Clare Jalonick and Amanda Seitz contributed to this report.

Find AP Fact Checks at <http://apne.ws/2kx8bd>

Follow @APFactCheck on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/APFactCheck>

## Trump mocks Democrats, vows new tax cut on trip to Baltimore

By KEVIN FREKING and JUANA SUMMERS Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — President Donald Trump sought to boost the spirits of Republican lawmakers, mocking Democrats and promising a new tax cut package, as he returned to the city he recently disparaged as a “rat and rodent infested mess.”

Trump spoke on Thursday to House Republicans attending an annual retreat in a hotel on Baltimore's waterfront. Protesters gathered nearby. But inside, the president found a friendly audience of legislators whose political futures are closely tied to how well he performs in next year's election. They greeted him with a chant of “four more years.”

Trump obliquely addressed his earlier insults against Baltimore, promising Republicans would “fight for the future of cities like Baltimore that have been destroyed by decades of failed and corrupt rule.”

He said “the left-wing agenda” of regulations, crippling taxes and “unrestricted migration” has undermined law enforcement and devastated America's inner cities. “We're going to have to step in and do something about it because we can't allow that to happen to our great cities,” he said.

Trump had lashed out at Baltimore in a series of July tweets critical of Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings, who represents the city's majority-black 7th Congressional District. Cummings also chairs the House oversight panel conducting numerous investigations of the administration's policies and work.

On Thursday, Trump emphasized some of the biggest wins of his presidency, such as boosting military spending, slashing regulations and expanding a program that gives veterans the option to see private doctors outside the Veterans Affairs medical system. He touted the \$1.5 trillion tax cut package passed in 2017 and promised to deliver another tax cut proposal next year.

“We are working on a tax cut for the middle-income people that is going to be very, very inspirational. It's going to be something that I think it's what everyone's really looking for,” Trump said. “It will be a very, very substantial tax cut for middle-income folks, who work so hard.”

Lawmakers gave him a standing ovation when he promised to uphold the right to keep and bear arms.

The president hasn't committed to specific gun legislation, but White House officials, lawmakers and Capitol Hill staff have held frequent meetings to discuss options aimed at curbing gun violence following shootings in Dayton, Ohio, and El Paso, Texas, that left more than 30 people dead over an August weekend.

The president addressed lawmakers one day after the Supreme Court cleared the way for his administration to deny nearly all asylum claims from Central Americans. He highlighted that win as well as the victories of Republicans Dan Bishop and Greg Murphy in special elections this week in North Carolina. He told the Republicans he expected them to win back the majority in the House next year.

“You're loved out there,” he asserted.

Trump spoke as Democratic presidential candidates debated in Houston. The audience laughed as he

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 25 of 58

mocked some of his top challengers and claimed that more people would be watching him. "They should be watching the debate but they're probably watching this," Trump said.

Police blocked off a wide perimeter around the hotel. But a few blocks away, demonstrators inflated a giant rat carrying a cell phone and adorned with yellow hair and a red tie to make clear their mocking intentions. Protesters waved signs with messages like "Trump and the GOP are the real rats" and "Welcome rat king."

Asked whether the president should apologize for his Baltimore comments, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy said Trump "made a very good case why many major cities have challenges." He said the president's trip "symbolizes that, yes, he cares about Baltimore," adding that Trump is working to give people in poverty "a better opportunity."

Jennifer Amann, who lives in Fells Point, not far from the hotel where Trump was speaking, laughed when told that McCarthy said Trump's visit demonstrates that he cares about the city and its residents.

"We don't need visits, we need policies that help the people," Amann, who moved to Baltimore 16 years ago, said of Trump and Republican lawmakers. "The proof's in the pudding and they don't do anything to support this city."

On an adjacent corner, a smaller yet vocal group of Trump supporters gathered, and the two groups engaged in an extended back-and-forth.

Joe Murphy, of Owings Mills, Maryland, called the Trump protesters "so un-American and disgusting." He said Trump was not a racist.

"He's here today to talk about opportunity zones, where he's going to clean up the most disgusting parts of this city — and I've lived here all my life and there are a lot of disgusting parts," he said. "What do you guys have against that?"

The GOP retreat was scheduled for Baltimore before Trump got into his spat with Cummings.

After Trump's verbal broadsides, Cummings invited the president to join him on a tour of his district, from the poorest parts of Baltimore to more well-to-do areas in suburban Baltimore and Howard counties.

Trump has not backed away from his charges that Democratic leaders are responsible for the ills of America's biggest cities. But for now, he's making the argument in a less personal and less hostile manner. He's also trying to win over blacks and Hispanics by citing employment gains they have made during his tenure.

Baltimore, a once-gilded American seaport, has undeniable drug and violent crime challenges. The city saw more than 300 homicides in 2018 for the fourth year in a row. It also contends with deep-rooted poverty and swaths of the city are populated with vacant, boarded-up homes.

---

Associated Press writers Matthew Daly and Regina Garcia Cano contributed to this report.

## Key takeaways from the 2020 Democratic candidates' debate

By **BILL BARROW** and **NICHOLAS RICCARDI** Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Democratic debate night No. 3: Attacks and counter-attacks. Love for one former president, loathing for the current one. A 76-year-old front-runner essentially got called old, and he turned around and called another rival a "socialist."

But will it change the fundamentals of a nominating fight that remains remarkably stable at the top with five months until voting begins? Here's a look at some takeaways and potential answers:

### STATUS QUO PREVAILED

The third Democratic debate seemed to end in a 10-way tie.

Former Vice President Joe Biden was sure-footed (until the end), at least for him and compared with the previous two debates. There were more attacks on President Donald Trump than on each other. No one dominated.

Biden took on the most fire, but parried it and, as front-runner, benefits the most from a no-decision. Sen. Bernie Sanders faced sharp criticism about his universal health care plan from several candidates, but



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 26 of 58

his base has demonstrated its loyalty. Sen. Elizabeth Warren was more in the background than in prior debates but didn't damage herself, and she closed with a compelling personal story. Sens. Kamala Harris and Cory Booker were both crisp but got lost on the crowded stage at times.

Mayor Pete Buttigieg, former Rep. Beto O'Rourke and Sen. Amy Klobuchar helped form a sensibility caucus, offering pragmatism and civic-mindedness. Andrew Yang, a tech entrepreneur, spoke eloquently about immigration and assured himself a mention with his proposal to give 10 families \$1,000 a month, from his campaign. The normally mild-mannered Julián Castro, a former Housing secretary, decided that attacking Biden, often in personal terms, was one way to get noticed.

The likely result: little change in a primary that has been remarkably static for months.

## FIGHT THAT DIDN'T BREAK OUT

The first matchup between Biden and Warren had so much anticipation — and so little fireworks.

There were a few criticisms of Warren on health care, though she not directly answer whether her plan would raise taxes on the middle class.

During a discussion on trade, Biden even said he agreed with Warren's call to bring labor to the table.

Certainly, the head-to-head confrontation will come if Biden continues as the front-runner and Warren maintains her momentum as perhaps the most likely progressive alternative. But perhaps the two campaigns were right after all when they said privately before the debate that September — five months before the Iowa caucuses — isn't necessarily the time for a titanic fight at the top of the field.

## BERNIE BATTERED ON HEALTH CARE

Sanders took heavy fire on his single-payer health insurance proposal, with Biden and others hammering the Vermont senator for the cost and the political palatability of effectively eliminating the existing private insurance market.

The former vice president went hardest at Sanders when the senator argued that his estimated \$30 trillion cost over a decade is cheaper than the "status quo," which he put at \$50 trillion — with most of the money being what Americans spend privately on premiums, co-pays and out-of-pocket costs. Sanders' argument is that most U.S. households would pay less overall under his system, even if their taxes go up.

Biden roared that Sanders would effectively be handing Americans a pay cut, arguing employers who now pay a share of workers' premiums would pocket that money instead of giving workers raises if the government were to cover all health care costs. Biden punctuated the point with one of the quotes of the night: "For a socialist, you've got a lot more confidence in corporate America than I do."

Buttigieg piled on Sanders, too. Buttigieg said he "trusts the American people to make the right decision" between private insurance and a public option. "Why don't you?" he asked Sanders.

## OF AGE AND EXPERIENCE

At the center of the debate stage were three candidates in their 70s who have had a collective headlock on the upper tier for months. Of the seven younger contenders, Castro, 44, was most explicit in arguing it was time for a new generation — and he specifically targeted the front-runner, 76-year-old Biden.

"Our problems didn't start with Donald Trump," Castro said in his opening statement. "We won't solve them by embracing old ideas."

Castro also seemed to allude to speculation about Biden's mental acuity during an exchange about health care. When Biden denied that his health plan required people to buy into Medicare, Castro exclaimed, "Are you forgetting what you said 2 minutes ago?" He continued to suggest Biden didn't remember what he'd just said about his own plan.

Later, during a discussion about deportations under the Obama administration, Castro mocked Biden for clinging to former President Barack Obama, but then saying he was only vice president when Obama's conduct was questioned. "He wants to take credit for Obama's work but not answer any questions," Castro said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 27 of 58

## MONEY FOR NOTHING

Yang is an unorthodox candidate, and he came to the debate with an offer to match his persona: a proposal to use his campaign funds to pay 10 randomly-selected families \$1,000 a month.

Yang announced the maneuver in his opening statement. It's intended to illustrate the center of his quixotic campaign, to provide monthly \$1,000 payments to all Americans 18 and over. After lamenting how the country is in thrall to "the almighty dollar," Yang, 44, urged viewers to go to his campaign website and register for the contest to win the money.

His offer drew cheers from the audience and chortles from some of the other candidates onstage. "It's original, I'll give you that," Buttigieg said.

## **Analysis: Biden looks like a front-runner, until he doesn't**

**By JULIE PACE AP Washington Bureau Chief**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden is the Democratic front-runner. And there were moments in Thursday night's debate when he looked the part.

Standing between a pair of liberal senators offering radical change, he unabashedly embraced his more moderate position on health care, forcefully pressuring Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren to level with Americans about the steep cost of implementing a fully government-run system. He was more polished and practiced than in previous contests. And he repeatedly leaned on the legacy of former President Barack Obama, who remains the most popular Democrat in the nation.

"I'm for Barack — I think the Obamacare worked," he declared.

But the debate was punctuated by moments that highlighted why Biden can't shake questions about his consistency and whispers about his fitness for office, despite his lead in most national polls and early state surveys. Most glaringly: a meandering answer near the end of the debate about his past statements on racial inequality. Biden said poor parents should play the "record player" for their children before veering off into comments about Venezuela.

Biden's standing in the Democratic contest is the source of much debate within the party. Is he an experienced elder statesman who can calm an anxious nation and peel back some of the white working class voters who helped send President Donald Trump to the White House? Or is the 76-year-old past his prime and out of step with a party that is growing younger, more diverse and more liberal?

Thursday night's contest provided fresh fodder for each of those theories.

Biden was at his best in his lengthy exchange with Sanders and Warren over the future of health care in America. He confidently pressed them over the cost of their sweeping "Medicare for All" proposals, exposing Warren's unwillingness to say whether middle class Americans would see a tax increase under her plan (Sanders says they would, but argues the rise would be offset by lower health care costs).

In a retort to Sanders, who has said he expects employers would pass on health care savings to their workers, Biden exclaimed: "For a socialist you've got a lot more confidence in corporate America than I do."

Biden was the focus of fierce criticism from his rivals in both of the previous Democratic debates. But those attacks did little to diminish Biden's standing atop polls, nor has a series of verbal flubs and mis-statements throughout the summer.

The other reality: The candidates who have launched the sharpest attacks on Biden have gained little ground or already dropped out of the race. Sen. Kamala Harris, for example, bested Biden in the opening debate with a highly personal critique over his decades-old position on federally mandated school busing, but any boost for her candidacy was short-lived.

Perhaps mindful of that reality, most candidates sidestepped overt criticism of the vice president in Thursday's debate.

The one notable exception was Julián Castro, who served as Obama's housing secretary and is in need of a jolt to break out of the lower tier of candidates. In a highly charged moment, Castro challenged Biden's memory — a barely veiled reference to questions about the former vice president's age.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 28 of 58

"Are you forgetting already what you just said two minutes ago?" Castro said during an exchange on health care.

In a post-debate interview, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker laid into Biden as well, saying there were many people concerned about Biden's ability to carry the ball "across the end line without fumbling."

Castro and Booker were zeroing in on real questions that are being asked about Biden. Is he too old to serve as president? If he were the nominee, would he make a mistake at a critical moment that could clear the way for Trump?

Biden's stumbles later in the debate magnified those questions. He struggled through an answer about the war in Iraq and gave a grab-bag answer to a question about how to repair the legacy of slavery in America. He appeared to suggest that poorer families needed help learning how to raise their children.

Biden's supporters argue that ultimately, those answers — and the questions they raise — matter less to voters than their overall impressions of the former vice president. Indeed, there is a deep reservoir of goodwill for Biden in the Democratic Party, shaped in large part by the eight years he served as Obama's No. 2.

Which leaves little doubt as to why Biden spent much of the debate reminding Americans about those years, urging them to see him as the rightful heir to legacy of the last Democrat to occupy the Oval Office.

"I stand with Barack Obama all eight years — good, bad, indifferent," Biden said.

Editor's note: Washington bureau chief Julie Pace has covered the White House and politics for AP since 2007. Follow her at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

## Liberal, moderate divide on display in Democratic debate

By **BILL BARROW** and **STEVE PEOPLES** Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Joe Biden parried attack after attack from liberal rivals Thursday night on everything from health care to immigration in a debate that showcased profound ideological divides between the Democratic Party's moderate and progressive wings.

The prime-time debate also elevated several struggling candidates, giving them a chance to introduce themselves to millions of Americans who are just beginning to follow the race.

Biden dominated significant parts of the evening, responding strongly when the liberal senators who are his closet rivals — Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren — assailed him and his policies.

Unlike prior debates, where Biden struggled for words and seemed surprised by criticism from fellow Democrats, he largely delivered crisp, aggressive responses. He called Sanders "a socialist," a label that could remind voters of the senator's embrace of democratic socialism. And Biden slapped at Elizabeth Warren's proposed wealth tax.

A two-term vice president under Barack Obama, Biden unequivocally defended his former boss, who came under criticism from some candidates for deporting immigrants and not going far enough on health care reform.

"I stand with Barack Obama all eight years, good bad and indifferent," Biden declared.

His vulnerabilities surfaced, however, in the final minutes of the debate, when he was pressed on a decades-old statement regarding school integration. Biden rambled in talking about his support of teachers, the lack of resources for educators and at one point seemed to encourage parents to play records for their children to expand their vocabulary before segueing into talk of Latin America.

"That's quite a lot," quipped Julian Castro, the former Housing secretary who was Biden's frequent foe during the debate.

The candidates debated with polls showing a strong majority of voters believe the country is headed in the wrong direction under the first-term Republican president's leadership. But nine months into their nomination fight, divided Democrats have yet to answer fundamental questions about who or what the party stands for beyond simply opposing President Donald Trump.

The party's 2020 class, once featuring two dozen candidates, has essentially been cut in half by party



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 29 of 58

rules requiring higher polling and fundraising standards. Just 10 candidates qualified for Thursday's affair, though more than that have qualified for next month's round.

Those in the second tier, after Biden, Warren and Sanders, are under increasing pressure to break out of the pack. They all assailed Trump.

New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker called Trump a racist. Former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke called him a white supremacist. And Kamala Harris, a California senator, said Trump's hateful social media messages provided "the ammunition" for recent mass shootings.

"President Trump, you have spent the last two-and-a-half years full time trying to sow hate and vision among us, and that's why we've gotten nothing done," Harris charged.

In addition to Trump, Biden's rivals also turned against Obama's legacy at times as they sought to undermine the former vice president's experience.

Sanders insisted that Biden bears responsibility for millions of Americans going bankrupt under the "Obamacare" health care system. Castro raised questions about the Obama-Biden record on immigration, particularly the number of deportations that took place.

Castro, a 44-year-old Texan, appeared to touch on concerns about Biden's age when he accused the former vice president of forgetting a detail about his own health care plan. At 76, Biden would be the oldest president ever elected to a first term.

"Are you forgetting what you said two minutes ago?" an incredulous Castro asked, challenging Biden on health care. "I can't believe that you said two minutes ago that you have to buy in and now you're forgetting that."

He added: "I'm fulfilling the legacy of Barack Obama and you're not."

The ABC News debate was the first limited to one night after several candidates dropped out and others failed to meet new qualification standards. A handful more candidates qualified for next month's debate, which will again be divided over two nights.

As well as policy differences, the Democratic debates have been shaped by broader questions about diversity.

In a nod to the diverse coalition they need to defeat Trump, the Democrats held this debate on the campus of historically black Texas Southern University. It unfolded in a rapidly changing state that Democrats hope to eventually bring into their column.

The party cheered when America elected the most diverse congressional class in history in last fall's midterm voting. But some Democrats still fear that anyone other than a white man may struggle in a head-to-head matchup against Trump.

Biden was one of four white men onstage.

Along with health care, gun violence emerged as a flashpoint Thursday night in a state shaken by a mass shooting last month that left 22 people dead and two dozen more wounded.

O'Rourke noted that there weren't enough ambulances at times to take all the wounded to the hospital.

"Hell yes, we're gonna take your AR-15, your AK-47," he said as the crowd cheered.

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar noted that all the candidates on stage favor a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. She favors a voluntary buy-back program on assault weapons, however.

The national economy got surprisingly little attention, though several of the candidates criticized Trump on foreign trade and his trade war with China.

South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg said Trump had said scornfully of his candidacy "he'd like to see me making a deal with Xi Jinping," the Chinese president.

"I'd like to see HIM making a deal with Xi Jinping."

Trump was silent on social media during the event. But Kayleigh McEnany, his campaign's national press secretary, said in a statement: "Thank you to ABC and the Democrat Party for another infomercial for President Trump!"

Earlier in the day, Trump said he'd likely have to watch a re-run because of travel conflict. He predicted the Democratic nominee would ultimately be Biden, Warren or Sanders.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 30 of 58

Peoples reported from Washington. AP writer Colleen Long contributed to this report.

## Unable to vote, Palestinians shrug off Israel's elections

By JOSEPH KRAUSS and MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH Associated Press

MAS'HA, West Bank (AP) — Barhoum Saleh's town is surrounded by Jewish settlements, the sign above his roadside mechanic shop is in Hebrew, most of his customers are Israeli and he needs an Israeli permit to visit the beach a half hour's drive away.

But unlike his Jewish neighbors, he can't vote in next week's elections.

Saleh is among the 2.5 million Palestinians in the West Bank who have no voice in choosing Israel's next government and no control over whether it decides to annex part or all of the occupied territory, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to do. With the peace process having sputtered to a halt a decade ago, they also have little hope of getting a state of their own anytime soon.

Saleh, who is not particularly political, just wishes it was easier to take his kids to the beach.

Israelis who get their cars serviced at his shop describe their trips: one drove down to Egypt's Sinai, another vacationed in Thailand. But while they can travel in and out of the West Bank freely, Saleh must apply for a permit to enter Israel — and they are not given for family vacations. So, a few years back, he took his family to neighboring Jordan and its Red Sea port of Aqaba, several hours away.

"My kids were astonished when they saw the sea," he recalls, smiling at the memory. "They said, what's that?"

The movement restrictions apply to all Palestinians in the West Bank, even those, like Saleh, who live near major settlement blocs that Israel expects to keep in any peace agreement. His shop is just down the road from Elkana, the settlement where Netanyahu kicked off his campaign by vowing to annex parts of the West Bank.

Palestinians here say they have good relations with Israelis, including settlers, who patronize their businesses. But they have little interest in Israel's elections and expect nothing to change.

Maraei Maraei runs a hardware store in the West Bank village of Mas'ha, which is separated from the Elkana settlement by a wall and a closed metal gate. Elkana's settlers can vote, while residents of Mas'ha cannot. Still, he shrugs off the talk of annexation.

"It would be hard for them to annex this area because there are too many of us," he said. "They want land without people."

The question of what to do with the West Bank, which Israel captured in the 1967 war and would be the heartland of any future Palestinian state, once dominated Israeli elections.

Right-wing candidates argued that Judea and Samaria, the biblical name they use for the West Bank, was an integral part of Israel. Candidates on the left said the failure to create a Palestinian state there would eventually lead to a one-state outcome in which Palestinians would outnumber Jews and demand the right to vote, spelling the end of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.

But that debate has faded in recent years, and has hardly featured in the campaign ahead of the Sept. 17 vote. Netanyahu's main rivals have dismissed his talk of annexation as a campaign stunt but have not opposed it on the merits.

They have also vowed to be much tougher toward Hamas, the Islamic militant group ruling the Gaza Strip, accusing Netanyahu of being too soft in the face of Palestinian rocket fire. His main rival, former army chief of staff Benny Gantz, has boasted about his role in the 2014 war, saying he sent parts of Gaza back to the "stone age."

"When it comes to these big issues that affect Palestinians, we haven't seen that there's any difference," said Diana Buttu, a former legal adviser to the Palestinian negotiating team. "Both of them believe in settlement construction, both of them believe in this concept of greater Israel and both of them believe in being hard on Palestinians."

Israel's Arab citizens, who make up 20% of the population and largely identify with the Palestinians, are

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 31 of 58

eligible to vote. But it's unclear whether they will turn out in large enough numbers to make a difference, or whether a Jewish coalition would partner with them.

Ayman Odeh, leader of the main Arab faction in Israel's parliament, has said he would consider joining a government led by Gantz depending on his political agenda, including his seriousness about pursuing peace with the Palestinians.

A poll released this week by the Jerusalem Media and Communication Center, in partnership with the German foundation Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, found that more than 40% of Palestinians believe the elections will have a negative impact, with another 25% saying they would have no impact at all. Fewer than 20% thought the impact would depend on the outcome. The poll surveyed 1,200 people in the West Bank and Gaza and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

"The general sense is that regardless of who is in power, much of the same will unfold on the ground here," said Tareq Baconi, an analyst with the Crisis Group, an international think tank. "But certainly there is a belief that with (Netanyahu) the mask is off, and the international community cannot hide behind the fig leaf of a peace process anymore."

Some Palestinians say they prefer Netanyahu, with his strident nationalism, to a center-left government that they say would cloak the same policies in the guise of a peace process. Netanyahu's close ties to President Donald Trump have delivered major gains for the Israeli right, including U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, but have alienated many of Israel's traditional supporters in the U.S., including many Democrats and Jewish Americans.

"I think it serves us better, as a Palestinian, to have an exposed Israeli leadership, kind of like what we have today," said Sam Bahour, an Ohio-born Palestinian entrepreneur who runs a West Bank consulting firm. "I think third states are going to have to intervene, and those third states only recently have seen Israel and the U.S. for what they really are."

Follow Joseph Krauss on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/josephkrauss](http://www.twitter.com/josephkrauss)

## Pope Francis to visit Thailand, Japan in November

By NANNAPAT PUROD Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Pope Francis will visit Thailand and Japan in November in a visit expected to highlight his call for complete nuclear disarmament and honor the small Catholic communities in each country.

The Vatican confirmed the Nov. 19-26 trip, and its diplomatic representative in Thailand, Archbishop Paul Tschang In-Nam, announced the Thai stop on Friday. Francis will be in Thailand on Nov. 20-23 before heading to Japan, where government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said the pope would meet with the emperor and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

It will be Francis' fourth trip to Asia, where he has already visited South Korea, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

The last pope to visit Japan was the late Saint Pope John Paul II in 1981. He was also the last pope to visit Thailand, in 1984.

During his official visit to Thailand, Francis will preside at religious ceremonies and make pastoral visits to Catholic communities.

Francis's Japan visit includes Tokyo as well as Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which were hit by U.S. atomic bombs at the end of World War II. A call for a world without nuclear weapons has been Francis' longtime message.

Nagasaki Archbishop Joseph Mitsuaki Takami, who heads the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan, expressed gratitude to Francis, noting he and others in the Japanese church have been asking for his visit for years.

He acknowledged that Japan does not have as many Christians as some other nations. But he said Francis had special feelings for Japan, referring to how last year the pope had the Vatican print up thousands of cards of a Nagasaki nuclear bombing child survivor carrying his dead brother on his back. The card had



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 32 of 58

the words "The fruit of war" printed on it.

"I think the pope was laying the groundwork for this visit," the archbishop said in a statement.

Having the pope in Nagasaki will also highlight the legacy of Christian missionaries dating back to the samurai era, including 26 martyrs killed in 1597. It will help honor the so-called "Hidden Christians," who kept the faith alive during decades of persecution.

Japan, whose main religions are Buddhism and Shintoism, has about 441,000 Catholics, many in Nagasaki, comprising fewer than 1% of the overall population. Thailand, with an overall population of 69 million people, has some 388,000 Catholics.

In a 2017 speech at a disarmament conference at the Vatican, Francis signaled a shift in church teaching about nuclear deterrence, warning that the Cold War-era strategy of deterrence was no longer viable and urging instead complete nuclear disarmament.

"If we . . . take into account the risk of an accidental detonation as a result of error of any kind, the threat of (nuclear weapons') use, as well as their very possession, is to be firmly condemned," he said.

Previous popes including St. John Paul II had called for the abolition of nuclear weapons but said the stockpiling of them could be morally acceptable as a form of deterrence.

---

Associated Press writers Nicole Winfield at the Vatican and Yuri Kageyama in Tokyo contributed to this report.

## **Bahamians look for loved ones as 1,300 missing after Dorian**

**By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press**

MCLEAN'S TOWN, Bahamas (AP) — They scan social media, peer under rubble, or try to follow the smell of death in an attempt to find family and friends.

They search amid alarming reports that 1,300 people remain listed as missing nearly two weeks after Hurricane Dorian hit the northern Bahamas.

The government has cautioned that the list is preliminary and many could be staying in shelters and just haven't been able to connect with loved ones. But fears are growing that many died when the Category 5 storm slammed into the archipelago's northern region with winds in excess of 185 mph and severe flooding that toppled concrete walls, cracked trees in half and ripped swings off playgrounds as Dorian battered the area for a day and a half.

"If they were staying with me, they would've been safe," Phil Thomas Sr. said as he leaned against the frame of his roofless home in the fishing village of McLean's Town and looked into the distance.

The boat captain has not seen his 30-year-old son, his two grandsons or his granddaughter since the storm. They were all staying with his daughter-in-law, who was injured and taken to a hospital in the capital, Nassau, after the U.S. Coast Guard found her — but only her.

"People have been looking, but we don't really come up with anything," Thomas said, adding that he's heard rumors that someone saw a boat belonging to his son, a marine pilot, though the vessel also hasn't been found.

He especially misses his 8-year-old grandson: "He was my fishing partner. We were close."

The loss weighs on Thomas, who said he tries to stay busy cleaning up his home so he doesn't think about them.

"It's one of those things. I'm heartbroken, but life goes on," he said. "You pick up the pieces bit by bit. ... I've got to rebuild a house. I've got three more kids. I've got to live for them until my time comes."

Meanwhile, a cluster of heavy thunderstorms is heading toward the Bahamas and is expected to further drench the communities bashed by Dorian. The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Thursday that the system was expected to become a tropical storm within 36 hours and would hit parts of the northwestern Bahamas with tropical storm-force winds and heavy rains.

In the Abaco islands, which Prime Minister Hubert Minnis says are mostly decimated, the search for loved ones is even more intense. Diego Carey, a 25-year-old from the hard-hit community of Marsh Harbor, left

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 33 of 58

Abaco for the capital, Nassau, after Dorian hit but returned Thursday after a 12-hour boat ride to search for two friends who remain missing.

"We were together during the storm. It happened so fast. The roof just blew off," he said, adding that was the last time he saw them. "It's so traumatizing."

At least 42 people died in Abaco and eight in Grand Bahama, and Minnis has warned that number will increase significantly.

He assured Bahamians in a recent televised address that the government was working hard to recover bodies and notify families, adding that officials are providing counseling amid reports of nightmares and psychological trauma.

"The grief is unbearable," the prime minister said. "Many are in despair, wondering if their loved ones are still alive."

Still, reunions, although few, are happening nearly two weeks after the storm made landfall Sept. 1.

The family of Trevon Laing had thought the 24-year-old man was dead after a police officer told them that two bodies had been found in the community of Gold Rock Creek, including that of a young man. His mother went into mourning for five days.

When his family visited the community to verify what they were told, Laing wasn't around, buttressing their fears that he was dead. When he returned, he said, he found his brother crying on the front porch.

"I'm like: 'Hey, I'm not dead! You guys have no faith in me. I'm a survivor,'" he said, adding with a laugh. "He was shocked and mad at the same time."

Others who were reported missing and presumed dead were found in part thanks to the determination of people like Joyce Thomas, who did not stop searching for her brother, Bennett.

She traveled from Nassau to Freeport in Grand Bahama and then drove out to McLean's Town, only to be forced to turn around because the street was still impassable. She tried again the next day and managed to reach the neighborhood where they grew up. There, she found only the foundation of his home. Her fear grew as she walked through the neighborhood.

Back in Nassau, she chastised their father for not doing enough to find his son.

"Go to NEMA, go to the police station," she recalled telling him, referring to the islands' National Emergency Management Agency. "Don't just sit there. Do something."

"I wasn't even eating until I heard my brother was OK," Thomas said.

That came when she spotted him on a bicycle as she and her aunt drove again through McLean's Town.

"I said, 'Boy, come here! I miss you so much,'" Thomas told him as they clung to each other in a long hug. "I have other brothers, but this is my heart."

## Bucs use goal-line stand to beat Panthers 20-14

By STEVE REED AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — When Cam Newton left the shotgun and began creeping toward the line of scrimmage, Buccaneers cornerback Vernon Hargreaves knew exactly what was coming.

The Bucs sniffed out a fourth-and-1 play from the 2-yard line with Hargreaves shoving Christian McCaffrey out of bounds with 1:22 left to preserve a 20-14 win over the Carolina Panthers and cap off a terrific defensive performance on Thursday night.

Jameis Winston threw for 208 yards and a touchdown, Chris Godwin had 121 yards receiving and a score and Peyton Barber ran for 82 yards, but it was the Bucs defense that won this game. Tampa Bay held the Panthers without a touchdown and limited McCaffrey to 53 total yards to give coach Bruce Arians his first victory with the team.

The goal-line stand, particularly the fourth down play, was just the icing on the cake.

As Newton cleared out of the way, McCaffrey took the direct snap from center, faked a reverse to Curtis Samuel and raced around left end but couldn't find the edge. He tried to extend the ball, but didn't pick up the first down as Hargreaves rode him out of bounds.

"You watch any football and you've seen it a few times," Hargreaves said of the play. "Once I saw Cam

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 34 of 58

walk up to the line of scrimmage and act like he was talking to me I had a pretty good idea what was going on."

It would be hard to imagine the Panthers taking the ball out of their 6-foot-5, 245-pound quarterback's hands in the past. Even Hargreaves said a few years ago, Newton "definitely, 100 percent" would have tried to run and score.

But this is a different time for the ninth-year quarterback. Although he has more TDs rushing than any other QB in the league, he has just minus-2 yards on five carries this season with two fumbles .

"He can't take them hits like that," Hargreaves said. "It's going to eat his body up. So not really. We expected more throwing as he is getting older in his career."

Panthers coach Ron Rivera said there is nothing wrong with Newton's shoulder or foot that prevented him from running the ball. He believed the Panthers had the right play called.

"Unfortunately, it didn't work," Rivera said. "That's all I can tell. We felt good about the play."

McCaffrey said it was his job to get into the end zone — or at least pick up the first down — and he failed.

"The ball is in my hands and I have to make that play," McCaffrey said. "I have to get better."

Actually the entire Panthers offense needs to get better, Newton said.

"It's hard to look defensive guys in the eyes after a game like this because we didn't uphold our end of the bargain," Newton said. "All fingers are pointed back to the offense and me specifically."

Newton finished with 324 yards passing , but was held without a touchdown for the second straight week.

The Buccaneers (1-1) got plenty of pressure on Newton with three sacks coming from Shaquil Barrett. The Panthers failed to reach the end zone, only scoring on Joey Slye's four field goals and a safety by Luke Kuechly . They are 0-2 for the first time since the 2013 season.

Newton said it's embarrassing being booed off the field on some third downs. He said you can't blame the fans and "they deserve better."

## WINSTON AVOIDS TURNOVERS

After throwing two pick 6's last week, Winston played a turnover-free game.

And with the defense playing well, that was good enough.

"I thought he was outstanding," Arians said. "He had a hell of a week as far as mentally preparing and getting ready for this ball game. I think that's the type of game he can play."

## NEWTON THROWS DEEP

After fielding plenty of questions about only attempting only one pass of more than 20 yards downfield in the season opener against the Rams, Newton connected on a 44-yard strike to Curtis Samuel late in the first quarter. It was one of handful of deep balls the quarterback threw.

## JEERS TO CHEERS

After fumbling his first two punt return attempts, Ray-Ray McCloud was greeted with sarcastically cheers as he fielded his third punt cleanly. But the jeers quickly turned to cheers when McCloud raced up the middle of the field for a 39-yard return.

## SLYE GUY

Undrafted rookie Joey Slye made all four field goals, including a 54-yarder and is now 6 of 7 on the season in place of the injured Graham Gano.

## INJURIES

Buccaneers: Linebacker Devin White left the game in the first quarter with a knee injury and cornerback Jamel Dean suffered a lower leg injury in the third. Neither player returned to the game. Kevin Minter, who replaced White, was given the game ball after finishing with eight tackles.

Panthers: None reported.

## UP NEXT

Buccaneers: Host New York Giants on Sept. 22.

Panthers: At Arizona on Sept. 22.



## Chaotic talks show challenge of reaching opioid settlement

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

For months, the judge overseeing national litigation over the opioids crisis urged all sides to reach a settlement that could end thousands of lawsuits filed by state and local governments.

But the chaotic developments this week in the case against OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma underscore how difficult that goal is. By Thursday, half of the nation's state attorneys general said they would reject a tentative deal crafted by the other half, and many criticized the terms as grossly insufficient.

Purdue and the Sackler family that owns it "will never be able to undo all the damage they have done," Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring, a Democrat, said in a statement, "but at the very least, they must face real, significant, personal accountability for their lies and for the pain and heartbreak they have caused."

Herring and other attorneys general opposed to the terms say the amount of money involved will be far less than the \$10 billion to \$12 billion promised by Purdue and the Sacklers. They want the family to pay more from their vast fortune, much of which has been shifted overseas, and say the current settlement terms allow the relatives to walk away without acknowledging their role in a crisis that has killed 400,000 Americans over the past two decades.

"This epidemic has affected everybody in our state," Delaware Attorney General Kathy Jennings, another Democrat, said Thursday in a statement. "Irrespective of Purdue's actions or evasions, we will continue to pursue justice on behalf of those harmed by the Sacklers' greed, callousness and fraud."

The failure to reach a wide-ranging settlement so far, as the Sacklers had hoped, means the legal battle over what their company must pay will probably shift to bankruptcy court. Questions about the family's responsibility could play out at the same time in dozens of state courts. More than 20 states have filed separate cases against members of the family, and it's not clear whether federal bankruptcy proceedings would halt those state cases.

The company is expected to file for bankruptcy protection within days.

Attorneys general who say they agree with the terms said the deal is better than what their states and communities would likely receive if Purdue files for bankruptcy without any settlement language to guide the proceedings.

"Sadly, this agreement cannot bring back those who have lost their lives to opioid abuse, but it will help Florida gain access to more life-saving resources and bolster our efforts to end this deadly epidemic," Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody, a Republican, said. "I want to assure Floridians that we will continue to aggressively pursue our state case against all remaining defendants."

Some attorneys general — the group that had been leading the settlement talks with Purdue — have described the negotiations as ongoing and unsettled.

Katie Byrd, a spokeswoman for Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr, declined to comment Thursday about the state's stance but described the situation as "fluid."

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison said "widespread uncertainty" remains about the details of the settlement terms, including the size of the payments, how long they would be made and how Purdue and other Sackler-owned entities would be operated going forward.

Under the proposed deal, the family would give up ownership of Purdue and pay \$3 billion to \$4.5 billion, depending on how much Purdue brings in from selling a company known as Mundipharma. Several attorneys general said they are skeptical that Mundipharma is worth that much, and they want more money guaranteed from the Sacklers.

OxyContin is probably the best-known prescription opioid and was a blockbuster drug in terms of sales after it was introduced in 1996. In their lawsuits, the state and local governments say Purdue aggressively marketed the drug while downplaying its addictiveness.

The developments related to Purdue and the Sackler family come just five weeks before the scheduled start of the first federal trial over the toll of the opioids crisis in the U.S. That trial involves claims by Ohio's Cuyahoga and Summit counties against multiple opioid makers, distributors and pharmacies. If the company files for bankruptcy, the trial will go on without Purdue.

Families who have lost loved ones to the crisis or have otherwise been hurt by opioid addiction have pushed back against settlements with Purdue and other players in the opioid industry. They want a chance to face company executives in court and tell their stories.

In a statement, members of the Sackler family urged governments to sign on to the settlement terms, saying it will fund solutions to the crisis rather than continue "endless litigation."

Follow Mulvihill at <http://www.twitter.com/geoffmulvihill>

## In Alaskan hometown, Native women say police ignored rapes

By VICTORIA MCKENZIE Associated Press

NOME, Alaska (AP) — There's not much that scares Susie. As an Alaska Native woman, she thrives amid sub-zero winters in her village near the Arctic Circle, and camps with her family each summer at the Bering Sea, catching, drying and smoking salmon to put away for winter.

But Susie is afraid to return to Nome. The man who raped her, she says, is still there.

"Just scares me, and I'm scared to see him, and thinking what he might do," she says. "But I'm not scared in the village, or any other villages, because I know he won't come.

"But Nome is like ... I don't really like to overnight in Nome."

He is a free man — no charges were filed against him. Susie reported to Nome police that she had been assaulted and went with the investigating officer to the hospital, where a forensic nurse was prepared to perform a sexual assault exam.

But the officer told the nurse not to bother, according to a hospital record that Susie released to The Associated Press.

"The Officer stated that he was going to cancel the exam because he had already talked to the suspect and the man admitted that he 'had sex' with the patient but that it was consensual," the nurse wrote in the report. "Therefore the officer did not see a need for an exam."

Susie's story isn't uncommon in Nome, a city of fewer than 4,000 full-time residents that serves as a regional hub for dozens of smaller villages across western Alaska's Bering Strait region.

Rape survivors and their supporters told the AP that the city's police department has often failed to investigate sexual assaults or keep survivors informed about what, if anything, is happening with their cases.

Survivors and advocates contend that Nome police pay less attention and investigate less aggressively when sexual assaults are reported by Alaska Native women. More than half of Nome's population is Alaska Native, largely of Yupik heritage or — like Susie — of Inupiaq heritage. All of its police department's sworn officers are non-Native.

Susie's full name is being withheld by the AP, which has a policy of not identifying victims of sexual abuse unless they choose to be identified.

This story was produced through a partnership with National Native News with support from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and the Fund for Investigative Journalism.

In many ways, Nome mirrors the national debate that has gained momentum over the past three years in the wake of a series of sexual abuse scandals involving entertainers, Hollywood moguls and politicians. Nome's grassroots struggle illustrates how one American hometown is wrestling with issues of sexual violence and law enforcement — and how a history of racial disparity and unacknowledged trauma has undermined efforts to address what the human rights group Amnesty USA has called an epidemic of sexual assaults against Native women across the United States.

In 2013 — the year Susie reported she had been sexually assaulted — Nome police received 33 calls about sexual assaults against adults. That year, the department made one arrest on a sexual assault charge. In all, Nome police records show, the department fielded 372 calls about sexual assaults against adults from 2008 through 2017. During that span, 30 cases — 8% of the total — led to arrests on sexual

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 37 of 58

assault charges.

By comparison, a study of six police departments across the U.S. published this year by researchers at the University of Massachusetts Lowell found that just under 19% of sexual assault reports led to arrests.

Even that arrest rate raises questions about how seriously police agencies take sexual violence, according to criminal justice experts and advocates for sexual assault survivors. Police agencies in big cities, suburbs and small towns have been accused of failing to test DNA evidence gathered in thousands of rape cases ; dismissing rape reports because officers believed that victims did not "fight back" hard enough ; and showing less concern about rape complaints from African Americans, Native Americans and other less powerful groups.

In Nome, local officials defend the police department, saying low staffing levels have made it difficult to respond to calls for help of all kinds.

John Earthman, district attorney for Nome and surrounding areas, said Nome police officers "are very hard-working people that live in this community. They want to make their community safer. Unfortunately out here a lot of times, it is a triage situation. It's very hard. Just having a rural police department in rural Alaska is very hard."

Officials and citizens in Nome are still struggling to come to grips with a history of strains between its police force and the Alaska Native community. There has been some progress over the past year. The police department has new leadership and has increased its workforce to roughly two dozen employees, including officers and support staff. A key catalyst for change has been an informal support group formed by survivors of sexual assault and other violence.

The group, worried about a backlash, had met quietly on the edge of town for three years to plan their efforts. At first members tried to work behind the scenes with police and city leaders, but made little headway. They finally went public with their concerns in the spring of 2018.

"You have every opportunity to raise up the Native community right now," group member Darlene Trigg, who is Inupiaq, told City Council members in May 2018. "In the end we can come out of this in a good place — we all just have to be humble enough to recognize that there's been mistakes. Please, please recognize that."

## A DEATH IN NOME

On Aug. 11, 2003, Florence Habros and her sister watched 19-year old Sonya Ivanoff step into a Nome police car. It was the last time anyone saw the young Inupiaq woman alive.

Habros, who is Yupik, agonized about coming forward when she learned that Ivanoff was missing, fearing retaliation against herself and her family, she told the Anchorage Daily News at the time.

When Ivanoff's body was discovered in bushes by the side of a service road outside of town — she had been shot in the back of the head at point blank range — Habros decided to call police. She told Nome's then-police chief, Ralph Taylor, what she'd seen. For weeks, she waited for police to follow up with her, she said, growing more and more afraid to go outside alone.

Habros finally sent a video statement to the Alaska State Troopers. The troopers' investigation of the case ultimately led to the murder conviction of Nome Police Officer Matthew Clay Owens.

After Owens' arrest, citizens and Alaska Native organizations seized the moment to speak up about what they charged was a pattern of police brutality, harassment and neglect.

A lawsuit, filed by three women who said they had been stalked, threatened and assaulted by Owens, claimed the city knew or should have known that he was a danger to young women in Nome. One of the women alleged Owens had forced her to perform oral sex at gunpoint, promising he'd kill her if she told anyone. Another of the three claimed she and her mother had complained to Taylor after her first assault, years prior to the murder, but nothing was done.

Taylor could not be reached for comment for this story. Before he stepped down as chief at end of his contract in January 2004, he said he hadn't been aware of concerns about Owens' conduct and that the murder case had been turned over to state troopers as soon as he had information that a Nome police

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 38 of 58

officer might be involved. "Nothing was dropped or hidden," he said.

Soon after Taylor departed, Craig Moates flew in from Tennessee to take over the police department. Moates made a whirlwind tour of villages, saying it was his top priority to heal relations with the Native community. He promised to look into allegations of police misconduct.

Moates later told the news media he was unable to substantiate police harassment or abuse. Still, the city quietly paid out roughly \$750,000 to settle lawsuits filed by the three women and Ivanoff's family over its hiring and supervision of Owens, according to lawyers for the plaintiffs.

The civil settlement — and Owens' 101-year prison sentence — closed the legal proceedings in Nome's courthouse. But the memory of Ivanoff's murder is still fresh for many Alaska Native people in Nome and across the state. Alaska Natives have long endured sexual abuse — by staffers at boarding schools that Native children in rural areas were required to attend for much of the 20th century, and by missionaries who came to claim the land for Christ.

In 2007, the Jesuits, a Catholic religious order, agreed to pay \$50 million to settle a lawsuit for serial sex abuse perpetrated against Native girls and boys across Alaska. More than a dozen Jesuit priests were accused of molesting children in Nome and nearby villages, according to a list published by the order last year. Among the most prolific abusers on the list was the Rev. James Poole, who started a radio station in Nome and was lauded in a 1978 People magazine story headlined "Western Alaska's Hippest DJ . Comin' at Ya with Rock'n'Roll 'n' Religion."

Jim LaBelle, who is Inupiaq and is a member of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, said Alaska Natives who have suffered sexual trauma often have few places to turn for help, and there are no protocols for healing entire communities that are still suffering. Many get comfort from embracing centuries-old traditions of subsistence living, he said, but they find even this alternative limited by legal restrictions on hunting and fishing.

While Native communities still suffer from the effects of sexual trauma, Nome's physicians, nurses, therapists, teachers and police are almost exclusively non-Native. Many come from out of state for short rotations, ranging from a few weeks to a few years. Alaska Native organizations try to keep pace by offering cultural trainings to help outsiders better serve their communities — but not everyone participates.

Many service providers "don't come as learners," said Barbara Amarok, who is Inupiaq and director of Nome's Bering Sea Women's Group, a shelter for women seeking safety from violence.

## SUSIE'S STRUGGLE

Nome sits on the Norton Sound a little more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) from the Arctic Circle. It still promotes itself to tourists as a gold rush boomtown, the place Wyatt Earp called home after the Wild West became too tame.

Residents are deeply attached to their community of one- and two-story homes and businesses that stand between the Bering Strait and the treeless expanse of Alaska's western tundra. The sun appears after noon in winter, hovers over the sound for a few hours, and sinks back under the ice. It's hard to see where the land ends and the sea begins. In summer, the plains explode with berries and edible greens. Visitors from surrounding villages and other places can only reach Nome by plane, boat and, sometimes, snow machines or dog sleds.

On the night Susie says everything changed for her, she had come from her village farther north to visit a cousin in Nome. At a bar, she encountered a man she knew from another village who lived in Nome. According to the notes compiled by Barbara Cromwell, the lead forensic nurse at Nome's Norton Sound Regional Hospital, Susie said the man bought her three shots of liquor — "I was just feeling a little bit 'somewhere,' but I wasn't drunk."

She recalled the man saying, "I want to have sex with you." She said she told him "I'm not like that" — she had children and a boyfriend. But he persisted, she said, following Susie and her cousin back to her cousin's apartment. He refused to leave, and finally pushed Susie into a bedroom and locked the door and raped her, pressing his forearm into her neck and chest when she tried to struggle, she told the nurse.

At the hospital, Cromwell decided to conduct a full sexual assault exam, even though her notes indicate



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 39 of 58

that Nicholas Harvey, the Nome police officer investigating the case, told her to cancel it. She wrote that she found evidence that could be consistent with Susie's account, including bruises on her arms and legs. The man had been convicted of physical assault three times before Susie reported him to police, according to court records.

Susie says she waited three days in Nome to hear back from police about her case, but heard nothing. She flew back to her village and continued calling police and prosecutors in Nome. Still, she says, no one could tell her what had happened with her case.

"So I was like . . . must not be important enough," Susie says. "Us Natives must not be important enough."

## WEEDED OUT

Under Cromwell's direction, Norton Sound Regional's forensic nursing program — established in 2010 to provide specialized care to victims of sexual assault and other violence — has grown.

Survivors can see a trained nurse in a private area of the hospital and decide for themselves whether to involve police and undergo evidence collection. They can remain anonymous if they choose. If patients decide to report a crime, police are supposed to interview them in the nurse's private office, with a victim's advocate present if the patient requests one.

The number of evidence kits Cromwell's team collected more than tripled, from around 55 the first year, to over 180 by 2017. But as more and more people went to the hospital for rape exams, Nome police officers struggled to master investigative techniques, Cromwell told the AP.

"By the time the rest of our team could kind of bring them up to speed, they'd be gone," she said. "And then the victims kind of drift away because nothing's being done."

Cromwell said she was shocked when a Nome police officer casually let it slip in 2017 that police were regularly "weeding out" some sexual assault reports on the spot, without bringing women to the hospital for an exam and an interview with someone trained in dealing with traumatized victims.

"I had no idea that they were sometimes deciding in the field that it was not a legitimate report," Cromwell said. "How can you substantiate (an assault) if you don't bring them to a quiet place to interview them with support, with an advocate, and have a medical person evaluate them? Because it might sound like nothing, but that's because it's very difficult for the women to tell their story. You really have to give them the opportunity to do that."

Harvey, the officer who had handled Susie's case, declined to answer questions for this story. Harvey, who left the police department earlier this year and took a job as a deputy clerk at the Nome courthouse, started as a dispatcher for the department in 2008 and eventually rose to lieutenant; for much of the past decade, he was one of the officers responsible for investigating sexual assault cases in Nome.

One former employee of the department, Tomas Paniaataq, recalled accompanying Harvey on a sexual assault call; before Harvey even started the car, Paniaataq told the AP, the investigator told him it was a "he said, she said" case that would never hold in a court, so there was no point in taking a report.

Paniaataq, who is Inupiaq, worked from 2016 to 2018 for the department as a community services officer, a civilian employee who assisted sworn officers.

"Honestly, if you look back at a lot of the sexual assaults within the police department that that particular officer did, (it) was always like a no-report, 'he said-she said' kind of thing," Paniaataq said.

Preston Stotts was a 15-year veteran when he left the department two years ago — in large part, he said, because of frustration with Harvey and other officers who were "failing to go on felony calls, not going on sexual assault calls."

As a supervisor, Stotts said he wrote numerous complaints, but the department did nothing about "blatant disregard for policing."

## ONE OF THEIR OWN

Clarice "Bun" Hardy, a 911 dispatcher for Nome police from 2015 to 2018, had always thought of Harvey as a friend. Harvey was "the one cop I thought of as family, the one who I trusted with everything," she said.

She turned to him in March 2017 after she awoke one morning, sore and bruised, with no memory of

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 40 of 58

getting home the night before. Friends called her, she said, telling her about photos and a video posted on Snapchat that seemed to show a man having intercourse with her while she was unconscious.

She told Harvey she believed she'd been drugged at a local bar and then sexually assaulted. She said she gave him a list of witnesses, she said, but they later told her that no one from the police department had contacted them.

Meanwhile, during her shifts as dispatcher, she was answering repeated calls from two women who had reported being assaulted. Each time she told Harvey one of the women was on the line to ask about the status of her case, Hardy said, he said: "Just tell her I'm working on it."

It was the same thing that he told her every time she asked about her own case, Hardy said.

"That's when it sparked," she said, her voice wavering. "Oh my God, he's not doing anything."

In March 2018, she said, she told the police chief at the time, John Papasodora, what had happened with her case, and he seemed surprised. He couldn't locate a report or even a case number in the department's computer system, she said, and asked her to rewrite her complaint, promising to deliver it to state troopers.

Months later, she said, she discovered her complaint still sitting on the chief's desk. Hardy contacted the city's human resources officer, the municipal employees union and Alaska's Office of Victims' Rights. She eventually went on unpaid leave and then was terminated from her job because, city officials wrote her, she hadn't returned to work after her leave expired.

"I went from being a very active person, going to every community event, helping out, volunteering, to being scared to be in public in Nome," she told the AP. "My blinds and my apartment were closed, my doors were locked."

Papasodora, who stepped down as Nome police chief in September 2018, did not respond to email and phone messages seeking comment for this story.

As Hardy waited for something to happen in her case, members of the local support group for sexual assault survivors were struggling to make progress in their talks with city officials.

Things began to change in August 2018 after Hardy's sister Josie talked her into going to a community forum on public safety that the survivors group had organized.

Around 30 people assembled, and they went around in a circle introducing themselves, Hardy recalled. "I said, 'Hi, my name is Clarice Hardy. I go by 'Bun.' I'm a dispatcher for the Nome Police Department and I'm here because I reported that I was drugged and raped, and my case didn't go anywhere."

Soon after, Hardy gave an interview to the Anchorage Daily News, which ran a story in September 2018 under the headline: "911 dispatcher: I was raped and Nome police colleagues ignored the case."

Her public recounting of her experience in the state's largest newspaper was a turning point: She was a former police department insider and she and her family were well-known in Nome.

At the same time, revelations about her case came in the wake of the news that the department had rehired Carl Putman, a former Nome community service officer who months before had pleaded guilty to punching Florence Habros — the eyewitness in the Sonya Ivanoff murder case a decade and a half before.

City officials explained that the department had rehired Putman — bringing him on as a police dispatcher — because it was hard to find qualified people.

## 'IT'S KILLING US'

Not long before Bun Hardy went public, Deidre Levi, a high school basketball coach from St. Michael, a village on the other side of Norton Sound, reported a sexual assault to Nome police.

At the hospital, Levi, 21 at the time, was so distraught she needed to be sedated before undergoing a rape exam, according to medical records she released to the AP. The forensic report showed deep purple bruises around her neck "consistent with manual strangulation."

Harvey interviewed her at the hospital. Friends who stayed with her during the interview repeatedly asked the officer what the next steps were.

Levi said Harvey told them that the only thing that could be done was to get a court order allowing her to record a phone conversation with the man she said had raped her — in the hope he might say some-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 41 of 58

thing incriminating.

Levi's mother, Priscilla Washington, flew to Nome and went to the police station with an advocate from the local women's shelter.

"I went to Harvey and asked him what's going on, and he said: 'It's just accusations right now,'" Washington recalled. "I asked if I could give him information, witnesses, anything. I asked: 'Why isn't he arrested yet with all that she went through?'"

Washington said she called the police department a week later, then a week after that, about getting approval to do the recording.

"They said they'd let me know," Washington said. "And they never called back."

It was soon after that the Anchorage Daily News story about Hardy went live. Levi read the story with a shock of recognition. She wasn't alone.

After another three weeks passed without communication from police about her case, she said, she went online and wrote a long Facebook post about her experiences with Nome police. The post went viral and the newspaper followed with a story on Oct. 4 headlined: "A second woman comes forward to say she was raped in Nome without consequence."

That same day, during an Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration in Anchorage attended by then-Gov. Bill Walker, Alaska Native author and playwright Vera Starbard gave a speech urging law enforcement authorities across the state to do their jobs and work to break through denial about sexual abuse of Alaska Native girls and women.

"We've seen that our sisters in Nome reported their sexual abuse, and were ignored," Starbard, who is of Tlingit and Dena'ina Athabascan heritage, said. "We've heard it said over and over on social media, in the news, in the comments — that we aren't to be believed, or it was our fault anyways, or that we deserve what we get. . . . It's crushing us. It's killing us."

## SIGNS OF CHANGE

In Nome, as Hardy and Levi's stories drew statewide publicity and stoked community anger, signs of change emerged. The city hired a new police chief, Robert Estes, who announced that his department was performing an internal audit of over 460 old sexual assault cases. The City Council approved the hiring of the police department's first victims advocate and passed an ordinance to create a civilian oversight committee to monitor police conduct.

But change isn't a simple or swift process. Lisa Navraq Ellanna, an Inupiaq member of the survivors advocacy group, says the group wants lasting policy changes, not just new leadership.

"We can't look away for one minute," Ellanna said. "Or all of this goes away."

Susie, meanwhile, was inspired by Hardy and Levi's stories to try to find out what had happened with her own case.

From her village, she emailed Estes and other police officials, then called the station repeatedly to try to follow up. When she finally got through, she was told it would cost \$20 to get a copy of her police report. She tried to pay with a credit card over the phone, she said, but was turned down. "They said it had to be cash."

By mid-March, Susie was feeling low. She still had no word, she said, about her case.

"They're just pushing me away. They know I'll give up like I did before. It's stressful."

It was a relief this summer to join her parents at various camping sites, catching amaqtuuq and other varieties of salmon, gathering berries and hunting moose to prepare for the long winter, using skills passed down from her great-grandparents. "I love our way of living," Susie said. "It's a lot of work, but it's worth it."

Still, she couldn't help wonder, out there in the wide open spaces, when she'd hear back from Nome police.

"I'm still waiting for the phone call," she said in mid-July. "I'm at camp working on fish." But they wouldn't have any problem reaching her. "We have a generator to charge our phones."

AP investigative researcher Randy Herschaft in New York contributed to this report.

To hear voices of some of the people involved in Nome's struggles over sexual assault, listen to the podcast series that the AP's partner in this project, National Native News, has launched at <https://www.nativenews.net/waiting-for-justice-in-nome-alaska/>.

## Snoozing crew raises specter of criminal charge in boat fire

By **STEFANIE DAZIO** and **BRIAN MELLEY** Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Federal investigators identified a violation of Coast Guard regulations that could trigger criminal charges in the California dive boat disaster that killed 34 people.

The National Transportation Safety Board said Thursday that all crew members on the boat Conception were asleep when the pre-dawn fire broke out Sept. 2 off the coast of Santa Barbara. The boat was required to have a crew member on lookout duty, according to Coast Guard rules.

"A member of the vessel's crew shall be designated by the master as a roving patrol at all times, whether or not the vessel is underway, when the passenger's bunks are occupied," the boat's inspection certificate said as a condition of operation.

Federal investigators are searching for the cause of fire and looking into possible criminal charges that would likely focus on an obscure federal law known as the seaman's manslaughter statute.

Under the pre-Civil War law that can bring penalties up to 10 years in prison, prosecutors only need to show negligence or that the captain or crew committed misconduct or neglected their duties.

Defense lawyers and law professors said that failure to appoint a night watchman or falling asleep on the job could be enough to bring charges.

"No watch? A boat that far offshore?" attorney Michael Turndorf said. "I think that fits the statute. I would be surprised, if those are the real circumstances, that somebody doesn't get charged."

Turndorf is one of a handful of criminal lawyers who have defended a client charged under the seldom used law.

His client, Maine lobster boat captain Christopher Hutchinson, pleaded guilty earlier this year in the deaths of two crew members who fell overboard when his boat flipped in high seas in November 2014.

The law was put in place to punish captains, engineers and pilots responsible for deadly steamboat accidents that killed thousands in the 19th century.

A lawyer for Conception captain Jerry Boylan said he didn't believe his client had spoken with the National Transportation Safety Board yet and declined to answer questions about what his client did the night of the tragedy.

"I would say that he's emotionally devastated," attorney Michael Lipman said.

Attorney James Mercante, who handles maritime law, said seaman's manslaughter law is dangerous for boat owners and officers, and it's often in their interest not to talk with investigators.

"You want to cooperate with authorities when there's a casualty. But you have to draw that fine line," Mercante said. "It comes down to a decision between cooperation and incrimination."

The captain and four crew members were asleep on the vessel's upper deck and survived. The sixth, a 26-year-old deckhand named Allie Kurtz, was sleeping below deck and perished with the boat's 33 passengers.

Kurtz's grandmother, Doris Lapporte, said she was too distraught to comment on the National Transportation Safety Board findings, issued days before the family planned to scatter her granddaughter's ashes at sea.

"I have nightmares every day about her going up in flames," Lapporte said, crying. "This isn't the time to talk about how angry I am or how I feel."

The victims on the Conception were a diverse collection, including a girl celebrating her 17th birthday with her parents and a friend, a marine biologist who was leading the three-day scuba diving excursion, an Indian-born dentist and her husband from Connecticut, an environmental scientist, and a professional photographer.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 43 of 58

Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown released the names of the last seven to be identified during a news conference Thursday, the day after the final human remains were pulled from the water. It's believed all died from smoke inhalation.

"May they all rest in peace and may their families know that all of us who have been involved in this sad operation continue to hold them in our hearts and in our prayers," Brown said.

Crews raised the wreckage of the burned-out boat Thursday from waters off Santa Cruz Island where the vessel was anchored the night of the tragedy. The island is northwest of Los Angeles and about 20 miles (32 kilometers) from the mainland.

The NTSB report provided few additional details and noted investigators have only interviewed three of the five surviving crew members, who said no mechanical or electrical issues had been reported before the fire.

One crew member on the upper deck awoke to a noise and saw flames rising from the main deck. He alerted the rest of the crew and the captain issued a panicked mayday call to the Coast Guard.

The crew, finding the ladder to the main deck on fire, jumped down — one breaking a leg in the process. They tried to get to the others through a window but couldn't open it. When "overwhelmed by smoke," they were forced to jump overboard.

Douglas Schwartz, an attorney for the Conception's owner, Truth Aquatics Inc., attempted to cast doubt on the National Transportation Safety Board's conclusion that the crew was sleeping, saying in a released statement that a witness "seems to contradict" that notion.

A crew member was awake shortly before the fire started and checked the galley and surrounding area around 2:30 a.m., Schwartz said. The first mayday call from the captain was transmitted at 3:14 a.m.

Schwartz refused to answer follow-up questions, including whether that crew member was assigned to night watch and went back to sleep after inspecting the galley.

The parents of Charles McIlvain, 44, a visual effects designer who was onboard with his neighbor, said they were greatly disturbed to hear there was no roving watchman.

"Early detection may have made an incredible difference in outcome," Clark and Kathleen McIlvain said in a statement.

## What a Purdue Pharma bankruptcy means for the Sackler family

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL, GEOFF MULVIHILL and ADAM GELLER AP Staff Writers

Purdue Pharma could be heading for bankruptcy but the extent to which it would affect the Sackler family fortunes remains unclear.

The company, which makes OxyContin and other drugs, this week reached a tentative agreement with thousands of local governments and more than 20 states over its role in the opioid crisis that has contributed to the death of thousands of Americans.

As part of that deal, the company would file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, the Sacklers would lose control of the business and the family could pay up to \$4.5 billion. But some states are refusing to sign on, saying it doesn't do enough to hold the Sacklers and their company accountable.

The legal battle will play out in court over time, but here's what we know now:

### WHAT ROLE DID THE SACKLERS PLAY IN THE FAMILY BUSINESS?

Purdue Pharma, based in Stamford, Connecticut, was founded in 1952 by three brothers — Arthur, Mortimer and Raymond Sackler — all physicians. Arthur Sackler sold his stake before the business took off in the mid-90s, when it began to sell OxyContin.

All three of the founders have died. One of the heirs, Richard Sackler, served as president of the company and some served on its board. All have left the board in recent years.

Eight of the family members — Richard, Jonathan, Mortimer, Kathe, Beverly, Theresa and David Sackler and Ilene Sackler Lefcourt — are named repeatedly in lawsuits nationwide for their roles; some suits name many more.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 44 of 58

## HOW MUCH MONEY DOES THE SACKLER FAMILY HAVE?

The Sacklers' net worth was an estimated \$13 billion as of 2016, making them America's 19th-richest family, according to Forbes magazine. But the exact value of their fortune is not known and believed by some to be much larger.

Several states say that the family has worked methodically to move money out of Purdue to insulate their fortune.

An Associated Press review of court papers, securities filings by companies that have had dealings with Purdue, and documents leaked from an exclusive Bermuda law firm indicate the family has shielded their wealth in an intricate web of companies and trusts, including some located in offshore tax havens. The family has previously declined to discuss the matter.

The size and scope of their fortune may become clearer in court depending on how things proceed. But given the apparent complexity the financial web, it could prove difficult and time consuming to reveal it completely.

## HOW MUCH COULD THEY END UP PAYING?

It depends on how various legal actions play out.

The Sacklers have already agreed to pay up to \$4.5 billion. That amount is contingent on the sale of the family's international drug company, Mundipharma. They also would lose any wealth from the future operation of that company.

They could potentially pay much more depending on the outcome of bankruptcy proceedings and lawsuits directly naming the family. Generally in a bankruptcy, all the company's assets are fair game for creditors but the owner's wealth is considered separate. There are some scenarios, however, where the personal wealth of the owners could be pursued, according to legal experts.

The Sacklers' wealth could be at risk if the line between the company and owners was not properly observed. For instance, if the owners weren't keeping separate accounting books or they were having the company pay for their personal expenses, they could be found personally liable for actions of the company, according to Michael Simkovic, professor of law and accounting at the University of Southern California. But those types of cases are unusual and hard to win, he said.

Another way they could be held to account is if they were actively involved in the day-to-day management of the company and were personally responsible for some acts, or were managing and directing people who were responsible for acts that led to liability, Simkovic said.

Jessica Gabel Cino, a law professor at Georgia State University, said that in large bankruptcies like this one, family members do sometimes have to make contributions to the bankruptcy estate.

"They aren't going to leave the bankruptcy unscathed," she said.

At the same time, they can use the bankruptcy to protect themselves from other lawsuits. That's because as soon as the company files for protection, it could put all other lawsuits against the company on hold.

The Sackler family is facing a number of lawsuits that name them personally. There is some leeway within the bankruptcy court to decide if those cases will be put on hold until bankruptcy proceedings are complete or be a part of the bankruptcy itself, depending on the nature of the claim.

The Sacklers have denied any wrongdoing.

## HOW MANY LAWSUITS ARE THE SACKLERS FACING?

At this time, more than 20 states have sued family members by name for their role in the crisis. Each suit varies slightly, but many claim the Sacklers knowingly misled the public and medical communities while draining money from the company.

If the lawsuits against the families allege criminal activity — such as fraud or actions that would deliberately hurt others — those would likely move forward regardless of the bankruptcy, said Richard Squire, a professor at the Fordham University Law School.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 45 of 58

"The bankruptcy proceeding would likely block some claims," he said. "The claims that include a high degree of fault — criminal activity or recklessness — may survive but they are riskier."

## HOW LONG WILL THIS TAKE?

Some corporate bankruptcy proceedings are prepackaged, meaning the plan has been agreed upon by everyone involved beforehand. Those can move through the court quickly and be resolved within a month. But given the array of claimants and complexity of Purdue, experts say it will likely take longer.

In the bankruptcy of Adelphia Communications, for instance, the cable television company filed for protection from creditors in 2002 but its agreement took five years to gain approval.

AP Business Writers Alex Veiga and Anne D'Innocenzio contributed to this report

This article has been corrected to clarify that one Sackler heir served as president of the company, not that some oversaw operations day-to-day.

## Bahamas tackles massive clean-up after Dorian, 1,300 missing

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

HIGH ROCK, Bahamas (AP) — Pastor Jeremiah Saunders stood in the golden afternoon sun and barely blinked as he debated what to pick out from the ruins of the church he built 22 years ago in the seaside village of High Rock on the eastern end of Grand Bahama island.

A black-and-blue necktie floated in a pool of water. Nearby, a ruptured set of drums lay toppled on its side. Bone-white sea shells were nestled in tufts of grass, flung there by the surging floodwaters that had carried Saunders for 200 yards until he managed to grab hold of a large pine tree branch, where he spent two days after Hurricane Dorian crashed ashore.

"I spoke to the water: 'Peace, be still.' It never listened," he said with a wide smile. But then he grew serious as he focused on the daunting cleanup facing the tens of thousands who live on Grand Bahama and Abaco, the two northern islands that were devastated by the Category 5 storm.

It will be a slow process that some are tackling in very small steps. Saunders picked out two hammers, five screwdrivers and three treasured Bibles.

In contrast, 67-year-old Mary Glinton in the nearby fishing village of McLean's Town wasted no time getting rid of all her ruined possessions. She created three piles of clothes stiffened by mud and set them on fire. A once-white lace curtain, a muddied pink wind-breaker and a pair of black pants all went into the flames. She most lamented that all her church clothes were ruined.

"I love blue, and most of my dresses are blue," she said standing near the fire in green flip-flops, her legs caked with mud. She also mourned the loss of her 1-year-old pet hog, Princess.

A preliminary report estimates Dorian caused some \$7 billion in damage, but the government has not yet offered any figures. Crews have started to remove some debris on the islands, but they are moving slowly to avoid accidentally disturbing any bodies lying in the rubble. The official death toll stands at 50, and Prime Minister Hubert Minnis said he expects the number to significantly increase.

Authorities said Thursday that the list of people missing in the hurricane's aftermath had been reduced to about 1,300 names from an earlier 2,500. The government has said it is checking the original names against the rosters of people evacuated from the devastated islands or staying in shelters.

A cluster of heavy thunderstorms heading to the Bahamas threatened to further drench those trying to salvage belongings or living in tents in hard-hit communities. Late in the day, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said the system was expected to become a tropical storm within 36 hours and would hit parts of the northwestern Bahamas with tropical storm-force winds and heavy rains.

USAID officials, meanwhile, said they would distribute plastic sheeting ahead of the storm.

As the cleanup continued, the first hints of normalcy could be seen in Freeport, a city on Grand Bahama that is operated by a private company, which provides utilities and charges residents without any gov-

# Broton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 46 of 58

ernment involvement. Lights began to flicker on in some neighborhoods, and crews were seen repairing transformers in other areas.

Among those celebrating the return of electricity was Clifton Williams, who was driving home from work on Wednesday when he saw an illuminated streetlight for the first time since the hurricane.

"I didn't expect that so quickly," he said. "First thing I do, I cut on the fan and cool off myself," he added, saying he slept well for the first time in more than a week thanks to the fan.

But the small villages that dot the eastern coast of Grand Bahama have barely received any help. Some residents have been hitchhiking daily from Freeport to their destroyed homes to sort through their belongings and clean up.

Tereha Davis, a 45-year-old fisherwoman, said she was unable to find a ride one day and ended up walking eight miles under the blistering sun. She piled up the things she managed to salvage until she could find a ride back to Freeport with her few remaining possessions. On Wednesday, she walked through McLean's Town wearing purple surgical gloves, taking a break from cleaning as she looked for something sweet to drink for a boost of energy. She found nothing.

She and others said they had not seen any government officials and have only received food and water from nonprofit groups.

The prime minister acknowledged the difficult situation in a televised address late Wednesday.

"There have been problems in the coordination of this aid due to the magnitude of this devastation," Minnis said, adding that he understands the deep frustration of those dealing with "bureaucratic roadblocks" and pledged to reduce the red tape and bring in more aid and extra personnel.

"There are no words sufficient to describe this tragedy," Minnis said. "No Bahamian has ever seen anything like this in their lifetime."

As they wait for more help, people across Grand Bahama waded into the cleanup, tossing out mattresses, tearing off roof shingles and clearing branches and power lines.

At his Beulah Land Ministries church, the 61-year-old Saunders had been preparing to open a small boarding lodge for visiting mission groups before Dorian hit. He stood surrounded by gleaming white toilets and sinks, piles of shiny brown tiles and soggy rolls of burgundy carpet.

"I am going to rebuild," he said as he surveyed the ruins of his church. The only thing left unscathed was a wooden crucifix that he had nailed to a wall 22 years ago.

## Settlement money won't restore Ohio city upended by opioids

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — The tentative settlement involving the opioid crisis and the maker of OxyContin could mean that thousands of local governments will one day be paid back for some of the costs of responding to the epidemic.

But for public officials in Akron, no amount of money will restore the families and institutions that were upended by prescription painkillers, heroin and fentanyl.

"The overwhelming sense of hopelessness that took over this community in 2016, you can't monetize that," former Assistant Summit County Prosecutor Greta Johnson told lawyers in a deposition in January. "Every single day the newspaper was reporting on the overdose death rates. You could not go into a community setting where there were not weeping mothers talking about their children."

OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma struck a proposed deal Wednesday with about half the states and thousands of local governments over its role in the crisis. But criticism by several state attorneys general clouded prospects for an end to litigation against the company and the family that owns it.

Some people in Akron say the once-proud rubber capital of the world will never be the same. Hundreds of overdose deaths shattered families, orphaned children, exhausted first responders and drained government resources. At one point, city officials needed a mobile morgue to house all the corpses.

Ohio's fifth-largest city and the surrounding Summit County were scheduled to be the first of some 2,000 governments, along with Cleveland's Cuyahoga County, to go to trial against drugmakers next month.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 47 of 58

Local officials sought damages from the manufacturers they hold responsible.

Overdose deaths — which hit 340, or nearly one a day, in 2016 — took a toll on the county medical examiner's budget and her staff. At the height of the scourge, they often had to perform two or more drug-related autopsies in an average day.

Dr. Lisa Kohler, the county's chief medical examiner, recalled "the mental stress of dealing with repeated cases of having multiple deaths in the same families over a period of weeks to months."

The calls about overdose deaths were constant, and "it just felt like it was never going to stop," Kohler said.

The need for the mobile morgue laid bare the devastating extent of the crisis. The trailers were originally intended for a mass-fatality event, such as a natural disaster, plane crash or terrorist attack.

Akron Fire Chief Clarence Tucker said it sometimes felt as if his community was under attack.

"We handle 45,000 calls a year, and it just kept climbing and climbing," he said. The fire department had to accelerate maintenance schedules on vehicles, mobilize off-duty paramedics and cope with staff burnout.

"You can get a call someone has overdosed and you get there, you can bring them back with Narcan. Then you'll go to the same address in the afternoon," Tucker said. "Or you go to that address in the morning and the two parents have overdosed and there's a child there. It's just horrible. It really is."

Summit County's estimated payout from the \$12 billion tentative Purdue settlement was estimated at \$13.2 million. Akron would receive about \$3.7 million. Barberton, the county's second-largest city, would receive \$492,000.

Those dollars are intended to compensate for the many financial effects of opioids, including not only the demands on fire, police and medical services, but the crowded jails, the bulging foster-care system, the bursting drug-court dockets, the overloaded addiction programs and the inundated emergency rooms.

Summit County Common Pleas Judge Joy Malek Oldfield sees about 50 felony offenders in her drug court every Monday morning. It's one of two drug-court dockets totaling 80 to 100 people, about double the number before the crisis.

"We're nearing capacity for both dockets, and most of them are opiate-dependent," Oldfield said.

In the past, when most drug offenders used crack cocaine or marijuana, "the treatment was tailored to those users," Oldfield said. "If someone had a bad day and relapsed, they didn't die." But opioid addiction is fierce and often requires residential treatment, the judge said.

By October 2017, the opioid outlook was so bad that County Executive Ilene Shapiro declared an emergency, noting in her proclamation that "local response efforts have been exhausted and local resources in Summit County have been overwhelmed, and capabilities have been exceeded." That year, the county saw another 269 overdose deaths.

For police officers, the crisis meant a slew of extra duties beyond fighting crime, said Barberton Police Chief Vincent Morber.

"They've had to be everything. Not just law enforcers, but social workers and drug counselors, trying to hook everybody up with resources," Morber said. "These poor young officers have done more death notifications in their short time span in 10 years than I have done my whole career."

Thomas Heitic, chef and general manager of the Green Diamond Grille and Pub, said he hoped the settlement would offer more money for addiction counseling.

"Any of this money that goes towards awareness to me is a joke. We're all aware of what's going on. Our medical examiner had to bring in refrigerated trucks because the bodies were piling up. We're constantly aware of this problem. We need to focus, use that money to focus on treatment."

---

Associated Press video journalist Angie Wang contributed to this report.

## Trump administration puts tough new asylum rule into effect

By JULIE WATSON and CEDAR ATTANASIO Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — A new level of despair spread among tens of thousands of migrants waiting on the Mexican border to seek refuge in the U.S. as the Trump administration began enforcing radical new restrictions Thursday on who qualifies for asylum.

"The United States is the only option," Dunea Romero, a 31-year-old Honduran, lamented with tears in her eyes at a shelter in Tijuana. She said she packed a bag and fled her homeland with her two boys, ages 7 and 11, after learning that her abusive ex-husband, a powerful gang leader, was going to have her killed.

The new U.S. policy would effectively deny asylum to nearly all migrants arriving at the southern border who aren't from Mexico. It would disallow anyone who passes through another country without first seeking and failing to obtain asylum there.

The rule will fall most heavily on Central Americans, mainly Hondurans and Guatemalans, because they account for most people arrested or stopped at the border.

But it also represents an enormous setback for other asylum seekers, including large numbers of Africans, Haitians and Cubans who try to enter the United States by way of the Mexican border.

It is perhaps the biggest change to U.S. asylum policy since it was established in 1980 and the most consequential move of President Donald Trump's crackdown on immigration, a signature issue as he heads into a re-election campaign.

The Trump administration put the policy into effect the day after the Supreme Court cleared it to do so while legal challenges move forward.

Acting U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Mark Morgan called the high court's go-ahead a "big victory" in the administration's effort to curb the flow of migrants. Migrants and their advocates decried it as tantamount to a death sentence for many of those fleeing poverty and violence in their homelands.

Jessica Collins, a spokeswoman for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the agency that handles asylum cases, said it will be retroactive to July 16, when it was announced.

Collins said it will help remove one of the factors that impel people to set out for the United States, "leading to fewer individuals transiting through Mexico on a dangerous journey."

An unprecedented surge of asylum-seeking families from Central America has overwhelmed U.S. authorities during Trump's tenure, prompting the unprecedented response.

Under another Trump administration policy, introduced in January, more than 40,000 asylum seekers have been forced to wait in Mexico while their cases wind through the clogged American immigration courts.

In Tijuana on Thursday, Ngho Elliot Takere of Cameroon stood only steps from the United States, frustrated after learning that he could be blocked from getting in. He has been waiting for two months in Mexico for his number to be called so he can submit a request for asylum.

The 28-year-old furniture maker said he left his war-torn African homeland after being jailed by police for being part of the English-speaking minority. He was released on the condition that he leave the country or be killed, he said. He said the military burned his family's home, killing his mother as she slept.

As for the possibility of being turned away by the United States, Takere said: "I can't think of that."

"In the U.S., I know I'll be protected," he said.

Many asylum seekers denied refuge under the new policy will be placed in fast-track deportation proceedings and flown to their home countries at U.S. expense, authorities said.

Some seeking refuge may get to stay in the United States through other legal avenues, including protection under the United Nations Convention Against Torture, but the threshold to qualify is much higher.

"Our Supreme Court is sentencing people to death. There are no safeguards, no institutions to stop this cruelty," the immigration-assistance group Al Otro Lado said in a statement. The Mexican government likewise called the high court's action "astonishing."

But Morgan said migrants with valid claims should instead be seeking asylum "from the first country they come in contact with."

"They shouldn't be paying the cartels thousands of dollars and risking their lives to take a 1,000-mile

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 49 of 58

journey across several countries to get help," he said on Fox News.

Attanasio reported from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Associated Press writers Mark Sherman and Colleen Long in Washington and Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to this report.

## Is it impeachment if Speaker Pelosi doesn't say so?

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bristling over the "I" word, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi stopped short Thursday of saying the House is ready to launch an impeachment investigation of President Donald Trump, even as Judiciary Committee Democrats set the stage to do just that.

Pelosi has been a moderating force in her divided caucus, as liberals push to impeach and centrist Democrats are wary of fixating on Trump. She's been consistent in her restraint. But in having it both ways, opening the door to impeachment while not leading the charge, she was giving space for different opinions but leaving Democrats with a mixed message.

By approving ground rules for impeachment hearings Thursday, the Judiciary Committee sparked the questions anew.

"If we have to go there, we'll have to go there," Pelosi said Thursday about the impeachment investigation. "But we can't go there until we have the facts."

Pelosi cut off repeated questions on the topic during her weekly press conference. She said she was done discussing it.

"People are impatient about it," she conceded. "We can't go any faster than the facts."

She said, "We're still on the same path."

The approach from Pelosi and her leadership team comes as the Judiciary Committee pushes ahead with its first impeachment hearings this fall, backed by more than half the House Democrats who want some sort of an investigation.

Trump told reporters he's not concerned about the impeachment planning, calling it an "embarrassment" to the country. Asked if he believes Pelosi is scared of impeaching him, Trump said: "I don't think she's scared of anything. I think she's a smart woman and I think she knows exactly what she's doing."

Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler says there's no uncertainty about what his committee is doing: It's an impeachment investigation, no matter how you want to phrase it.

As the committee voted Thursday to approve guidelines for impeachment hearings, Nadler promised an "aggressive" fall schedule, starting with next week's public session with Trump aide Corey Lewandowski.

"Some call this process an impeachment inquiry. Some call it an impeachment investigation. There is no legal difference between these terms, and I no longer care to argue about the nomenclature," Nadler, D-N.Y., said earlier as he opened the meeting.

"But let me clear up any remaining doubt: The conduct under investigation poses a threat to our democracy. We have an obligation to respond to this threat. And we are doing so."

Impeachment has divided Democrats who control the House, a split that is becoming even more pronounced ahead of the 2020 election as the party measures the weight of its oversight responsibility with the mood of public opinion.

Democrats on Nadler's committee, including some of the most liberal members of the House, have been eager to move forward with the process. But moderates, mostly first-term lawmakers who handed their party the majority in the 2018 election, are concerned about the committee's drumbeat on impeachment especially in districts where Trump remains popular.

Given those divisions, Nadler and Pelosi have been talking about impeachment very differently. While Nadler has been clear that his committee is moving ahead, Pelosi is reluctant to mention the "I" word.

In private meetings, Pelosi has urged caution and told the caucus that the public isn't there yet on impeachment.

At the same time, Pelosi has quietly signed off on the committee's moves and said Thursday she sup-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 50 of 58

ports its work.

She said Thursday that when she travels the country, "people are saying it's good to be careful about how we proceed."

Outside groups that spent the month of August flooding lawmakers' telephone lines and showing up at town hall meetings to push impeachment find Pelosi's approach out of step with the party's priorities.

"It's just an absurd position," said Zac Petkanas, a Democratic strategist and president of Defend the Republic, a messaging group around the issue. He is a former campaign aide to Hillary Clinton.

Petkanas said the "discombobulation of some of the leadership messaging is disappointing," but not a blow to the efforts to push Judiciary Committee Democrats to act. "It kind of doesn't even matter what she calls it, they're doing the thing."

The confusion was highlighted this week as leadership split on what to call what was happening. Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., indicated to reporters that there was not an impeachment investigation — and then issued a clarification saying the House is not considering one "at this time." The caucus chairman, Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., tweeted that committee adopted the resolution for the "IMPEACHMENT INVESTIGATION."

Ahead of the committee vote, several freshman lawmakers met with Nadler on Wednesday and expressed concerns about the path ahead. Hoyer's office had encouraged them to raise their questions.

"It's sucking the air out of all the good stuff that we're doing, so that's our concern," said Florida Rep. Donna Shalala, who attended the meeting.

As soon as the committee voted Thursday, the House GOP's campaign committee began singling out Democratic freshmen who voted for the resolution, warning they will "pay dearly for this decision at the ballot box."

With Democrats divided and the 2020 campaign ahead, it's unclear whether the impeachment process will ever move beyond the committee's investigation.

The Republican-led Senate is unlikely to convict Trump and remove him from office.

The GOP's House leader, Rep. Kevin McCarthy of California, a close ally of Trump, said there's "no reason" to move forward with impeachment. "This is not something to play with," he said.

Still, the committee has persisted in advancing the issue, keeping questions swirling about Trump's actions in office. Its work is also intended to bolster the Democrats' lawsuits against the Trump administration to force witness testimony and documents as the White House has repeatedly blocked both.

The committee says the resolution approved Thursday is similar to the approach taken at the beginning of the impeachment investigations into Presidents Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton.

The first hearing scheduled under the new impeachment rules is with Lewandowski, the former Trump campaign manager, on Sept. 17 over questions of obstruction of justice. According to special counsel Robert Mueller's report, Trump asked Lewandowski to deliver a message to then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions requesting that he limit Mueller's inquiry.

The committee also intends to hold hearings as it is investigating the spending of taxpayer money at the president's hotels and properties and hush money payments Trump made to kill potentially embarrassing stories about alleged affairs.

Nadler said all of those investigations will inform the decision on whether to move ahead and vote on articles of impeachment.

Republicans expressed their frustration with the entire process.

Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, the top Republican on the panel, said the committee "has become a giant Instagram filter ... it's put in there to look like something, but it's really not."

---

Associated Press writer Darlene Superville in Washington and Matthew Daly in Baltimore contributed to this report.



## House votes to bar Arctic drilling; Senate action unlikely

By MATTHEW DALY Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic-controlled House on Thursday voted to reinstate a decades-long ban on oil and gas drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge — a largely symbolic move aimed at reversing a plan by President Donald Trump to drill in the pristine refuge.

The 225-193 vote comes as the Trump administration has begun planning to sell oil and gas leases in the remote refuge, home to polar bears, caribou, migratory birds and other species.

The drilling was authorized under a 2017 tax cut approved by the Republican-controlled Congress, an action the House vote attempts to undo. The bill now goes to the GOP-controlled Senate, where action is unlikely. Trump has vowed to veto the bill if it reaches his desk.

Later Wednesday, the Interior Department released its final environmental impact statement on drilling in the refuge, with its preferred plan to offer the entire coastal plain for lease.

Officials said during a teleconference with reporters that nearly 1.6 million acres would be offered for lease under this alternative. It still needs final approval, but that appears to be a formality. The goal is to hold a lease sale before the end of the year, officials said.

The Energy Information Administration, a federal agency, estimates that the refuge could produce 3.4 billion barrels of oil by 2050, but production isn't expected to start until 2031.

In Congress, the bill's Democratic sponsor, Rep. Jared Huffman of California, said there are "some places too wild, too important, too special to be spoiled by oil and gas development. The Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain is one of those special places."

But Republicans, including all three members of Alaska's congressional delegation, said drilling can be done safely with modern techniques and would decrease U.S. dependence on foreign oil and create jobs for Alaskans.

Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, said Huffman "certainly takes a great interest in how we Alaskans operate. I would suggest he pay more attention to the issues in his own backyard and let me handle mine."

Young called the Democratic bill "a sham" and said, "Despite the Democrats' ongoing efforts, this is not a wilderness area. Let me say again: the (area set aside for drilling) is designated for development."

Alaskans, including Alaska Natives, overwhelmingly want to see the refuge opened to development, Young said. "Alaskans know and have repeatedly shown that responsible development and environmental stewardship can go together."

Huffman and other bill supporters noted that the 19.6 million acre refuge is home to more than 200 different wildlife species, including bird species that migrate to states and districts across the country.

"You don't have to have visited the refuge to be impacted and impressed by its ecological beauty," Huffman said. The Porcupine caribou herd is a vital source of subsistence for the indigenous Gwich'in people and the herd's survival will be imperiled by oil and gas development, he said.

Republicans and Democrats have fought over Arctic drilling for nearly four decades. Former President Bill Clinton vetoed a GOP plan to allow drilling in the refuge in 1995, and Democrats led by Washington Sen. Maria Cantwell defeated a similar plan in 2005.

The plan to allow drilling was included in the 2017 tax bill after lawmakers were unable to get a stand-alone measure approved.

Under the Interior Department's leasing plan, as many as 2,500 direct jobs would be created during peak years, and the state and federal government could receive as much as \$936 million in royalties, said Chad Padgett, the Alaska state director for the Bureau of Land Management.

"I'm confident that we're on track to do what Congress has asked us to do in a safe and balanced way," while also advancing the president's goals of job creation and energy independence with minimal impact to the area, he said.

Protections for the Porcupine caribou herd and polar bears are part of the plan, officials said.

The Gwich'in Nation blasted the administration's plan.

"There is nothing final about this ... process except that it demonstrates that this administration and the

Alaska delegation will disregard our way of life, our food, and our relationship with the land, the caribou, and future generations to pander to industry greed," Bernadette Demientieff, executive director of the Gwich'in Steering Committee, said in a statement. "This document disrespects the Gwich'in Nation and all people in the Arctic and world who suffer the impacts of climate change and nonstop exploitation, while formally scratching the backs of those who seek to desecrate land and dishonor human rights to fill their pockets."

The vote on Alaska drilling comes after the House approved two bills Wednesday that would permanently bar drilling off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and extend a moratorium on drilling off Florida's west coast.

Coastal lawmakers from both parties said the bills would protect U.S. coasts from drilling that can pollute crucial waters — and lead to disasters such as the 2010 BP spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Opponents, mostly Republicans, said the bills undercut domestic energy security and limit thousands of job opportunities.

The Senate is not expected to act on either of the offshore bills, which Trump has vowed to veto.

Mark Thiessen in Anchorage, Alaska, contributed to this report.

## Trump administration drops Obama-era water protection rule

By JOHN FLESHER AP Environmental Writer

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — The Trump administration on Thursday revoked an Obama-era regulation that shielded many U.S. wetlands and streams from pollution but was opposed by developers and farmers who said it hurt economic development and infringed on property rights.

Environmental groups criticized the administration's action, the latest in a series of moves to roll back environmental protections put into place under President Barack Obama.

The 2015 Waters of the United States rule defined the waterways subject to federal regulation. Scrapping it "puts an end to an egregious power grab, eliminates an ongoing patchwork of clean water regulations and restores a longstanding and familiar regulatory framework," Environmental Protection Agency chief Andrew Wheeler said at a news conference in Washington, D.C.

Wheeler and R.D. James, assistant secretary of the Army for civil works, signed a document overturning the rule and temporarily restoring an earlier regulatory system that emerged after a 2006 ruling from a sharply divided Supreme Court.

The agencies plan to adopt a new rule by the end of the year that is expected to define protected waterways more narrowly than the Obama policy.

The Clean Water Act requires landowners to obtain federal permits before developing or polluting navigable waterways such as rivers and lakes. But disputes have long persisted over what other waters are subject to regulation — particularly wetlands that don't have a direct connection to those larger waters, plus small headwater streams and channels that flow only during and after rainfall.

Environmentalists contend many of those smaller, seemingly isolated waters are tributaries of the larger waterways and can have a significant effect on their quality. Denying them federal protection would leave millions of Americans with less safe drinking water and allow damage of wetlands that prevent flooding, filter pollutants and provide habitat for a multitude of fish, waterfowl and other wildlife, they said.

"By repealing the Clean Water Rule, this administration is opening our iconic waterways to a flood of pollution," said Bart Johnsen-Harris of Environment America. "The EPA is abdicating its mission to protect our environment and our health."

Wheeler said regulators had gone far beyond the intent of Congress under the 1972 clean water law.

"The 2015 rule meant that more businesses and landowners across the U.S. would need to obtain a federal permit to exercise control over their own property, a process that can cost tens of thousands of dollars and take months or even years to complete," he said. "It also put more local land-use decisions in the hands of unelected bureaucrats. Many Americans balked at this idea, and rightfully so."

President Donald Trump had ordered the EPA and Army Corps to develop a replacement policy that has

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 53 of 58

a more restrictive definition of protected wetlands and streams.

The Natural Resources Defense Council said the administration's action would be challenged in court.

"The Clean Water Rule represented solid science and smart public policy," the group said in a statement. "Where it has been enforced, it has protected important waterways and wetlands, providing certainty to all stakeholders."

Zippy Duvall, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, said the 2015 rule had generated a greater sense of urgency among its membership than any other issue.

"When you take the private property rights from a man that's worked all his life ... to grow the food and fiber for all of us to sit down and enjoy three times a day, it's something he just can't stand," Duvall said.

But Laura DeYoung, who runs a small sheep farm near Peninsula, Ohio, said she favored federal oversight to protect Lake Erie, where agricultural phosphorus runoff is blamed for large algae blooms.

"Nothing in the Obama regulations that came out prevented me from farming the way I was previously farming," she said.

The question of which waters are covered under the Clean Water Act has inspired decades of lawsuits and numerous bills in Congress.

The Supreme Court in 2006 produced three differing opinions, leading the Obama administration to craft its rule. It provided federal oversight to upstream tributaries and headwaters, including wetlands, ponds, lakes and streams that can affect the quality of navigable waters.

The regulation drew quick legal challenges from 31 states and court rulings blocking its implementation in some. It was effective in 22 states, Washington, D.C., and U.S. territories before Thursday's action.

Betsy Southerland, who was director of science and technology in EPA's Office of Water during the Obama administration, said revoking its policy would create further regulatory confusion.

"This repeal is a victory for land developers, oil and gas drillers and miners who will exploit that ambiguity to dredge and fill small streams and wetlands that were protected from destruction by the 2015 rule because of their critical impact on national water quality," Southerland said.

Sen. John Barrasso, a Wyoming Republican and chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, applauded the Trump administration move, saying the Obama rule "would have put backyard ponds, puddles and prairie potholes under Washington's control."

Democratic Rep. Dan Kildee of Michigan, where two disputes over federal wetlands permits led to the 2006 Supreme Court case, said Trump "has decided to weaken protections for our water and reward corporate polluters."

## Russian spy case provides test for news outlets

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — He may be A spy. But is he THE spy?

That's the question bedeviling news organizations reporting on a story about the U.S. extracting a Russian official who provided information about Kremlin interference in the 2016 presidential election. CNN on Monday revealed the secret mission to remove the man and his family out of Russia for fear his life was in danger.

The network did not identify the alleged spy. With government secrets and lives at stake, espionage is usually shrouded in secrecy.

Yet the Russian newspaper Kommersant on Tuesday named an individual it said was a missing member of Vladimir Putin's administration and suggested that he was an agent who provided the United States with information about the election.

That night, NBC News posted a story about a "former senior Russian official" who was living in the Washington area under U.S. government protection, citing current and former government officials.

NBC reporter Ken Dilanian went to the house where this person supposedly lived, although no one was home. He wrote about ringing the doorbell and waiting for five minutes, until two men who identified themselves as friends of the owner drove up and asked what he was doing there. The NBC story specu-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 54 of 58

lated that the men were U.S. government agents.

But NBC said it was withholding the Russian's name and other details at the request of the U.S. government, which said such reporting could endanger the person's life.

"I wanted to knock on the door hoping he would come out and talk to me, even if we didn't identify him," Dilanian said. "Just so people understand, we didn't out him. My sources are telling me the Russians surely know where he was because it wasn't a secret. If you Googled the name, you could find where he was living."

The story, however, led Washington Post media critic Erik Wemple to post his own take headlined, "NBC News wanted a part of the Russian spy story. So it did something really stupid."

Wemple questioned how the public benefited from the reporting, other than the knowledge that the spy wasn't well-protected. "Must we know that this fellow is using his actual name? Eh," he wrote. "Must we know that he is living in the Washington area? Negative. Must we know anything aside from what CNN and the New York Times reported? Perhaps, but Dilanian isn't providing it."

Yet a half hour earlier, Wemple's own newspaper posted a story by Shane Harris and Ellen Nakashima identifying the Russian and the town where he lived. They went to the house, too, and no one was there. Spotting toys and clothing strewn across the yard, they wrote that "the family seems to have left in a hurry." The Post reporters quoted a neighbor who talked about the person.

Wemple told The Associated Press that his story was being edited when the Harris and Nakashima piece was posted. He said he had no idea his newspaper was working on it.

"They do their thing and we do our thing," he said. "The messiness of this situation attests to the separation between our ranks."

In a later column, he apologized to NBC News, saying its decision not to use the name appeared to be an act of relative restraint.

"Our judgment was excessive, ill-considered and awful," he wrote.

One thing the Post and NBC stories had in common: They said they could not confirm that the person whose home they visited was the spy who gave the CIA information about election interference. NBC wrote that "he fits the profile of someone who may have had access to information about Putin's activities and who would have been recruited by American intelligence officials." The Post quoted unnamed officials saying the person "was almost certainly a valuable CIA asset."

Some other news organizations, including The Associated Press and NPR, cited the inability to definitively tie the spy to the CIA's extraction mission as the reason why they have not used the person's name. NPR said the name was mistakenly used once in a report filed from Moscow, but wasn't repeated.

The Post noted that by the time its story was published, the person's name had been reported by many other outlets.

"The question of protecting his identity was moot," spokeswoman Molly Gannon said.

Tom Bettag, former producer of ABC's "Nightline" and now a journalism professor at the University of Maryland, put up a caution flag.

"Everyone has left the impression that this is the guy," Bettag said. "It would be a terrible thing if it turns out that he's not. I think you have to be super-careful."

In the back of many minds is the 2018 poisoning in Britain of Sergei Skripal, a former Russian military officer and double agent for that country's intelligence service. He and his daughter survived the nerve agent attack.

CNN noted in its original story that it was careful not to include information that could lead to identifying the agent involved. The network used some of that information later when it came out in the Times — the person's length of service and ability to collect images of material on Putin's desk — in order to make the point that the spy had a high-level job. The network has not sought to name the person.

The New York Times used the Washington-area Russian's name Wednesday afternoon in a story headlined, "What Spy? Kremlin Mocks Aide Recruited by C.I.A. as a Boozy Nobody."

The story said the Times was not able to independently confirm that the "boozy nobody" was the spy extracted by the United States.



## Mourning for Zimbabwe's Mugabe marred by dispute, stampede

By **ANDREW MELDRUM** and **FARAI MUTSAKA** Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Controversy over where and when former Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe will be buried and a stampede which injured several people trying to view his body marred the mourning for the deceased leader Thursday.

A crowd insisting to see Mugabe's face in the partially opened casket surged past a police cordon, causing a crush in which several were injured at Rufaro Stadium in the capital's poor Mbare neighborhood where thousands had come to view his body.

"I want to see my father," said Margaret Marisa, 63, one of those who pushed their way into the line. "I was a collaborator who supported him in the war against Rhodesia. I have supported him ever since."

At least five people were carried away on stretchers and the severity of their injuries wasn't immediately clear. Others limped away or were treated by Red Cross medics on the field. Riot police later restored order, at times using batons to strike those pushing to get into the line.

Mugabe's widow, Grace, sat on a podium to the side of the sports field where Mugabe's casket was under a tent at the center. The event was marked by singing and drumming of traditional songs of bereavement.

The casket was open to allow a view of Mugabe's face, eyes closed and calm. Even the most raucous youths who were in the crush were subdued after walking single file past the casket.

"This man was a legend. He played a pivotal role in our lives," said John Chiwashira, 36, a member of the National Youth Service. "I saw his face. He was asleep."

A military helicopter later landed on the field and carried away the coffin with Mugabe's widow, wearing a black veil, at its side. The casket was returned to Mugabe's Blue Roof house in the capital.

The dispute between Mugabe's family and the government has overshadowed arrangements for Zimbabweans to pay their respects to the late leader.

Mugabe will not be given a state burial on Sunday at the national Heroes' Acre site, family spokesman Leo Mugabe announced Thursday. The burial will be a private, family affair, he said to press outside Mugabe's Blue Roof house.

"There have just been discussions between President Mnangagwa and Mai (Mrs.) Mugabe and it would look like nothing has changed," said the ex-president's nephew. "The family ... said they are going to have a private burial. We don't want the public to come. They don't want you to know where he is going to be buried. We are not witnessing burial on Sunday, no date has been set for the burial."

The announcement came after President Emmerson Mnangagwa met with Mugabe's widow, Grace, and other family members to try to resolve the burial dispute.

Instead of an interment on Sunday, Mugabe's body will be on view to the public at a place near Mugabe's birthplace in Zvimba district, said Leo Mugabe, who added that the family had not decided if he would be buried in Zvimba.

Speaking at the Mugabe house, Mnangagwa said his government would respect the family's wishes over the burial, saying they have "the full support of the government. Nothing will change."

The ongoing uncertainty of the burial of Mugabe, who died last week in Singapore at the age of 95, has eclipsed the elaborate plans for Zimbabweans to pay their respects to the former guerrilla leader at several historic sites.

The burial dispute has also highlighted the lasting acrimony between Mnangagwa and Mugabe's wife and other family members. Mugabe was deposed in November 2017 by Zimbabwe's military and his former ally Mnangagwa. Grace and other family members still resent his ouster, apparently resulting in their refusal to go along with state burial plans.

Shortly after Mugabe's death, Leo Mugabe said the former strongman died "a very bitter man" because he felt betrayed by Mnangagwa and the army generals who were his allies for close to four decades before they put him under house arrest and forced him to resign.

It has long been taken for granted that Mugabe would be buried at Heroes' Acre monument, a burial place reserved for top officials of Zimbabwe's ruling ZANU-PF party who contributed to ending white colonial rule.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 56 of 58

Mugabe had overseen the construction by North Korea of the monument atop a prominent hill and featuring a grandiose towering sculpture of guerrilla fighters. Mugabe gave many speeches at the site and his first wife, Sally, is buried there next to a gravesite long reserved for the ex-leader.

Mugabe's casket will be displayed to the public at several sites. It will also be shown Friday at Rufaro Stadium.

On Saturday a ceremony will be held at the National Sports Stadium, which several African heads of state and other prominent officials are expected to attend. Supporters of the ruling ZANU-PF party are being bused from all over the country to go to the stadium ceremonies.

Grace Mugabe is expected to stay beside the casket the entire time.

Earlier Thursday at Blue Roof, Mugabe's 25-bedroom mansion in Harare's posh Borrowdale suburb, Zimbabwe's opposition leader paid his respects to the man who had been his bitter political foe.

"I am here to do the African thing that is expected ... to pay honor," said Nelson Chamisa, leader of the Movement for Democratic Change, the main opposition party.

"In politics we have had many differences but we are here to reflect on his contribution. ... We are here to pay condolences to the Mugabe family, all Zimbabweans and indeed the whole of Africa. It is only fair and necessary to see that we unite to see that he is given a decent burial and a peaceful send off. Today is a day of mourning."

Follow Africa news at [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Africa](https://twitter.com/AP_Africa)

## Tennis, musical are latest events postponed in Hong Kong

By EILEEN NG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — A tennis tournament and a London musical are the latest events postponed in Hong Kong out of concerns over safety and disruptions from pro-democracy protests.

K-pop concerts, Chanel fashion shows and international conferences have been canceled, postponed or moved out of the semi-autonomous Chinese territory during more than three months of demonstrations. More rallies are expected this weekend.

On Friday, organizers said the Hong Kong Open women's tennis tournament scheduled for Oct. 5-13 was being postponed indefinitely. The event was to be held at Victoria Park, a gathering point for many previous protests.

Earlier this week, protesters in the stands at a World Cup soccer qualifier match between Hong Kong and Iran booed the Chinese national anthem and chanted pro-democracy slogans. Iran's request for a venue change had been rejected.

Lunchbox Theatrical Productions called off a monthlong run of the London West End musical "Matilda" at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts that was to open Sept. 20.

"Sadly the 14 weeks of civil unrest in Hong Kong have decimated ticket sales, and more importantly we cannot guarantee the safety and wellbeing of our international company, which comprises a large number of young children," CEO James Cundall said in a statement. He said he hopes the show can be staged next year.

The protests began in June over an extradition bill that would have allowed some Hong Kong suspects to be sent to mainland China for trial. Many saw the bill as an example of Hong Kong's autonomy eroding since the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

The government promised last week to withdraw the bill, but the protesters' demands have widened to include direct elections for the city's leaders and police accountability.

More than 1,300 people have been arrested in the protests, which have further battered Hong Kong's economy, which was already reeling from the U.S.-China trade war. Tourist numbers have plunged, and businesses have been hit by the protests that show no signs of abating.

Hong Kong's government in a statement Thursday dismissed a warning from Canadian think tank Fraser Institute that Chinese interference and the police crackdown on protesters were threatening the city's

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 57 of 58

position as one of the world's freest economies.

"Such comments are entirely ungrounded and not borne out by objective facts," the statement said. It defended police actions, saying they used reasonable force to halt increasing violence by protesters.

At a human rights conference in Taipei, Hong Kong singer and activist Denise Ho called for international support against mainland Chinese intrusions and government tyranny.

She accused China of pressuring celebrities in Hong Kong, Taiwan and China to take sides. Last month, Australia's National Gallery of Victoria denied a request by a Chinese artist to host an event that would feature a talk about democracy and Hong Kong, while Hong Kong activists were banned from a gay parade in Montreal after threats of sabotage by pro-China supporters, she said.

"We want a total political reform of the Hong Kong government," she told the Oslo Freedom Forum. "When government institutions and corporates have their hands tied, it is up to the people to get back that authority ... we can find solutions as a global community."

China has denied meddling in Hong Kong affairs, and accused foreign powers of fomenting the unrest.

More than 200 pro-Beijing supporters held a rally Friday to counter nights of mass singing by thousands of pro-democracy supporters at multiple shopping malls across the city. The mostly older crowd waved Chinese flags and sang the Chinese anthem in a mall in the densely packed Kowloon district.

"I hope the Hong Kong crisis will end soon. The victims are the Hong Kong people," said a woman who wanted to be identified only as Mrs. Wong.

Protest-related activities were expected to continue Friday, when Chinese celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival with lanterns and mooncakes. Police banned a planned major march in central Hong Kong on Sunday, but many protesters have said they will turn up anyway.

AP video journalist Alice Fung in Hong Kong contributed to this report.

## Asian shares gain on fresh optimism over US-China trade

By ALEX VEIGA AP Business Writer

Stocks were broadly higher in Asia on Friday after gains overnight on Wall Street. Investors have stepped up buying on hopes for an easing of tensions in the costly trade war between the U.S.

Japan's Nikkei 225 added 1% to 21,982.06 while the Hang Seng in Hong Kong climbed 0.4% to 27,186.35. Sydney's S&P ASX 300 edged 0.1% higher to 6,621.20. Markets in Shanghai, Taiwan and South Korea were closed for holidays. Shares rose in India but fell in New Zealand.

Stocks rose on Wall Street after the U.S. and China took steps to ease tensions in their costly trade war.

Technology, financial and consumer-focused stocks helped power the modest rally, which extended the market's solid gains from the day before despite losing some momentum in the final hour of trading. The benchmark S&P 500 index closed within 0.6% of its all-time high set July 26.

The U.S. agreed to delay another round of tariffs on Chinese imports by two weeks to Oct. 15. Meanwhile, Chinese importers have asked U.S. suppliers for prices for soybeans, pork and other farm goods — a sign they might step up purchases of American agricultural products.

The gestures stoked cautious optimism among investors that the next round of trade talks in October between Washington and Beijing may lead to some progress after a string of failed attempts at resolving the longstanding dispute.

"What's driving markets today is the potential for an interim trade deal," said Tony Roth, chief investment officer at Wilmington Trust. "There's enough pain to (China's) domestic economy and there's enough pain to our domestic economy that it's in both presidents' interests to take a step back and have a little bit of breathing room right now. That's what's changed."

The S&P 500 index rose 0.3% to 3,009.57. The Dow Jones Industrial Average extended its winning streak to a seventh straight day, gaining 0.2% to 27,182.45.

The Nasdaq added 0.3% to 8,194.47, while the Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks gave up an early gain, sliding 0.65 point to 1,575.07.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 075 ~ 58 of 58

The U.S.-China talks have basically gone nowhere since early May, when the two sides appeared to be nearing a deal. Along the way, the countries have slapped import taxes on hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of each other's products.

Financial markets were rattled in August as the trade conflict escalated yet again, fueling worries that more tariffs and a slowing global economy could bump the U.S. into a recession. The economic uncertainty has also become a drag on companies.

The two countries' conciliatory moves Wednesday and Thursday have raised hopes on Wall Street that the upcoming round of trade negotiations may yield a different outcome than previous attempts.

The reason? The trade war has begun to take its toll economically on both economies.

"Six months ago, even three months ago, you weren't registering as much economic deterioration as you are now in both economies," Roth said. "The markets are believing that there's some credibility in the idea that there may be an interim trade truce, let's call it, where they roll back some of the tariffs, the Chinese would by some stuff, and there would be relief to both economies."

Several weeks of solid gains have helped the S&P 500 more than recoup its losses in August, nudging it closer to another record high close this week.

The index is also on track for its best September since 2013. The S&P 500 is up 2.8% this month after slipping 1.8% in August. That's notable because the index has fallen in September 55% of the time since World War II, although the record has been better during the 10-year bull market.

Small companies are the star performers so far this month. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks is up 5.4%, with much of the gain coming this week. Those smaller companies are viewed as more insulated from the impact of volatile swings in the U.S.-China trade war.

Tech stocks notched solid gains Thursday. The sector's companies, particularly chipmakers, are heavily impacted by the trade war because many of them make products in China or rely on Chinese suppliers.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 1.78% from 1.73% a day earlier, giving a boost to financial sector stocks. Higher yields drive interest rates on mortgages and other consumer loans higher, which drives up bank profits. SunTrust Banks gained 1.3% and American Express rose 0.9%.

Benchmark crude oil fell 13 cents to \$54.96 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It lost 66 cents to settle at \$55.09 a barrel on Thursday. Brent crude oil, the international standard, dropped 19 cents to \$60.19 a barrel. It gave up 66 cents to \$60.38 a barrel overnight.

The dollar was steady at 108.16 Japanese yen. The euro also held firm, at \$1.1072.

AP Business Writer Damian J. Troise contributed.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Sept. 13, the 256th day of 2019. There are 109 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 13, 2001, two days after the 9/11 terror attacks, the first few jetliners returned to the nation's skies, but several major airports remained closed and others opened only briefly. President George W. Bush visited injured Pentagon workers and said he would carry the nation's prayers to New York.

On this date:

In 1788, the Congress of the Confederation authorized the first national election, and declared New York City the temporary national capital.

In 1814, during the War of 1812, British naval forces began bombarding Fort McHenry in Baltimore but were driven back by American defenders in a battle that lasted until the following morning.

In 1860, General of the Armies of the United States John J. Pershing was born in Laclede, Mo.

In 1948, Republican Margaret Chase Smith of Maine was elected to the U.S. Senate; she became the first woman to serve in both houses of Congress.

In 1962, Mississippi Gov. Ross Barnett rejected the U.S. Supreme Court's order for the University of