

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 1 of 41

- [2- Mosquito Control Last Night](#)
- [3- Weekly Vikings Roundup](#)
- [4- Dr. Holm's Column: Historical Trauma and Cultural Healing](#)
- [5- Weather Pages](#)
- [8- Daily Devotional](#)
- [9- 2019 Groton Events](#)
- [10- News from the Associated Press](#)



Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

23 - AUTUMN (Monday)

- 4 p.m.: Cross Country at Clear Lake
- 7 p.m.: School Board Meeting
- Emmanuel: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.
- UMC: PEO, 7:30 p.m.
- Breakfast: Cheese Omelet
- Lunch: Nachos
- Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, peas, Mandarin oranges, cookie.

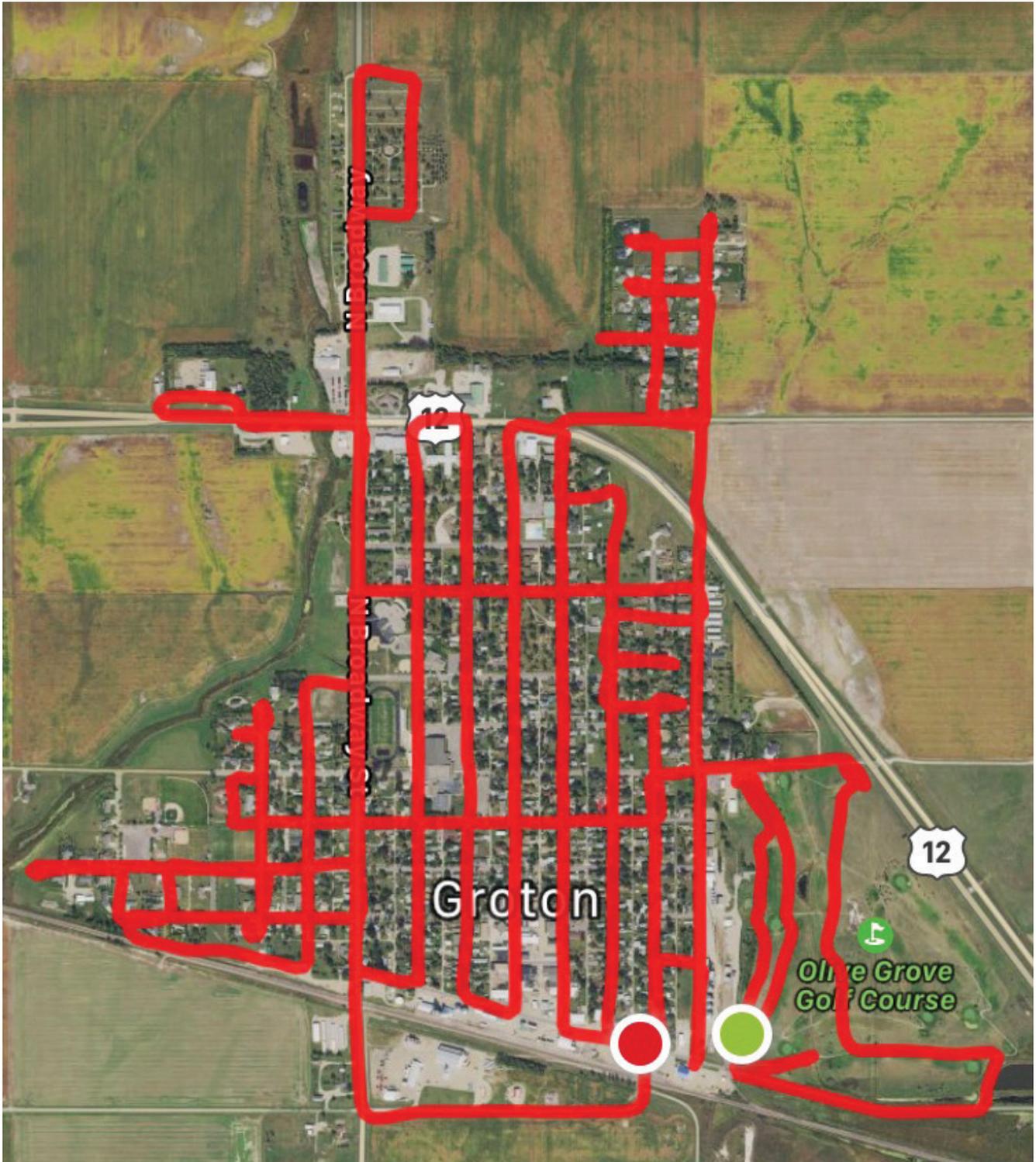
OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

24 - Tuesday

- 6:30 p.m.: Volleyball at Warner (7/C at 5:15, 8/JV at 6:30)
- 4 p.m.: JH FB at Milbank (1 combined game or 2 separate games, depending on Groton's numbers)
- 7 p.m.: City Council Meeting at Groton Community Center
- UMC: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
- Breakfast: Biscuits and Jelly
- Lunch: Hamburgers, Fries
- Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage roll hotdish, mixed vegetable, pears, muffin.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 2 of 41



The City of Groton conducted adult mosquito control Sunday evening. Wind was WSW at about 5 mph and the temperature was 58 degrees. About 7 gallons of Evolver 4x4 was used.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 3 of 41

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings sunk the Raiders' ship on Sunday, defeating them 34-14. Last week the Vikings got off to a very slow start and lost to a division rival. This week, the Vikings appear to have learned their lesson. The Vikings' offense scored touchdowns on three of their first four drives, and the defense only allowed two scores, and one of them was in garbage time (less than two minutes left in the fourth quarter, Vikings up 27 points). It was a great game for the Vikings, reminding everyone that when the team plays well, they are one of the better teams in the league.

Kirk Cousins only threw 21 passes on Sunday, completing 15 for 174 yards and a touchdown. With the Vikings jumping out to an early lead, Cousins wasn't asked to do much in this game – but he was solid when called upon. A good thing to note, Cousins seems to be getting better with his pocket movement every week, and he didn't take a sack in week three.

The lack of passing has impacted the Vikings' star receivers the most. Both Adam Thielen and Stefon Diggs had three catches apiece, but Thielen's catches went for 55 yards and a TD (plus another TD on a running play), while Diggs' three catches only went for 15 yards. The Vikings' leading receiver on Sunday was rookie tight end Irv Smith Jr. who caught three passes for 60 yards.

For the third straight week, the Vikings' running game was impressive. Dalvin Cook entered week three as the leading rusher in the NFL, and he added another 110 yards and a touchdown against the Raiders. Cook also led the team with four catches (33 yards). As a team, the Vikings ran for 213 yards on 36 carries (5.9 yards per carry) and three touchdowns.

The Vikings' defense played much better this week. The Raiders' game plan was to run the ball against the Vikings, but Linval Joseph and company shut that down in a hurry. With the Raiders' running game stalled, the Vikings' excellent defensive ends were able to pin their ears back and get after QB Derek Carr. As a team the Vikings had four sacks, five QB hits, five tackles for a loss, and one deflected pass. Second year cornerback Mike Hughes, who had a season-ending knee injury in week six last season, is finally back. His return comes at a good time, as Mackensie Alexander is still nursing an elbow injury.

The player of the game on offense was Dalvin Cook, who touched the ball 20 times and gained 143 yards and a touchdown. Cook has been the Vikings' MVP so far this season, and I don't see that changing anytime soon (as long as he stays healthy).

The player of the game on defense was linebacker Eric Wilson, who got the start on Sunday because Anthony Barr sat out with an injury. Wilson had a great game, leading the team in tackles (11), sacks (2), QB hits (2), and tackles for a loss (2).

Looking ahead to week four, the Vikings will travel to Chicago to face the Bears. This game will start at 3:25pm (CT) and will air on CBS. If both teams are playing their best game, this matchup could go either way. ESPN is giving the Vikings a 52% chance to win, but Vegas has the initial line as Vikings +3. The Bears have a great defense, led by Khalil Mack, so the Vikings will have a tough time running the ball. This game could come down to Kirk Cousins. Fingers crossed he doesn't lay a dud like he did against the Packers. Skol!

If you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 4 of 41

Historical Trauma and Cultural Healing

Starting in 1805 through 1858 the Dakota Indian people living in Minnesota were, by U.S. government treaties, gradually cut out of their traditional hunting areas. In 1861, crops failed, winter was severe, meager federal payments were late and Dakota children were starving. By August of 1862, desperation moved some of the Dakota Indians to attack white homestead farmers and families and the state militia responded. War was on.



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

After six weeks of fighting the Dakota warriors surrendered and 303 men were sentenced to death by hanging. President Abraham Lincoln commuted many but left 38 Dakota men to hang in Mankato, Minnesota just after Christmas 1862. Those commuted were shipped to prison in Iowa where more than a third died as conditions were so poor.

Although many Indian people did not go to war, white hatred of all Indians grew like a prairie fire. Within a year, a \$25 bounty was paid for the scalp of any Dakota Indian found free within the state. Lives were lost on both sides of that war, but the Dakota Oyate (Oyate means people) lost their lands and their culture. Pride and family traditions were severely compromised affecting many generations to come.

First introduced by mental health expert Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart, Historical Trauma Response is a societal diagnosis now used by psychologists and historians. It refers to the cumulative, transgenerational, traumatic experience which causes long-lasting injury to communities, cultures and descendants, like that of the American Indian. Another example of HTR is the African American slave experience.

Experts state that HTR may cause smoldering animosity between groups as well as poverty, alcohol abuse, violence, depression and suicide behaviors. How can this be treated without compromising a culture's traditions? Do ancestors of immigrant Europeans have a societal responsibility to right a wrong? Does smoldering animosity block the path to healing?

I believe prejudice hurts all of us. Hate poisons the well, even if it is "inherited hate" that came from more than 200 years of conflict and violence. It is time for European descendants to free ourselves from the bonds of historical bigotry and better understand the perspective of the Indian people. It is time for people of all races to stop hating and find ways for cultural healing through spiritual kindness to each other.

Lakota leader and mystic Black Elk said, "The bison were the gift of a good spirit . . . and from the same good spirit we must find another strength."

Richard P. Holm, MD is founder of The Prairie Doc® and author of "Life's Final Season, A Guide for Aging and Dying with Grace" available on Amazon. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairiedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPTV most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

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Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 5 of 41

Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
				
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Slight Chance Showers then Slight Chance T-storms	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 79 °F	Low: 51 °F	High: 75 °F	Low: 49 °F	High: 66 °F

Welcome to Astronomical Fall!

Fall-like temperatures arriving

Other than Isolated Showers Tuesday or early Wednesday, mainly **Dry Weather** will remain into Wednesday night

Today	Tuesday	Wednesday
Upper 70s	70s	60s
		
	Isolated Showers or Thunderstorms near the ND border.	Isolated Early Morning Showers over S central SD.

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 9/23/2019 3:23 AM Central



Published on: 09/22/2019 at 11:28PM

Expect mainly dry conditions through Wednesday night, as temperatures become more Fall-like.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 6 of 41

Today in Weather History

September 23, 1984: Snow fell from the early morning to the late evening hours across northwest South Dakota bringing more than a foot of snow to some locations. Camp Crook in Harding County reported 14 inches. Amounts between six and twelve inches were common across Harding and Perkins Counties as well as parts of Meade and Butte Counties. Roads in these areas were slushy with icy bridges. The snow covered much of the western third of South Dakota with depths an inch or less.

September 23, 2004: A tornado touched down northeast of Browns Valley, MN during the late afternoon. This tornado traveled through a cornfield and a farmstead before dissipating. The tornado damaged several sheds and a trailer along with toppling a large grain bin. Another tornado touched down south and southwest of Rosholt in Roberts County in the late afternoon. This F2 tornado destroyed a house, a mobile home, and a travel trailer. The tornado also killed three cattle.

1551: The Grand Harbour at Valetta, Malta, was hit by a waterspout which then moved inland. This waterspout sunk four ships, killing at least 600 people. It should be noted, the year of the event could also be 1555, or 1556 as sources conflict.

1722: La Nouvelle-Orléans (New Orleans) was founded May 7, 1718, by the French Mississippi Company, under the direction of Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville, on land inhabited by the Chitimacha. Four years later, a hurricane destroys nearly every building in the village, including the only church and hospital.

1975: On September 22, Hurricane Eloise intensified to attain Category 2 strength, and became a major hurricane of Category 3 status shortly after that as it turned towards the northeast. Several ships penetrated the storm's center during its passage through the Gulf. Hurricane Eloise continued to strengthen until it reached its peak winds of 125 mph and a minimum barometric pressure of about 955 mbar. It moved ashore along the Florida Panhandle near Panama City on September 23.

2009: A massive dust storm swept 725 miles across the outback to engulf Sydney, New South Wales producing a red hue across the region from the 22nd through the 24th. Wind gusts topped 60 mph as the storm transported an estimated 5,000 metric tons of dust, spreading it into the southern region of Queensland.

1815 - One of the greatest hurricanes to strike New England made landfall at Long Island and crossed Massachusetts and New Hampshire. It was the worst tempest in nearly two hundred years, equal to the hurricane which struck in 1938, and one of a series of severe summer and autumn storms to affect shipping lanes that year. (David Ludlum)

1904 - The temperature at Charlotteburg, NJ, dipped to 23 degrees, the coldest reading of record for so early in the autumn for the state. (The Weather Channel)

1983 - A thunderstorm downburst caused a timber blowdown in the Kaibab National Forest north of the Grand Canyon. Two hundred acres were completely destroyed, and scattered destruction occurred across another 3300 acres. Many trees were snapped off 15 to 30 feet above ground level. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Autumn began on a rather pleasant note for much of the nation. Showers and thunderstorms were confined to Florida and the southwestern deserts. Warm weather continued in the western U.S., and began to spread into the Great Plains Region, but even in the southwestern deserts readings remained below 100 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front in the south central U.S. produced severe weather in Oklahoma during the afternoon and early evening hours. Thunderstorms produced softball size hail near Noble and Enterprise, and baseball size hail at Lequire and Kinta. A tornado near Noble OK destroyed a mobile home injuring one person. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Seventeen cities in the north central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Devils Lake ND with a reading of 22 degrees. Jackson KY reported a record low of 41 degrees during the late afternoon. Strong northwesterly winds ushering cold air into the central and northeastern U.S. gusted to 55 mph at Indianapolis IND. Winds along the cold front gusted to 65 mph at Norfolk VA, and thunderstorms along the cold front deluged Roseland NJ with 2.25 inches of rain in one hour. The temperature at Richmond VA plunged from 84 degrees to 54 degrees in two hours. Snow and sleet was reported at Binghamton NY. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

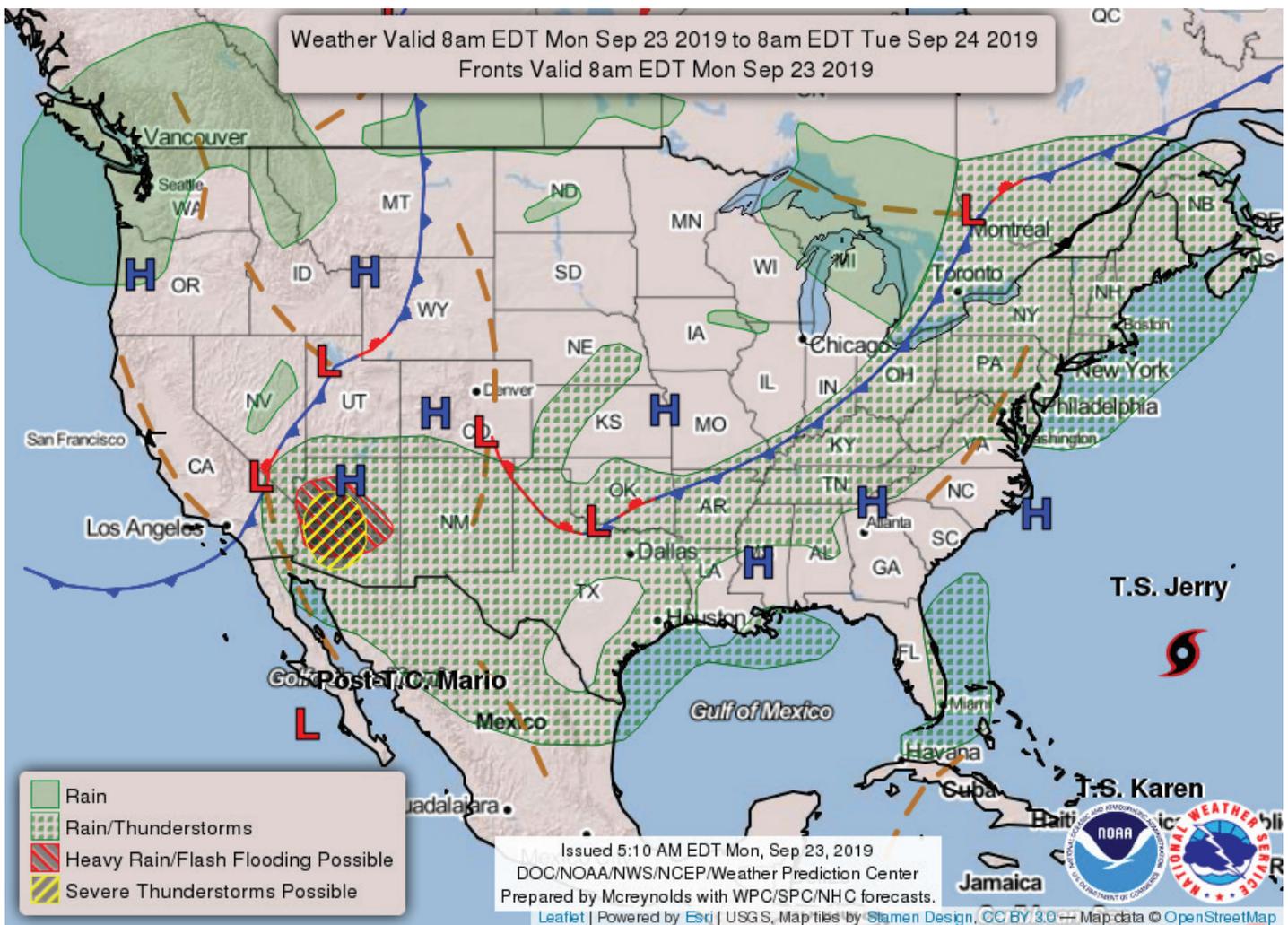
Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 7 of 41

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 71 °F at 4:27 PM
Low Temp: 51 °F at 4:14 AM
Wind: 14 mph at 2:59 PM
Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 94° in 1935
Record Low: 22° in 2012
Average High: 69°F
Average Low: 42°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 1.62
Precip to date in Sept.: 5.18
Average Precip to date: 17.91
Sunset Tonight: 7:30 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:23 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 8 of 41



STRENGTH FOR THE RACE

Few people have ever heard of the runner, John Baker. His name is not known the world over. But once, while running a race, he studied the runners who were ahead of him. He began to wonder, "Am I doing my best?" He was not sure, so he decided to try harder.

First he focused on the runner in front of him. After a few strides, he realized that he could run harder and pass him. When he did, he immediately set another goal and passed the next runner, then the next. Finally, he was in first place, won the race and set a record.

What a great lesson for all of us. If we only focus on where we are and what we are doing, we may never achieve the potential that God has invested in us. If we "accept what is" we may well end up "as is." A self-satisfied life never becomes a God-glorifying life.

Paul says that we "can do everything with the help of Christ who strengthens us." Not anything, but everything that God has planned for us to do, He will empower us to do. The power we receive from our relationship with Christ will strengthen us to overcome any obstacle that would keep us from doing His will, His way, in His world. He will never give us a superhuman power to accomplish goals for our own purposes. If He asks us to do something in His name, for His sake that will glorify Him, there are no pressures or problems, trials or troubles that will be able to keep us from winning the race He has set before us.

Prayer: Give us Your strength and will, power and determination, Lord, to do our best to run and win the race You have set before us. All things through You, for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Philippians 4:13 I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 9 of 41

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)

News from the Associated Press

Baseballs, gloves, bats to head to Nicaragua

By **KELDA J.L. PHARRIS** Aberdeen News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Around 22,000 pounds of wood, metal, leather and cork will make its way south this fall.

It's a migration of care and the love of baseball.

Local Evangelical Lutheran Church in America parishes have been collecting baseballs, softballs and all the ancillary equipment for the sports to send to Nicaragua.

The project was born in Flandreau with Craig and Joan Severtson. The equipment drive is part of an effort called Helping Kids Round First. The couple started the donation drives around 2009. In 2013, the mission was established as a formal nonprofit that now runs with the help of hundreds of people, Craig Severtson told the Aberdeen News by phone.

The donations will head out of the U.S. in October to the Nicaragua Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope. Baseball is the national sport of the impoverished country; the donations are well-received.

"The comparison tells you everything, when kids play baseball made out of a rock covered in a sock, hit with a tree stick. They love the games, just like we do back here," Craig Severtson said.

Some of those kids who've been beneficiaries of the Helping Kids Round First program have gone on to sign with Minor League Baseball outfits. They include Nixson Munoz with the Dominican Summer League Red Sox and Christopher Osorio and Martin Zamoro with the Dominican Summer League Rockies.

In the past, Northern State University, Presentation College and other baseball enthusiasts from surrounding communities have participated in the drive that's now been going a dozen years.

Along with Helping Kids Round First, the Severtsons' missions to Nicaragua also help in other ways — with HIV support and agricultural support, including irrigation, for example.

"There's a reason we are in Nicaragua. It's poorest country in Central America. Why not go where the needs are the greatest?" Severtson said.

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

Tech employers compete for workers in Sioux Falls

By **PATRICK ANDERSON** Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Karla Santi wants workers at her company to have a voice, to feel like they have value and an ability to make changes.

Workplace culture is key at Blend Interactive, said Santi, Blend's CEO, because it's an advantages she can offer her staff.

"I'm guessing most of my employees have a job offer on the table somewhere and they are choosing to stay here," Santi said.

The labor pool for the Sioux Falls' small but growing tech industry is falling short of demand and employers are competing for skilled workers, the Argus Leader reported.

Businesses in the metro-area employed about 1,650 information tech-trained workers in 2016. That number was projected to grow to 1,921 by 2026, according to the South Dakota Department of Labor.

It's just too much demand for the supply of workers.

At one point in July, there were three openings for every job-seeking candidate in the Sioux Falls metro, according to data compiled by the department.

Coders, computer programmers, software developers and web developers - whatever their title or skills - make up a sliver of the Sioux Falls workforce, and at the same time are coveted by the city's biggest employers, including major banks, telecommunication companies and the hospitals.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 11 of 41

Smaller tech-focused shops hunt for talent from the same limited labor pool, looking for specific skills and a certain amount of experience to make sure they can keep up with the increasing complexities of product offerings.

The result is a competitive job market, especially for candidates with a little bit of experience.

The sweet spot for experience is about five years, said Clay Campbell, managing director for Seattle-based Unify Consulting.

Unify relied on word-of-mouth and networking to build up its Sioux Falls team of nearly 20 developers. The firm provides services to big tech firms in coastal cities.

Finding software developers with the right amount of skills and polish can mean hiring them away from their current job, Campbell said.

"I don't think people are actively looking at that stage, I think they're trying to figure out their career," he said.

MarketBeat founder Matt Paulson has added staff to his company at an aggressive pace. Paulson's Sioux Falls tech company provides online services and information about the stock market.

MarketBeat hired two developers in December as its subscriber count continued to climb.

When the data collection company Bright Planet wound down operations, Paulson brought on two of its developers in Ryan Quam and Will Bushee. The decision took a leap of faith but finding talent is hard, Paulson said.

"At the time I really only needed Ryan but I knew that if I ever needed to hire somebody like Will, now was the time," Paulson said.

One of the pipelines for software developers in Sioux Falls is the Beacom College of Computer Science at Dakota State University. University officials have partnered with educators at Southeast Tech and local public schools on programs to increase the number of young people interested in a computer science career.

The college's CybHER Institute has reached 14,000 girls in middle school and high school in the last six years. As a result, the number of women enrolled in the university's computer science programs has skyrocketed by 400 percent, said Ashley Podhradsky, the college's associate dean.

DSU has also rolled out a program to provide internships to high school students as a shorter-term solution for the workforce shortage, Podhradsky said. DSU programs and apprenticeships are already available at Harrisburg High School through the South Dakota Partnership for Student Success. The same opportunities will come to Sioux Falls with a new wing being planned for Jefferson High School, Podhradsky said.

"It's like saying we need more doctors, well OK, we can't get them just by wishing," she said.

Santi has taken another approach to hiring at Blend: what she calls a "long-play." Blend will invest years in training up its employees, bringing on interns early in their education. Blend has also worked closely with Southeast and DSU to make sure students are ready for the demands of the current marketplace.

"We need to be advocating at the college level," Santi said.

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

Mediate rallies to win Sanford International

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Rocco Mediate needed just about everything to go right for him to win the Sanford International, and it did.

Ken Duke had everything go wrong on the last hole that helped Mediate to his first victory on the PGA Tour Champions in three years.

Mediate birdied his last two holes for a 6-under 64 at Minnehaha Country Club. He won after Duke, tied for the lead going into the final hole, caught two nasty lies in the rough and made double bogey.

Mediate wound up winning by two shots.

"When I added them up, I went, 'Holy crap, 64.' That was cool," Mediate said. "It was just one of those days everything kind of went really good. When I was bad, I got it up-and-down. When I was good, I made putts. You have to do this crazy stuff. Putted my you-know-what off today, but I hit a lot of good

shots, too. I hit a lot of green, kept my head together and here we are.”

It was his first victory since the Senior PGA Championship in 2016.

Duke had a share of the lead going into the final round for the first time in his career and held his own until the last hole. His drive took a hop to the right into the rough, leaving Duke a bad lie. From off the green, he sought relief because he thought the ball was in the lining of sod, but that wasn't the case.

It took him four shots to reach the green, and he missed the putt. His double bogey gave him a 69 and forced him to share second place with Colin Montgomerie and Bob Estes, who each had a 67.

“I hit a good tee shot and it just kicked hard right into the rough a foot and I had a horrible lie,” Duke said. “Then, I hit the shot up here and I thought it was in a seam of sod, but he said there was no sod, nothing sodded. It was probably one of the worst lies I've ever had sitting down. I mean, then what are you going to do after that? Nothing you can do about it. I played good. Thanks for all the people that came out and it was great to be here.”

Jay Haas (66) and Steve Flesch (68) tied for fifth.

Scott McCarron, who leads the Charles Schwab Cup, shot 67 with a bogey on the 18th and tied for seventh. Only two tournaments are left before the Schwab Cup playoffs, a series of three tournaments.

Company renews effort to mine for gold near Spearfish Canyon

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A company that unsuccessfully sought unsuccessfully to mine for gold near the rim of Spearfish Canyon is preparing to renew the effort.

Don Valentine, one of the managers of VMC LLC, gave an informational tour of the proposed project area Thursday to members of the state Board of Minerals and Environment.

Valentine told the Rapid City Journal the company has begun the process for a conditional use permit that the project needs in Lawrence County.

The company's 2012 application drew criticism about the mine's impact on residential property values, and noise, dust and environmental damage.

Valentine says the new application will move the project boundaries about 500 feet farther away from the canyon rim than the previous plan.

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

Regulators want bonding increased for oil, gas drillers

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota regulators will ask the Legislature to require bigger financial guarantees for oil and gas wells in response to a failed 40-well natural gas project in the northwest part of the state.

State minerals and mining administrator Mike Lees says the the department will ask for changes to the bonding requirements when legislators meet again this winter.

The Rapid City Journal reports his comments came last week during a meeting of the state Board of Minerals and Environment.

Lees says the department will propose that all oil and gas drillers be required to post bonds of either \$50,000 per well, or a \$100,000 blanket bond for an unlimited number of wells, regardless of depth.

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

Trump suggests he raised the Bidens with Ukraine's president

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump suggested that he raised former Vice President Joe Biden and Biden's son in a summer phone call with Ukraine's new leader, as Democrats pressed for investigations into whether Trump improperly used his office to try to dig up damaging information about a political rival.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 13 of 41

Trump told reporters that the July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy was "congratulatory" and focused on corruption in the East European nation. In his remarks to reporters, he then raised Biden as an example, although there is no evidence of wrongdoing by Biden or his son Hunter, who was on the board of a Ukrainian gas company.

"It was largely the fact that we don't want our people, like Vice President Biden and his son, creating to the corruption already in the Ukraine," Trump said as he left the White House for a trip to Texas.

Biden, who is among the front-runners for the Democratic presidential nomination, accused Trump of making a baseless political smear.

The matter has sparked a fierce debate over whether Trump misused his office for political gain and whether his administration is withholding from Congress critical information about his actions. The incident is part of a whistleblower complaint, but the acting director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire, has refused to share details with lawmakers, citing presidential privilege.

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who has resisted calls for impeachment for other alleged Trump transgressions, said Sunday that unless Maguire provides information to Congress, administration officials "will be entering a grave new chapter of lawlessness which will take us into a whole new stage of investigation."

Another impeachment holdout, the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union" that "we may very well have crossed the Rubicon here."

A person familiar with the matter has told The Associated Press that Trump urged Zelenskiy to investigate Hunter Biden. The person wasn't authorized to discuss the issue publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

"Ukraine's got a lot of problems," Trump said at the White House. "The new president is saying that he's going to be able to rid the country of corruption and I said that would be a great thing. We had a great conversation. We had a conversation on many things."

Hunter Biden was hired by the Ukrainian gas company Burisma Holdings in April 2014, two months after Ukraine's Russia-friendly president was ousted by protesters and as his father was heavily involved in U.S. efforts to support the new pro-Western government and its pledge to fight corruption. The hiring of the younger Biden immediately raised concerns that the Ukrainian firm, whose owner was a political ally of the ousted president, was seeking to gain influence with the Obama administration.

Two years later, Joe Biden pressured the Ukrainian government to fire the prosecutor general, who was accused by many in Ukraine and in the West of being soft on corruption. Trump has claimed that the prosecutor, who had led an investigation into Burisma's owner, "was after" Hunter Biden and the vice president was trying to protect his son. There is no evidence of this.

Trump insisted he said "absolutely nothing wrong" in the call to Zelenskiy. He did not answer directly when asked whether he would release a transcript of the conversation to the public.

After arriving in Texas, Trump told reporters he will look into releasing details or a transcript of the call, but stressed that foreign leaders should feel free to speak frankly with an American president without fear that the details of their conversations will later be disclosed. Trump said if Ukraine released its own transcript it would be the same as his version of the call.

Trump and Zelenskiy plan to meet on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly this week.

The Republican president has described the whistleblower as "partisan" but has acknowledged not knowing the identity of the intelligence official who lodged a formal complaint against him with the inspector general for the intelligence community.

The complaint was based on a series of events, including the July 25 call between Trump and Zelenskiy, according to two people familiar with the matter. They were not authorized to discuss the issue by name and were granted anonymity.

Biden said in Iowa on Saturday that "Trump deserves to be investigated" for "trying to intimidate a foreign leader, if that's what happened." Biden said Trump was motivated by politics "because he knows I'll beat him like a drum."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 14 of 41

A leading Republican senator urged the Justice Department to investigate the "Biden-Ukraine connection." "We have looked at all things Russia and Trump, his family, everything about his family, every transaction between the Trump campaign and Russia," Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina told Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures."

Now is the time, he said, to know "what relationships, if any, did Biden world have to the Ukraine."

Michael Atkinson, the U.S. government's intelligence inspector general, has described the whistleblower's Aug. 12 complaint as "serious" and "urgent," but he has not been allowed to turn over the complaint to Congress.

Maguire, the acting intelligence director, has been subpoenaed by Schiff's committee and is expected to testify publicly on Thursday. Maguire and Atkinson also are expected to appear before the Senate Intelligence Committee this week.

Associated Press writer Jonathan Lemire in New York contributed to this report.

At UN, Trump to face questions about Ukraine, Iran, allies

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Faced with growing tumult at home and abroad, President Donald Trump heads into his three-day visit to the United Nations this week hoping to lean on strained alliances while fending off questions about whether he sought foreign help to damage a political rival.

Trump's latest U.N. trip comes after nearly three years of an "America First" foreign policy that has unsettled allies and shredded multinational pacts.

A centerpiece of this year's U.N. schedule will be a Monday session on climate change that Trump plans to skip. Instead, Trump will address a meeting about the persecution of religious minorities, particularly Christians, an issue that resonates with Trump's evangelical supporters.

The Republican president arrived in New York on Sunday against a backdrop of swirling international tensions, including questions about his relationship with Ukraine, the uncertain future of Brexit, the U.S. trade war with China, stalled nuclear negotiations with North Korea and a weakening global economy.

The most immediate challenge may be Iran.

Trump will try to convince skeptical global capitals to help build a coalition to confront Tehran after the United States blamed it for last week's strike at an oil field in Saudi Arabia.

"Well, I always like a coalition," Trump said Friday, before going on to complain that under the old Iran nuclear deal, "everyone else is making money and we're not."

Trump's fulfillment of a campaign promise to exit the Iran nuclear deal has had wide ripple effects, leading Tehran to bolster its nuclear capabilities and dismaying European capitals who worked to establish the original agreement.

French President Emmanuel Macron, in particular, has been trying to lead Trump back to a deal and has suggested that the U.S. president meet with Iranian leader Hassan Rouhani on the sidelines of the U.N. meetings.

Trump said Sunday that while "nothing is ever off the table completely" he had no intention of meeting with Rouhani.

Tensions between Washington and Tehran spiked after a Saudi Arabia oil field was partially destroyed in an attack that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo blamed on Iran and deemed "an act of war."

Now Trump will try to enlist wary world leaders in a collective effort to contain Iran.

"He needs to win over traditional allies to do what traditional allies do, to band together against common threats," said Jon Alterman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "The attacks last weekend in Saudi Arabia are precisely the kind of thing that the U.N. was intended to address, to create rules for international behavior and opportunities for collective action."

Ukraine also looms large on Trump's schedule. Even one week ago, a one-on-one meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy would have been seen largely as an afterthought.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 15 of 41

But Trump's meeting on Wednesday with Zelenskyy will come just days after revelations that the president urged his Ukrainian counterpart in a July phone call to investigate the activities of the son of former Vice President Joe Biden. Trump said he was concerned about corruption; Democrats frame his actions as an effort to pressure Zelenskyy to dig up damaging material on a potential 2020 rival.

That pressure is the subject of a whistleblower's complaint that the administration has refused to turn over to members of Congress, setting up a showdown with Democrats.

Trump is defending himself against the intelligence official's complaint, asserting that it comes from a "partisan whistleblower," though the president also said he doesn't know the whistleblower's identity.

He insisted Sunday his conversation with Zelenskyy was "absolutely perfect." But Democrats believe it shows that Trump is emboldened to seek foreign help for his reelection effort.

There are plenty of other concerns in the mix during Trump's U.N. visit, including the U.S. trade war with China.

But China's Xi Jinping is not expected to attend, nor are several other prominent world leaders, including Russia's Vladimir Putin and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Among the nations whose leaders Trump plans to meet in New York: Iraq, Poland, Egypt, Pakistan, South Korea and Japan. He will also meet with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, clinging to power after failed attempts to steer his nation out of the European Union.

Trump's annual address to the General Assembly is scheduled for Tuesday. Two years ago, he used the moment to deride North Korea's Kim Jong Un as "Little Rocket Man" and threaten to destroy North Korea.

A year ago, he drew laughter when he used his speech to recite his administration's accomplishments.

His theme this year, according to aides, will be to reassert America's determination to uphold its sovereignty and independence, especially on issues of national security.

But others may push a different path.

"There's an attempt to push back against the unilateralism, against the isolationism, against the populism that has affected not only the United States but other countries as well," said Jeffrey Feltman of the Brookings Institution. "I don't know how effective this will be, but it's an example of how some of our traditional allies are organizing themselves in response to the feeling that the United States, the U.K., that other sort of major engines in the U.N. system no longer are pressing the accelerator."

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

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. WHAT QUESTIONS WILL TRUMP FACE AT UNITED NATIONS

The president will have to fend off questions including whether he sought foreign help to damage a political rival, Iran, the uncertain future of Brexit, the U.S. trade war with China and a weakening global economy.

2. BRITISH TOUR COMPANY THOMAS COOK COLLAPSES

The British government said the return of the 178-year-old firm's 150,000 British customers now stranded in vacation spots across the globe would be the largest repatriation in its peacetime history.

3. SEVERAL KNOCK-YOUR-SOCKS-OFF MOMENTS AT EMMYS

Billy Porter, Michelle Williams and Patricia Arquette offered up inspiring speech on diversity, equal pay and inclusion on one of Hollywood's biggest nights.

4. WHO THE UK IS BLAMING FOR ATTACK ON SAUDI OIL FACILITIES

U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson says Iran was responsible but that the U.K. would work with allies to "de-escalate" Middle East tensions that have soared since the Sept. 14 attack.

5. WHO HAD HIS EYES ON A DEAL TO REBUILD UN

As Trump visits the United Nations building in New York this week, he won't be focused solely on the global challenges facing the world body: He's still reliving the real estate deal there that got away.

6. SCHOOL COLLAPSE IN KENYA'S CAPITAL

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 16 of 41

At least seven children are dead and more than 50 students have been hospitalized after The Precious Talent Top School in Nairobi collapsed.

7. TENNESSEE ABORTION CLINICS CHALLENGE 48-HOUR WAITING PERIOD

Five of the state's seven abortion clinics are suing over the law, claiming it violates the U.S. Constitution.

8. EX-DALLAS COP WHO FATALLY SHOT NEIGHBOR DUE IN COURT

Amber Guyger is expected in a city courthouse Monday morning to stand trial in the fatal shooting of 26-year-old Botham Jean last year.

9. WHAT IS AGAIN THREATENING CORAL IN HAWAII

Federal researchers predict another round of hot water in the Pacific will cause some of the worst coral bleaching the region has ever seen.

10. LA RAMS REMAIN UNBEATEN IN WIN OVER CLEVELAND BROWNS

Safety John Johnson III intercepted Baker Mayfield's fourth-down pass with 27 seconds left as Los Angeles escaped with a 20-13 win Sunday night over the short-handed Cleveland Browns.

UK says Iran responsible for attack on Saudi oil facilities

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Britain has concluded that Iran was responsible for attacks on oil facilities in Saudi Arabia, U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Sunday. He said the U.K. would consider taking part in a U.S.-led military effort to bolster the Gulf kingdom's defenses, while Iran's president announced plans for a rival Iranian-led security coalition.

The U.K. Conservative prime minister also said he would work with allies to "de-escalate" Middle East tensions that have soared since the Sept. 14 attack on the world's largest oil processor and an oil field.

Britain had previously held back from attributing blame for the drone and missile attack. Saudi Arabia and the United States say Iran was responsible, something Tehran denies.

Johnson told reporters flying with him late Sunday to New York for the U.N. General Assembly that now "the U.K. is attributing responsibility with a very high degree of probability to Iran" for the attack by drones and cruise missiles.

"We will be working with our American friends and our European friends to construct a response that tries to de-escalate tensions in the Gulf region," Johnson said.

Shortly before leaving for the U.N. meetings Monday, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said that his country will invite "all littoral states of the Persian Gulf" to join an Iranian-led coalition "to guarantee the region's security."

His remarks were broadcast on state television.

Rouhani said the plan — details of which he will present at the United Nations — is not limited to "security" but also encompasses economic cooperation and an initiative for "long-term" peace.

Iran's president had already called on Western powers Sunday to leave the security of the Persian Gulf to regional nations led by Tehran.

Johnson said he would meet Rouhani at this week's high-level U.N. gathering. Johnson is also due to hold talks with U.S. President Donald Trump, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron. He said he wanted Britain to be "a bridge between our European friends and the Americans when it comes to the crisis in the Gulf."

The U.S. and Europe have diverged sharply on how to deal with Iran. European nations, including Britain, still adhere to an international deal designed to limit Iran's nuclear ambitions, but Trump has pulled the U.S. out of the agreement.

Johnson stressed the need for a diplomatic response to the Gulf tensions, but said Britain would consider any request for military help. The Trump administration announced Friday that it would send additional U.S. troops and missile defense equipment to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as part of a "defensive" deployment. Officials said the number of troops was likely to be in the hundreds.

"We will be following that very closely," Johnson said. "And clearly if we are asked, either by the Saudis

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 17 of 41

or by the Americans, to have a role, then we will consider in what way we could be useful. We will consider in what way we could be useful, if asked, depending on what the exact plan is."

A U.K. official told The Associated Press that a claim of responsibility for the attacks by Iran-allied Houthi rebels in Yemen was "implausible." He said remnants of Iran-made cruise missiles were found at the attack site, and "the sophistication points very, very firmly to Iranian involvement." He spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence findings.

The official did not say whether Britain believed the attack was launched from Iranian soil.

Iran denies responsibility and has warned any retaliatory attack targeting it will result in an "all-out war."

On Monday, Rouhani said the U.S. was exaggerating the scale of damage wrought by the attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil company and using it as an excuse to send more troops and equipment to the kingdom.

"It is clear that they would like to completely take hold of eastern Saudi Arabia's oil," he said.

Rouhani also referred to a new round of U.S. sanctions on Iran's central bank and other financial bodies as a "repeat cassette tape."

Many of the sanctions had applied before Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers promised to lift them, in exchange for curbing the country's atomic program.

"This means the U.S. is completely desperate," he said, suggesting the U.S. had little leverage left over Iran.

Associated Press writer Nasser Karimi in Tehran, Iran, contributed to this report.

Tour company Thomas Cook collapses, 150,000 people stranded

By GREGORY KATZ Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British tour company Thomas Cook collapsed early Monday after failing to secure emergency funding, leaving tens of thousands of vacationers stranded abroad.

The British government said the return of the 178-year-old firm's 150,000 British customers now in vacation spots across the globe would be the largest repatriation in its peacetime history. The process began Monday and officials warned that delays are inevitable.

The Civil Aviation Authority said Thomas Cook has ceased trading, its four airlines will be grounded, and its 21,000 employees in 16 countries, including 9,000 in the U.K., will lose their jobs. The company several months ago had blamed a slowdown in bookings because of Brexit uncertainty for contributing to its crushing debt burden.

The company had said Friday it was seeking 200 million pounds (\$250 million) to avoid going bust and was in weekend talks with shareholders and creditors to stave off failure. The firm, whose airliners were a familiar sight in many parts of the world, also operated around 600 U.K. travel stores.

The company's chief executive, Peter Fankhauser, said in a statement read outside the company's offices Monday morning that he deeply regrets the shutdown.

"Despite huge efforts over a number of months and further intense negotiations in recent days we have not been able to secure a deal to save our business," he said. "I know that this outcome will be devastating to many people and will cause a lot of anxiety, stress and disruption."

Britain's CAA said it had arranged an aircraft fleet for the complex British repatriation effort, which is expected to last two weeks.

"Due to the significant scale of the situation, some disruption is inevitable, but the Civil Aviation Authority will endeavor to get people home as close as possible to their planned dates," the aviation authority said in a statement.

Describing the repatriation plan, British Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said dozens of charter planes, from as far afield as Malaysia, had been hired to fly customers home free of charge. He said hundreds of people were staffing call centers and airport operations centers.

British travel expert Simon Calder told Sky News that Thomas Cook's problems started in 1994 when the "open skies" agreement allowed upstarts easyJet and Ryanair to flourish. At the same time, he said, the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 18 of 41

internet became widely used for travel bookings, lessening the demand for Thomas Cook's travel agencies.

"There's still of course a place for travel professionals, there's a place for the package already, as companies like Jet2 and TUI are demonstrating, but Thomas Cook was behind the curve and I'm afraid with high costs such as those expensive high street premises they simply couldn't cope," he said.

Traveler Lucy Jessop from the eastern city of Hull said she had been scheduled to return from Mexico to Manchester with Thomas Cook on Tuesday and that the government had organized an alternative flight back to England.

"It's the employees of Thomas Cook and all those due to go on holiday I feel for," she said. "We were the lucky ones, I suppose."

Unions representing the Thomas Cook staff had urged the British government to intervene to prop up Thomas Cook to protect jobs and the traveling public.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, traveling to New York for the United Nations General Assembly, said the government was right not to bail out the company, arguing that travel firms should do more to ensure they don't collapse.

Johnson said bailing out the company would have established "a moral hazard" because other firms might later expect the same treatment.

"We need to look at ways in which tour operators one way or another can protect themselves from such bankruptcies in future," Johnson said. "One is driven to reflect on whether the directors of these companies are properly incentivized to sort such matters out."

Most of Thomas Cook's British customers are protected by the government-run travel insurance program, which makes sure vacationers can get home if a British-based tour operator fails while they are abroad.

An earlier repatriation exercise following the 2017 collapse of Monarch Airlines cost the government about 60 million pounds.

Thomas Cook, which began in 1841 with a one-day train excursion in England and now operates in 16 countries, has been struggling over the past few years.

An estimated 1 million future travelers will find their bookings for upcoming holidays canceled. They are likely to receive refunds under the terms of the government's travel insurance plan.

The company's troubles were already affecting those traveling under the Thomas Cook banner.

A British vacationer told BBC radio on Sunday that the Les Orangers beach resort in the Tunisian town of Hammamet, near Tunis, demanded that guests who were about to leave pay extra money, for fear it wouldn't be paid what it is owed by Thomas Cook.

Ryan Farmer said many tourists refused the demand, since they had already paid Thomas Cook, so security guards shut the hotel's gates and "were not allowing anyone to leave."

It was like "being held hostage," said Farmer, who is due to leave Tuesday. He said he would also refuse to pay if the hotel asked him.

The Associated Press called the hotel, as well as the British Embassy in Tunis, but no officials or managers were available for comment.

Associated Press writer Jill Lawless in New York contributed to this report.

Lingering Pacific heat wave threatens Hawaii coral

By CALEB JONES Associated Press

CAPTAIN COOK, Hawaii (AP) — At the edge of an ancient lava flow where jagged black rocks meet the Pacific, small off-the-grid homes overlook the calm blue waters of Papa Bay on Hawaii's Big Island — no tourists or hotels in sight. Here, one of the islands' most abundant and vibrant coral reefs thrives just below the surface.

Yet even this remote shoreline far from the impacts of chemical sunscreen, trampling feet and industrial wastewater is showing early signs of what's expected to be a catastrophic season for coral in Hawaii.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 19 of 41

Just four years after a major marine heat wave killed nearly half of this coastline's coral, federal researchers are predicting another round of hot water will cause some of the worst coral bleaching the region has ever seen.

"In 2015, we hit temperatures that we've never recorded ever in Hawaii," said Jamison Gove, an oceanographer with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "What is really important — or alarming, probably more appropriately — about this event is that we've been tracking above where we were at this time in 2015."

Researchers using high-tech equipment to monitor Hawaii's reefs are seeing early signs of bleaching in Papa Bay and elsewhere caused by a marine heat wave that has sent temperatures soaring to record highs for months. June, July and parts of August all experienced the hottest ocean temperatures ever recorded around the Hawaiian Islands. So far in September, oceanic temperatures are below only those seen in 2015.

Forecasters expect high temperatures in the north Pacific will continue to pump heat into Hawaii's waters well into October.

"Temperatures have been warm for quite a long time," Gove said. "It's not just how hot it is — it's how long those ocean temperatures stay warm."

Ocean temperatures are not uniformly warm across the state, Gove noted. Local wind patterns, currents and even features on land can create hot spots in the water.

"You have things like two giant volcanoes on the Big Island blocking the predominant trade winds," making the island's west coast, where Papa Bay sits, one of the hottest parts of the state, Gove said. He said he expects "severe" coral bleaching in those places.

"This is widespread, 100% bleaching of most corals," Gove said. And many of those corals are still recovering from the 2015 bleaching event, meaning they are more susceptible to thermal stress.

According to NOAA, the heat wave's causes include a persistent low-pressure weather pattern between Hawaii and Alaska that has weakened winds that otherwise might mix and cool surface waters across much of the North Pacific. What's causing that is unclear: It might reflect the atmosphere's usual chaotic motion, or it could be related to the warming of the oceans and other effects of human-made climate change.

Beyond this event, oceanic temperatures will continue to rise in the coming years, Gove said. "There's no question that global climate change is contributing to what we're experiencing," he said.

For coral, hot water means stress, and prolonged stress kills these creatures and can leave reefs in shambles.

Bleaching occurs when stressed corals release algae that provide them with vital nutrients. That algae also gives the coral its color, so when it's expelled, the coral turns white.

Coral reefs are vital around the world as they not only provide a habitat for fish — the base of the marine food chain — but food and medicine for humans. They also create an essential shoreline barrier that breaks apart large ocean swells and protects densely populated shorelines from storm surges during hurricanes.

In Hawaii, reefs are also a major part of the economy: Tourism thrives largely because of coral reefs that help create and protect iconic white sand beaches, offer snorkeling and diving spots, and help form waves that draw surfers from around the world.

Gove said researchers have a technological advantage for monitoring and gleaning insights into this year's bleaching, data that could help save reefs in the future.

"We're trying to track this event in real time via satellite, which is the first time that's ever been done," Gove said.

In remote Papa Bay, most of the corals have recovered from the 2015 bleaching event, but scientists worry they won't fare as well this time.

"Nearly every species that we monitor has at least some bleaching," said ecologist Greg Asner, director of Arizona State University's Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science, after a dive in the bay earlier this month.

Asner told The Associated Press that sensors showed the bay was about 3.5 degrees Fahrenheit above what is normal for this time of year.

He uses advanced imaging technology mounted to aircrafts, satellite data, underwater sensors and

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 20 of 41

information from the public to give state and federal researchers like Gove the information they need.

"What's really important here is that we're taking these (underwater) measurements, connecting them to our aircraft data and then connecting them again to the satellite data," Asner said. "That lets us scale up to see the big picture to get the truth about what's going on here."

Scientists will use the information to research, among other things, why some coral species are more resilient to thermal stress. Some of the latest research suggests slowly exposing coral to heat in labs can condition them to withstand hotter water in the future.

"After the heat wave ends, we will have a good map with which to plan restoration efforts," Asner said.

Hawaii residents like Cindi Punihaole Kennedy are pitching in by volunteering to educate tourists. Punihaole Kennedy is director of the Kahalu'u Bay Education Center, a nonprofit created to help protect Kahalu'u Bay, a popular snorkeling spot near the Big Island's tourist center of Kailua-Kona.

The bay and surrounding beach park welcome more than 400,000 visitors a year, she said.

"We share with them what to do and what not to do as they enter the bay," she said. "For instance, avoid stepping on the corals or feeding the fish."

The area suffered widespread bleaching and coral death in 2015.

"It was devastating for us to not be able to do anything," Punihaole Kennedy said. "We just watched the corals die."

'Thrones,' 'Fleabag' top Emmys, Billy Porter makes history

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Game of Thrones" resurrected the Iron Throne at Sunday's Emmy ceremony, ruling as top drama on a night of surprises in which "Pose" star Billy Porter made history and the comedy series "Fleabag" led a British invasion that overturned expectations.

"This all started in the demented mind of George R.R. Martin," said "Game of Thrones" producer David Benioff, thanking the author whose novels were the basis of HBO's fantasy saga.

Porter, who stars in the FX drama set in the LGBTQ ball scene of the late 20th century, became the first openly gay man to win a best drama series acting Emmy .

"God bless you all. The category is love, you all, love. I'm so overjoyed and so overwhelmed to have lived to see this day," said an exuberant Porter, resplendent in a sparkling suit and swooping hat.

Amazon's "Fleabag," a dark comedy about a dysfunctional woman, was honored as best comedy and earned writing and top acting honors for its British creator and star, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, as well as a best director trophy.

"This is getting ridiculous," Waller-Bridge said in her third trip to the stage to collect the top trophy.

Her acting win blocked "Veep" star Julia Louis-Dreyfus from setting a record as the most-honored performer in Emmy history. "Fleabag's" showing denied a fond farewell for its final season.

"Nooooo!" a shocked-looking Waller-Bridge said as Louis-Dreyfus smiled for the cameras. "Oh, my God, no. Thank you. I find acting really hard and really painful. But it's all about this," she said, her acting trophy firmly in hand.

In accepting the writing award earlier, she called the Emmy recognition proof that "a dirty, pervy, messed-up woman can make it to the Emmys."

Porter, a Tony and Grammy Award winning performer, relished his groundbreaking moment. Quoting the late writer James Baldwin, he said it took him many years to believe he has the right to exist.

"I have the right, you have the right, we all have the right," he said.

English actress Jodie Comer was honored as best drama actress for "Killing Eve." She competed with co-star Sandra Oh, who received a Golden Globe for her role and would have been the first actress of Asian descent to win an Emmy in the category.

"My mum and dad are in Liverpool (England) and I didn't invite them because I didn't think this was going to be my time. One, I'm sorry, two I love you," Comer said after saluting Oh.

Bill Hader won his second consecutive best comedy actor award for the hit man comedy "Barry."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 21 of 41

Peter Dinklage, named best supporting actor for "Game of Thrones," set a record for most wins for the same role, four, breaking a tie with Aaron Paul of "Breaking Bad."

"I count myself so fortunate to be a member of a community that is about nothing but tolerance and diversity, because in no other place I could be standing on a stage like this," said Dinklage, who is a dwarf.

"Ozark" star Julia Garner won the best supporting drama actress trophy against a field including four actresses from "Game of Thrones."

The auditorium erupted in cheers when Jharrel Jerome of "When They See Us," about the Central Park Five case, won the best actor award for a limited series movie.

"Most important, this is for the men that we know as the Exonerated Five," said Jerome, naming the five wrongly convicted men who were in the audience. They stood and saluted the actor as the crowd applauded them.

It was the only honor for the acclaimed Netflix series of the evening; "Chernobyl" won the best limited series honor.

The ceremony was brisk but, without a host, was overly reliant on the hit-and-miss jokes of presenters. It was ultimately the surprising wins such as Comer's and the meaningful selections of Porter and Jerome that made the show.

HBO retained its durable front-runner status with the help of "Game of Thrones'" record-tying 12 wins. The channel had a total of 34 awards from Sunday and last weekend's creative arts ceremony.

But streaming hit new Emmy heights, powered by Amazon Prime winners "Fleabag," "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" and "A Very English Scandal," and Netflix's "Bandersnatch (Black Mirror)," honored as best movie. Netflix collected 27 awards and Amazon nabbed 15.

Michelle Williams, honored as best actress for her portrayal of dancer Gwen Verdon in FX's limited series "Fosse/Verdon," issued a call to arms for gender and ethnic equality.

She thanked the network and studio behind the project for "paying me equally because they understood ... when you put value into a person, it empowers that person to get in touch with their own inherent value. And where do they put that value, they put it into their work.

"And so the next time a woman and, especially a woman of color, because she stands to make 52 cents on the dollar compared to her white male counterpart, tells you what she needs in order to do her job, listen to her," Williams said.

Patricia Arquette won the trophy best supporting limited-series or movie actress for "The Act." She paid emotional tribute to her late trans sister, Alexis Arquette, and called for an end to prejudice against trans people, including in the workplace.

Ben Whishaw took the category's supporting actor trophy for "A Very English Scandal," admitting in charming British fashion to a hangover.

Alex Borstein and Tony Shalhoub of "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" won best comedy supporting acting awards.

"I want to dedicate this to the strength of a woman, to (series creator) Amy Sherman-Palladino, to every woman on the 'Maisel' cast and crew," Borstein said, and to her mother and grandmother. Her grandmother survived because she was courageous enough to step out of a line that, Borstein intimated, would have led to her death at the hands of Nazi Germany.

"She stepped out of line. And for that, I am here and my children are here, so step out of line, ladies. Step out of line," said Borstein, who also won the award last year.

Shalhoub added to his three Emmys which he earned for his signature role in "Monk."

The awards opened without a host as promised, with an early exchange pitting Ben Stiller against Bob Newhart.

"I'm still alive," Newhart told Stiller, who introduced him as part of a wax museum comedy hall of fame that included Lucille Ball and George Burns.

Kim Kardashian West and Kendall Jenner drew some mocking laughter in the audience when they presented the reality competition award after Kardashian West said their family "knows firsthand how truly

compelling television comes from real people just being themselves.”

An animated Homer Simpson made a brief appearance on stage until he was abruptly crushed, with Anderson of “black-ish” rushing in to, as he vowed, rescue the evening. He called “Breaking Bad” star Bryan Cranston on stage to tout the power of television from its beginning to the current golden age.

“Television has never been bigger. Television has never mattered more. And television has never been this damn good,” Cranston said.

Online:

<http://www.emmys.com> .

Associated Press Writer Beth Harris and AP Entertainment Writer Lindsey Bahr contributed to this report.

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Biden, Warren face same challenge in Iowa: keeping momentum

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE and THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A fire truck, a marching band and hundreds of supporters ushered Joe Biden into this weekend’s Iowa Steak Fry, a show of force intended to solidify the former vice president’s front-runner status. His closest rival, Elizabeth Warren, slipped in with little fanfare, delivered her speech and hit a brief selfie line before departing the show.

Their approaches to the steak fry were as divergent as their views on the role of government. But Warren and Biden increasingly face the same challenge: the pressure of being on top.

They’re entering a critical phase of the Iowa campaign in a close race for first place. For Warren, it’s a sign that the investments she’s made in staff and personal interactions with voters have paid off. But it also means she’ll increasingly be the subject of attacks from her rivals who want to blunt her rise. For Biden, months of attacks have done little to erode his standing among Democrats. But Warren’s strength underscores his weaknesses among progressive voters, ensuring he won’t be able to coast to success in Iowa or any of the other early voting states.

There’s plenty of precedent for candidates doing well in Iowa the summer before the caucuses only to fade when voting nears. With the caucuses just over four months away, more than a dozen other candidates are increasingly desperate to do whatever they can to overtake Biden and Warren. The dynamics suggest a volatile period ahead as Democrats begin to more seriously grapple with who they want to take on President Donald Trump next fall.

“Anything can happen,” said J. Ann Selzer, the longtime director of the Iowa Poll, produced by The Des Moines Register and its partners.

Selzer managed a poll released Saturday by The Des Moines Register, CNN and Mediacom, which found Warren running about even with Biden, who led their last poll in June. The survey showed more than 60% of likely Democratic caucusgoers could still change their minds on who to support.

A number of lower-tier candidates who’ve staked their candidacies on Iowa cite that large chunk of undecided voters as evidence they still have a shot, even as their campaigns stall.

Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey, who boasts the most Iowa endorsements and a strong campaign team, warned supporters he’d have to raise big money fast or drop out. Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota has staked her campaign on the idea that her Midwestern roots would endear her to Iowans, but she’s stuck in low single digits despite frequent trips to the state. And former Texas Rep. Beto O’Rourke, who drew mobs of supporters to small Iowa towns when he launched his bid, is now campaigning beyond the early primary states in search of a win.

Some candidates are rethinking their Iowa strategies to better position themselves for a strong caucus showing.

Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who once seemed like Biden’s biggest foe, parted ways with his Iowa

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 23 of 41

political director in recent weeks. California Sen. Kamala Harris seemed mildly chagrined to have to dig out her cold-weather gear as she committed, jokingly, to “moving to Iowa” in order to resuscitate a campaign stuck squarely in the middle of the pack.

Harris has pledged to double her staff in the state and campaign in Iowa every week in October. And South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg has been investing heavily in his Iowa operation and will, by the end of this month, nearly match Biden in staff numbers and field office openings.

Not only did he have more than 1,000 supporters at the event, he invited more than two dozen donors in hopes of demonstrating he can win in a class of rivals with much higher national profiles. Buttigieg advisers met in Des Moines with donors Saturday evening to discuss his recent organizational surge to increase staff to 100 paid workers and 20 offices statewide, putting him on par with Warren.

“You need to be in the hunt. You need to have the resources to compete,” said Buttigieg, who raised a record \$25 million in the second quarter and is expected to be competitive in the third quarter, which comes to a close next week.

Biden’s allies remain adamant that what Democratic primary voters most want is someone who can beat Trump, and that Biden is seen as the safest bet to do so. But some voters say as Biden has faced scrutiny for his past policy positions — and racked up repeated gaffes — that veneer of electability is showing cracks.

“I just wonder if he has what it takes anymore,” said 50-year-old Frank Hansen of Des Moines. “I think it has to be someone younger and ready to take on the future.”

Hansen’s wife, Holly, 51, attended this weekend’s Steak Fry. Echoing her husband, she said, “Joe Biden was the person seen as the strongest one. I’m not so sure now.”

The couple said they were looking to a newer class of candidates, including Buttigieg, O’Rourke and Warren, who, despite being 70, “just seems new and fresh,” Holly said.

Iowa political history holds warnings for Warren as well, after previous candidates peaked too early and weren’t able to sustain their momentum through caucus night.

In the late summer of 2003, Howard Dean was the Iowa frontrunner; he eventually fell to John Kerry after being tagged as angry and unprepared for a national race. In the fall of 2007, Hillary Clinton still led in the polls, but eventually faced an upset to then-Sen. Barack Obama after he criticized her as running a too-careful campaign.

Indeed, this week Warren’s opponents stepped up their attacks against her, with Biden knocking her on raising taxes to pay for a single-payer health care system, while Buttigieg called her “evasive” about the tax issue.

Warren has, however, stayed staunchly on-message, insisting when pressed by reporters this week in Iowa only that “costs will go down” for the middle class if her health care plan is passed. Her response has been much like the campaign she’s run in Iowa — steady and focused, with little fanfare and an eye on the end goal rather than the day-to-day fluctuations in the field.

She shrugged off questions about her strength in Iowa on Sunday.

“I don’t do polls,” she said as she joined a protest with striking United Auto Workers members. “We are still months away from the Iowa caucuses and the first primary elections.”

Associated Press writer Corey Williams in Detroit contributed to this report.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump’s twisted reality on guns, environment

By HOPE YEN, SETH BORENSTEIN and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is twisting reality on gun control and the environment.

Pressed over the weekend for his position on gun legislation, the president declined to answer whether he would support expanded background checks in the wake of deadly mass shootings and blamed Democrats in Congress for “doing nothing” on the issue. That’s not true. The Democratic-controlled House in February approved legislation, which has since stalled because the Senate hasn’t acted. Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he won’t move on it or any gun legislation until Trump says what he wants.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 24 of 41

And on the environment, Trump and his team are dismissing the reality of stalled U.S. progress in air quality. In revoking California's authority to set stricter fuel economy standards on cars than Washington, they claimed that more lenient rules would be "good" for the environment. His administration's data show otherwise.

The claims helped mark a week of familiar exaggerations, misstatements and fabrications by Trump, on topics from drug prices and the news media to trade.

A recap:

GUN CONTROL

TRUMP, on gun legislation: "It's an issue that, frankly, Congress is wasting all their time on nonsense. ...The Democrats in Congress are doing nothing." — remarks to reporters Sunday.

THE FACTS: Actually, Trump is the holdup on gun control legislation.

The House passed its bill in February that would require background checks on all gun sales, including those between strangers who meet online or at gun shows. But McConnell, R-Ky., said it's not clear the Senate would be able to pass the legislation or that Trump would sign it into law. Last week, McConnell stressed that Congress would remain "in a holding pattern" on gun control as lawmakers await proposals from the White House.

Trump had previously pledged to veto the House-passed bill, but has since offered contradictory messages in reacting to recent mass shootings. Days after the El Paso shooting last month, he said he was eager to implement "very meaningful background checks" on guns and told reporters there was "tremendous support" for action. He later backed away, saying the current system of background checks was "very, very strong."

A proposal being floated last week by Attorney General William Barr on Capitol Hill would require background checks on all commercial gun sales, including at gun shows. Trump told reporters the plan was one of many ideas under consideration and he would go "very slowly."

He and White House aides have discussed a number of gun control measures with lawmakers, including steps to go after fraudulent buyers, notify state and local law enforcement when a potential buyer fails a background check, issue state-level emergency risk protection orders, boost mental health assistance and speed up executions for those convicted of mass shootings.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., have told Trump that gun-control legislation must include the House-passed bill to expand background checks, saying that any other proposal could leave open dangerous loopholes.

CLIMATE

STEVEN MNUCHIN, secretary of the Treasury: "We are very focused on clean air, clean water ...The U.S. technology has made major progress in these areas." — interview Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union."

TRUMP: "You know right now we have the cleanest air that we have ever had in this country?" — New Mexico rally on Sept. 16.

THE FACTS: They're incorrect. Air quality hasn't improved under the Trump administration and dozens of nations have less smoggy air than the U.S.

As to water quality, one measure, Yale University's global Environmental Performance Index, finds the U.S. tied with nine other countries as having the cleanest drinking water.

But after decades of improvement, progress in air quality has stalled. Over the last two years the U.S. had more polluted air days than just a few years earlier, federal data show.

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

The Obama administration set records for the fewest air-polluted days.

The nonprofit Health Effects Institute's State of Global Air 2019 report ranked the United States 37th dirtiest out of 195 countries for ozone, also known as smog, worse than the global average for population-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 25 of 41

weighted pollution. Countries such as Britain, Japan, Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Albania, Cuba, Russia, Vietnam, New Zealand and Canada have less smoggy air.

The U.S. ranks eighth cleanest on the more deadly category of fine particles in the air.

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

MNUCHIN: "The reason why the president got out of the Paris deal, because it was an unfair deal for the U.S., relative to the rest of the world." — CNN on Sunday.

THE FACTS: That's not true. While the Trump administration is entitled to its opinion that the landmark 2015 Paris agreement deal hurts American workers, the pact did not put the U.S. in a more unfavorable position relative to the rest of the world.

Under the agreement, every country created and chose its own goals to reduce carbon pollution. The U.S. goal, set at the time by the Obama administration, was to, by 2025, reduce emissions by 28% compared with 2005, which translates to 14% compared with 1990 levels. That goal was less stringent than Britain, which already reduced its level by 45% compared with 1990 levels, and countries in the European Union, whose goal was to achieve reductions of 40% below the 1990 level by 2030, according to Stanford University professor Rob Jackson, who chairs the Global Carbon Project of scientists who track worldwide carbon emissions.

The U.S. commitment was "frankly, not particularly too ambitious," Jackson said.

There were some countries that set lower goals than the U.S., such as Russia. But Trump could have relaxed the U.S. goal if he considered it too burdensome rather than withdraw from the deal altogether.

"Trump rejected the Paris agreement because he's not committed to climate action, not because the U.S. target was too stringent or unfair," said Nigel Purvis, CEO of the consultancy group Climate Advisers, who directed U.S. climate diplomacy during the Bill Clinton and George W. Bush administrations.

FUEL ECONOMY RULES

TRUMP, on revoking California's authority to set stricter vehicle fuel-economy standards than Washington imposes: This "will also be extremely good to the environment." — remarks to reporters Wednesday.

WHEELER: "This is ... good for the environment." — remarks Thursday.

THE FACTS: That assertion is not supported by the Trump administration's own data, which estimates that U.S. fuel consumption would increase by 500,000 barrels per day, up 2% to 3%, with the loss of California's authority to set higher standards. That means more pollution. Environmental groups predict higher fuel consumption than that.

TRUMP, on revoking California's authority: "We'll be able to produce an automobile for substantially less money which is substantially safer." — remarks to reporters Wednesday.

ELAINE CHAO, secretary of transportation: "Those rules were making cars more expensive and impeding safety because consumers were being priced out of newer, safer vehicles." — remarks Thursday.

WHITE HOUSE: "The Trump administration is taking action to make America's highways safer and our cars more affordable." — news release Thursday.

THE FACTS: Trump and his officials are inflating the projected savings to consumers under his plan to relax fuel-efficiency rules and may be exaggerating the safety benefits.

It's not clear yet what the Trump administration will propose as its final fuel-efficiency rules, but in the past it has favored freezing Obama-era mileage standards at 2021 levels. His own administration contends that freezing the fuel economy standards will reduce the average sticker price of new vehicles by about \$2,700 by 2025. But that number is disputed by environmental groups and is more than double the estimates from the Obama administration.

They are also ignoring money that consumers would save at the gas pump under the Obama-era standards if cars get better mileage. A study released Aug. 7 by Consumer Reports found that the owner of a

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 26 of 41

2026 vehicle will pay over \$3,300 more for gasoline during the life of a vehicle if the standards are frozen at 2021 levels. The administration's proposed freeze would hold the average fuel economy for the new-vehicle fleet at 29.1 mpg in real-world driving, while the Obama-era standards would raise it to 37.5 mpg by 2026, according to Consumer Reports.

Trump's assertion that cars would be substantially safer also is in dispute. His administration argues that lower-cost vehicles would allow more people to buy new ones that are safer, cutting roadway deaths by 12,700 lives through the 2029 model year.

But The Associated Press reported last year that internal EPA emails show senior career officials privately questioned the administration's calculations, saying the proposed freeze would actually modestly increase highway fatalities, by about 17 deaths annually. Consumer Reports adds that any safety impact from changes in gas mileage standards would be small and won't vary much from zero.

ELECTRIC CARS

ANDREW WHEELER, administrator of the EPA, criticizing electric cars: It's "a product ... which most families cannot approach." — remarks Thursday.

THE FACTS: While electric cars are currently out of reach for most people, that is changing. Automakers are rolling out multiple new models, and as sales grow and battery costs fall, prices are expected to drop. Range is growing to where many electric cars will be able to travel over 300 miles on a single charge. The McKinsey management consulting firm predicts that battery and other EV-specific costs will fall to about the same as gasoline engines in three to five years. Fully electric vehicles currently make up about 1.5% of U.S. new vehicle sales, and LMC Automotive forecasts EV sales will eventually hit 50% of the market by 2049.

DRUG PRICES

TRUMP: "Because of my Administration, drug prices are down for the first time in almost 50 years." — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: He's exaggerating his influence on drug prices.

Most of his administration's "ambitious campaign" to reduce drug prices has yet to be completed. Major regulations are in the works and legislation has yet to be passed by Congress. A rule requiring drugmakers to disclose prices in TV ads has been blocked for now by the courts.

It's true that harsh criticism of the industry — from Trump and lawmakers of both parties in Congress — may be having some effect.

The Commerce Department's inflation index for prescription drug prices has declined in seven of the past eight months, which is highly unusual. That index includes lower-cost generic drugs, which account for 90% of prescriptions filled in the U.S. Prices for generics have been declining under pressure from big drug distributors.

But for brand-name drugs, a recent analysis by The Associated Press shows that on average prices are still going up, but at a slower pace. The cost of brand-name drugs is what's most concerning to consumers, with insured patients facing steep copays for some medications.

The AP analysis found that in the first seven months of 2019, drugmakers raised list prices for brand-name medicines by a median, or midpoint, of 5%.

That does reflect a slowing in price increases. They were going up 9% or 10% over those months the prior four years. But it's not a decrease in actual prices. There were 37 price increases for every decrease in the first seven months of 2019. Pricing data for the AP analysis came from the health information firm Elsevier.

NEWS MEDIA

TRUMP: "The New York Times is at its lowest point in its long and storied history. Not only is it losing a lot of money, but it is a journalistic disaster." — tweet Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Although entitled to his opinion about the quality of journalism, he is wrong to say The New

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 27 of 41

York Times is losing money. It's making money.

The newspaper last month said overall net income rose 6.7% to \$25.2 million.

Earnings adjusted for one-time items came to 17 cents per share, topping Wall Street expectations of 15 cents, according to FactSet. Revenue rose 5.2% to \$436.3 million.

The stock has increased more than 30% since the beginning of the year.

TRUMP: "The Fake News is saying that I am willing to meet with Iran, 'No Conditions.' That is an incorrect statement (as usual!)." — tweet on Sept. 15.

THE FACTS: He's ignoring his own words and those of his aides.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said at the White House the week before that Trump made clear he would meet Iranian President Hassan Rouhani without setting any conditions first. Often, top-level diplomacy between adversaries only proceeds after both sides agree to take a few steps to ease tensions.

And when asked by NBC's "Meet the Press" in June whether he'd set any conditions for meeting Iranian leadership, Trump replied: "Not as far as I'm concerned. No preconditions."

A year earlier, Trump told reporters that it would be good for both countries if the leaders talked: "No preconditions. If they wanna meet, I'll meet."

After his tweet, Trump explained that sanctions won't be taken off Iran as a requirement for talks, and that's what he meant when he declared "no preconditions." But the absence of preconditions cuts both ways. It also means, for example, that Iran's behavior — with its nuclear program or with hostile actions against other states in the region — do not need to be checked for Trump and Iran's leadership to come to the table.

FAMILIAR REFRAINS

TRUMP, in an assortment of statements he repeats frequently: "For the vets we got Choice, we got Choice for the vets." "China's not doing too well, must be honest with you, worst year in 57 years." "So now we are taking and billions and billions of dollars from China when in the past we never got 10 cents, we never got money, we never got anything." — New Mexico rally on Sept 16.

THE FACTS: None of this is true.

President Barack Obama signed the law offering health-care choice for veterans; Trump expanded it. China's economy was not worse a half century ago than it is now. The U.S. has long collected tariffs, including on goods from China, and they are being paid primarily by U.S. importers and often by American consumers.

Borenstein reported from New York. Associated Press writers Tom Krisher in Detroit and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Darlene Superville, and Michael Biesecker in Washington contributed to this report.

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In cryptic tweet, Antonio Brown appears to retire from NFL

By JIMMY GOLEN AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Antonio Brown went on a Twitter rant on his first NFL Sunday without a team, announcing he was done for good with the league that exiled him. Even though, he claimed, it had been more lenient toward others facing allegations of sexual misconduct.

On the morning his most recent team was preparing to play without him, the fleet-footed but fleeting New England receiver said in a tweet: "Will not be playing in the NFL anymore" and took shots at Patriots owner Robert Kraft and longtime Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

Kraft was arrested in connection with a prostitution and sexual trafficking sting in a Florida massage

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 28 of 41

parlor and has not been punished; "Different strokes different folks clearly," Brown wrote.

Roethlisberger was suspended for four games in 2010 after he was accused of sexual assault for a second time. "4 games for Big Ben crazy world I'm done with it," Brown tweeted over a screenshot of a news article about the investigation.

Several of the tweets had been deleted by the time the Patriots kicked off against the New York Jets a couple of hours later.

One of the NFL's most prolific receivers for a decade, Brown was traded out of Pittsburgh and released in Oakland after wearing out his welcome in both cities.

The Patriots signed him anyway, and just days later a former trainer filed a civil lawsuit in Florida accusing him of rape. He played in one game, then was released after the team learned he tried to intimidate a second woman who accused him of sexual misconduct.

Asked by CBS before the game what led him to end things, Patriots coach Bill Belichick declined to comment.

Brown's first tweet on Sunday seemed to indicate that he will fight the Patriots' decision to withhold a \$9 million signing bonus. The first installment is due on Monday, and the Patriots are attempting to void the deal even though they played him in one game despite knowing about two separate accusations of sexual misconduct.

A person familiar with the process told The Associated Press that Brown has not yet filed a grievance, which the NFLPA would be obligated to pursue. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the grievance is not released to the public.

Brown had also been guaranteed \$29 million by the Raiders.

"Will not be playing in the @NFL anymore," he wrote. "These owners can cancel deals do whatever they want at anytime we will see if the @NFLPA hold them accountable sad they can just void guarantees anytime going on 40m 2 months will see if they pay up !"

Brown also appeared to condone threats made against the Sports Illustrated writer whose article included the allegations that led to Brown's release. Over a news article describing the threats from some Patriots fans, Brown wrote, "System working effectively."

That tweet also was deleted.

A four-time All-Pro who caught 837 passes over nine seasons with the Steelers, Brown wore out his welcome in Pittsburgh after he went missing for two days before the 2018 season finale. The Steelers traded him to Oakland, which signed him to a contract that would have paid him up to \$50 million over the next three seasons.

But he never played a game for the Raiders, quarreling with the coach and general manager until they, too, released him. The Patriots signed him only a few hours later, giving him a one-year deal.

Belichick also declined to comment on Brown after the 30-14 victory over the New York Jets. Special teams captain Matthew Slater wished the man who was briefly his teammate well.

"I wish everyone involved well," Slater said. "I'm not the type of person who would wish ill will on anyone. I always try to take a positive spin on things. That's where I'm going to leave it."

AP Pro Football Writer Barry Wilner contributed to this report.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

'Deficit of trust': At UN, leaders of a warming world gather

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The planet is getting hotter, and tackling that climate peril will grab the spotlight as world leaders gather for their annual meeting at the United Nations this week facing an undeniable backdrop: rising tensions from the Persian Gulf to Afghanistan and increasing nationalism, inequality and intolerance.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 29 of 41

Growing fear of military action, especially in response to recent attacks on Saudi oil installations that are key to world energy supplies, hangs over this year's General Assembly gathering. That unease is exacerbated by global conflicts and crises from Syria and Yemen to Venezuela, from disputes between Israel and the Palestinians to the Pakistan-India standoff over Kashmir.

All eyes will be watching presidents Donald Trump of the United States and Hassan Rouhani of Iran, whose countries are at the forefront of escalating tensions, to see if they can reduce fears of a confrontation that could impact the Mideast and far beyond. Whether the two will even meet remains in serious doubt.

"Our fraying world needs international cooperation more than ever, but simply saying it will not make it happen," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said. "Let's face it: We have no time to lose."

This year's General Assembly session, which starts Tuesday and ends Sept. 30, has attracted world leaders from 136 of the 193 U.N. member nations. That large turnout reflects a growing global focus on addressing climate change and the perilous state of peace and security.

Other countries will be represented by ministers and vice presidents — except Afghanistan, whose leaders are in a hotly contested presidential campaign ahead of Sept. 28 elections, and North Korea, which downgraded its representation from a minister to, likely, its U.N. ambassador. Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu canceled plans to attend and are sending ministers.

Last week, Guterres repeated warnings that "tensions are boiling over." The world, he said, "is at a critical moment on several fronts — the climate emergency, rising inequality, an increase in hatred and intolerance as well as an alarming number of peace and security challenges."

With so many monarchs, presidents and prime ministers at the U.N. this year, "we have a chance to advance diplomacy for peace," Guterres said. "This is the moment to cool tensions."

Whether that happens remains to be seen. Many diplomats aren't optimistic.

"It's a challenging time for the United Nations," said China's U.N. ambassador, Zhang Jun, whose nation is embroiled in a protracted dispute with the United States over tariffs. "We are faced with rising of unilateralism, protectionism, and we are faced with global challenges like climate change, like terrorism, like cybersecurity."

"More importantly," he said, "we are faced with a deficit of trust."

As the world's second-largest economy and a member of the U.N. Security Council, "China firmly defends multilateralism, and China firmly supports the United Nations," Zhang said Friday.

But divisions among the five council members — the U.S., Russia, China, Britain and France — have paralyzed action on the eight-year conflict in Syria and other global crises. On global warming, the Trump administration remains at odds with many countries.

This year, the U.N. has stocked the agenda with a "Youth Climate Summit" ahead of a full-on climate summit for world leaders on Monday. That's all happening before the leaders hold their annual meeting in the horseshoe-shaped General Assembly hall starting Tuesday morning.

Guterres will give his state-of-the-world address at the opening, immediately followed by speeches from Trump and other leaders including the presidents of Brazil, Egypt and Turkey. Iran's Rouhani is scheduled to address the assembly Wednesday morning.

The United Nations is also holding four other summit meetings — on universal health coverage, progress on the 17 U.N. goals to combat poverty and preserve the environment, new ways to finance economic development, and the situation of developing island nations on the front line of what the U.N. calls a climate emergency.

Guterres has long stressed the links among climate change, conflict and poverty.

U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed said data shows "how much we have to do on poverty and the other goals." The U.N. message, she said, is simple: "It's time to ratchet up the action that we need to have at the country level."

Though the summit meetings are public, much of the business of the high-level week takes place behind closed doors. According to U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric, there were 630 requests for meetings in

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 30 of 41

the United Nations. Hundreds of other one-on-one and small-group meetings will take place at hotels, at U.N. missions and at lunches and dinners.

Indian U.N. Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin said, for example, that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar will spend at least half an hour with presidents, prime ministers or foreign ministers of about 75 countries as part of the country's "much more intensive" engagement.

On the key issue of a possible meeting between Modi and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan to discuss the Aug. 5 decision by Modi's Hindu nationalist-led government to strip disputed Jammu and Kashmir of semi-autonomy and statehood, Akbaruddin said: "There has to be an enabling environment before leaders meet."

"Today the talk that is emanating from Pakistan is certainly not conducive to that enabling environment," he said.

Khan, for his part, said last week that his government will not hold talks until India lifts a curfew in Kashmir and reinstates the disputed region's special autonomous status.

On most pressing global issues, Akbaruddin — like many others — did not paint an appealing picture. "We meet in the context of greater competition rather than cooperation, less collaboration, more rivalry," he told reporters Friday. "The climate — other than on climate change — doesn't seem to be conducive for collaborative and cooperative effort. And that's the harsh reality."

Edith M. Lederer, chief United Nations correspondent for The Associated Press, has covered world affairs for nearly 50 years.

More AP coverage of the United Nations at <https://apnews.com/UnitedNations>

At UN General Assembly, Iran and US historically at odds

By TAMER FAKAHANY Associated Press

Iran has often commanded center stage at the annual U.N. gathering of world leaders, turning the organization's headquarters into an arena for arguments over the Persian Gulf's daily complexities and hostilities.

As Tehran's leadership prepares to address the U.N. General Assembly this week, there are fears that a wider conflict, dragging in Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United States, could erupt after a summer of heightened volatility in the region.

After the United States withdrew from the nuclear deal — and Washington hit Tehran with escalating sanctions — Iran has begun to break some of the limits that were set in return for sanctions relief.

Since the Islamic Revolution 40 years ago overthrew Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the diplomatic setting has been a primary stage for the airing of Iranian grievances against the West. In turn, the U.S. and Israel have condemned Tehran.

Here's a look back through the decades at Iran's presence at the high-profile event.

THE SHAH

It wasn't always the case of venturing into "enemy" territory for Iranian leaders when they visited the U.N. in New York. Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was a key U.S. ally for decades.

In 1949, an elegantly attired shah addressed the General Assembly, receiving a standing ovation. "Speaking on behalf of one of the smaller countries, I make this appeal: Do not fail us. Give us the future, give us the inner assurance of peace."

Four years later, a CIA-backed coup toppled Iran's elected prime minister and secured the shah's absolute monarchical and authoritarian power until his fall in 1979. The coup, which fueled decades of mistrust of the U.S., was a turning point in relations between the two countries.

AYATOLLAH KHAMENEI

In 1987, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, then Iran's president, spoke at the General Assembly on behalf of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the role Khamenei now holds. His speech was markedly

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 31 of 41

different from the shah's three decades earlier in terms of his appearance and the religious thrust. Said Khamenei:

"I come from Iran, the birthplace of the most famous — and yet the least known — revolution of contemporary history, a revolution based on God's religion and in line with the path of prophets and great divine reformers, a path that is as long as the entire human history."

Iran was in the midst of a 1980-1988 war with then U.S.-backed Saddam Hussein's Iraq that killed more than 1 million people on both sides, and saw Saddam use chemical weapons on his neighbor. Khamenei told the leaders: "The superpowers hypocritically call this war meaningless — a war that has been imposed on us. This is while they have always provided military, political and economic support for the invader that started the war."

MOHAMMAD KHATAMI

The relatively moderate Mohammad Khatami, president of Iran from 1997 to 2005, addressed the General Assembly several times, proposing a "Dialogue Among Civilizations" that the U.N. adopted in 2001.

It was a response to the "Clash of Civilizations" that had become a common trope to characterize dark years of enmity between Washington and Tehran, in particular, years that had seen the U.S. embassy hostage siege, the downing of an Iranian civilian airliner by the U.S. military with the loss of 290 lives and the Iran-Contra affair.

In his State of the Union address in 2002, months after the Sept. 11 attacks, then-President George W. Bush cast Iran as part of the "axis of evil," effectively undercutting any hope of engagement.

MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD

That era ushered in the hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, whose incendiary statements at the U.N. would overshadow all else.

In 2011, on the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, he prompted disgusted walkouts from more than 30 countries in the assembly as he questioned whether the attacks were staged. He suggested an inside job, arguing — just a few miles from ground zero — that only an explosion, and not planes, could have brought down the twin towers. He added that the death of Osama Bin Laden was a cover-up.

A group of Associated Press editors invited to interview Ahmadinejad that week asked him why he persisted in pushing this line. Stopping short of saying Washington carried out the explosion, he argued that, as an engineer, he was sure this was the only plausible answer.

HASSAN ROUHANI

The current Iranian leader, Hassan Rouhani, has spoken at the assembly for the last five years. By the time he spoke in 2015, he was bathed in the glow of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the Iran nuclear deal that had been agreed with world powers, including the U.S., earlier that year.

"I can now proudly announce that today, a new chapter has started in Iran's relations with the world."

By 2017, as he addressed the General Assembly again, Iran was contending with a U.S. president who had campaigned on his insistence that the agreement was "the worst deal in history." Rouhani hit back at Trump, who had used his first U.N. speech to accuse Iran of exporting violence and destabilizing the region.

Rouhani blasted Trump's comments as "ignorant, absurd and hateful rhetoric filled with ridiculously baseless allegations."

Both men will be at the podium again this week before a watching world that wonders if what happens at the United Nations will translate into direct military confrontation half a world away.

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More AP coverage of the United Nations at <https://apnews.com/UnitedNations>

In gun buyback talk, how do you round up so many weapons?

By LISA MARIE PANE Associated Press

Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke's recent vow to take away people's AR-15 and AK-47 rifles raised one big question: How is it possible to round up the millions of such guns that exist in the United States?

The number of AR-15 and AK-47s in the U.S. is estimated at a staggering 16 million, creating logistical challenges to take them out of circulation. Many gun owners are also unwilling to turn over the weapons, and if the government offered to buy them all back at face value, the price tag could easily run into the billions of dollars.

O'Rourke's pointed declaration during a recent debate — "Hell yes, we're gonna take your AR-15, your AK-47" — stoked longstanding fears among gun owners that Democrats are less interested in safety or finding a middle ground, and just want to confiscate guns. Even some gun-control advocates aren't so sure that confiscating firearms will work.

"In some regards, this horse is out of the barn," said David Chipman, a retired agent with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and now the senior policy adviser for the Giffords group. "For years we've allowed these to be sold."

O'Rourke's remarks came in the wake of several high-profile shootings, including two in his home state of Texas that involved AR- or AK-style guns, which resemble military-style weapons and generally carry more rounds than regular rifles. A summer of carnage was marked by shootings in Gilroy, California; El Paso, Texas; Dayton, Ohio; and in a 10-mile stretch between Midland and Odessa, Texas. In all, more than 40 people were killed and about 100 were wounded in the attacks.

The prospect of significant gun measures has faded in recent weeks under the Republican-controlled Senate and President Donald Trump, and Democratic candidates have offered a range of proposals for what they would do on guns if elected president.

O'Rourke believes that most people would follow the law and turn their weapons in under his proposal for a mandatory buyback program and assault weapons ban. He also wants to outlaw high-capacity magazines and expand background checks.

Cory Booker has proposed a similar program that would involve civil penalties for those who fail to comply and hand in their AR-15s. They would not be subject to criminal offenses, however.

There is a precedent for the ideas proposed by O'Rourke and Booker, as difficult as they would be to implement.

The Trump administration recently banned bump stocks — devices that allow semiautomatic long guns to mimic fully automatic fire — and ordered owners to turn them in to be destroyed. But there were only about a half million of those devices, and they cost far less than an AR, which can run upwards of \$1,000 or more. The ban was largely based on an honor system, though Washington state did offer a buyback program that quickly exhausted the \$150,000 set aside to shell out \$150 each device turned in.

In 1994, then-President Bill Clinton enacted an assault weapons ban, at a time when there were an estimated 1.5 million of them in circulation. Existing owners were allowed to keep them, however, and once the ban expired a decade later, sales resumed and boomed.

Machine guns like M-16s were outlawed by Congress in 1986, but they can still be owned under a tightly regulated process. Small numbers remain in circulation, largely because of the restrictions.

Democratic candidates pushing gun buybacks have also pointed to similar moves in Australia and New Zealand. However, the number of AR-style long guns in those countries pales in comparison to the United States, and neither has gun rights enshrined in their constitutions.

Chipman believes an assault weapon ban should be handled similar to the machine gun rules, requiring they be registered and heavily regulated but not confiscated.

"I think it would be far more likely that we would find more of the weapons under comprehensive regulation by the government than sort of a forced buyback ban scenario," he said.

There's also the optics of the government taking away guns, presenting another challenge for the Demo-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 33 of 41

cratic proposals.

The idea of outlawing and then rounding up firearms alarmed many gun owners who believe it will not solve the problem of gun violence and would only serve to take firearms away from law-abiding Americans. They point out that while AR-style guns have been used in some high-profile mass shootings, most gun deaths involve handguns.

"Once you start talking about taking guns away, especially legally owned firearms by responsible gun owners, you're just going to alienate a whole huge portion of American citizens. They're just not going to stand for that," said Chris Waltz, the president and CEO of AR-15 Gun Owners of America. "This is what they feared."

The marketplace for the guns has shifted as well. Connecticut-based gunmaker Colt announced last week it was ceasing production of AR-15 style rifles for the civilian market, citing a saturated market. The company will keep making the guns for law enforcement, which is a big portion of the market.

Of the estimated 16 million AR-style guns that are in circulation, about half of them are owned by current or former members of the military or law enforcement, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

Then, there are the logistics of actually getting millions of firearms handed over. Some law enforcement experts question whether a mass confiscation of firearms could be done effectively or safely.

Even some self-identified liberals who own firearms question the legality of gun confiscation and even the practicality.

"Constitutional rights aren't based on what you like. What's the slippery slope of this?" said Lara C. Smith, the national spokeswoman for the Liberal Gun Club, a nonprofit group of liberal gun owners. "If they're going to take away these rights, what other rights are they going to take away?"

Smith, who lives in San Diego and owns an AR-15, contends that calls for outlawing AR-style firearms are based on ignorance and misunderstanding. The rifles are simply modular, she said, capable of being customized with different grips, adjustable stocks and scopes, for example — features that might give it a military-style appearance, but do not make it any more lethal than any other firearm.

Arab lawmakers in Israel endorse Gantz for prime minister

By ARON HELLER Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Arab bloc in Israel's parliament abandoned its usual hands-off stance Sunday and endorsed former military chief Benny Gantz for prime minister, potentially giving him the edge over hard-line incumbent Benjamin Netanyahu.

The historic move marked the first time in nearly three decades that the Arab parties backed a candidate for prime minister, reflecting their contempt for Netanyahu, who was accused of fomenting hatred of the Arabs during his re-election campaign.

"Benny Gantz is not our cup of tea," said Arab lawmaker Ahmad Tibi. "But we promised our constituents that we would do everything to topple Netanyahu, and the default here is recommending Benny Gantz."

It will be up to Israeli President Reuven Rivlin to decide which candidate should be given the chance to form a coalition government and serve as prime minister — a usually pro forma task made difficult this time by last week's deadlocked parliamentary elections.

Neither Gantz, the leader of the centrist Blue and White party, nor Netanyahu, head of the conservative Likud movement, has a majority in the 120-seat Knesset, or 61 members. But with the backing of the Arab parties, Gantz gained a slight advantage. He could have as many as 57 backers, compared with Netanyahu's 55.

Maverick politician Avigdor Lieberman, head of the mid-size Yisrael Beitenu party, controls the final eight seats, making him the key powerbroker. But he announced Sunday that he isn't endorsing either candidate.

The endorsement by the Joint List, a bloc of four small Arab parties that controls 13 seats, marked a turning point in Israeli politics. Arab parties have traditionally refrained from endorsing a candidate for prime minister, and they have never sat in a coalition government, not wanting to be seen as legitimizing

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 34 of 41

Israeli policies.

Although many Israeli Arabs remain angry at Gantz for leading the military's devastating war against Gaza militants in 2014, their fury toward Netanyahu runs much deeper. Netanyahu's campaign repeatedly accused the Arabs of trying to "steal" the election, drawing accusations of racism and incitement.

There is also deep-seated anger over a law passed by Netanyahu's government in 2018 that declared Israel to be the nation-state of the Jewish people. Arabs believe the law codifies discrimination.

Though the Arab parties are still expected to stay out of Gantz's future government, their endorsement reflects a growing desire of Israel's large Arab minority to take a more active role in shaping the country.

In an op-ed piece in The New York Times, Ayman Odeh, the leader of the Joint List, argued that his move should end Netanyahu's political career and provide a watershed moment for Israel's Arab minority.

"If the center-left parties of Israel believe that Arab Palestinian citizens have a place in this country, they must accept that we have a place in its politics," he wrote. "There is no shared future without the full and equal participation of Arab Palestinian citizens."

Netanyahu reacted by saying: "As we warned, the Arab parties that oppose Israel as a Jewish and democratic state and glorify terrorists recommended Gantz for prime minister."

The Arab parties' decision does not guarantee Gantz will be prime minister. The president usually appoints the candidate with the most supporters, but not necessarily. Rivlin has wide discretion.

In last week's vote, Blue and White won 33 seats, while Likud took 31.

The deciding factor looks to be Lieberman, who is demanding a broad unity government with the two major parties that will be secular and exclude the ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties and Arabs. That appears to be the compromise emerging between Blue and White and Likud, though both are insisting upon leading it.

Complicating matters is Blue and White's refusal to sit with Netanyahu because he faces a likely indictment on corruption charges.

Odeh said he is planning on becoming opposition leader in the case of a unity government. As the leader of the largest party in opposition, he would be entitled to the position, which includes meetings with visiting world leaders and access to sensitive security information.

Rivlin has not indicated which way he is leading. But he said he interpreted the will of the people as yearning for a "stable" government. "And there can't be a stable government without the two big parties," the 80-year-old president said.

Last week's vote was Israel's second election in five months. Netanyahu was unable to form a coalition after April's balloting.

In calling a new election, Netanyahu had hoped to secure a narrow majority of hard-line and religious parties that would grant him immunity from prosecution on charges that could include bribery, breach of trust and fraud. But now that possibility appears to be off the table.

Israeli law does not require a sitting premier to resign if indicted. But if he is charged, as is widely expected, he will come under heavy pressure to step down.

Iran asks West to leave Persian Gulf as tensions heightened

By NASSER KARIMI Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's president called Sunday on Western powers to leave the security of the Persian Gulf to regional nations led by Tehran, criticizing a new U.S.-led coalition patrolling the region's waterways as nationwide parades showcased the Islamic Republic's military arsenal.

Hassan Rouhani separately promised to unveil a regional peace plan at this week's upcoming high-level meetings at the United Nations, which comes amid heightened Mideast tensions following a series of attacks, including a missile-and-drone assault on Saudi Arabia's oil industry.

The U.S. alleges Iran carried out the Sept. 14 attack on the world's largest oil processor in the kingdom and an oil field, which caused oil prices to spike by the biggest percentage since the 1991 Gulf War. While Yemen's Iranian-allied Houthi rebels claimed the assault, Saudi Arabia says it was "unquestionably sponsored by Iran."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 35 of 41

For its part, Iran denies being responsible and has warned any retaliatory attack targeting it will result in an "all-out war." That's as it has begun enriching uranium beyond the terms of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which the U.S. unilaterally withdrew from over a year earlier.

Rouhani spoke from a riser at the parade in Tehran, with uniformed officers from the country's military and its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard beside him. The cleric later watched as marching soldiers carrying submachine guns and portable missile launchers drove past as part of "Holy Defense Week," which marks the start of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980.

Rouhani said Iran was willing to "extend the hand of friendship and brotherhood" to Persian Gulf nations and was "even ready to forgive their past mistakes."

"Those who want to link the region's incidents to the Islamic Republic of Iran are lying like their past lies that have been revealed," the president said. "If they are truthful and really seek security in the region, they must not send weapons, fighter jets, bombs and dangerous arms to the region."

Rouhani added that the U.S. and Western nations should "distance" themselves from the region.

"Your presence has always been a calamity for this region and the farther you go from our region and our nations, the more security would come for our region," he said.

He said Iran's plan would focus on providing security in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman "with help from regional countries." Iran has boosted its naval cooperation with China, India, Oman, Pakistan, and Russia in recent years.

The U.S. maintains defense agreements across the Persian Gulf with allied Arab nations and has tens of thousands of troops stationed in the region. Since 1980, it has viewed the region as crucial to its national security, given its energy exports. A fifth of all oil traded passes through the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf. The U.S. plans to send additional troops to the region over the tensions.

The parades and maneuvers Sunday appeared aimed at projecting Iranian strength with naval vessels, submarines and armed speedboats swarmed across the Persian Gulf and troops showed off land-to-sea missiles capable of targeting the U.S. Navy. Commandos fast-roped down onto the deck of a ship, resembling Iran's July seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker.

Iranian ship seizures, as well as oil tanker explosions that the U.S. blames on Iran, saw America create a new coalition to protect Mideast waters. So far, Australia, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to join it.

Iranian parliament speaker Ali Larijani called the U.S.-led coalition a "a new means for plundering the region," according to Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency.

"We regard the emergence of such coalitions as the start of a new game to make the region insecure," Larijani said, according to Tasnim.

Iran separately displayed its Khordad-3 surface-to-air missile that downed a U.S. military surveillance drone in the Strait of Hormuz in June.

Sunday also marked the one-year anniversary of an attack on a military parade in Ahvaz that killed 25 people. Both separatists and the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the assault, while Iran blamed Saudi Arabia and the UAE for allegedly supporting the attackers. Both nations denied the claim, though a propaganda video published by a semi-official news agency in Iran close to the Guard later circulated threatening them with missile attacks.

Associated Press writer Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

World leaders feel the heat in upcoming climate summit

By **SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer**

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Saying humanity is waging war with the planet, the head of the United Nations isn't planning to let just any world leader speak about climate change at Monday's special "action summit."

Only those with new, specific and bold plans can command the podium and the ever-warming world's attention, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 36 of 41

So sit down, Brazil. Sit down, Saudi Arabia. Sit down, Poland.

"People can only speak if they come with positive steps. That is kind of a ticket," Guterres said. "For bad news don't come."

As if to underscore the seriousness of the problem, the U.N.'s World Meteorological Organization released a science report Sunday showing that in the last several years, warming, sea level rise and carbon pollution have all accelerated.

Brazil's, Poland's and Saudi Arabia's proposals for dealing with climate change fell short, so they're not on Monday's summit schedule. The United States didn't even bother, according to a U.N. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The bar isn't that high: Leaders from 64 nations, the European Union, more than a dozen companies and banks, a few cities and a state will present plans at the secretary-general's Climate Action Summit.

Guterres wants nations to be carbon-neutral by 2050 — in other words, they will not add more heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the air than are removed by plants and perhaps technology each year. On Sunday, 87 countries around the world pledged to decarbonize in a way consistent with one of the international community's tightest temperature goals.

There is a sense of urgency, Guterres said, because "climate change is the defining issue of our time."

"For the first time, there is a serious conflict between people and nature, between people and the planet," Guterres said.

He wants countries to commit to no new coal power plants after 2020 and reduce carbon pollution by 45% in the next century. The purpose of the summit is to come up with new green proposals a year earlier than the 2020 deadline that is in the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

On Sunday, the United Nations announced that it will cut its own carbon pollution 25% in the next six years and 45% by 2030.

World leaders agreed in 2009 to try to keep warming to just 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times. Then in 2015 they added a secondary, tougher goal, at the urging of small islands, to keep warming to just 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

The new weather agency report showed that the world has warmed already by 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit). So that means the goals are to limit further warming to 0.9 degrees Celsius (1.6 degrees Fahrenheit) from now or even 0.4 degrees Celsius (0.72 degrees Fahrenheit) from now.

Efforts to reduce carbon pollution need to be tripled to keep from hitting the 2-degree Celsius mark and must increase fivefold to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times, the World Meteorological Organization report said.

As bad as that sounds, it's wrong and overly optimistic to use the mid-1880s as the benchmark, said Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann. Mann said that many studies, including the WMO's, are overlooking that the world warmed 0.2 degrees Celsius (0.36 degrees Fahrenheit) from human causes between the mid-1700s and the 1880s.

The weather agency said the last five years were the warmest five on record and even 0.2 degrees Celsius (0.36 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter than the first half of the decade, a significant jump in just a few years.

"There is a growing recognition that climate impacts are hitting harder and sooner than climate assessments indicated even a decade ago," the 28-page report said.

If the world keeps temperatures to the 1.5-degree Celsius goal instead of the 2-degree one, 420 million fewer people will be exposed to heat waves and 10 million fewer will be vulnerable to sea level rise, NASA climate scientist Cynthia Rosenzweig said Sunday at a U.N. session.

A larger, more international report looking at climate change and oceans and ice will be released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on Wednesday.

"This new WMO report highlights the importance of making more progress on reducing emissions of carbon dioxide," Cornell University climate scientist Natalie Mahowald said. "Hopefully this latest U.N. Climate Summit will motivate more action."

From IS camp, Syrian family returns home to a hostile city

By SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

RAQQA, Syria (AP) — After two years on the run with the Islamic State group, Um Mahmoud just wanted to return home. When she finally made it to Raqqa with her daughters and grandchildren, she found her home partially burned but livable. She also found a hostile city reluctant to take her back.

The 53-year-old seamstress had returned from al-Hol camp, where 73,000 people, most of them families of IS militants, have been kept since the territorial defeat of the group in March.

But there is little trust in the returnees in Raqqa, which IS ruled with a brutal hand for years and which suffered massive devastation in the fight to drive it out. Um Mahmoud's neighbors and relatives in Raqqa have shunned her.

"No one asks about us," said the mother of six. "Relatives are ... afraid of us."

Her return, in June, is part of an experiment by the U.S.-backed Kurdish-led administration that runs northeastern Syria — an attempt to bring reconciliation to Raqqa after the upheaval that tore apart its social fabric.

City administrators have allowed the return of nearly 700 families from al-Hol. The camp includes some 30,000 Syrians, mostly women and children, along with tens of thousands of Iraqis and hundreds of foreigners. Most of those foreigners' home countries have refused to take them back.

The administration here argues it's better to bring the families back into the fold rather than leave them stewing in radicalism. The return is coordinated with Arab tribal sheikhs, who vouch for the returnees, acting as guarantors they will not cause trouble. Thousands more Syrians in the camp have applied to return.

The results of the experiment are still uncertain, Um Mahmoud's case makes clear. She and her family spoke on condition they not be identified by their full names because of the stigma they face. Um Mahmoud means mother of Mahmoud in Arabic, a common way of addressing women in the Arab and Muslim world that uses the name of their firstborn son.

She and her family fled Raqqa in the summer of 2017 when IS ordered their neighborhood evacuated in the face of advances by the U.S.-backed forces and coalition airstrikes. They moved with the retreating militants from town to town over the following months, until the group's final showdown in the eastern village of Baghouz. Two of her sons and a son-in-law were killed while fighting or working for IS.

She emerged from Baghouz and was sent to al-Hol along with her three daughters and three grandchildren. Her husband, father, her surviving 14-year-old son and a son-in-law are in detention with the Kurdish-led forces. The son-in-law was sentenced to a year in prison for membership in IS, though it was determined he didn't fight.

Without her male relatives, Um Mahmoud returned to a Raqqa that is trying to move on.

Streets that were once unidentifiable under piles of debris have been cleared, and municipality workers are keeping them clean.

Many tall buildings in the skyline are still bombed-out skeletons, but residents have moved in, rebuilding apartments or opening shops. New restaurants have sprung up, some along the banks of the river running across the city. Billboards rise over busy streets. One advertised a new wedding planning business that commissions singers, banned under IS. Vegetables from nearby farms color street stands. Public parks brim with children and their families.

Officials say more than 800,000 people have returned to the city and its suburbs, nearly eight times the number who were still left in the city when IS was finally expelled in October 2017.

Local officials said they restored 18 of 24 water pumping stations damaged by fighting. More than 300 schools, out of 800, now operate with tens of thousands of students. The U.S.-led coalition has trained more than 7,500 men and women for Raqqa's internal security forces and refurbished 20 bridges destroyed in the fighting.

A U.S. State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity to brief reporters, said "very targeted" spending has been going into newly liberated areas to ensure that IS doesn't return. Washington, which last year froze its own planned funding for stabilization in northeast Syria, has raised more than

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 38 of 41

\$325 million from other nations for recovery operations.

The official, however, acknowledged that the "mission is not complete."

IS retreated to desert areas and melted in among the population. It's now waging a counterinsurgency, targeting local officials and security checkpoints. At least six attacks were recorded in Raqqa alone in August, compared to none the month before, according to the Rojava Information Center.

The violence only stokes Raqqa residents' suspicions.

Osama, who runs a shop selling phone credit in Raqqa, said Kurdish-led authorities are too lenient on IS supporters in court and shouldn't allow them back.

"Who can guarantee they don't return to their old ways?" he said.

He refused to share his last name out of fear for his security. During their rule, IS militants threatened to cut his tongue for his vocal criticism. His shop is on al-Naim Square, which became notorious for beheadings, shootings and other public punishments the group carried out there. Now it has been renamed Freedom Square.

"If France and Germany refuse to take their own nationals, it must be for a good reason. Why should we take ours?" he said.

Um Mahmoud's sponsor, Sheikh Hweidi al-Shalsh, said that view is short-sighted.

Women and children in al-Hol camp are steeped in radical ideology, he said, feeding more radicalism unless they are removed.

"If there is no security, the return of the people of Raqqa will ensure it is restored," al-Shalsh said.

He extolled the benefits of tribal restorative justice. If someone is killed, tribal sheikhs get together to find a resolution. "We are a tribal Muslim society first and foremost. Our nature is to forgive ... We are a family."

Um Mahmoud scrapes out a living selling second-hand clothes in the market. She sold her gold bracelets to start up the business.

Unlike most in the city, she and her daughters still follow the women's dress imposed by IS, covering not only their faces with a veil but also their eyes and hands. "The State is gone, but we are still implementing God's laws," she said, defending the choice.

She is stunned by how her neighbors have ostracized her.

"Look at this! They have electricity and we don't. This one and that one," she said pointing at her neighbors' houses. "They don't feel for us. We are women sitting in the dark alone and they have 24 hours a day electricity. Is this what you call freedom?"

Since electricity has not been fully restored, residents rely on generators for power and traditionally share among themselves. Um Mahmoud's neighbors refused to share with her.

Um Mahmoud admitted her sons and sons-in-law fought for or were members of IS, but she said her family never hurt the neighbors. She accused them of trying to curry favor with the new authorities.

Her family also said they encountered problems with city officials, despite promises of reintegration.

When her daughter, Somaiya, asked to visit her imprisoned husband, authorities requested proof of marriage. But the local official refused to issue her the document, declaring her an IS supporter. Somaiya went three times, once removing her face veil to avoid the IS label, to no avail. This means she also can't enroll her son in school.

A senior Kurdish official, not familiar with this specific case, denied new returnees are refused documents and said the reason must be procedural. The whole point is reintegration, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The American official said the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces and local authorities are leading the reintegration effort, while the U.S.-backed coalition gives indirect support.

Once her husband is released from prison, Somaiya wants to move to a new neighborhood where no one recognizes them.

For Um Mahmoud, life would change if her husband, father and son return. She said they never carried weapons and should be allowed back. To prove she wants to fit in, she said her son will join the new

Kurdish-led forces once he returns.

For now, she doesn't know where they are.

"Not a night passes without thinking about them. If we can only learn their news, whether they are well or if they are dead," she said.

"We are patiently waiting until God resolves it and we return to our normal life."

Democrats blast latest Trump crisis. But what will they do?

By LISA MASCARO and STEVE PEOPLES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A whistleblower's complaint over President Donald Trump's interactions with a foreign leader is testing the political and practical power Democrats can use against a Republican in the White House who so brazenly ignores protocol and presidential norms.

Democrats were unanimous in their condemnation of Trump for going to extraordinary lengths to tear down a chief political rival by asking the new leader of Ukraine to investigate the son of former Vice President Joe Biden. But even as calls for impeachment amplified — Elizabeth Warren blasted Congress as "complicit" in Trump's transgressions — there were no signs that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi would move quickly to try to remove the president.

Allies of Biden, the early front-runner in the Democratic presidential primary, seized on the developments to portray him as the candidate Trump least wants to face next fall.

But the controversy could just as easily revive interest in the business activities of Biden's son, which would do little to further his campaign. Taken together, the developments bear a striking resemblance to the tumult of the 2016 campaign, in which Trump was accused of enlisting a foreign power to help him win an election.

The president on Saturday denied any wrongdoing, and his most vocal allies and critics were energized. Political operatives in both parties suggested that for many increasingly numb to a constant sense of crisis, the fresh explosion of political drama may not seem so alarming.

One thing is becoming clear: Trump is more than willing to cast aside norms to gain a political advantage.

Jesse Ferguson, a Democratic strategist and former top aide to Hillary Clinton, said the country "has to be ready for the president to try to weaponize the government against them in a way we've never seen before in American history."

The president on Saturday embraced the parallels to the 2016 campaign and predicted he would prevail again in 2020.

Trump said the latest allegations from a government whistleblower are "just as ridiculous as the others," branding it "the Ukraine Witch Hunt" — a nod to former special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe, which he mocked as a "witch hunt."

"Will fail again!" Trump tweeted.

The complaint from the intelligence community whistleblower is based on a series of events, including what sources now say is Trump's conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The conversation happened on July 25, just a day after Mueller wrapped up his own work by testifying on Capitol Hill.

Trump urged Zelenskyy to probe the activities of Biden's son Hunter, who had worked for a Ukrainian gas company, according to a person who was briefed on the call.

For legal scholars and ethics watchdogs, the interaction between Trump and the foreign leader is seen as nothing less than a pressure campaign that cuts to the core of the nation's public corruption and bribery laws. It came as the White House was holding up \$250 million in military aid for Ukraine. Even if there was no quid-pro-quo from the president, the conversation could be seen by legal experts as improper.

"It appears that the president might have used his official powers — in particular, perhaps the threat of withholding a quarter-billion dollars in military aid — to leverage a foreign government into helping him defeat a potential political opponent in the United States," wrote lawyer George T. Conway III, who is married to a top Trump adviser, and Neal Katyal, a Georgetown University law professor and former acting solicitor general, in an op-ed in The Washington Post. "If Trump did that, it would be the ultimate

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 40 of 41

impeachable act.”

Campaigning in Iowa on Saturday, Joe Biden said the president “deserves to be investigated,” but he stopped short of calling for impeachment.

“He’s using the abuse of power and every element of the presidency to try to do something to smear me,” Biden told reporters.

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., said Trump’s actions show “Joe Biden is correctly perceived by President Trump as the greatest threat to his re-election.”

It’s less clear whether the situation may ultimately hurt Biden, who has claimed the moral high ground in his 2020 campaign. When speaking about his experience as vice president, Biden often says he’s most proud of the lack of scandal during his eight years in the Obama White House. Trump’s allies hope that the focus on Biden’s involvement in Ukraine may begin to chip away at his squeaky clean image.

“The longer we talk about what the Bidens did in Ukraine, the better,” said Barry Bennett, a former Trump campaign adviser, who dismissed those who believe Trump will pay a political price for the latest controversy.

The questions about Hunter Biden have circulated for years, particularly in conservative circles, after he was hired in 2014 by Burisma Holdings, whose founder had been a political ally of Russia-friendly former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich. At the time questions were raised about whether the Ukrainian firm was seeking to gain influence with the Obama administration through its employment of Joe Biden’s son.

This year, Trump’s personal lawyer Rudolph Giuliani revived interest in the issue and said he reached out directly to the Ukrainian government.

Joe Biden said he’s never spoken to his son about his overseas business dealings. Hunter Biden has denied the claims that he used his influence with his father to aid Burisma, saying the criticism is false and stoked by far-right political critics.

While Sen. Warren and other Democrats say there’s no choice but to start impeachment proceedings, other Democrats have been reluctant to launch a process they say could scare away more moderate and centrist voters, especially for lawmakers in Congress.

Pelosi showed no signs of moving off her position that Congress must continue to investigate the administration and not start impeachment proceedings unless the American public demands it. Instead, she said that Trump faces “repercussions” if the whistleblower’s allegations prove true and she said it’s time to change the law to make sure future presidents can be indicted for wrongdoing.

Democratic strategist Jeffrey Pollock, who was a pollster for former presidential candidate Kirsten Gillibrand, suggested that the latest explosive allegations against the Republican president would have little impact on the broader 2020 debate.

“To date, no scandal has seemed to impact Donald Trump on its own,” Pollock said. “And the fact that this one involves a political rival I suspect is no different.”

Associated Press writers Alexandra Jaffe and Tom Beaumont in Des Moines, Iowa, and Stephen Braun in Washington contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Sept. 23, the 266th day of 2019. There are 99 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Sept. 23, 1806, the Lewis and Clark expedition returned to St. Louis more than two years after setting out for the Pacific Northwest.

On this date:

In 63 B.C., Caesar Augustus, the first Roman emperor, was born.

In 1780, British spy John Andre was captured along with papers revealing Benedict Arnold’s plot to sur-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 084 ~ 41 of 41

render West Point to the British.

In 1846, Neptune was identified as a planet by German astronomer Johann Gottfried Galle (GAH'-luh).

In 1926, Gene Tunney scored a ten-round decision over Jack Dempsey to win the world heavyweight boxing title in Philadelphia.

In 1949, President Harry S. Truman announced there was evidence the Soviet Union had recently conducted a nuclear test explosion. (The test had been carried out on Aug. 29, 1949.)

In 1952, Sen. Richard M. Nixon, R-Calif., salvaged his vice-presidential nomination by appearing on television from Los Angeles to refute allegations of improper campaign fundraising in what became known as the "Checkers" speech.

In 1955, a jury in Sumner, Mississippi, acquitted two white men, Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam, of murdering black teenager Emmett Till. (The two men later admitted to the crime in an interview with Look magazine.)

In 1957, nine black students who'd entered Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas were forced to withdraw because of a white mob outside.

In 1987, Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., withdrew from the Democratic presidential race following questions about his use of borrowed quotations and the portrayal of his academic record.

In 2001, President George W. Bush returned the American flag to full staff at Camp David, symbolically ending a period of national mourning following the 9/11 attacks.

In 2002, Gov. Gray Davis signed a law making California the first state to offer workers paid family leave.

In 2005, Hurricane Rita, down to Category 3, steamed toward refinery towns along the Texas-Louisiana coast, creating havoc even before it arrived; levee breaks caused new flooding in New Orleans, and 23 people were killed when a bus carrying nursing-home evacuees caught fire in Texas.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama addressed the U.N. General Assembly, where he challenged world leaders to shoulder more of the globe's critical burdens, warning they could no longer castigate the U.S. as a go-it-alone bully while still demanding it cure all ills.

Five years ago: In the first international test for his climate-change strategy, President Barack Obama pressed world leaders at the United Nations to follow the United States' lead on the issue. The U.S. struck the al-Qaida-linked Khorasan group with Tomahawk missiles and other ordnance near Aleppo in northwestern Syria based on fears it was planning terrorist attacks on the U.S. and Europe. A man wearing his work uniform opened fire inside a UPS sorting facility in Birmingham, Alabama, a day after he was fired from the company, killing two supervisors before committing suicide.

One year ago: As negotiators reached agreement on a hearing at which Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and the woman accusing him of sexual assault, Christine Blasey Ford, would testify, there was a second allegation of sexual misconduct by Kavanaugh; the second accuser said it took place during Kavanaugh's first year at Yale University. More than a week after Hurricane Florence slammed into the Carolinas, rivers continued to rise, with thousands of coastal residents being warned that they may need to leave their homes. Capping a comeback from four back surgeries, Tiger Woods won the Tour Championship in Atlanta, the 80th victory of his PGA Tour career and his first in more than five years.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Julio Iglesias is 76. Actor Paul Petersen (TV: "The Donna Reed Show") is 74. Actress-singer Mary Kay Place is 72. Rock star Bruce Springsteen is 70. Director/playwright George C. Wolfe is 65. Rock musician Leon Taylor (The Ventures) is 64. Actress Rosalind Chao is 62. Golfer Larry Mize is 61. Actor Jason Alexander is 60. Actor Chi McBride is 58. Country musician Don Herron (BR549) is 57. Actor Erik Todd Dellums is 55. Actress LisaRaye is 53. Singer Ani (AH'-nee) DiFranco is 49. Rock singer Sam (formerly Sarah) Bettens (K's Choice) is 47. Recording executive Jermaine Dupri is 47. Actor Kip Pardue is 43. Actor Anthony Mackie is 41. Pop singer Erik-Michael Estrada (TV: "Making the Band") is 40. Actress Aubrey Dollar is 39. Actor Brandon Victor Dixon is 38. Actor David Lim is 36. Pop singer Diana Ortiz (Dream) is 34. Actress Cush Jumbo is 34. Actor Skylar Astin is 32. Tennis player Melanie Oudin (oo-DAN') is 28.

Thought for Today: "I cannot endure to waste anything as precious as autumn sunshine by staying in the house." — Nathaniel Hawthorne, American author (1804-1864).

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