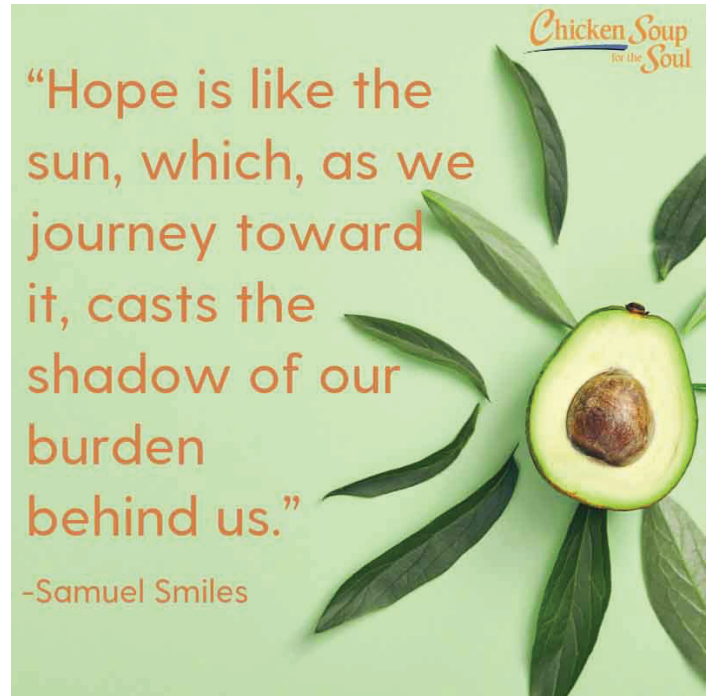


Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 1 of 50

- [1- Tonight on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [2- Superintendent report to school board](#)
- [3- Elementary Principal Report to school board](#)
- [4- MS/HS Principal Report to school board](#)
- [5- School Fund Balance History report](#)
- [5- General Fund balance becoming an issue for Groton Area](#)
- [6- National Gas Price Average Jumps by a Dime in One Week](#)
- [7- Weather Pages](#)
- [10- Daily Devotional](#)
- [11- 2019 Groton Events](#)
- [12- News from the Associated Press](#)



Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

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.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



Warner Monarchs VS



Groton Area Tigers

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019

7:15 p.m. at Warner

Sponsored by Dakota Risk Management

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 2 of 50

Superintendent's Report to the Groton Area School District 06-6 Board of Education

September 23, 2019

Elementary Tuck Pointing. The tuck pointing work is nearly complete. The work remaining is in the playground area and will need to be completed when we are not in session. A representative from JLG Architects is planning to be on site tomorrow to assess project progress.

MS/HS Boiler. The boiler vessel and burner are on site and moved into the boiler room. Allied Climate can begin installation and there is no reason to believe there will be any issues with project completion before the boiler is needed.

Enrollment. As of this afternoon, our district-wide enrollment is at 585. The official fall child count day is Friday, September 27.

Opioid Antagonist Training. On Tuesday, September 19, I participated in an online training for the administration of opioid antagonist medication (Narcan). The training last approximately 45 minutes and will be shared with other staff members when the recording becomes available. State law passed during the 2019 legislative session allows schools to obtain and administer Narcan after meeting certain criteria, one of which is attendance mandatory training. We will also need to consider policy that addresses this topic.

Policy Revisions. I am working on policy recommendations for amendments to approximately twenty district policies using material provided by the Associated School Board of South Dakota. I hope to have recommendations for the Personnel, Policy, and Curriculum committee for their consideration ahead of our October 14 board meeting.

Buildings, Grounds, Transportation Committee. The committee and I met on 9/23/2019 to begin looking at priorities and options for the FY2021 capital outlay budget.

Personnel Record Forms. The annual submission of personnel record forms to the SDDOE is underway and will hopefully be completed by the end of the week. Submission is an annual requirement tied to educator certification and compensation accountability (since 2016).

Interviews Scheduled. Mr. Brett Schwan and I have interviews scheduled for the elementary paraprofessional vacancy for Thursday afternoon and Friday morning of this week.

DOE Accreditation Submission. I've submitted the additional documentation to the SDDOE in regard to how our teachers meet state content standards and am now awaiting their response. Our initial submission and meeting with DOE was in March of 2019. We received their first response in July and our additional documentation had a due date of October 1.

2019 Special Education Review. Our special education department is having a general supervision review on Thursday, October 10. We've had an initial submission turned in to our review team lead in their preparation for our review. Our review team is Kylie Steever (Results Driven Accountability Specialist), Cindy Kirshman (Transition Liaison), Jodi Berscheid (State Representative) and Wendy Hodson (Team Lead). We will begin on the 10th with an entrance conference at 8:30 AM and conclude with an exit conference at approximately 3:30 PM. The review will include verification of our 2018 December child count, technical assistance through file review, indicator 13 (transition) review, review of our comprehensive plan, and verification of teacher certification. They may conduct interviews with staff members and administrators as well. Following their review, the District will be required to correct any errors discovered.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 3 of 50

Board Report

Elementary Principal

9/23/19

Enrollment:

- JK: 12
- KG: 48
- 1st: 41
- 2nd: 45
- 3rd: 40
- 4th: 47
- 5th: 43
- Total: 276
- PS: 8

Preschool Developmental Screening on September 24 and 25: Parents of children age 3 in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to either confirm their screening time or set up a time. Letters will be send out the week of September 8. If your child is already receiving services or enrolled at Groton Elementary School they will not need to be screened. If your child has already been screened but you have concerns please contact the elementary school. If you are new to the district and have a child under the age of 5, we also ask you to contact the elementary school.

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

OST Coffee/Snack Fundraiser: Please help us support our OST program.

ESL/RtI Para interviews will be this week. Mr. Schwan and I hope to have everything wrapped up before the weekend.

Northern State University Science Department will be visiting our 4th grade classroom once per month to do STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) outreach. Currently, a small group of NSU Students, along with their Graduate Assistant, visit local elementary schools once per month to do a fun project to promote science in the classroom.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 4 of 50

Principal's Report

September 23, 2019

Mrs. Sombke

MS/HS Building

1) James Valley Telecommunications

- Monetary Donation to the Groton Area Comfort Closet- THANK YOU!
- Please see Mrs. Jodi Schwan if you have questions or interest about donating to the Groton Area Comfort Closet

2) AVANTARA, Groton Facility

- Monetary Donation and School Supply Donation- THANK YOU!
- Please see Mrs. Jodi Schwan if you have questions or interest about donating to the Groton Area Comfort Closet

3) MS/HS PAC- Jungle Days Supporter

- Our MS/HS PAC partnered with our HS Student Council and provided the equipment, props, and script for two "ESCAPE ROOMS"
- Grades 6-8 were able to sign up in groups of 8-10 students during the Jungle Days activities and to work together to solve the puzzles, riddles, and ciphers
- THANK YOU PAC!

4) All School Play

- Auditions will be on Thursday, September 26th @ 3:30 in the music room
- If you are unable to attend, please see Mr. Fordham

5) Post High Planning Day- Grade 11 will attend

- October 3rd hours 1-4
- Event is held at the NSU Campus

6) PSAT

- October 16th hours 1-4
- Grades 10 and 11
- Please see Mrs. Jodi Schwan with questions

7) ASVAB

- October 24th hours 1-4
- Grade 11
- Please see Mrs. Jodi Schwan with questions

National Gas Price Average Jumps by a Dime in One Week

September 23, 2019 - Last week was the first time since early June that the national gas price average jumped more than a nickel in under a few days. On the week, it's a dime more expensive at \$2.66 with half of states seeing prices increase by 10 cents or more. However, even with the significant increase, the national average is still cheaper compared to last month (-6 cents) and last year (-19 cents).

South Dakota Gas Prices

Today \$2.61
Yesterday \$2.62
Last week \$2.56
Last month \$2.63
Last year \$2.86

Spurred by the Saudi Arabian oil facilities attacks the weekend prior, crude oil (West Texas Intermediate – WTI) increased as much as \$10/bbl at its highest point early last week to nearly \$64/bbl. Gasoline stations reacted just as swiftly as the market, raising local retail prices by as much as a quarter, which pushed the national average up six cents overnight last Tuesday. However, by the end of last week, crude was down to \$58/bbl and gas prices started to stabilize as reports surfaced that Saudi facilities should be fully operational by end of September.

"At \$2.66, the national average is a dime more expensive than last week. The good news is we are seeing downward movement with crude oil prices and stabilization at gas pumps, but Americans can expect some fluctuation through the end of the month," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "Should Saudi's crude production be back to full capacity shortly, the price spikes are likely to be temporary."

In its latest report, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) measured U.S. demand at 8.9 million b/d, which is a substantial 900,000 b/d drop from the previous week and a low reading not seen since February. The decrease in demand amid the spike in crude oil prices could help to keep gas price fluctuations more moderate through the end of the month.

Quick Stats

The nation's top 10 least expensive markets are: Mississippi (\$2.32), Louisiana (\$2.32), Arkansas (\$2.33), Alabama (\$2.34), South Carolina (\$2.35), Oklahoma (\$2.37), Virginia (\$2.37), Texas (\$2.38), Tennessee (\$2.39) and Missouri (\$2.40).

The nation's top 10 largest weekly increases are: Kentucky (+19 cents), Michigan (+18 cents), Georgia (+17 cents), Minnesota (+16 cents), Maryland (+14 cents), Iowa (+14 cents), Delaware (+14 cents), Mississippi (+14 cents), New Mexico (+13 cents) and South Carolina (+13 cents).

Great Lakes and Central States

Pump prices in the Great Lakes and Central states saw the highest volatility of any region following the drone attacks on Saudi Arabian oil facilities. Motorists in some states are paying nearly 20 cents more to fill-up as compared to last Monday. Kentucky (+19 cents), Michigan (+18 cents), Minnesota (+16 cents) and Iowa (+14 cents) saw the largest weekly increase in the region and land among the top 10 states in the country with the biggest jumps in pump prices. Most states in the region are paying more than they were a month ago, with the exception of South Dakota (-2 cents), Wisconsin (-1 cent) and Michigan (no change).

State averages range between \$2.82 - \$2.40, with three states touting an average at \$2.70 or above: Illinois (\$2.82), Michigan (\$2.73) and Ohio (\$2.70).

Gasoline stocks drew by 539 million bbl for the week ending Sept. 13, in EIA's latest report. That drops total stocks down by 52.5 million bbl, which is among the highest decreases seen in the region since April. Down 4% to 96%, regional refinery production could slow in coming weeks as refineries plan for fall maintenance. A drop in stocks amid more expensive crude oil prices would likely mean an increase in pump prices for motorists in the region.

Oil market dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI decreased by four cents to settle at \$58.09. Oil prices increased sharply last week, following news of attacks on two crude oil facilities in Saudi Arabia on September 14. On Monday, September 16, the first full day of trading after the attack, WTI crude oil prices experienced the largest single day price increase since August 21, 2008 and June 29, 2012, respectively, according to EIA.

In related news last week, EIA reported that total domestic crude inventories increased by 1.1 million bbl last week. They currently sit at 417.1 million bbl, which is 23 million bbl higher than where they were last year at this time.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 7 of 50

Today



Slight Chance
T-storms

High: 77 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 49 °F

Wednesday



Sunny then
Sunny and
Breezy

High: 67 °F

Wednesday
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 41 °F

Thursday



Partly Sunny
then Chance
Showers

High: 69 °F

Tuesday+Wednesday

Cloudy, slight chance for showers Tuesday AM.
Partly cloudy and dry otherwise

HIGHS: Mid-70s Tues, Mid-60s Wed

One more mild day is in store Tuesday (though breezy across central SD), before some cooler air works in mid-week. Only a slight chance for showers - most will stay dry.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 8 of 50

Today in Weather History

September 24, 1986: Thunderstorms brought high winds along with several tornados to parts of western and central South Dakota from the late evening in the morning hours of the 25th. Winds were estimated up to 80 mph. Many trees and power poles were downed along with damage to many buildings. The tornadoes occurred near Newell, east of Cedar Butte, west of Murdo, 20 miles northwest of Pierre, and northwest of Ridgeview in Dewey County.

September 24, 1992: South winds gusting to 50 to 55 mph across northeast South Dakota during the day toppled several trees and light poles. In Aberdeen, a front window was blown out of a store.

1926 - The temperature at Yellowstone Park dipped to nine degrees below zero. It was the coldest reading of record in the U.S. during September. Severe freezes were widespread over the northwestern U.S. causing great crop destruction. In Washington State, Spokane County experienced their earliest snow of record. Harney Branch Experiment Station in Oregon reported a temperature of 2 degrees above zero to establish a state record for the month of September. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1939: A thunderstorm on this day dropped 6.45 inches in six hours at Indio, CA. This rainfall preceded "El Cordonazo" or "The Lash of St. Francis", an actual tropical storm. For the entire storm, which started on this day and ended on the 26th, four inches of rain fell across the deserts and mountains as a dying tropical cyclone moved across Baja California into southwestern Arizona. This storm was the second tropical cyclone to impact California during this month. A strong El Niño may have contributed to the activity. The tropical storm produced 50 mph winds over the ocean and estimated seas of 40 feet. September rain records were set in Los Angeles with 5.66 inches and 11.6 inches at Mt. Wilson. 45 people died from sinking boats, and harbors were damaged. Total damage was estimated at \$2 million. Californians were unprepared and were alerted to their vulnerability to tropical storms. In response, the weather bureau established a forecast office for Southern California, which began operations in February of 1940.

1950 - A smoke pall from western Canada forest fires covered much of the eastern U.S. Daylight was reduced to nighttime darkness in parts of the Northeast. The color of the sun varied from pink to purple, blue, or lavender. Yellow to grey-tan was common. (24th-30th) (The Weather Channel)

1956: Hurricane Flossy made landfall near Destin, Florida as a Category 1 storm. 1972 - Lightning struck a man near Waldport, OR, a young man who it so happens was carrying thirty-five pieces of dynamite. (The Weather Channel)

1986: An F2 tornado, unusually strong for one in California, touched down just southeast of Vina on this day and traveled two miles through an agricultural area. A mobile home was destroyed, injuring a 22-year-old occupant. Eleven other buildings were damaged or demolished, and 50 acres of walnut orchards were flattened.

1987 - The first full day of autumn proved to be a pleasant one for much of the nation, with sunny skies and mild temperatures. Thunderstorms again formed over Florida and the southwestern deserts, and also formed along a cold front in the northeastern U.S. A storm spotter at Earp CA sighted a couple of funnel clouds, one on the California side of the state line, and the other on the Arizona side. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front produced large hail and damaging winds in the southeastern U.S., with reports of severe weather most numerous in North Carolina. Golf ball size hail was reported at Tick Creek and a number of other locations in North Carolina. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Forty-seven cities between the Rockies and the Appalachians reported record low temperatures for the date. Lows of 38 degrees at Abilene TX, 34 degrees at Jackson KY, and 36 degrees at Midland TX established records for the month of September. The low of 36 degrees at Midland smashed their previous record for the date by thirteen degrees. Fayetteville AR and Springfield MO reported their earliest freeze of record. Thunderstorms produced torrential rains in northeastern Florida. Jacksonville was deluged with 11.40 inches of rain, and flash flooding resulted in two deaths. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 10 of 50



UNSEEN POWER

A snowflake is a remarkable object in size and shape. Sometimes they appear as though they are floating through space. Other times they arrive in force and fury. Occasionally they fall on an eyelash and can be seen but not felt. They are weightless wonders until they are massed together. Then, they can provide a beautiful country scene or bring a city to a complete halt. Snowflakes give us a unique picture of the strength and power of numbers. What a lesson for the church!

From the very beginning God has intended for His followers to come together for strength and service, power and productivity. We find throughout Scripture that a community of believers can accomplish much more than an individual acting on his own behalf. God established the church and empowered it with the Holy Spirit to spread the gospel and provide healing and hope, energy and encouragement, to its members.

When a Christian feels lonely or deserted, afraid or abandoned, overwhelmed or overpowered, the church is to be a refuge for healing hearts and holding hands. God wants the church to provide protection and peace to all who seek His love, grace and mercy. Within the church, believers can link their lives together to offer protection from sin and work together as God's witness to the world.

Prayer: Lord, may Your church, even if only two or three are gathered in Your name, be faithful to fulfill Your purpose as they worship, work and witness together. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 11 of 50

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

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Alcester-Hudson def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-6, 25-9, 25-12
Canistota def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-13, 30-28, 24-26, 25-27, 15-13
Castlewood def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-19, 20-25, 25-17, 25-20
Corsica/Stickney def. James Valley Christian, 16-25, 27-25, 25-23, 22-25, 15-9
Dakota Valley def. Yankton, 25-12, 25-10, 25-12
Estelline/Hendricks def. Hamlin, 25-21, 25-12, 25-19
Garretson def. Flandreau Indian, 25-7, 25-9, 25-10
Lead-Deadwood def. Hot Springs, 25-9, 25-23, 25-21
Madison def. Lennox, 26-24, 25-23, 25-17
Marty Indian def. Lower Brule, 25-14, 25-18, 25-14
McCook Central/Montrose def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-22, 25-21, 25-17
Parkston def. Tea Area, 25-14, 21-25, 25-20, 25-20
Pine Ridge def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-8, 25-16, 26-24
Waverly-South Shore def. Lake Preston, 25-12, 25-8, 25-14
Wessington Springs def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 19-25, 25-19, 25-21, 26-24
West Central def. Sioux Valley, 13-25, 25-22, 25-16, 25-19
Winner def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-17, 25-13, 25-20

South Dakota school district puts vape sensors in bathrooms

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A southeastern South Dakota school district is installing vape sensors in bathrooms to combat students' use of e-cigarettes that have been linked to hundreds of cases of lung disease nationwide.

The Dell Rapids School District is placing machines that will send silent messages to school officials when vaping chemicals are detected in middle and high school bathrooms, the Argus Leader reported. The sensors cost the district less than \$5,000.

"We just want to make sure they know school is not the place to be doing this," Superintendent Summer Schultz said.

Schultz said vaping has long been an issue. She went to legislators last year to bring awareness about the potential health risks of vaping, but walked away feeling like she was banging her head against a wall, she said.

"I said, 'If this isn't on your horizon, it should be,'" Schultz said. "It's an epidemic for our kids. Kids in Dells aren't doing any more than kids anywhere else, but it's an epidemic, and this just seemed like the one way, or another layer, to try to mitigate the damage that it's going to cause if we continue to let them do it."

South Dakota has had at least six reported cases as of last week. More than 500 people have been sickened and at least eight have died of respiratory diseases linked to vaping.

The South Dakota Legislature outlawed vapor devices in public areas effective July 1.

The Dell Rapids district now has more severe consequences for vaping on campus, including in-school suspension, attending addiction treatment, and police referrals and restitution when appropriate. Students caught multiple times are expelled for habitual disobedience and must attend conflict resolution training before returning to school.

The Harrisburg School District has been working on raising awareness through public service announcements and information given to students. Meanwhile, the Sioux Falls School District banned the use of e-cigarettes in May by clarifying a policy already in place.

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

Ransomware attack still causing problems at Wyoming hospital

By MEAD GRUVER Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — A computer attack by hackers demanding payment in exchange for removing the ransomware has caused serious problems at a Wyoming hospital for three days.

Campbell County Memorial Hospital in Gillette has received patients since Friday's attack but some were still being sent to hospitals elsewhere, including Sheridan, Buffalo, Douglas, Casper and Rapid City, South Dakota, county Emergency Management Coordinator David King said.

Surgeries and other procedures were being rescheduled as the attack continued to affect imaging, pharmacology, record-keeping and other functions and services.

Some 1,500 computers and servers were being kept offline to both contain the ransomware and treat the machines like a crime scene that could help determine who was responsible, King said.

"They have unplugged every computer in the hospital. Physically unplugged them from the wall," King said.

FBI investigators and Wyoming Department of Homeland Security officials were at the hospital.

It isn't known when the computer problems might be resolved, hospital information technology director Matt Sabus said at a livestreamed news conference Monday in Gillette.

Hospital officials at the news conference refused to say how many patients had been transferred.

Even before the attack, the 90-bed, acute care community hospital routinely sent patients with certain needs to bigger hospitals in other cities, King said, but more ambulances were being staffed to handle transport elsewhere.

The attack also affected two affiliated facilities, a rehabilitation center in Gillette and a medical clinic in Wright, Wyoming Department of Homeland Security spokeswoman Kelly Ruiz said.

What specifically the hackers wanted and whether they got it wasn't publicly known. Hospital officials couldn't discuss the hackers' demands because the attack was under investigation, hospital spokeswoman Dane Joslyn said.

Federal officials discourage ransomware attack victims from paying because hackers seldom follow through on their promises, King said.

Follow Mead Gruver at <https://twitter.com/meadgruver>

South Dakota Volleyball Polls

By The Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) - Here is the South Dakota media volleyball poll for the week of Sept. 23, 2019. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking.<

Class AA

1. Watertown (11) 9-1 74 1

2. O'Gorman (3) 10-1 66 2

3. S.F. Washington (2) 9-2 52 3

4. Brandon Valley 7-3 13 5

5. Aberdeen Central 5-2 11 4

Receiving Votes: S.F. Roosevelt (9-4)8, Huron (6-4) 7, S.F. Lincoln (9-4) 5, Harrisburg (4-3) 4

Class A

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 14 of 50

1. S.F. Christian (14) 9-6 77 1
 2. Miller (2) 9-1 66 2
 3. Dakota Valley 9-1 49 3
 4. McCook Central-Montrose 10-3 18 4
 5. Hill City 11-0 16 5
- Receiving Votes: Elk Point-Jefferson (9-3) 5, Groton (7-0) 5, Parker (11-3) 4

Class B

1. Northwestern (16) 18-0 80 1
 2. Faulkton Area 10-2 52 2
 3. Burke 9-1 44 4
 4. Chester Area 9-3 37 3
 5. Warner 5-5 15 5
- Receiving Votes: Faith (9-2) 10, Ethan (8-2) 2

South Dakota Prep Polls By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - The South Dakota Prep Media football polls for the week of Sept. 23 are listed below, ranking the top-five teams in each class. First-place votes received are indicated in parentheses.<

Class 11AAA

1. Brandon Valley (21) 3-1 112 1
 2. SF Roosevelt (1) 3-1 83 3
 3. Harrisburg (1) 4-0 74 4
 4. SF Lincoln 3-1 47 5
 5. SF O'Gorman 2-2 27 2
- Receiving votes: Sioux Falls Washington 2.

Class 11AA

1. Pierre (23) 4-0 115 1
 2. Brookings 4-0 92 2
 3. Mitchell 2-2 56 3
 4. Yankton 2-2 48 5
 5. Huron 2-2 29 4
- Receiving votes: Sturgis 5.

Class 11A

1. Tea Area (17) 3-1 107 1
 2. Dell Rapids (6) 4-0 94 2
 3. Dakota Valley 3-1 72 3
 4. Madison 2-2 40 4
 5. SF Christian 2-2 15 5
- Receiving votes: Canton 11, Tri-Valley 4, West Central 2.

Class 11B

1. Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan (21) 5-0 113 1
2. Winner (2) 5-0 93 2
3. Webster Area 4-0 53 3

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 15 of 50

4. Mount Vernon-Plankinton 3-1 51 4
5. St. Thomas More 4-1 32 5
Receiving votes: Moberg-Pollock 3.

Class 9AA

1. Bon Homme (21) 5-0 112 1
2. Viborg-Hurley (2) 4-0 94 2
3. Parker 4-0 62 3
4. Deuel 4-0 49 4
5. Baltic 3-1 28 5

Class 9A

1. Sully Buttes (14) 4-0 103 1
2. Canistota/Freeman (8) 5-0 98 2
3. Britton-Hecla (1) 4-0 75 3
4. Kimball/White Lake 4-0 38 4
5. Gregory 4-0 27 5
Receiving votes: Howard 4.

Class 9B

1. Colman-Egan (21) 4-0 113 1
2. Dell Rapids St. Mary (2) 5-0 94 2
3. Wolsey-Wessington 2-2 58 4
4. Alcester-Hudson 4-1 49 5
5. Harding County 3-1 24 RV
Receiving votes: Herreid-Selby Area 5, Faulkton Area 2.

Buffalo Chip takes quest to become town before Supreme Court

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court will once again hear oral arguments in Buffalo Chip's quest to become a municipality, after a lower court ruled in February that the popular motorcycle rally campground near Sturgis must be dissolved as a town.

The Rapid City Journal reports that oral arguments are scheduled for Sept. 30.

Attorneys for the state have argued that Buffalo Chip was improperly incorporated in 2015 because it had fewer than 100 legal residents or 30 voters, as was required by law at the time. The city of Sturgis has also opposed Buffalo Chip's incorporation for years.

Buffalo Chip officials have argued that the area had more than 30 voters.

Kent Hagg, an attorney representing the campground, said the case could come down to the difference between the words "and" and "or." He said the law in place in 2015 required municipalities to have at least 100 residents "or" 30 voters. In 2016, the state Legislature changed the law to require municipalities to have at least 100 residents "and" 45 voters.

Hagg said about 53 voters listed the Buffalo Chip as their address of record in 2015.

The campground fills with thousands of visitors during the Sturgis motorcycle rally, but has few, if any, year-round residents.

In February, Fourth Circuit Judge Gordon Swanson ruled that the town must be dissolved. The city has said in a statement that the judge's decision was based on common sense and plain language of the law. "It would not make sense for the Legislature to authorize the incorporation of a municipality with no residents."

The Sept. 30 hearing will be the second time the Supreme Court has been asked to rule on issues surrounding the incorporation.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 16 of 50

In January 2018, the high court ruled that only the state — not a lower court or other municipality — had the jurisdiction to bring the case to court. The state intervened in the case and has since moved forward with efforts to challenge the incorporation.

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

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

1. JOHNSON'S SUSPENSION OF BRITISH PARLIAMENT DEEMED ILLEGAL

Britain's Supreme Court ruled that the prime minister's government shut Parliament to squelch debate on its Brexit policy.

2. TRUMP ORDERED AID FREEZE; MORE DEMOCRATS PUSH FOR IMPEACHMENT

Trump ordered his staff to freeze nearly \$400 million in aid to Ukraine a few days before a phone call in which he pressured the nation's leader to investigate the family of political rival Joe Biden.

3. TRUMP TO ADDRESS U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The U.S. president will try to square his "America First" approach to foreign policy with his hope for a multinational response to Iran's escalating aggression.

4. ISRAEL'S MAIN PARTIES BEGIN TALKS ON COALITION GOVERNMENT

The parties of incumbent Benjamin Netanyahu and Benny Gantz discuss forming a unity government, a long-shot effort after deadlocked national elections.

5. HUMANITARIAN SHIP DOCKS IN SICILY

The Ocean Viking sails into Italy to disembark 182 men, women and children rescued in the Mediterranean after fleeing Libya.

6. PUERTO RICO BRACES FOR STORM

Tropical Depression Karen is expected to unleash heavy rains that could cause flooding and landslides in the U.S. territory and nearby islands.

7. INTREPID SCIENTISTS WITNESS FINAL DAYS OF VENEZUELAN GLACIER

Experts predict the glacier in the Andes Mountains could be gone within two decades, making Venezuela the first country in South America to lose all its glaciers.

8. WHAT HEARTLAND DEMOCRATS ARE CAUTIONING

While coastal elites demand bold liberal policies, working class voters in the Midwest are warning candidates to move to the middle or risk losing to Trump.

9. WHERE REPUBLICANS ARE MAKING INROADS

The Republican National Committee is seeking to mobilize Trump's supporters on college campuses with training, free pizza and swag.

10. BEARS QB BREAKS OUT IN WIN

Mitchell Trubisky throws his first three touchdown passes of the season, all to Taylor Gabriel in the second quarter, as Chicago beats the Washington Redskins 31-15.

UK Supreme Court rules suspension of Parliament was illegal

By GREGORY KATZ, MIKE CORDER and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — In a major blow to Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Britain's highest court ruled Tuesday that his decision to suspend Parliament for five weeks in the crucial countdown to the country's Brexit deadline was illegal.

The unanimous Supreme Court judgment declared the order to suspend Parliament "void and of no effect."

The landmark decision immediately prompted calls for Johnson to quit.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 17 of 50

"His position is untenable and he should have the guts for once to do the decent thing and resign," Scottish National Party legislator Joanna Cherry said outside the court.

Supreme Court President Brenda Hale said the suspension "was unlawful because it had the effect of frustrating or preventing the ability of Parliament to carry out its constitutional functions without reasonable justification."

She said the court's decision means Parliament was never legally suspended and is technically still sitting.

House of Commons Speaker John Bercow said in a written statement that the ruling "vindicated the right and duty of Parliament to meet at this crucial time to scrutinise the executive and hold Ministers to account."

He said lawmakers "must convene without delay. To this end, I will now consult the party leaders as a matter of urgency."

In this nation without a written constitution, the case marked a rare confrontation between the prime minister, the courts and Parliament over their rights and responsibilities.

It revolved around whether Johnson acted lawfully when he advised the queen to suspend Parliament for five weeks during a crucial time frame before the Oct. 31 Brexit deadline when Britain is scheduled to leave the European Union.

Johnson, who is in New York for the U.N. General Assembly, has refused to say whether he will resign if he is found to have broken the law, or will seek to shut down Parliament again.

The decision followed three days of hearings last week before a panel of 11 judges.

The court rejected the government's assertions that the decision to suspend Parliament until Oct. 14 was routine and not related to Brexit. Government lawyers claimed that under Britain's unwritten constitution, it is a matter for politicians, not courts, to decide.

The government's opponents argue that Johnson illegally shut down Parliament just weeks before the country is due to leave the 28-nation bloc for the "improper purpose" of dodging lawmakers' scrutiny of his Brexit plans.

They also accused Johnson of misleading the queen, whose formal approval was needed to suspend the legislature.

Johnson and Parliament have been at odds since he took power in July with the determination to take Britain out of the EU on Oct. 31 with or without a divorce deal with Europe.

Jill Lawless reported from New York. Mike Corder reported from The Hague, Netherlands.

Puerto Rico braces for flooding, landslides from Karen

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Forecasters said Tropical Storm Karen would unleash heavy rains across the northeastern Caribbean on Tuesday that could cause flooding and landslides in Puerto Rico and nearby islands.

As the storm approached, Puerto Ricans were trying to compose themselves after being shaken from their beds late Monday by a magnitude-6.0 earthquake that hit in the Atlantic near the island at a shallow depth of 6 miles (10 kilometers). Three aftershocks, of magnitude 4.7 and 4.6, followed within less than an hour.

No damage was reported, and communications after the quake were swift because authorities were already on duty for Karen, said Kiara Hernández, spokeswoman for Puerto Rico's emergency management agency.

Schools and government offices were already ordered closed in Puerto Rico as well as in the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, with officials warning people to stay indoors.

"We've had a number of these events now, and I know it's like the little boy who cried wolf, but I'm urging the public to remain ever vigilant," U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. Albert Bryan Jr. said.

Karen regained tropical storm strength Tuesday morning after having been a tropical depression. Its maximum sustained winds increased to near 40 mph (65 kph) with additional strengthening expected.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 18 of 50

The storm was centered about 110 miles (180 kilometers) south of San Juan and moving north near 7 mph (11 kph).

It was expected to keep heading north after passing over Puerto Rico and stay well east of the Bahamas, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. A tropical storm warning remained in effect for Puerto Rico, Vieques, Culebra and the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, and forecasters said certain areas could experience stronger winds.

Puerto Rico Gov. Wanda Vázquez activated the National Guard on Monday and urged people in flood-prone areas to seek shelter.

The island is still recovering from Hurricane Maria, which hit as a Category 4 storm two years ago and is estimated to have caused more than \$100 billion in damage. More than 25,000 homes still have blue tarps for roofs and the electric grid remains unstable.

"It's a reality that we might have power outages," Vázquez said.

Roberto Garcia, meteorologist in charge of the National Weather Service's San Juan office, said 2 to 4 inches (5-10 centimeters) of rain was expected, with up to 8 inches (20 centimeters) in isolated areas, by the time the storm passed by on Tuesday. He added that some towns in the eastern part of Puerto Rico would likely be hit with moderate to serious flooding, especially those next to mountains.

Farther north, Tropical Storm Jerry was moving northward and was projected to pass near Bermuda by Wednesday morning. It was about 275 miles (440 kilometers) southwest of Bermuda and had sustained winds of 60 mph (95 kph).

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Lorenzo formed over the far eastern Atlantic and was projected to become a major hurricane by the end of the week, though while curving out over open sea away from land. It was centered about 310 miles (500 kilometers) southwest of the southernmost Cape Verde Islands and had maximum sustained winds of 65 mph (100 kph). It was heading west-northwest at 16 mph (26 kph).

Trump out to square America First with united front on Iran

By **DEB RIECHMANN** and **JONATHAN LEMIRE** Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — President Donald Trump goes before the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday to try to square his "America First" approach to foreign policy with his administration's hope for a multi-national response to Iran's escalating aggression.

While Trump wants allies to join the U.S. in further isolating Iran, he also seems to be holding to his go-it-alone strategy of using economic sanctions to pressure Tehran to give up its nuclear program and stop attacks that are rattling the Middle East.

On Monday, the Republican president praised British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's call for a new deal to replace the 2015 Iran nuclear pact from which Trump walked away last year.

The president also said he appreciated the efforts of French President Emmanuel Macron, who has been trying to get Trump back in the deal and has suggested the American president meet with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani while both are in New York this week.

But at the same time, Trump declared: "We're not looking for any mediators." He said that if Iran wants to talk, "they know who to call."

Both Trump and Rouhani have said no meeting is on the agenda for this week, although the U.S. leader left some wiggle room, adding, "I never rule anything out."

Trump was expected to use his speech to blame Iran for recent strikes against oil facilities in Saudi Arabia. Iran has denied orchestrating the attack, which Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has deemed "an act of war."

Britain, France and Germany joined the United States on Monday in blaming Iran for the attacks. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, for his part, pointed to claims of responsibility by Yemeni rebels and insisted: "If Iran were behind this attack, nothing would have been left of this refinery."

Trump also is expected to use his address to the General Assembly to address the ongoing standoff in Venezuela.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 19 of 50

The United States and more than a dozen Latin American countries agreed Monday to investigate and arrest associates and senior officials of the Venezuelan government of Nicolás Maduro who are suspected of crimes like drug trafficking, money laundering and financing terrorism.

Trump is expected to have kinder words for North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, even though the autocrat continues to hold a tight grip on his nuclear weapons. Trump has met Kim for summits in Singapore and Hanoi, Vietnam, and orchestrated a surprise encounter with him in June at the Demilitarized Zone, where he became the first U.S. president to ever set foot in North Korea.

Trump said Monday that another meeting with the North Korean leader "could happen soon." He provided few details, and it wasn't clear what officials were doing behind the scenes to set up a meeting to break the diplomatic impasse over the North's development of nuclear-armed missiles targeting the U.S. mainland.

Trump's comments, even with few specifics backing them up, are tantalizing because there is extreme interest, especially in Japan and South Korea, in whether Trump and Kim can strike a deal on one of the world's most pressing standoffs.

This is Trump's third speech to the world body. Senior administration officials, who briefed reporters about the president's trip to the U.N. on condition of anonymity, said that he will use his speech to affirm America's leadership role in the international community. That's something Trump's critics claim has been weakened by the president's solo style and mercurial rhetoric and actions.

The White House said Trump will also talk about the need to work collectively within the global community to address world challenges, although apparently not climate change.

Trump stopped in only briefly Monday at a summit where world leaders talked about doing something to counter climate change. As they met, the globe hit another mark indicating a warming climate. Arctic sea ice shrank to 1.6 million square miles (4.15 million square kilometers) for the annual summer low, which tied the second lowest mark on record.

On Monday night, Trump mocked a teenage activist who gave an impassioned speech at the United Nations urging world leaders to do more to combat climate change.

Swedish 16-year-old activist Greta Thunberg scolded the audience at the U.N. Climate Action Summit on Monday, repeatedly asking, "How dare you?" Thunberg said: "We are in the beginning of a mass extinction and yet all you can talk about is money. You are failing us."

In a tweet late Monday, Trump says: "She seems like a very happy young girl looking forward to a bright and wonderful future. So nice to see!"

In his speech to the U.N. General Assembly last year, Trump expressed disdain for globalism and promoted his "America First" agenda. Like last year, Trump is expected to showcase strong U.S. economic numbers and talk about how he's strengthened America's military.

In his 2018 speech to the assembly, his self-adulation prompted chuckles from world leaders. That barely ruffled Trump, who shares a belief with his supporters that the United States has been asked to do too much for other countries and needs to focus on issues it faces at home.

Trump ordered aid frozen; more Democrats want impeachment

By **LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and JONATHAN LEMIRE** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump ordered his staff to freeze nearly \$400 million in aid to Ukraine a few days before a phone call in which he pressured the Eastern European nation's leader to investigate the family of political rival Joe Biden, a revelation that comes as more Democrats move toward impeachment proceedings.

Trump's order was first reported by The Washington Post and was confirmed to The Associated Press by two people familiar with but not authorized to discuss private conversations. They spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Late Monday, an influential group of freshmen Democrats who served in the military and national security before winning office said Trump's actions cut to the core of the country's defenses. Their views, as

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 20 of 50

centrist lawmakers from previously Republican-held districts where Trump has been popular, hold sway with party leadership.

At issue is a summer phone call with Ukrainian President Voldymyr Zelenskiy, in which Trump is said to have pushed for investigations into Biden. In the days before that call, Trump ordered the aid to Ukraine frozen.

Trump has insisted he did nothing wrong and has denied that any requests for help in procuring damaging information about Biden were tied to the aid freeze.

Democrats, and some Republicans, urged the White House to be open about his actions, which are at the center of a whistleblower complaint. But with no new information from the administration forthcoming, more than a dozen Democrats, including some in House leadership, added their names to those calling for impeachment proceedings.

The sudden rush of activity shows the extent to which Trump's call to the foreign leader, and his subsequent comments about the conversation, are raising further questions about whether the president improperly used his office to pressure another country as a way of helping his own reelection prospects.

"These allegations are stunning, both in the national security threat they pose and the potential corruption they represent," wrote the seven freshmen, who include a former Navy pilot, soldiers, officers and intelligence analysts.

"We do not arrive at this conclusion lightly," the lawmakers wrote in a Washington Post op-ed. The lawmakers include Reps. Gil Cisneros of California, Jason Crow of Colorado, Chrissy Houlahan of Pennsylvania, Elaine Luria of Virginia, Mikie Sherrill of New Jersey, Elissa Slotkin of Michigan and Abigail Spanberger of Virginia.

"These new allegations are a threat to all we have sworn to protect. We must preserve the checks and balances envisioned by the Founders and restore the trust of the American people in our government. And that is what we intend to do."

Congress on Monday pressed for full disclosure of a whistleblower's complaint about Trump and pushed the White House to release a transcript of Trump's call with the Ukraine president.

The president has acknowledged the phone call. On Monday, he said he didn't want to give money to Ukraine — if there were corruption issues.

"It's very important to talk about corruption," Trump told reporters as he opened meetings at the United Nations. "If you don't talk about corruption, why would you give money to a country that you think is, is corrupt?"

Later Monday, Trump denied telling the Ukraine president that his country would only get U.S. aid if it investigated Biden's son. "I didn't do it," he said.

The fresh calls for impeachment proceedings come as House Democrats are heading into a closed-door meeting Tuesday with Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Pelosi and her leadership team on the various oversight committees are considering bringing forward a resolution that will put the House on the record on this matter, according to a Democratic leadership aide unauthorized to discuss the private talks. The aide was granted anonymity.

Still, Democrats remained divided on moving forward with an effort to impeach Trump. Pelosi has resisted calls for impeachment and is sticking with her position that Congress must not start formal proceedings unless the American public demands it.

However, Pelosi said Sunday that unless the administration provides more information to Congress by the scheduled Thursday hearing at the intelligence committee, its officials "will be entering a grave new chapter of lawlessness which will take us into a whole new stage of investigation."

Trump has sought, without evidence, to implicate Biden and his son Hunter in the kind of corruption that has long plagued Ukraine. Hunter Biden served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company at the same time his father was leading the Obama administration's diplomatic dealings with Kyiv. Though the timing raised concerns among anti-corruption advocates, there has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either the former vice president or his son.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 21 of 50

The matter is under new scrutiny following the whistleblower's mid-August complaint, which followed Trump's July 25 call with Ukraine's president. The person who filed the complaint did not have firsthand knowledge of the call, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Lawmakers are demanding details of the complaint, but the acting director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire, has refused to share that information, citing presidential privilege. He is set to testify Thursday before the House.

"Let's see the transcript," said Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, about Trump's call with the Ukraine president.

The chairmen of the House intelligence, Foreign Affairs and Oversight and Government Reform committees are threatening to subpoena Secretary of State Mike Pompeo if he does not produce information about whether Trump and his lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, inappropriately tried to influence the Ukraine government for political gain.

Meanwhile, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York called on Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to investigate the whistleblower's complaint. In a letter to McConnell, he said that the Republicans' "see no evil, hear no evil" attitude toward the president's actions "is unacceptable and must change."

Republican Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida doesn't think Trump's actions are grounds for impeachment, but said he wouldn't have called a foreign leader to discuss a rival.

"I don't think he should have raised the topic of Joe Biden with the Ukraine president," Rubio said.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Monday the matter is best left behind closed doors in the classified setting of the intelligence committee, though he did push into the spotlight his own role in securing the Ukraine aid.

McConnell said he had been "personally pressuring" the Trump administration this summer in calls to Pompeo and Secretary of Defense Mark Esper to release the U.S. aid money.

Trump said Monday he may, or may not, release details or a transcript of the call but has 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.

Hunter Biden was hired by the Ukrainian gas company Burisma Holdings in April 2014, two months after Ukraine's Russia-friendly former president was ousted by protesters and as Biden's father was heavily involved in U.S. efforts to support the new pro-Western government. The move 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.

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

Associated Press writers Alan Fram, Matthew Daly, Michael Balsamo, Laurie Kellman and Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

'Way too extreme': Some Democrats warn against moving left

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

BEAVER, Pa. (AP) — The Democrats of Beaver County, Pennsylvania, crowded onto the steps of a local courthouse, dozens of union men protesting a looming power plant closure that would put their livelihoods at risk.

The crowd was overwhelmingly white and male, and few had college degrees. Left unsaid, at least from the podium, were broader concerns about a national Democratic Party many believe no longer represents them.

"Democrats are becoming way too extreme," Shaun Majors, a 42-year-old high school graduate who has worked at the nearby Beaver Valley Power Station for almost his entire adult life, said before last week's event began. "I voted for Trump last time, and I would again."

A few days earlier, tens of thousands of Democrats crowded into a Manhattan park, cheering Elizabeth Warren's calls for "Medicare for All," a crackdown on gun violence and the end of the fossil fuel industry.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 22 of 50

The crowd was ethnically diverse, heavily female and highly educated — people like 41-year-old Kelly Hafermann of Brooklyn, who has a master's degree and works at an Ivy League university not far away.

"I want the bold ideas," Hafermann said, praising the leftward shift of her party's politics. "I want to be around people who feel the same way."

The dueling scenes illustrate the high-stakes debate playing out among Democrats just over four months before the party begins to select its next presidential nominee. While the party's coastal elites demand bold liberal policies, working class voters in the Midwest are warning presidential candidates to move to the middle or risk giving President Donald Trump another four years in the White House.

The highly educated urban Democrats may be the most vocal, particularly on Twitter. But it is the working class in places like Beaver County who may ultimately decide Trump's fate.

None of the dozen or so union workers interviewed at a protest late last week had Twitter accounts. None had four-year college degrees. And few were committed to voting Democrat in 2020, although most were registered as such.

Daniel Keener, a 72-year-old Democrat who retired after more than two decades at the nearby power plant, said his party has moved "way too far left."

"Every one of them wants to take my gun," said Keener, motioning to the handgun clipped to his left pocket. He said he's committed to Trump in 2020, but he'll likely maintain his Democratic registration because he's "a union man" and his family has a long history with the party.

Republicans suffered sweeping losses in the 2018 midterm elections in part because Trump's turbulent leadership style and divisive policies have alienated women. But he won the presidency in 2016 on the backs of working class men in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, states that hadn't backed a Republican for president in almost two decades.

Beaver County, a region just outside Pittsburgh set along the Ohio border, is one of 14 counties in Pennsylvania that Trump carried in 2016 where Democrats had a registration advantage. There were more than 59,000 registered Democrats and 40,000 registered Republicans in the county that year, but Trump ultimately carried Beaver County by almost 16,000 votes, according to data compiled by The Associated Press.

The swing was just as bad or worse in neighboring counties surrounding Pittsburgh.

In Fayette County, a 20,000-person Democratic registration advantage turned into a 17,000-vote loss on Election Day; a 13,000-person registration advantage in Washington County became a 25,000-vote Democratic loss; and in Westmoreland County, a 10,000-person registration edge produced a 57,000-vote loss.

Nationwide, Democrats lost at least 573 such counties, including municipalities across five New England states, according to AP data for the 31 states that track party affiliation.

The trend was particularly acute across Michigan and Wisconsin. Although depressed minority turnout in major cities helped Trump win, Democrats quietly concede that white working class voters represent their most significant challenge in 2020.

Painfully aware of the defections that helped Trump win, union members and local party leaders are urging national party leaders and presidential candidates to moderate the bold policies that make up the backbone of Warren's and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' campaigns.

"This country is still made up of a very strong middle-of-the-road voice," said Darrin Kelly, president of the Allegheny County Labor Council, which represents roughly 100,000 union members in the region. Democrats, he said, are "not getting on the ground out here and listening to what we have to say."

Asked about the direction of the party, Kelly said, "Speaking strictly from a western Pennsylvania point of view, I find it to be troubling, a lot of it to be troubling, I really do."

Democrats are not ignoring the region altogether.

Former Vice President Joe Biden featured western Pennsylvania as part of his campaign launch. Sanders rallied supporters in Pittsburgh. Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar appeared in the area last week.

Warren spent part of her weekend on the picket line in Michigan with striking auto workers.

"We are sick and tired of an America that works for a thinner and thinner slice at the top and isn't work-

ing for anyone else," she declared.

Yet union members in western Pennsylvania are quick to say that Warren's embrace of the Green New Deal, which would essentially end the fossil fuel industry over the next decade, would be a disaster for working families in the region.

Beaver's main street is booming, thanks in part to the nearby construction of a massive petrochemical plant employing thousands of construction workers. Trump toured the \$6 billion plant last month.

Sitting outside a coffee shop a mile (1.6 kilometers) from the construction site, Beaver County Democratic Party Chairwoman Terry Mitko worried that the plant would hurt local air quality, but her criticism was largely muted. Asked about her party's message, she encouraged candidates to avoid issues that turn off local Democrats, like gun control, abortion, impeachment and the Green New Deal.

Mitko acknowledged that messaging in the age of Trump is complicated. Her local Democratic committee, for example, couldn't find even three issues to agree on for their new platform. She's encouraging 2020 candidates to focus on jobs and education.

"We've got 50,000 Democrats. Some will vote for Trump. But there are a lot of people who won't," she said. "I'm optimistic."

At the union protest just down the street, 60-year-old power plant electrician Terrence Ankrom, a registered Democrat, isn't so optimistic about the future of his party.

He shared his concerns with two friends while waiting for the rally to begin. All three voted for Trump.

They laughed when asked whether they had Twitter accounts. One pointed to his flip phone.

Ankrom said he voted for Trump in 2016 largely because he didn't want to vote for Hillary Clinton. Looking at the 2020 Democratic field, he singled out Warren.

"I'd listen to her," Ankrom said.

When one friend suggested that the working class would have to pay higher taxes to fund Warren's policies, Ankrom backed down. The only reason he was slightly open to Warren was because of his wife, he said.

"My wife's pretty smart. I respect her. She said she was interested in Warren," Ankrom explained. "This was early on."

Associated Press writer Don Rehill contributed to this report.

EU top court rules in favor of Google on search engine issue

By RAF CASERT Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Google won a major case in the European Union on Tuesday, when the bloc's top court ruled that the U.S. internet giant doesn't have to extend the EU's "right to be forgotten" rules to its search engines globally.

The European Court of Justice said there "is no obligation under EU law for a search engine operator" to extend beyond the EU member states the court's 2014 ruling that people have the right to control what appears when their name is searched online.

It said, however, that a search engine operator must put measures in place to discourage internet users from going outside the EU to find that information.

The case involving the U.S. tech company and France's data privacy regulator highlights the need to balance data privacy and protection concerns against the public's right to information. It also raises questions about how to enforce differing jurisdictions when it comes to the borderless internet.

The case stems from the EU court's 2014 ruling that people have the right to control what appears when their name is searched online. That decision forced Google to delete links to outdated or embarrassing personal information that popped up in searches within the 28-nation bloc.

One year later, the French privacy watchdog wanted Google to remove results on all its search engines on request, and not just European country sites like www.google.fr.

Now, the EU court said that such application to territories outside the EU was not legal. It said it was

"not apparent" from the EU legal text "that it would have intended to impose on an operator, such as Google, a de-referencing obligation which also concerns the national versions of its search engine that do not correspond to the member states."

Those who wanted to see such an extension argue that on the internet it is easy to switch from the national versions of the web site to ones outside the EU - by switching from google.fr to google.com for example - to find the information that must be removed within the EU.

Israel's main parties begin talks on coalition government

By ARON HELLER Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's two largest parties met Tuesday to discuss the possibility of forming a unity government, in a long-shot effort to solve the political paralysis that has emerged from last week's deadlocked national elections.

The meeting between party representatives comes a day after Blue and White leader Benny Gantz and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of the rival Likud party held their first working meeting since the vote. Israeli President Reuven Rivlin brought them together in hopes of breaking an impasse that could send the nation into months of political limbo and potentially force a third election in less than a year.

"We took a significant step this evening, and now the main challenge is building a direct channel of communication out of trust between the two sides," Rivlin told the two rivals. "People expect you to find a solution and to prevent further elections, even if it comes at a personal and even ideological cost."

Israel's president is responsible for choosing a candidate for prime minister after national elections. That task is usually a formality, but it is far more complicated this time since neither of the top two candidates can build a stable parliamentary majority on his own.

Rivlin summoned Gantz and Netanyahu for another summit Wednesday before making his decision. No breakthrough is expected, and it is unclear which way Rivlin is leaning.

Gantz's centrist Blue and White came in first in the elections, with 33 seats, trailed by Netanyahu's Likud with 31. With smaller allied parties, a total of 55 lawmakers have thrown their support behind Netanyahu, against 54 for Gantz, leaving both men short of the required 61-seat majority.

A unity deal between the large parties, with a rotating leadership, is seen as perhaps the only way out of the gridlock. That's what Avigdor Lieberman, the kingmaker leader of the ultranationalist Yisrael Beitenu, party is insisting upon. Lieberman, who controls eight seats, has refused to endorse either candidate and is demanding they join him in a broad, secular unity government that excludes the ultra-Orthodox parties — Netanyahu's long-time partners. A former aide and ally of Netanyahu, Lieberman forced the Sept. 17 repeat vote by refusing to join Netanyahu's coalition and robbing him of his parliamentary majority.

Both Netanyahu and Gantz have expressed theoretical support for a unity deal between their parties but have deep disagreements over its agenda and who should lead it.

Gantz insists he should go first and has vowed not to partner with Likud so long as Netanyahu is at the helm, citing the prime minister's legal predicament. Israel's attorney general has recommended charging Netanyahu with a series of corruption-related charges and is expected to make a final decision following a hearing with the prime minister early next month.

Netanyahu, seeking protection from prosecution, believes he should remain as prime minister and has signed a deal with his smaller allies, including ultra-Orthodox parties, to negotiate as a "bloc," further signaling that there was more jockeying than real negotiating involved in the latest developments.

"It is going to be very hard, if not downright impossible, to form a government based on the two larger parties, when one of them drags its satellite parties along with it," wrote columnist Nahum Barnea in the Yediot Ahronot daily. "That's like a bride who wants to bring her brother, cousin, neighbor and rabbi along with her to the consummation of her marriage. It won't work."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 25 of 50

Trubisky, Bears get offense on track, beat Redskins 31-15

By **STEPHEN WHYNO AP Sports Writer**

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — After the Chicago Bears' offense was slow to get going this season, Mitchell Trubisky was excited to speed things up.

Trubisky and the Bears used a no-huddle, hurry-up tempo to snap out of their offensive funk and score 28 first-half points on the way to beating the Washington Redskins 31-15 Monday night. After no passing touchdowns the first two games of the year, Trubisky connected with Taylor Gabriel on three of them in the second quarter alone.

The 2017 second overall pick looked at ease with a fast-paced approach and picked apart Washington's porous defense on 25 of 31 passing for 231 yards. It was the offensive explosion Trubisky predicted would happen this week.

"It just felt like the tempo helped us out a little bit," Trubisky said. "If everyone just continues to stick together and execute our plays and believe and just go out there and make plays, it'll be a fun offense."

Chicago (2-1) had just a 1-yard touchdown run to show for its first two games, and Trubisky entered the night with a completion percentage of 58.3 and ranked near the bottom of the league in yards per attempt. Facing the Redskins (0-3) brought out some of the best in Trubisky.

"Hat's off to him," said Washington linebacker Cole Holcomb, who was roommates with Trubisky at North Carolina. "I always knew he was a good quarterback. He struggled a little bit, but he came out and he played a good game."

Trubisky had 173 yards in the first half alone before throwing an interception at the goal line in the third quarter.

With scores of 1, 3 and 36 yards, Gabriel joined Mike Ditka in 1963 as the only Bears receivers with three TD catches in the first half of a game. Gabriel made six catches for 75 yards before leaving in the second half with a concussion.

The Bears took advantage of five turnovers by Redskins quarterback Case Keenum: two interceptions by Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, including a pick six, another by Kyle Fuller and fumbles forced by Khalil Mack and Danny Trevathan.

"That's all me," said Keenum, who was 30 of 43 for 331 yards and two touchdowns that didn't compensate for the turnovers. "Turn it over that many times as a quarterback, I let my team down. It's all on me. I take complete responsibility. I have to take care of the ball better."

With the offense up to the defense's speed in the first half, Chicago put up 28 points in two quarters after scoring a total of 19 the past two weeks, 12 of which came on field goals from Eddy Piñeiro.

Mack had two of the Bears' four sacks to continue a dominant start by the defense that didn't give up a Washington TD until midway through the third quarter. Keenum's two TD passes came long after fans chanted for rookie quarterback Dwayne Haskins and booed the Redskins off the field at halftime.

NOW WHAT?

Washington's defense that wilted in the second half of its first two losses had few answers for Trubisky all game Monday. Eight days after coach Jay Gruden said, "I don't think we have to push the panic button yet," some significant changes could be coming soon.

Before Gruden's job security is really in question, defensive coordinator Greg Manusky looks like the logical target as the first coach to take the fall. Washington's defense ranked in 21st and 17th in the NFL in Manusky's first two seasons in charge and is on pace to finish worse than that this year.

"We've got some talent," Gruden said. "We've just got to coach 'em up better, play better, be more balanced, protect the football. And defensively, stay after it."

The "Let's go Haskins" chants notwithstanding, the Redskins are far more likely to turn to longtime backup Colt McCoy if they make a change at the position. McCoy is working toward being healthy again nine months after breaking his right leg.

HA HA GETS LAST LAUGH

When the Redskins signed former New York Giants safety Landon Collins, it effectively spelled the end of their chances of re-signing Clinton-Dix, a trade acquisition last year from Green Bay who played nine

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 26 of 50

games for them. Clinton-Dix made his old team pay with a first quarter interception he returned 37 yards for his first career touchdown.

Clinton-Dix for good measure picked off Keenum in the third quarter and returned it 59 yards.

JUST FOR KICKS

Piñeiro, who was questionable because of a knee injury suffered while lifting weights, missed a 44-yard field goal attempt in the third quarter and was good from 38 yards in the fourth. "Eddy Money" was 4 of 4 going into the night, including a 53-yard game-winner at Denver in Week 2.

MONDAY NIGHT SADNESS

The Redskins lost their eighth consecutive Monday night game, tying for the second-longest streak in league history. They've now lost 17 of their past 18 Monday night home games.

INJURIES

Bears: DT Akiem Hicks left early in the fourth quarter with a knee injury. ... RT Bobby Massie was a surprise scratch with what coach Matt Nagy called "a small case of vertigo." ... DE Bilal Nichols was out with a broken hand.

Redskins: TE Jordan Reed (concussion) missed a third consecutive game, and CB Quinton Dunbar (knee) was out for the second week in a row.

UP NEXT

Bears: Host former Redskins QB Kirk Cousins and the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday.

Redskins: Look to avoid an 0-4 start when they visit Daniel Jones and the New York Giants on Sunday.

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

Analysis: Trump's tough politics a challenge for Democrats

By JULIE PACE AP Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — In 2016, Donald Trump blew through the guardrails of American politics. In his bid for reelection, he's poised to blow them up.

This time around, he's aided by the power of the presidency, with its unmatched megaphone and resources. And his latest provocation — prodding a foreign leader to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden — suggests he sees little issue using his office for his personal political interests.

His actions foreshadow a no-holds-barred 2020 campaign, regardless of who Democrats select as their nominee in the coming months. If the lesson of Trump's 2016 victory was that deeply personal attacks and factually inaccurate innuendo are a pathway to victory, his 2020 playbook appears to include more of the same.

Democrats are more clear-eyed about the effectiveness of those tactics, but still deeply uncertain over the best approach — and the best candidate — to blunt them. Fight back against Trump and risk running a campaign on his terms and elevating his baseless attacks. Ignore him and allow his arguments to percolate unchecked through the conservative media ecosystem.

Democrats concede he is jarringly effective at dictating the terms of the political debate and throwing his opponents off stride.

"Donald Trump's greatest political skill is the ability to pull people into his vortex of terribleness where you spend all day every day responding to Trump's outrage du jour and defending yourself from absurd, baseless accusations," said Dan Pfeiffer, an Obama campaign and White House adviser.

That's where Biden finds himself at the moment, answering questions about his son Hunter's work for a Ukrainian gas company at the same time his father was leading American diplomatic efforts to help the country's fledgling government. There is no evidence of wrongdoing by either man, and Hunter Biden is no longer working for the company. Yet Joe Biden still spent a weekend of campaigning in Iowa deflecting questions about the matter and urging reporters to focus their attention back on Trump.

"Ask the right questions," he bellowed when asked by a reporter how many times he had spoken to his son about his overseas business dealings.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 27 of 50

To be sure, Trump's appeal to Ukraine's president may ultimately create political problems for the president. The matter is part of a whistleblower complaint the administration is withholding from Congress, citing presidential privilege. Congressional Democrats, who have already been stymied by the White House in numerous investigations, are outraged and many members are renewing calls for impeachment.

California Rep. Adam Schiff, the intelligence committee chairman who has so far resisted impeachment efforts, said Sunday that Trump's actions "may very well have crossed the Rubicon here."

Trump and his allies have spent months laying the groundwork for the questions about Biden and his son, well aware that the former vice president would make for a formidable general election opponent given his ties to the working class voters who abandoned Democrats for Trump in 2016. Rudy Giuliani, Trump's personal lawyer, has publicly acknowledged pitching Ukrainian politicians on investigating the Bidens.

Trump is now alleged to have repeatedly asked Ukraine's president to help with that effort. His request for a foreign leader's help in the 2020 election came in a July 25 phone call — one day after special counsel Robert Mueller's congressional testimony effectively quashed Democratic hopes of impeaching Trump over Russian election interference in the 2016 campaign.

Mueller's investigation did little to dissuade Trump about the impropriety of accepting election help from a foreign government. Earlier this year, he said in an interview with ABC News that if another country had negative information about a political rival, he would have no problem accepting it.

"I think you might want to listen, there isn't anything wrong with listening," Trump said in the June interview. "If somebody called from a country, Norway, (and said) 'we have information on your opponent' — oh, I think I'd want to hear it."

Following revelations that Trump appeared to follow through on those words in his conversation with the Ukrainian president, Democratic presidential candidates called his behavior un-democratic.

"It's beyond laughing or crying," said Pete Buttigieg, a White House hopeful and mayor of South Bend, Indiana. "It is a betrayal of the United States."

California Sen. Kamala Harris told The Associated Press that Trump's actions were "inexcusable and an act against the people of the United States."

But Harris, who has hit Biden during recent debates, also subtly reflected the ways in which the accusations Trump unearths can begin to take hold, no matter how accurate they are.

Asked by the AP if this in any way casts aspersions on Vice President Biden's "campaign or his character," Harris declined to comment.

"I'll leave that up to the pundits. I don't have a comment on that," she said.

AP writer Thomas Beaumont in Des Moines, Iowa, contributed to this report.

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

Coral die-off predicted as marine heat wave engulfs Hawaii

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.

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 experienced.

"In 2015, we hit temperatures that we've never recorded ever in Hawaii," said Jamison Gove, an ocean-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 28 of 50

ographer 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."

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.

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.

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 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.

Meanwhile, 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 bay 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."

Follow Associated Press Hawaii correspondent Caleb Jones on Instagram and Twitter .

6.0 quake shakes Puerto Rico; no damage immediately reported

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck near Puerto Rico late Monday, rousing and scaring many from their sleep in the U.S. territory.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake struck 49 miles (79 kilometers) off the island's northwest coast at a shallow depth of 6 miles (10 kilometers). Three aftershocks, of magnitude 4.7 and 4.6, hit within less than an hour in the same region at the same depth.

Kiara Hernández, spokeswoman for the island's Emergency Management Agency, told The Associated Press that there were no immediate reports of damage and that there was no risk of tsunami.

She said emergency management officials were already on alert for the approaching Tropical Depression Karen and communicated quickly with mayors and others across the island to check on any damage.

The National Guard also had been activated for the storm, and schools and government offices remained closed as heavy rains were forecast for Puerto Rico on Tuesday, with warnings of possible flooding and landslides.

Hernández said crews would be inspecting buildings to ensure their safety.

"We will know this information little by little," she said.

The quake was felt across Puerto Rico and was the strongest to hit the island in recent years. While Puerto Rico experiences very small earthquakes on a daily basis that no one feels, seismologists have said it's rare for bigger ones to strike the island.

Yahaida Zabala, a 46-year-old San Juan resident, was asleep when she felt her building sway Monday around 11:23 p.m.

"I rushed into my son's room," she said. "He was sitting like he was paralyzed."

They ran down the stairs of their building and stood outside with a small group of people awaiting aftershocks.

The last strong quake to shake the island in recent years occurred in January 2014, when a magnitude-6.4 tremor struck after midnight just north of the island's north coast at a depth of 17 miles (28 kilometers). Authorities reported broken windows, a busted water line and cracked floors and walls, along with some power outages. Some 70 aftershocks were reported afterward, with at least three of a magnitude 3.5 or greater.

The most damaging earthquake to hit Puerto Rico in recent history occurred in October 1918, when a magnitude-7.3 quake struck near the island's northwest coast, causing a tsunami and killing 116 people.

This story has been corrected to show that name of San Juan resident is Yahaida Zabala.

'You are failing us': Plans, frustration at UN climate talks

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Scolded for doing little, leader after leader promised the United Nations on Monday to do more to prevent a warming world from reaching even more dangerous levels.

As they made their pledges at the Climate Action Summit, though, they and others conceded it was not enough. And even before they spoke, teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg shamed them over and over for their inaction: "How dare you?"

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres concluded the summit by listing 77 countries that committed to carbon neutrality by 2050, 70 nations pledging to do more to fight climate change, with 100 business leaders promising to join the green economy and one-third of the global banking sector signing up to green goals.

"Action by action, the tide is turning," he said. "But we have a long way to go."

Businesses and charities also got in on the act, at times even going bigger than major nations. Microsoft founder Bill Gates announced Monday that his foundation, along with The World Bank and some European governments, would provide \$790 million in financial help to 300 million of the world's small farmers adapt to climate change. The Gates foundation pledged \$310 million of that.

"The world can still prevent the absolute worst effects of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and developing new technologies and sources of energy," Gates said. "But the effects of rising temperatures are already under way."

As the day went on Monday and the promises kept coming, the United States seemed out in the cold.

Before world leaders made their promises in three-minute speeches, the 16-year-old Thunberg gave an emotional appeal in which she scolded the leaders with her repeated phrase, "How dare you."

"This is all wrong. I shouldn't be up here," said Thunberg, who began a lone protest outside the Swedish parliament more than a year ago that culminated in Friday's global climate strikes.

"I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you have come to us young people for hope. How dare you. You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words."

"We are in the beginning of a mass extinction and yet all you can talk about is money," Thunberg said. "You are failing us."

Later, she and 15 other youth activists filed a formal complaint with an arm of the U.N. that protects children, saying that governments' lack of action on warming is violating their basic rights.

U.S. President Donald Trump mocked Thunberg on Twitter, writing: "She seems like a very happy young girl looking forward to a bright and wonderful future. So nice to see!"

Outside experts say they heard a lot of talk Monday but not the promised action needed to keep warming to a few tenths of a degree. They say it won't produce the dramatic changes the world requires.

"Sometimes I feel that Greta is still out in front of the Swedish parliament out on her own," said Stanford University's Rob Jackson, who chairs the Global Carbon Project, which targets carbon emissions across the world.

Bill Hare, who follows national emissions and promises for Climate Action Tracker, called what was said "deeply disappointing" and not adding up to much.

"The ball they are moving forward is a ball of promises," said economist John Reilly, co-director of MIT's Joint Center for Global Change. "Where the 'ball' of actual accomplishments is, is another question."

Of all the countries that came up short, World Resources Institute Vice President Helen Mountford said one stood out: the United States for "not coming to the table and engaging."

"What we've seen so far is not the kind of climate leadership we need from the major economies," Mountford said. She did say, however, that businesses, as well as small- and medium-sized countries had "exciting initiatives."

Nations such as Finland and Germany promised to ban coal within a decade. Several also mentioned goals of climate neutrality — when a country is not adding more heat-trapping carbon to the air than is

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 31 of 50

being removed by plants and perhaps technology — by 2050.

Trump dropped by the summit, listened to German Chancellor Angela Merkel make detailed pledges — including going coal-free — and left without saying anything.

The United States did not ask to speak at the summit, U.N. officials said. And Guterres had told countries they couldn't be on the agenda without making bold new proposals.

Even though there was no speech by Trump — who has denied climate change, called it a Chinese hoax and repealed U.S. carbon-reduction policies — he was talked about.

In a jibe at Trump's plans to withdraw the United States from the 2015 Paris climate agreement, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said countries "must honor our commitments and follow through on the Paris Agreement."

"The withdrawal of certain parties will not shake the collective goal of the world community," Wang said to applause. Also Monday, Russia announced that it had ratified the Paris pact, which it had signed already.

Former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, the U.N.'s special climate envoy, thanked Trump for stopping by, adding that it might prove useful "when you formulate climate policy," drawing laughter and applause on the General Assembly floor.

Thunberg told the U.N. that even the strictest emission cuts being talked about only gives the world a 50% chance of limiting future warming to another 0.4 degrees Celsius (0.72 degrees Fahrenheit) from now, which is a global goal. Those odds, she said, are not good enough.

"We will not let you get away with this," Thunberg said. "Right now is where we draw the line."

As this all played out, scientists announced that Arctic sea ice reached its annual summer low and this year the ice shrank so much it tied for the second lowest mark in 40 years of monitoring.

Hilda Heine, president of the Marshall Islands, said she represents "the most climate-vulnerable people on Earth." Her tiny country has increased its emissions-cut proposals in a way that would limit warming to that tight goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times.

"We are now calling on others to join us," Heine said.

Several leaders talked about getting off coal, but Climate Action Tracker's Hare said it wasn't enough and Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley said if the world can make driverless cars, it can tackle climate change.

"There simply can be no more coal power plants after 2020 if we are serious about our future," she said.

Speaking for small nations that are already being eaten away by sea level rise and blasted by stronger storms, Mottley said, "We refuse to be relegated to the footnotes of history and be collateral damage."

"The nations of the world are not fighting a losing battle, but the nations of the world are losing this battle today," Mottley said. "It's within our battle to win it. The only question is: Will it be too late for the small nations of the world?"

Guterres opened the summit Monday by saying: "Earth is issuing a chilling cry: Stop."

He told the more than 60 world leaders scheduled to speak that it's not a time to negotiate but to act to make the world carbon neutral by 2050.

"Time is running out," he said. "But it is not too late."

AP Science Writer Seth Borenstein has covered climate issues for nearly 25 years. Follow him on Twitter at @borenbears.

Follow AP's climate coverage at <https://www.apnews.com/Climate>

At UN, Trump focuses on religious freedom, not climate

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — President Donald Trump made his political priorities clear Monday within an hour of arriving at the United Nations for a three-day visit: He breezed by a major climate change summit

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 32 of 50

to focus instead on religious persecution, an issue that resonates with his evangelical supporters.

The climate summit, a centerpiece of this year's U.N. schedule, was not on Trump's agenda at all. But he stopped in to observe for about 15 minutes before heading to what he saw as the main event, a meeting on protecting religious freedom.

Trump said it was an "urgent moral duty" for world leaders to stop crimes against faith, release prisoners of conscience and repeal laws restricting religious liberty.

"Approximately 80% of the world's population live in countries where religious liberty is threatened, restricted or even banned," Trump said, adding that when he first heard the statistic, he didn't believe it and asked for verification.

Trump's speech Monday extends a long-running focus on international religious freedom that speaks to a key priority of his evangelical base. His administration has hosted annual meetings on the topic in Washington, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced during this year's event that he would create an international alliance dedicated to the issue.

Underscoring the importance of Trump's action on the issue to evangelical voters who are critical to his 2020 reelection bid, one prominent evangelical backer Dallas-based pastor Robert Jeffress lauded Trump for focusing on religious freedom instead of climate change.

"What president in history would have the guts to do what President Trump is doing?" Jeffress, who was set to be in the audience for Trump's speech, said on Fox News. "And it's this kind of leadership that is absolutely infuriating the president's enemies, but it's also energizing his base, especially his religious base of voters."

Trump listed his administration's efforts on religious freedom and declared, "We've done a lot."

As for the climate summit, he told reporters as he left: "I'm a big believer in clean air and clean water and all countries should get together and do that, and they should do it for themselves. Very, very important."

Late Monday, he mocked Swedish 16-year-old activist Greta Thunberg, who had scolded the audience at the climate summit, repeatedly asking, "How dare you?"

Trump tweeted: "She seems like a very happy young girl looking forward to a bright and wonderful future. So nice to see!"

The Republican president arrived in New York 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 president met Monday with leaders of Pakistan, Poland, New Zealand, Singapore, Egypt and South Korea.

His most immediate challenge may be Iran. He 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.

Asked as he arrived at the U.N. building if he will meet soon with Iran President Hassan Rouhani, Trump was noncommittal. "We'll see what happens," he said. "We have a long way to go, we'll see what happens."

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.

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."

He also was noncommittal about a possible fourth meeting with North Korea's Kim Jong Un to discuss the easing of sanctions in exchange for Pyongyang's commitment to give up its nuclear weapons. He said only that it "could happen soon."

Trump's meetings with other leaders highlighted other hot spots around the globe.

In his meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, Trump was peppered with questions from Pakistani reporters about India's role in the crisis in Kashmir. Khan has invited Trump to mediate the long-running conflict between Pakistan and India over the disputed Himalayan region. India has not agreed to mediation, but Trump renewed his offer to play middleman between the two nuclear-armed nations.

"I've never failed as an arbitrator," he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 33 of 50

With Polish President Andrzej Duda, Trump said more U.S. troops will be stationed in Poland as a result of a new defense cooperation agreement they signed. He said Poland asked the U.S. to station more troops there and will pay for the new facilities.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien-Loong and Trump signed a memorandum to update defense cooperation between the two nations.

With President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi of Egypt, Trump talked about the recent attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities, which the U.S. has blamed on Iran, and about Libya, which slid into chaos after a 2011 uprising that left the country split between rival authorities in the country's east and west.

His meeting with New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was closed, but the White House said their talks included a discussion of the March shooting deaths of 51 people at mosques in Christchurch.

Riechmann reported from New York.

Associated Press writer Elana Schor contributed to this report from New York.

This story corrects that 51 people were killed in the Christchurch mosque attacks in March, not 49.

UN opens annual leaders' meeting encircled by troubled world

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Navigating a troubled era's choppy waters, world leaders gather for their annual meeting at the United Nations on Tuesday to grapple with climate change, regional conflicts and a dispute in the Middle East that could ripple across the entire planet.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will open the General Assembly proceedings with a "state of the world" speech. He'll be followed immediately by the traditional first speaker — Brazil, represented by its new president, Jair Bolsonaro — and the United States, represented by President Donald Trump.

The United Nations, designed to promote a multilateral world, has struggled in the face of increasing unilateralism by the United States and other nations that favor going it alone over the brand of collaboration that the global body advocates.

The event unfolds against the backdrop of flaring tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia, backed by its longtime supporter, the United States. The Saudis say Iran was responsible for an attack earlier this month on two oil facilities, which Iran denies.

The Trump administration, no fan of the Iranian government, has been engaged in an escalating series of harsh words and threats with Tehran. The U.S. has imposed increasingly crippling sanctions.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, who is in New York, is scheduled to address world leaders on Wednesday.

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."

Edith M. Lederer, chief U.N. correspondent for The Associated Press, has been covering world affairs for nearly a half century.

Trial begins for former Dallas cop who fatally shot neighbor

By JAKE BLEIBERG Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — A white Dallas police officer went on trial Monday in the shooting death of a black neighbor as attorneys sparred over whether the officer was distracted by a phone call when she mistook the neighbor's apartment for her own and the victim for an intruder.

Prosecutors contend Amber Guyger, 31, was distracted by the conversation with a colleague with whom she had a sexual relationship. Guyger's attorneys argued that she fired in self-defense based on the mistaken belief that she was in her home and that Botham Jean was a burglar.

Jean, a 26-year-old accountant from the Caribbean nation of St. Lucia, "was doing no harm to anyone, which was his way," Dallas County Assistant District Attorney Jason Hermus said in an opening statement.

Jean was in his living room eating a bowl of vanilla ice cream on Sept. 6, 2018, when Guyger entered the apartment, which was one floor directly above her apartment, Hermus said.

Hermus said Guyger had worked overtime that day, mostly involving office work that was not strenuous. He said jurors will see sexually explicit messages that Guyger exchanged that evening with a co-worker that discussed meeting up after her shift ended. He said some messages had been deleted from Guyger's phone after the shooting.

During pretrial proceedings, prosecutors and defense attorneys clashed over whether those messages should be entered into evidence.

In his opening statement, defense attorney Robert Rogers rejected the prosecution argument that there were unique signs that would have signaled to Guyger that she was on the wrong floor. In fact, he said, the identical look of the apartment complex from floor to floor often led to confusion among tenants, with dozens regularly parking on the wrong floor or attempting to enter the wrong apartment.

Rogers said the floors of the parking garage were not clearly marked so it was understandable when Guyger, tired from a long shift, pushed open a door and believed an intruder was inside.

Guyger "was on autopilot," he said of her entrance to Jean's apartment. "She had tunnel vision."

Rogers also dismissed as "preposterous" the relevance to Jean's death of Guyger's sexual relationship with her partner.

Martin Rivera, Guyger's colleague at the time and her former lover, acknowledged having a 16-minute telephone conversation with Guyger as she headed home from work the night of the shooting. He said the two exchanged sexually explicit messages and images earlier that day but denied making plans to rendezvous with Guyger later that night, as prosecutors suggested.

When prosecutors asked Rivera what the conversation was about, he said he believed it was mostly about police work but his memory of the call was hazy.

After the shooting, prosecutors said, Guyger deleted the logs of her text exchanges with Rivera from her cellphone. Rivera acknowledged doing the same thing.

Earlier in the day, Allisa Findley of New York, Jean's older sister, testified that she was the first in the family to be informed of his death via a phone call from a hospital social worker.

"I just immediately became cold," Findley said. "It just didn't make sense."

Findley said she broke the tragic news to their mother and that she still sometimes calls her brother's phone hoping that he will answer.

"I haven't accepted it yet," she said.

The case is being heard by a jury that appeared to have a majority of women and people of color.

The shooting attracted intense national scrutiny for the strange circumstances and because it was one in a chain of shootings of unarmed black men by white police officers.

The trial's outcome may hang on whether the jury believes that Guyger's mistake was reasonable, according to legal experts.

Guyger was off duty but still in uniform when she shot Jean. She told investigators that after a 15-hour shift she parked on the fourth floor of the complex's garage — rather than the third floor, where she

lived — and found the apartment's door ajar.

Three days later, Guyger was arrested for manslaughter. She was subsequently fired from the Dallas Police Department and charged by a grand jury .

The jury will have to decide whether Guyger committed murder, a lesser offense such as manslaughter or criminally negligent homicide, or no crime at all.

Hundreds of thousands affected as British travel firm fails

By CARLO PIOVANO and GREGORY KATZ Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Families stranded, honeymoons and vacations canceled, thousands of workers laid off: The sudden collapse of British tour company Thomas Cook and its network of airlines and hotels sowed chaos for hundreds of thousands of travelers and businesses around the world Monday.

Brought down by a variety of factors, including crushing debts and online competition, the 178-year-old travel agency that helped pioneer the package tour ceased operating in the middle of the night. Its four airlines stopped carrying customers, and its 21,000 employees in 16 countries lost their jobs.

The company's failure rippled across the tourism industry, particularly around the Mediterranean, with travelers uncertain how they would get home, hotels worried they wouldn't get paid, guests afraid they wouldn't be allowed to check out without settling their bills, and resorts hit with cancellations.

Overall, about 600,000 people were traveling with Thomas Cook as of Sunday, though it was unclear how many would be left stranded, as some regional subsidiaries were in talks with local authorities to continue operating.

The British government swung into action, lining up flights to bring an estimated 150,000 Britain-based customers back home from vacation spots around the globe in what was called the biggest peacetime repatriation effort in the country's history.

Some 50,000 Thomas Cook travelers were reported stranded in Greece, up to 30,000 in Spain's Canary Islands, 21,000 in Turkey and 15,000 in Cyprus. Travelers lined up at airports, looking for other ways to get home.

James Egerton-Stanbridge and his wife, Kim, were set to fly from London's Gatwick Airport to Egypt to celebrate her 60th birthday when flights were grounded.

"Kim was crying this morning. We're devastated," he said.

Long lines of British tourists snaked through the terminal in the Mexican resort of Cancun as travelers waited to find out when they could return home, and some discovered they would be taken to cities hours from their homes.

Katie Cowdrey, her husband and 6-year-old son had been scheduled to end their two-week vacation Monday anyway, but instead of flying home to London, they were told a plane would take them to Manchester.

"There's chaos as you can see. No one knows what's going on," Cowdrey said. "We only found out from the news. We weren't told any other way. The hotel didn't know what was going on."

Others took the news in stride. Sweden's Bengt Olsson, who was traveling in Cyprus, said there were worse places to be stranded: "It's nice to stay here. It's warm."

The reality was far harsher for the Thomas Cook employees who lost their jobs overnight.

"The staff have been stabbed in the back without a second's thought," said Brian Strutton, head of the British Airline Pilots' Association.

An estimated 1 million customers also found their bookings for upcoming trips canceled. Many of them are likely to receive refunds under travel insurance plans but had no idea when they would get their money back. Thomas Cook said it served 22 million customers a year.

The company, which began in 1841 with one-day train excursions in England, grew to have travel operations around the world but has been struggling for years because of competition from budget airlines and low-cost online booking sites.

In contrast to internet sites, Thomas Cook had high fixed costs: It operated a fleet of 105 jets and owned

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 36 of 50

about 550 travel agencies on major streets across Britain as well as 200 hotels in sun-drenched countries.

"The growing popularity of the pick-and-mix type of travel that allows consumers to book their holiday packages separately, as well as new kids on the block like Airbnb, has seen the travel industry change beyond all recognition in the past decade, as consumers book travel, accommodation, and car hire independently," said Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets.

Business was also hurt in recent years by terror attacks in the Middle East and heat waves in Northern Europe that led people to stay home.

Things got worse this year, with the company blaming a slowdown in bookings on uncertainty over Britain's impending departure from the European Union. A drop in the pound also made it more expensive for Britons to travel abroad.

While many of these factors also affected rival companies, Thomas Cook was also burdened by \$2 billion in debt. It was seeking 200 million pounds (\$250 million) to avoid going bust and held talks over the weekend with shareholders and creditors.

CEO Peter Fankhauser stood outside the company's offices before dawn and announced that the effort to stave off collapse had failed.

"I know that this outcome will be devastating to many people and will cause a lot of anxiety, stress and disruption," he said.

British authorities chartered dozens of aircraft to fly customers home free of charge over the next two weeks, but warned of delays and urged patience.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who was traveling to New York for a meeting at the United Nations, said the government was right not to bail out the company, arguing that doing so could have led other businesses to expect the same treatment.

Most of Thomas Cook's customers from Britain 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.

In Germany, the government was considering a request for a bridge loan from Thomas Cook's unit there, the airline Condor. The subsidiary was still flying but stopped carrying Thomas Cook customers.

Thomas Cook's collapse is also a blow to the many companies in resort areas that have long relied on it for business, including some 3,150 hotels.

In Spain's Canary Islands, a favored year-round destination for Europeans, the association of hotels said it feared an economic hit. The Spanish government held meetings with regional authorities to assess the damage.

In Tunisia, the TAP news agency said the tourism minister intervened after reports that some Thomas Cook tourists in Hammamet were locked into a hotel and "being held hostage" as hotel staff demanded they pay extra. The government said the situation was resolved and the guests would not be prevented from leaving the country.

Associated Press writers Jill Lawless in New York; Pan Pylas in London; Aritz Parra in Madrid; Menelaos Hadjicostis in Nicosia, Cyprus; John Leicester in Paris and Christopher Sherman in Mexico City contributed to this report.

Trump says meeting with Kim Jong Un 'could happen soon'

By FOSTER KLUG Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Donald Trump, who orchestrated a spur-of-the-moment June encounter with Kim Jong Un that saw him become the first U.S. president to set foot in North Korea, said Monday that another meeting with the North Korean leader "could happen soon."

Trump provided few details, and it wasn't clear what officials were doing behind the scenes to set up a meeting meant to address a diplomatic impasse over the North's development of nuclear-armed missiles targeting the U.S. mainland.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 37 of 50

But Trump's comments, even with few specifics backing them up, are tantalizing because there is extreme interest, especially in Japan and South Korea, in whether Trump and Kim can strike a deal on one of the world's most pressing standoffs.

Trump has also proven that he's willing to take risks with North Korea that no other U.S. leader has taken, even as critics say his summitry captured the world's attention but got few concrete results.

Asked on the sidelines of annual General Assembly meetings at the United Nations in New York what it would take for another Kim summit, Trump said: "We'll see. Right now, people would like to see that happen. I want to know what's going to be coming out of it. We can know a lot before the summit takes place."

Trump also met Monday with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, the driving force behind the initial diplomacy that led to the first Trump-Kim meeting last year and defused war talk in 2017.

Moon said the Trump-Kim meeting at the Korean border in June was a "historic moment." Moon said he expects that negotiations between the United States and North Korea will resume soon and there will be another summit.

"I always marvel at your imagination and bold decision-making," Moon told Trump.

At the heart of the Washington-Pyongyang dispute is the impoverished North's desire for relief from harsh sanctions imposed as it has boosted its nuclear and missile capabilities. Washington, however, is demanding that Pyongyang first take more comprehensive steps to dismantle a nuclear program that has been painstakingly built over decades.

In recent months, the North has displayed its unhappiness with the tough U.S. stance in a series of short-range weapons tests that experts see as an attempt to increase pressure on Washington and Seoul and build leverage ahead of any new talks.

Trump has repeatedly played down tests of weapons that could strike allies South Korea and Japan, which host tens of thousands of U.S. troops. He also has trumpeted the strength of his rapport with Kim.

"The relationship has been very good," Trump said again Monday. "We'll see what happens. But we'd like to see if we can do something. And if we can, that would be great. And if we can't, that's fine."

As he arrived earlier in the day at the U.N., Trump responded to a question about when he planned to meet with Kim, saying, "It could happen soon. It could happen soon."

North Korea reportedly hasn't sent its top diplomat to the U.N. meetings, making the Moon-Trump talks potentially the highest-level diplomatic opportunity to make progress this week on the nuclear standoff.

During that first summit with Kim, in Singapore, Trump became the first sitting U.S. president to meet with a North Korean leader. Asked about those talks, which critics have called more surface than substance, Trump said, "People don't give that meeting as much credit as it deserves and the relationship we established. It was a tremendous success."

Trump is set to speak before the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday, two years after he used that podium to deride Kim as "Little Rocket Man" and to threaten to destroy North Korea.

The second Kim-Trump summit, in Hanoi, Vietnam, collapsed in February. The leaders then met briefly in June at the Korean border, where Trump unexpectedly stepped into the North. Since then, there has been little apparent progress.

In recent days, however, North Korea has praised Trump for saying Washington may pursue an unspecified "new method" in nuclear negotiations as well as for his decision to fire his hawkish former National Security Adviser John Bolton.

North Korea also has hinted that some sort of diplomacy could soon resume, but it says it will not consider abandoning its nuclear weapons unless external threats are removed. The North says annual U.S.-South Korean military drills and the huge presence of American troops in the region are proof of U.S. hostility toward Pyongyang.

US soldier arrested on charge of sharing bomb instructions

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO** and **ROXANA HEGEMAN** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal authorities said Monday they arrested an Army soldier who they accused of discussing with an FBI informant a possible bomb attack within the United States as well as the targeting of left-leaning activists and a media organization.

Jarrett William Smith, a 24-year-old private first class infantry soldier from South Carolina stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas, was arrested Saturday and later charged with one count of sharing bomb-making instructions online. During his first court appearance on Monday, the magistrate ordered that he remain in custody pending a detention hearing on Thursday.

His defense attorney, Thomas Bartee, did not immediately respond to a phone message seeking comment.

A criminal complaint alleges that Smith discussed his plan to kill far-left-leaning “antifa” activists and described how to build a bomb that could be triggered by calling a cellphone. They accuse him of posting on Facebook that he was interested in traveling to Ukraine to fight with a paramilitary group known as Azov Battalion.

Court papers say Smith also suggested targeting a major news network with a car bomb. The news network was not identified.

In an online chat group, Smith allegedly discussed with a confidential source in August a plan to conduct an attack within the United States and said he was looking for more “radicals” like himself, the complaint alleges. He talked about destroying nearby cell towers or a local news station.

In an interview before his arrest, Smith told investigators he knows how to make improvised explosives devices and that he routinely provides instruction on building them. He stated he did this to cause “chaos.” He said if chaos results in the death of people as a result of information he provided, it would not affect him, according to the complaint.

Lt. Col. Terry Kelley, with the 1st Infantry Division Public Affairs at Fort Riley, said in a statement that Smith has been assigned to Fort Riley since June 2019. He previously served at Fort Bliss, Texas, from November 2017 to June 2019. He entered the Army from Conway, South Carolina, as an infantryman and completed training at Fort Benning, Georgia. He has not deployed.

In one exchange Friday with an FBI undercover agent on the encrypted messaging service Telegram, Smith discussed using various household chemicals and commonly available equipment to make a bomb.

“That’s the best way to fight people,” Smith is quoted in the complaint as writing. “Making AK-47s out of expensive parts is cool, but imagine of you will if you were going to Walmart instead of gun store to buy weapons.”

During that same exchange, Smith allegedly sent the agent instructions for building a “Middle East style bomb” that if big enough could destroy U.S. military vehicles. An FBI bomb technician later determined the specific instructions could have constructed a viable device.

When the undercover agent asked Smith if there was anyone in Texas who would be a good fit for “fire, destruction and death,” Smith reportedly replied, “Outside of Beto? I don’t know enough people that would be relevant enough to cause a change if they died” — an apparent reference to former Texas Rep. Beto O’Rourke, who is running for the Democratic presidential nomination.

O’Rourke’s campaign spokeswoman Aleigha Cavalier said they are grateful to the FBI for their diligence in handling this case and for their work to keep the country safe in the face of domestic terror threats.

“We take any threat like this very seriously, and our team is in direct contact with the FBI regarding this case,” Cavalier said. “This isn’t about any one person or one campaign, and we won’t let this scare us or cause us to back down in fighting for what’s right.”

If convicted of the charge, Smith could face up to 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000, according to the U.S. attorney’s office.

Smith is the latest of a string of people charged with activity that federal authorities said could lead to domestic terrorism, including several current or former members of the military.

In April, an Army combat veteran in Southern California was arrested after receiving what he thought

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 39 of 50

was an improvised explosive device from an undercover law enforcement agent. Authorities say Mark Steven Domingo plotted to bomb a white supremacist rally that didn't take place but also discussed other attacks on Jews, churches and police.

Authorities in February arrested a Maryland man, Coast Guard Lt. Christopher Paul Hasson, on gun and drug charges, with prosecutors describing him as a domestic terrorist and white nationalist seeking to use "focused violence" to establish a "white homeland." They also said he compiled a list of targets that included prominent Democratic politicians and media figures.

In 2015, authorities arrested John T. Booker Jr., a 20-year-old Topeka, Kansas, resident as he tried to arm what he thought was a bomb outside Fort Riley. Booker had expressed support for the terrorist group al-Qaida and said on Facebook that he wanted to die in a jihad. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison after pleading guilty in federal court to attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction and attempting to destroy government property with an explosive.

The most notorious domestic terrorist in U.S. history, Timothy McVeigh, was stationed at Fort Riley for a time before he left the Army and eventually staged the Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people in 1995.

Hegeman reported from Wichita, Kansas. AP writer John Hanna contributed to this story from Topeka, Kansas.

GM strike in 2nd week: Some progress but no end in sight

By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The strike against General Motors by 49,000 United Auto Workers entered its second week Monday with progress reported in negotiations but no clear end in sight.

Bargainers met all weekend and returned to talks Monday morning as the strike entered its eighth day. Talks continued even as GM accused picketers in Tennessee of blocking traffic, placing screws and nails on public roads, harassing motorists and damaging vehicles.

The company detailed its complaints before a local judge approved a temporary restraining order Sunday barring certain unruly behavior at the Spring Hill factory complex, which makes engines and SUVs.

Court documents say about 100 nonunion salaried GM employees and contractors remain working at the plant so it can resume normal operations when the strike ends. GM is also shipping 1,000 finished vehicles ordered by customers via commercial haulers. The company says safety and security are the highest priority and a minority of picketers was unlawful.

Several protesters were arrested for blocking the roadway last Wednesday.

UAW spokesman Brian Rothenberg says the union is committed to conducting strike-related activities safely and lawfully and is working with law enforcement as issues arise.

In the talks, a person briefed on them said bargainers are haggling about wages and profit sharing, new product for factories that GM wants to close, a faster route to full wages for new hires, and use of temporary workers. The person didn't want to be identified because details of the bargaining are confidential.

Workers walked off their jobs early on Sept. 16, paralyzing production at about 30 manufacturing sites in nine states.

Already the strike forced GM to shut down two Canadian factories that make engines, older-model pickup trucks and two car models. If the strike drags on much longer, GM likely will have to close more factories in Mexico and Canada because engines, transmissions and other components are built in the United States. Companies that supply parts to GM also will have to start cutting production.

Consumers this week will start to see fewer trucks, SUVs and cars on dealer lots. Cox Automotive said that GM had stocked up before the strike with a 77-day supply of vehicles. But before the strike, the supply of larger SUVs such as the Chevrolet Tahoe already was below the industry average 61 days' worth of vehicles.

Workers also will feel pressure. They got their last GM paycheck last week and will have to start living

on \$250 per week in strike pay starting this week.

The union wants a bigger share of GM's more than \$30 billion in profits during the past five years. But the company sees a global auto sales decline ahead and wants to bring its labor costs in line with U.S. plants owned by foreign automakers.

The top production worker wage is about \$30 per hour, and GM's total labor costs including benefits are about \$63 per hour compared with an average of \$50 at factories run by foreign-based automakers mainly in the South.

Issues that are snagging the talks include the formula for profit sharing, which the union wants to improve. Currently workers get \$1,000 for every \$1 billion the company makes before taxes in North America. This year workers got checks for \$10,750 each, less than last year's \$11,500.

Wages also are an issue with the company seeking to shift compensation more to lump sums that depend on earnings and workers wanting hourly increases that will be there if the economy goes south.

They're also bargaining over use of temporary workers and a path to make them full-time, as well as a faster track for getting newly hired workers to the top UAW wage.

GM has offered products in two of four locations where it wants to close factories. It's proposed an electric pickup truck for the Detroit-Hamtramck plant and a battery factory in the Lordstown, Ohio, area, where it is closing a small-car assembly plant. The factory would be run by a joint venture, and although it would have UAW workers, GM is proposing they work for pay that's lower than the company pays at assembly plants.

This is the first national strike by the UAW since 2007, when the union shut down General Motors for two days.

Afghan officials: 40 civilians killed in anti-Taliban raid

By RAHIM FAIEZ Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Anti-Taliban raids by Afghan forces backed by U.S. airstrikes killed at least 40 civilians attending a wedding party in the southern Helmand province, Afghan officials said.

The civilian deaths in Sunday night's raids on Taliban hideouts further rattled Afghanistan amid an upsurge in violence that's followed the collapse this month of U.S.-Taliban peace talks to end America's longest war.

"We are saddened and devastated to hear that civilians have lost their lives in an incident in Helmand despite President Ghani's repeated call for extra cautions in conducting military operations," said Sediq Sediqqi, President Ashraf Ghani's spokesman.

He added that Helmand's provincial governor has been instructed to send an investigation team to the area.

Abdul Majed Akhund, deputy provincial councilman, said most of the dead were women and children who were who were at a wedding ceremony in Musa Qala district. An additional 12 civilians were wounded and were hospitalized in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province, Akhund said.

The civilian deaths occurred during the second of two raids undertaken in different areas of Musa Qala, Attahullah Afghan, head of the provincial council, said.

The operations killed 22 Taliban fighters, including foreigners, Afghanistan's defense ministry said in a statement. Fourteen people were arrested, including five Pakistani nationals and one Bangladeshi. The statement said a large warehouse of supplies and equipment was also destroyed.

"The foreign terrorist group was actively engaged in organizing terrorist attacks," the statement said.

The raids came after a drone attack last week in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar province blamed on U.S. forces killed at least 16 and wounded tens of others, most of them civilians. U.S. forces said that attack was targeting Islamic State militants.

Also, in an insider attack at the Kandahar airport on Monday, a policeman turned his weapon on a NATO Resolute Support convoy, according to a statement tweeted by a spokesman for U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Resolute Support forces returned fire, killing the attacker, the statement tweeted by spokesman

Col. Sonny Leggett said. Three Resolute Support service members suffered non-life-threatening injuries, the statement said.

The violence comes as Afghanistan prepares for presidential elections on Saturday, a vote the Taliban vehemently oppose. The Taliban are at their strongest since their ouster in 2001 and hold sway over more than half the country, staging near-daily, deadly attacks across Afghanistan. The insurgent group has warned Afghans not to vote in the election and said their fighters would target election campaigns as well as polling stations.

Lawsuit: Doctor, coach abused boys at renowned youth club

By MICHAEL R. SISAk Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — For underprivileged boys from rough-and-tumble New York City neighborhoods, the Madison Square Boys Club stood as an oasis — a home away from home where they could shoot hoops, swim laps, and learn skills, like cooking and photography.

But behind the well-known club's doors, some men who attended as boys in the 1950s through 1970s say, they were sexually abused.

Some say they were molested by Dr. Reginald Archibald, a renowned endocrinologist who volunteered to perform annual physical exams on teenage and preteen members. Others say they were fondled by the coach of the club's championship-winning basketball team, Nicholas "Lefty" Antonucci.

The allegations, detailed Monday in a lawsuit filed on behalf of 20 men, are in the same vein as those made against other prominent institutions where adults entrusted to care for vulnerable or disadvantaged children have been accused of violating them.

"It was kind of an open secret," said Jennifer Freeman, one of the lawyers bringing the case under a recent change in New York law that opened a one-year window for victims to sue over abuse they say happened decades ago.

James Sullivan, a retired New York City police lieutenant, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview that Archibald started abusing him in 1958, when he was 11. Sullivan said he kept it to himself for nearly 60 years, until Rockefeller University last year started looking into allegations Archibald abused hundreds of boys there.

"This thing has affected me in all facets of my life — whether it's married or professional, whatever it is," said Sullivan, now 72 and living in Florida. "It affected decision-making. It just creeps into everything. It tears at your self-worth and your self-image. You feel less of yourself."

The AP generally does not identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they consent to being named, as Sullivan has done.

Archibald died in 2007. The AP was unsuccessful in finding Antonucci or his relatives, but lawyers for the men suing the club say they believe he is also dead.

The club said in a statement Monday that while it cannot comment on specific allegations in the lawsuit, it "applauds the courage of those who have come forward to describe their painful experiences at Madison between 1950 and 1980, which strike at the very core of our organization's values."

"Nothing is more important to Madison than the safety and well-being of the children we serve, and we have strict policies in place to make sure our club members are safe at all times and that our staff is trained to identify and report any signs of abuse," the organization said.

Another man, who did not want to be identified, told the AP that Archibald started abusing him when he was 6, in 1958 or 1959. Children were required to be examined by Archibald each year in order to use the swimming pool, and he was known around the club as the "pool doctor."

On one occasion, the man said, the doctor took him into a club exam room that was essentially a closet, fondled his genitals and attempted to sodomize him with a finger.

Sullivan said Archibald grabbed his genitals during an exam and persuaded his mother to allow him to participate in a growth study at Rockefeller University, during which the doctor abused him further and made him pose for nude photographs.

Sullivan and the other man said Antonucci had a reputation as a "hands-on" coach. He had a habit of going around the gymnasium, grabbing boys on the back of the thigh, exclaiming, 'Gotcha!' and then putting them in a bear hug.

On one occasion, Sullivan said, Antonucci took him out to dinner alone and fondled him. Sullivan said he left the club after playing one season of basketball and eventually gave up the sport to play football, culminating with a stint on the University of Connecticut's team.

Antonucci was convicted of molestation in the 1960s and did not return to the club after prison, lawyers for the men said. The Manhattan district attorney's office said it could not immediately locate records on the case.

According to the lawyers, one of the men now suing the club testified at Antonucci's trial about his alleged abuse, including one episode in which the coach allegedly squirted ketchup and mustard on a boy's genitals.

The club, founded in 1884 and known since 1984 as the Madison Square Boys and Girls Club, is New York City's oldest Boys and Girls Club. Over the years, it has attracted support from some of the city's wealthiest benefactors.

The duality of the club tears at the man who said he was molested starting at age 6.

On one hand, the club was a welcoming refuge, keeping youths off the streets, treating them to a haunted house at Halloween and giving them bags of goodies at Christmas. On the other, for many of the boys, the alleged treatment by Archibald and Antonucci made it a source of immense pain.

"It is such an unbelievable institution that it breaks my heart that they're coming under the spotlight now for this," the man said, "and not for all the good they've done."

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Perfect storm of change, debt and Brexit sank Thomas Cook

By DAVID McHUGH AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — British tour operator Thomas Cook fell victim to multiple setbacks including shifting travel habits, the rise of online booking sites, the sinking pound and even unusually hot summer weather at home that discouraged Northern Europeans from travelling..

Specific problems of its own, like a 1.6 billion-pound (\$2 billion) debt pile, made it less able to react to change.

It all added up to a perfect storm that led the 178-year-old company to cease operations early Monday, stranding hundreds of thousands of travelers.

Analysts said Thomas Cook, which rode a package holiday boom that started in the mid-1980s, was too slow to react as consumers moved away from buying trips at bricks-and-mortar stores.

It has been overtaken by online services like Airbnb and internet travel companies who may separate or combine hotel, rental car and flight offerings, which puts pressure on prices through comparison shopping.

"The company has struggled to adapt to a changing travel and retail environment," said Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets UK.

The company did push into online business, with 48% of its bookings from the internet as of last year. But not fast enough. Online rivals, meanwhile, didn't have to bear the costs of owning 200 hotels, 500 travel agency shops and 105 airline jets, but acted as middlemen.

Felix Kolbeck, head of the department of tourism at the Munich University of Applied Sciences, said the classical business model with travel agents and tour operators, which was very strong for decades in Britain, "has been out of date for some time."

Kolbeck said that in the current environment, "if as a travel company you do not have exclusive access to certain capacity, hotel facilities, resorts, or market them exclusively and thus can price them higher, then you will run into difficulty." CEO Peter Fankhauser had led the company in that direction but then faced troubles from Brexit uncertainty and the weaker pound.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 43 of 50

Thomas Cook Group PLC isn't alone in facing such pressures. Competitor TUI Group AG, based in Hannover, Germany, has shifted its focus from tour operators to its own cruises and hotels.

But other factors laid into the British travel company.

Company officials have cited uncertainty over Brexit, both from consumers worried about its impact on their finances and from the timing, given that one unfulfilled deadline for Britain to leave the EU fell on March 31, just days before the heavy European Easter holiday travel season this year. Travel agents had to issue guidance on what would happen in case of a no-deal Brexit. Brexit has meanwhile sent the pound lower, given British travelers less purchasing power.

After 2010, the Arab Spring revolts discouraged travel to previous U.K. favorites such as Egypt and Tunisia. Travel companies shifted their focus to the Western Mediterranean, such as Spain's Canary Islands, only to see demand for some of those locations then dwindle.

The company's reputation suffered after the 2006 deaths of two customers in Corfu, Greece, from carbon monoxide poisoning. The case dragged out for years and Thomas Cook would end up being told by a coroner it "breached its duty of care."

As the company struggled to reshape its business in the new environment and cut costs it was hit with an unusually warm summer in 2018, which it said led travelers from the U.K. and Scandinavia to put off plans to head for warmer destinations. When they did decide at the last minute, the sector of the market that focuses on late decision makers turned out to be fiercely competitive on price.

"The group, like its peers, has suffered from a perfect storm of turbulence, from political unrest and terrorism at some of its most popular destinations, to unusual weather patterns seeing travelers taking 'staycations' and the ever present Brexit uncertainty devaluing the pound and putting consumers off from booking holidays," said Helal Miah, investment research analyst at The Share Centre.

Heavy debts gave the company less breathing room to maneuver.

"While other travel groups have suffered from these factors, Thomas Cook's pile of debt is the differentiating factor," said Miah.

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.

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."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 44 of 50

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.

White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham, while acknowledging that there can be "10 to 20 people" listening in on such calls, reiterated Trump's position that foreign leaders need to be able to speak candidly.

"And so I do think that perhaps releasing this kind of a transcript could set a bad precedent," Grisham said on Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends" on Monday. "He's willing to do it, I think, but there's a lot of other people, lawyers and the such, that may have a problem with it."

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.

In addition, Trump last month placed a freeze on the release on \$250 million in military aid to Ukraine without providing an excuse, raising suspicions among his Democratic critics that he was trying to squeeze Zelenskiy. The aid was released before a likely rebuke by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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."

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 Intel-

ligence Committee this week.

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

The story behind Biden's son, Ukraine and Trump's claims

By **STEPHEN BRAUN** and **LYNN BERRY** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In 2014, then-Vice President Joe Biden was at the forefront of American diplomatic efforts to support Ukraine's fragile democratic government as it sought to fend off Russian aggression and root out corruption. So it raised eyebrows when Biden's son Hunter was hired by a Ukrainian gas company.

The Obama White House said at the time that there was no conflict because the younger Biden was a private citizen. And there's been no evidence of wrongdoing by either Biden.

Yet the matter is back in the spotlight following revelations that President Donald Trump prodded Ukraine's president to help him investigate any corruption related to Joe Biden, now one of the top Democrats seeking to defeat Trump in 2020. Trump's private lawyer Rudy Giuliani has also publicly urged Ukrainian officials to investigate the Bidens.

Hunter Biden was named a paid board member of Burisma Holdings in April 2014. The company's founder was a political ally of Viktor Yanukovich, Ukraine's Russia-friendly president, who was driven out in February 2014 by mass protests.

Yanukovich's ouster prompted the Obama administration to move quickly to deepen ties with Ukraine's new government. Joe Biden played a leading role, traveling to Ukraine and speaking frequently with its new Western-friendly president.

The younger Biden's business role raised concerns among anticorruption advocates that Burisma was seeking to gain influence with the Obama administration. At the time, the company ran a natural gas extraction operation in Crimea, a Ukrainian peninsula annexed by Russia after Yanukovich was pushed from power.

Hunter Biden has denied using his influence with his father to aid Burisma. He remained on the board through early 2019, often appearing at energy-related conferences abroad representing Burisma's interests.

On Saturday, the former vice president said he never speaks to his son about his overseas business dealings.

The matter, however, has continued to be questioned by Trump and his allies. They've pointed in particular to Biden's move in March 2016 to pressure the Ukrainian government to fire its top prosecutor, Viktor Shokin, who had previously led an investigation into Burisma's owner.

Biden was representing the official position of the U.S. government, a position that was also supported by other Western governments and many in Ukraine, who accused Shokin of being soft on corruption.

Corruption has continued to fester in Ukraine. In May, the country's new president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, came into office with no political experience but with bold promises to put an end to the corrupt practices.

Around this time, Giuliani began reaching out to Zelenskiy and his aides to press for a government investigation into Burisma and Hunter Biden's role with the company.

In a Fox News interview on May 19, Trump claimed the former Ukrainian prosecutor "was after" Joe Biden's son and that was why the former vice president demanded he be fired. There is no evidence of this.

Ukraine's current prosecutor, Yuriy Lutsenko, was quoted by Bloomberg News in May as saying he had no evidence of wrongdoing by Biden or his son. Bloomberg also reported that the investigation into Burisma was dormant at the time Biden pressed for Shokin's ouster.

'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."

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.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 47 of 50

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.

Lynn Elber is at lelber@ap.org and on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/lynnelber>

Asian shares edge higher as China-US trade talks planned

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Shares edged higher in Asia on Tuesday after U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin confirmed that China-U.S. trade talks were due to resume in two weeks' time.

The Shanghai Composite index rose 0.8% to 2,999.91 while Japan's Nikkei 225 added 0.2% to 22,123.49.

In Hong Kong the Hang Seng index gained 0.3% to 26,305.85 after Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam told reporters she hoped a "town hall" dialogue this week might be a step forward in the "long journey" to reconciliation after weeks of sometimes violent protests in the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

In the latest of a slew of discouraging indicators, a preliminary manufacturers survey showed factory activity slowing in Japan last month.

The HIS Markit purchasing managers index fell to 48.9 in September from 49.3 in August, on a gauge where 50 marks the break between expansion and contraction.

It cited "strong external headwinds" for manufacturers, including the prolonged tariffs war between Beijing and Washington that has disrupted trade across the region.

Elsewhere in Asia, the Kospi in South Korea climbed 0.3% to 2,098.01 and Australia's S&P ASX 200 edged 0.1% higher to 6,755.50. Shares fell in Taiwan and Indonesia but were higher in Singapore and Thailand.

Overnight, the S&P 500 index slipped less than 0.1% to 2,991.78 and the Dow Jones Industrial average picked up 0.1%, to 26,949.99. The Nasdaq fell 0.1% to 8,112.46 and the Russell 2000 index of smaller companies lost 0.1%, to 1,558.25.

Losses in the health care, communication services and industrial sectors outweighed gains in technology stocks, consumer-centric companies and banks. Indicating investors are seeking to avoid some risk, bond prices rose and yields declined, with the yield on 10-year Treasury notes slipping to 1.71% from 1.75% late Friday.

The major share indexes are each up modestly for the month and the quarter. The benchmark S&P 500 index remains close to its all-time high set in late July.

Mnuchin said Monday that he expected talks on the U.S. dispute with China over trade and technology to resume the week of Oct. 7.

Meanwhile, oil prices and the energy sector could experience more volatility this week as Trump takes seeks a coalition to confront Iran, which the U.S. blames for last week's strike on a Saudi Arabian oil facility.

Benchmark crude oil lost 32 cents to settle at \$58.32 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It lost 55 cents on Monday to \$58.64 per barrel. Brent crude oil, the international standard, declined 43 cents to \$63.30 a barrel.

The dollar rose to 107.61 Japanese yen from 107.54 yen on Monday. The euro weakened to \$1.0990 from \$1.0994.

Major stock indexes in Europe closed broadly lower as a gauge of Germany's private sector activity contracted for the first time in nearly seven years, according to IHS Markit.

Germany is Europe's largest economy and often acts as an indicator for the continent's overall economic health. The latest data adds to worries that Europe is facing a slowdown. The European Central Bank is urging governments to spend more on stimulus as economic growth stalls.

AP Business writers Alex Veiga and Damian J. Troise contributed.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 49 of 50

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 24, the 267th day of 2019. There are 98 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 24, 1976, former hostage Patricia Hearst was sentenced to seven years in prison for her part in a 1974 bank robbery in San Francisco carried out by the Symbionese Liberation Army. (Hearst was released after 22 months after receiving clemency from President Jimmy Carter.)

On this date:

In 1789, President George Washington signed a Judiciary Act establishing America's federal court system and creating the post of attorney general.

In 1869, thousands of businessmen were ruined in a Wall Street panic known as "Black Friday" after financiers Jay Gould and James Fisk attempted to corner the gold market.

In 1896, author F. Scott Fitzgerald was born in St. Paul, Minnesota.

In 1934, Babe Ruth made his farewell appearance as a player with the New York Yankees in a game against the Boston Red Sox. (The Sox won, 5-0.)

In 1960, the USS Enterprise, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, was launched at Newport News, Virginia. "The Howdy Doody Show" ended a nearly 13-year run with its final telecast on NBC.

In 1968, the TV news magazine "60 Minutes" premiered on CBS; the undercover police drama "The Mod Squad" premiered on ABC.

In 1969, the trial of the Chicago Eight (later seven) began. (Five were later convicted of crossing state lines to incite riots at the 1968 Democratic convention, but the convictions were ultimately overturned.)

In 1988, Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson won the men's 100-meter dash at the Seoul (sohl) Summer Olympics — but he was disqualified three days later for using anabolic steroids. Members of the eastern Massachusetts Episcopal diocese elected Barbara C. Harris the first female bishop in the church's history.

In 1996, the United States and 70 other countries became the first to sign a treaty at the United Nations to end all testing and development of nuclear weapons. (The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty has yet to enter into force because of the refusal so far of eight nations — including the United States — to ratify it.)

In 2001, President George W. Bush ordered a freeze on the assets of 27 people and organizations with suspected links to terrorism, including Islamic militant Osama bin Laden, and urged other nations to do likewise.

In 2002, British Prime Minister Tony Blair asserted that Iraq had a growing arsenal of chemical and biological weapons and planned to use them, as he unveiled an intelligence dossier to a special session of Parliament.

In 2007, United Auto Workers walked off the job at General Motors plants in the first nationwide strike during auto contract negotiations since 1976; a tentative pact ended the walkout two days later.

Ten years ago: With President Barack Obama presiding, the U.N. Security Council unanimously endorsed a sweeping strategy aimed at halting the spread of nuclear weapons and ultimately eliminating them. The heads of the Group of 20 nations began a two-day meeting in Pittsburgh aimed at making sure a fledgling global recovery remained on track. Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick tapped former Democratic National Chairman Paul G. Kirk Jr. to temporarily fill the Senate seat held by the late Edward M. Kennedy. Susan Atkins, 61, a member of the Charles Manson "family" who admitted stabbing actress Sharon Tate to death in the cult's 1969 murder rampage, died in prison at Chowchilla, California.

Five years ago: At the opening of the U.N. General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for world leaders to join an international campaign to ease the plight of nearly unprecedented numbers of refugees, the displaced and victims of violence in a world wracked by wars and the swift-spreading and deadly Ebola epidemic. President Barack Obama implored the leaders to rally behind his expanded military campaign to stamp out the violent Islamic State group and its "network of death."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 50 of 50

One year ago: China and the United States imposed new tariff hikes on each other's goods; U.S. regulators went ahead with a planned 10 percent tax on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports, and China said it responded with taxes on \$60 billion in American goods. As the president and top GOP lawmakers continued an aggressive drive to rally the public behind his Supreme Court nomination, Brett Kavanaugh reiterated to Fox News that he had never sexually assaulted anyone.

Today's Birthdays: Rhythm-and-blues singer Sonny Turner (The Platters) is 80. Singer Barbara Allbut Brown (The Angels) is 79. Singer Phyllis "Jiggs" Allbut Sirico (The Angels) is 77. Singer Gerry Marsden (Gerry and the Pacemakers) is 77. News anchor Lou Dobbs is 74. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Joe Greene is 73. Actor Gordon Clapp is 71. Actress Harriet Walter is 69. Songwriter Holly Knight is 63. Former U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy II, D-Mass., is 67. Actor Kevin Sorbo is 61. Christian/jazz singer Cedric Dent is 57. Actress-writer Nia Vardalos is 57. Rock musician Shawn Crahan (AKA Clown) (Slipknot) is 50. Country musician Marty Mitchell is 50. Actress Megan Ward is 50. Singer-musician Marty Cintron (No Mercy) is 48. Contemporary Christian musician Juan DeVevo (Casting Crowns) is 44. Actor Ian Bohen is 43. Actor Justin Bruening is 40. Olympic gold medal gymnast Paul Hamm (hahm) is 37. Actor Erik Stocklin is 37. Actor Spencer Treat Clark is 32. Actor Grey Damon is 32. Actor Kyle Sullivan is 31. Actor Ben Platt is 26.

Thought for Today: "Do not weep; do not wax indignant. Understand." — Baruch Spinoza, Dutch philosopher (1632-1677).

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Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 51 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 52 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 53 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 54 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 55 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 56 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 57 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 58 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 59 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 60 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 61 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 62 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 63 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 64 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 65 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 66 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 67 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 68 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 69 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 70 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 71 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 72 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 73 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 74 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 75 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 76 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 77 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 78 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 79 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 80 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 81 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 82 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 83 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 84 of 50

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 085 ~ 85 of 50