

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 1 of 48

- [2- Coming up today on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [3- Tigers post big win over Redfield](#)
- [5- Granary Living History Fall Festival](#)
- [6- Weather Pages](#)
- [9- Daily Devotional](#)
- [10- 2019 Groton Events](#)
- [11- News from the Associated Press](#)



Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

28 - Saturday

- Volleyball at SF Sanford Pentagon
- 1 p.m.: Girls Soccer at Tea Area
- 3 p.m.: Boys Soccer at Tea Area
- 11 a.m.: Living History Fall Festival at the Groton Granary
- SEAS Catholic: Service, 4:30 p.m.

29 - Sunday

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

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 2 of 48

It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Elkton/ VS
Lake Benton**



Groton Area Tigers

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019

11 a.m. at the SF Pentagon

**SPONSORED BY DAKOTA RISK MANAGEMENT
and C & B OPERATIONS**

It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Mt. Vernon
Plankinton VS**



Groton Area Tigers

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019

Noon at the SF Pentagon

**SPONSORED BY DAKOTA RISK MANAGEMENT
and C & B OPERATIONS**

Tigers post big win over Redfield



Brodyn DeHoet reaches for the football to score a touchdown. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Area scored on all but one possession of the football to post at 46-6 Northeast Conference win over Redfield. The game was played at Redfield's homecoming.

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Abeln Seed, Aberdeen Chrysler Center, Allied Climate Professionals, Bahr Spray Foam, BaseKamp Lodge, DeHoet Trucking, Groton Auto Works, Hanlon Brothers, John Sieh Agency, Milbrandt Enterprises, Mike-N-Jo's, Olson Development, Professional Management Services and the Touchdown Sponsor - Patios Plus.

Redfield went for it on fourth and eight at its own 39 yard line on the first possession and the Tiger defense held the Pheasants. That set up a good field position for the Tigers. Three first downs later, Kaden Kurtz would score on a one-yard run. Jonathan Doeden would run in the PAT and it was 8-0.

Redfield was held to four plays and the Tigers got the ball on the Pheasant 40 yard line. Two first downs later, Brodyn DeHoet would make a 12-yard catch from Kaden Kurtz early in the second quarter. Doeden would run in the PAT and it was 16-0.

Redfield got a first down, only with a Groton Area penalty, and ended up punting on fourth and 15. The Tigers would take over on their own 38 yard line, but three plays later, the Tigers would fumble and lose the ball.

Redfield, would again, have only four plays and ended up punting on fourth and four. On the punt, Doeden would dash to the endzone for a 70 punt return. Kurtz would run in the PAT and it was 24-0.

Redfield would have four plays before punting on fourth and 13. The Tigers would have the ball at the Redfield 38 yard line with 1:25 left in the first half. The Tigers would get the ball down to the one-yard line, but ended up fourth and 15 with one second on the clock.

"I called time-out and told them to pass to Thomas Cranford in the corner," said Coach Shaun Wanner. And on the final play of the half, Kurtz would connect with Cranford for the 15 yard touchdown pass. Kurtz would run in the PAT and it was 32-0 at half time.

Groton would receive the kickoff to start to the third quarter and the Tigers would score on a 58 yard pass play from Kurtz to Doeden. The PAT pass was good from Kurtz to Andrew Marzahn and it was 40-0 with 11:02 left in the third quarter.

Redfield would get an offensive drive going with the help of two Groton Area penalties. In fact, 20 yards of penalties in two plays amounted to nearly half of Groton Area's penalties for the whole game (45 yards). The Pheasants would score on a 41 yard run by Bradyn Robbins. The PAT attempt failed and it was 40-6.

Groton Area would score on its next drive. Getting three first downs, Kurtz would follow up with a 27 yard touchdown run. The PAT pass was no good and it was 46-6.

Groton Area would have one more opportunity, but it was fourth and 36. Kurtz did have an 18-yard run, but it was way short of a first down and Redfield took over with 4:33 left in the game. The continuous clock left Redfield little time to score and the Tigers won the game, 46-6.

"I thought we executed well in the red zone," Wanner said. "We moved Jamison Stange to center and Trey Gengerke to tackle. Their coaches (Redfield) said we were the most physical team they had played this year."

Jonathan Doeden had 118 yards rushing, completed two passes for 19 yards, had one catch for 52 yards.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 4 of 48

Kaden Kurtz had 79 yards rushing, completed four of five passes for 101 yards and had six tackles. Austin Jones had nine tackles and Payton Johnson had seven while Alex Morris and Garret Schroeder each had one sack.

Overall, the Tigers had more yards on offense, 290-109.

"I was proud of how well we played," Wanner said "We need to get some concentration and focus in the red zone. We did a good of mixing it up - passing and rushing. It was an all around team effort. If we play like that the best of the year, we'll be right in the thick of things when it comes to the playoffs."

Groton Area, now 3-3, will host Aberdeen Roncalli on Friday while Redfield will travel to Sisseton.

	GROTON AREA		REDFIELD
First Downs	16		5
Rushing	33-189		30-114
Jonathan Doeden	19-118	Bradyn Robbins	12-76
Kaden Kurtz	12-79	Paul Juarez	4-11
Thomas Cranford	1-(-5)	Sean Louder	4-9
Andrew Marzahn	1-(-3)	Gannon Pudwill	7-27
		Mason Fey	3-(-9)
Passing			
Kaden Kurtz	4-5-101	Mason Fey	1-2-(-6)
Jonathan Doeden	1-2-10		
Receivers			
Jonathan Doeden	1-52	Bradyn Robbins	1-(-6)
Brodyn DeHoet	2-22		
Thomas Cranford	1-15		
Payton Johnson	1-12		
Fumbles	Had 3 lost 1		Had 1 lost 0
Penalties	5-45		5-40
Defense			
Austin Jones	9 tackles	Bradyn Robbins	10 tackles
Payton Johnson	7 tackles	Corbin Schwartz	8 tackles
Kaden Kurtz	6 tackles		
Andrew Marzahn	6 tackles		
Alex Morris	1 sack		
Garret Schroeder	1 sack		
Record	3-3		2-3
Next Game	Friday host Roncalli		Friday, at Sisseton

Scoring

First Quarter

6:07 Groton - Kaden Kurtz 1 yard run (PAT: Jonathan Doeden Run)

10:31 Groton - Brodyn DeHoet 12 yard pass from Kaden Kurtz (PAT: Jonathan Doeden Run)

3:09 Groton - 70 yard punt return by Jonathan Doeden (PAT: Kaden Kurtz run)

0:01 Groton - Thomas Cranford 15 yard pass from Kaden Kurtz (PAT: Kaden Kurtz run)

Third Quarter

11:01 Groton - Jonathon Doeden 58 yard pass from Kurtz (PAT: Kurtz to Landon Marzahn)

6:31 Redfield - Bradyn Robbins 41 yard run (PAT run no good)

0:28 Groton - Kaden Kurtz 27 yard run (PAT pass no good)

Granary Rural Cultural Center

LIVING HISTORY FALL FESTIVAL



The Past Comes Alive!

**Saturday
Sept. 28, 2019
11 am - 5 pm**

FREE ADMISSION

at the **GRANARY**

Physical Address: 40161 128th St - Groton, SD

FEATURED MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT:

Eliza Blue

SHOWS at
12 pm & 3 pm

SOUTH DAKOTA FOLK MUSICIAN
Singer, Songwriter & Multi-Instrumentalist
As Seen on South Dakota Public Broadcasting

**Special Guest: John Timm
as Governor Mellette**

Chautauqua: South Dakota's 1st Governor
Speech at 2 pm - Putney Hall Stage
Courtesy of the SD Humanities Council



FREE Festival Trolley

FREE Rides Between Aberdeen's Dacotah Prairie Museum & The Granary Rural Cultural Center (30 Min. Duration One Way)
First Trolleys Leave Museum at: 10:20 & 10:35 am
Service Between Museum & Granary Continues During
Festival Hours Approximately Every 1/2 Hour

Trolley Courtesy of Dacotah Prairie Museum Foundation
See Museum Website for Details.



Celebrate History... Step Back in Time

OPENING CEREMONY at the Flag Poles 11 a.m.

Historical Demonstrations & Re-enacting • Food • Gift Shop

Kid's Spelling Bee 1:30 p.m. • Pioneer Life • Kid's Activities

Aberdeen Area Humane Society Dogs Meet & Greet

One Room School • Art/Quilt Exhibits • Pumpkins • Trading Post

John Graves Fiddle Music 11:30 am & 4 pm • And Much More!

Festival Closing Ceremony, Flags & Salute 5 p.m.

COME DRESSED IN FRONTIER COSTUME - GET A PRIZE AT THE GATE



This Festival is a Program of Dacotah Prairie Museum & The Granary

Museum: www.dacotahpraiiemuseum.com ♦ Granary: granaryfinearts.org

The GRANARY is 5 mi. N of US Hwy 12 - Between Aberdeen & Groton - Driving Directions on Website



Broton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 6 of 48

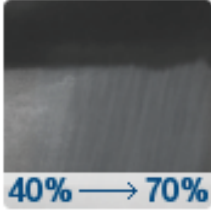
Today



Patchy Frost
then Mostly
Cloudy

High: 59 °F

Tonight



40% → 70%

Chance
Showers then
Showers
Likely

Low: 49 °F

Sunday



80%

Showers

High: 66 °F

Sunday
Night



60%

T-storms
Likely

Low: 62 °F

Monday



20%

Slight Chance
T-storms

High: 73 °F

Slight Risk

of severe thunderstorms

1 2 3 4 5

What

There is a potential for storms to become severe if they can develop.

Still a lot of uncertainty!

Timing

Late Sunday afternoon through Sunday night.

Strongest Sunday evening.

Some Towns Most at Risk

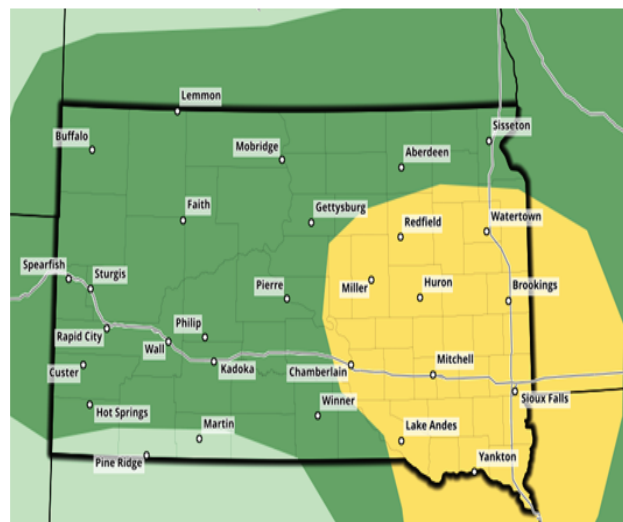
Miller, Redfield, Watertown

Action

Monitor the changing weather forecast for later Sunday at www.weather.gov/abr and have a plan to seek shelter if necessary.

ISSUED: 5:06 AM - Saturday, September 28, 2019

Severe Weather Potential Sunday



Possible Threats

Lightning, hail, damaging winds, tornado



Severe Weather

Threat Key:

- 5 High
- 4 Moderate
- 3 Enhanced
- 2 Slight
- 1 Marginal
- Thunder



Published on: 09/28/2019 at 1:07AM

Strong to severe storms will be possible late Sunday afternoon through Sunday night. Some uncertainty remains with this system, so stay tuned for the latest updates.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 7 of 48

Today in Weather History

September 28, 1951: During the early morning hours, near-record to record cold covered central and northeast South Dakota as well as west-central Minnesota. Temperatures across the area fell into the upper teens and 20s. Aberdeen recorded a record low of 18 degrees; Kennebec dropped to 20 degrees, Pierre fell to 21 degrees while Timber Lake had a record low of 23 degrees. The overnight low in Mobridge was 23 degrees, 24 degrees at Watertown, and 26 degrees at Sisseton.

1837: The first recorded storm to rake the entire Texas coast was Racer's Storm, named for a British sloop of war which encountered the system in the extreme northwestern Caribbean on September 28th. It is remembered as one of the most destructive storms of the nineteenth century due to its extreme duration and 2000 mile path of destruction.

1874: A strong category 1 hurricane went by Charleston and Georgetown, South Carolina. The tide was unprecedented height, inundating the entire riverfront of the city of Charleston.

1929: A hurricane-spawned tornado hit Fort Lauderdale, Florida. While the path length of this estimated F2 tornado was 0.8 miles, it caused 16 injuries.

1998: On the morning of September 28th, Hurricane George made landfall near Biloxi, Mississippi with maximum winds of 110 mph and a minimum pressure of 964 mb, making it a Category 2 hurricane. After landfall, Georges moved very slowly across southern Mississippi and weakened to a tropical depression by the morning of the 29th when the center was about 30 miles north-northeast of Mobile, Alabama. The storm dissipated near the northeast Florida/southeast Georgia coast by the morning of October 1, 1998.

1836 - The first of three early season snows brought four inches of snow to Hamilton, NY, and two inches to Ashby MA. (David Ludlum)

1893 - Albuquerque, NM, was soaked with 2.25 inches of rain, enough to establish a 24 hour record for that city. (The Weather Channel)

1917 - A hurricane hit Pensacola, FL. Winds gusted to 95 mph, and the barometric pressure dipped to 28.50 inches. Winds at Mobile AL gusted to 75 mph. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced up to ten inches of rain in southern Kansas and north central Oklahoma overnight. The Chikaskia River rose 2.5 feet above flood stage at Blackwell OK during the day causing flooding in Kay and Grant counties of north central Oklahoma. Early morning thunderstorms in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas produced 3.07 inches of rain in six hours at McAllen. Thunderstorms produced up to six inches of rain in southeastern Texas later in the day. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front in the central U.S. produced severe weather from northern Texas to the Lower Missouri Valley during the late afternoon and evening hours. Hail three inches in diameter was reported at Nolan TX, and wind gusts to 80 mph were reported at Lawrence KS. Thunderstorms drenched downtown Kansas City MO with up to four inches of rain, leaving some cars stranded in water six feet deep. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms over northeastern Florida drenched Jacksonville with 4.28 inches of rain between midnight and 6 AM EDT. Unseasonably cool weather prevailed in the northeastern U.S. Five cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Binghamton NY with a reading of 30 degrees. Morning lows were in the 20s in northern New England. Unseasonably mild weather prevailed in the northwestern U.S., with afternoon highs in the upper 70s and 80s. In Oregon, Astoria reported a record high of 83 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

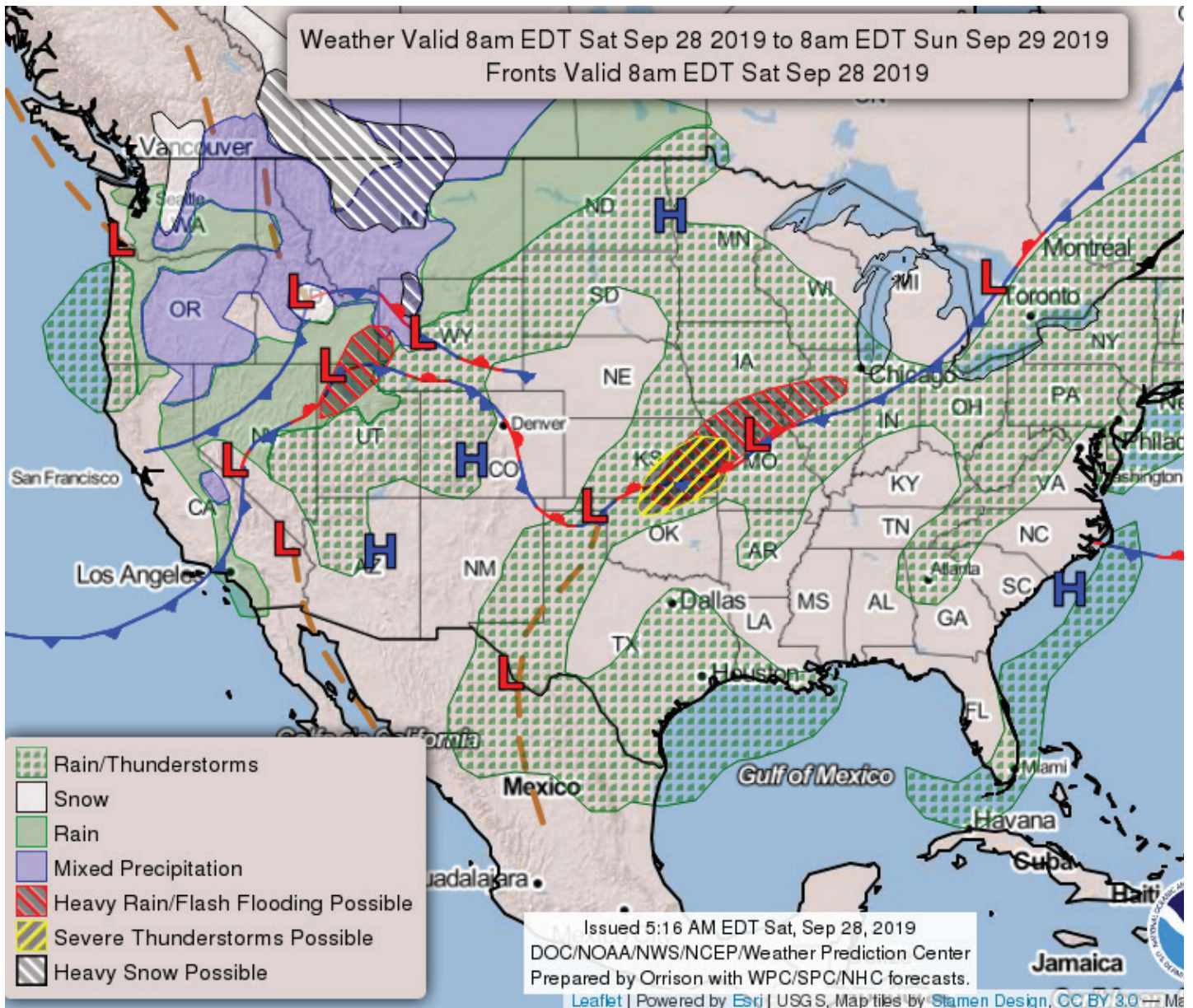
Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 8 of 48

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 60 °F at 12:21 AM
Low Temp: 44 °F at 10:13 PM
Wind: 15 mph at 5:39 PM
Day Rain: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 92° in 2011, 1897
Record Low: 18° in 1951, 1895
Average High: 67°F
Average Low: 40°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 1.97
Precip to date in Sept.: 5.26
Average Precip to date: 18.26
Precip Year to Date: 24.98
Sunset Tonight: 7:20 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:29 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 9 of 48



WHERE DOES YOUR LIGHT COME FROM?

Little Sara came home from school and proudly said to her mother, "I learned a new song today!"

"Sing it to me," came the request.

"God bless America, land that I love: Stand beside her, and guide her through the night with the light from a bulb," sang Sara.

There is a great difference between "light from a bulb" and "light from above." As we look at our nation today, we find that much "light" has come from education, information, training, and knowledge that enables individuals to earn a living. However, the "light" that comes from wisdom – the ability to judge what is true or right or something with lasting value or worth – appears to be in short supply.

James reminds us that if we want to have the ability to make wise decisions in troubling times we can always pray and ask God for guidance and wisdom.

We do not have to stumble in the darkness hoping to find good answers while looking for a "bulb" to light our path. We can ask God for His directions and He will gladly tell us what to do.

God's wisdom always leads us to the right decision and guarantees us good results. But we must have God-centered goals that come from knowing, accepting, and living our lives according to His Word if we expect to receive His wisdom.

Prayer: Lord, fill our minds with wisdom that can only come from Your Word. May we always look to You for guidance to guard us and live lives worthy of You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 10 of 48

2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/12/2019 St. John's Lutheran Luncheon
- 09/20/2019 Presbyterian Luncheon
- 09/28/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday at the Legion Post #39

2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/26/2020 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. Sharp (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
Groton Hosting State B American Legion Baseball Tournament
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/14/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 11 of 48

News from the Associated Press

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball
Lakota Nation Invitational
Pool Play
Pool A

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Marty Indian, 25-13, 25-13
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Crow Creek, 25-22, 22-25, 25-19
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Crazy Horse, 25-19, 25-9
Custer def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 11-25, 25-17, 25-16
Custer def. Marty Indian, 25-19, 25-8
Little Wound def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-15, 25-21
Pool B

Pine Ridge def. Red Cloud, 25-18, 25-12
Red Cloud def. Lower Brule, 25-18, 25-16
Red Cloud def. Oelrichs, 21-25, 25-17, 25-13
Red Cloud def. Wyoming Indian, Wyo., 27-25, 25-20
BC-SD-FBH--Prep Scores, SD
BC-SD-FBH--Prep Scores,288

PREP FOOTBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli def. McLaughlin, forfeit
Arlington/Lake Preston 56, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 12
Baltic 31, Hanson 16
Belle Fourche 50, Pine Ridge 0
Bon Homme 36, Kimball/White Lake 18
Brandon Valley 42, Watertown 28
Bridgewater-Emery 48, Flandreau 6
Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan 42, Flandreau 6
Britton-Hecla 14, Deuel 6
Brookings 49, Douglas 0
Burke 54, Tripp-Delmont/Armour/Andes Central/Dakota Christian 6
Canton 31, Lennox 0
Chamberlain 32, Lead-Deadwood 20
Colman-Egan 60, Alcester-Hudson 0
Corsica/Stickney 46, Sunshine Bible Academy 16
Custer 62, Todd County 12
Dakota Valley 20, West Central 14
DeSmet 28, Castlewood 14
Dell Rapids 35, Tri-Valley 6
Elk Point-Jefferson 27, Beresford 26
Elkton-Lake Benton 38, Deubrook 12
Estelline/Hendricks 22, Centerville 14
Florence/Henry 58, Great Plains Lutheran 6

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 12 of 48

Gayville-Volin 50, Avon 6
Gregory 47, Parkston 0
Groton Area 46, Redfield/Doland 6
Hamlin 49, Clark/Willow Lake 0
Harding County 62, Dupree 6
Hill City 37, Newell 14
Howard 51, Irene-Wakonda 0
Huron 35, Sturgis Brown 13
Ipswich/Edmunds Central 44, North Border 8
Langford 37, Faulkton 8
Lemmon/McIntosh 42, Timber Lake 20
Marty Indian 51, Crazy Horse 0
Mitchell 45, Yankton 42
Mobridge-Pollock 27, Sisseton 20
New Underwood 40, Kadoka Area 0
Pierre 72, Spearfish 0
Rapid City Stevens 37, Sioux Falls Washington 34, 30T
Red Cloud 68, Little Wound 24
Sioux Falls Christian 55, Vermillion 23
Sioux Falls Lincoln 25, Aberdeen Central 13
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 56, Rapid City Central 28
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 23, Harrisburg 21
Stanley County 35, Wagner 7
Sully Buttes 54, Hitchcock-Tulare 0
Tea Area 27, Madison 21, OT
Viborg-Hurley 42, Parker 6
Wall 21, Philip 0
Warner 49, Northwestern 21
Webster 46, Milbank 0
Winner 14, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 6
Wolsey-Wessington 60, Platte-Geddes 20
Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 32, Miller/Highmore-Harrod 0

Some high school football scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Friday:

Mega Millions

12-20-31-43-45, Mega Ball: 20, Megaplier: 3

(twelve, twenty, thirty-one, forty-three, forty-five; Mega Ball: twenty; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

Pine Ridge doctor accused of sex crimes guilty on all count

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A former South Dakota Indian Health Services pediatrician accused of child sexual abuse has been convicted on all eight counts.

Jurors deliberated for about four hours Friday before finding Stanley Weber guilty of sexually abusing

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 13 of 48

Native American children while he was a doctor on the Pine Ridge reservation. He faces life in prison. A sentencing date has not been set.

The 70-year-old Weber is accused of committing the crimes between 1995 and 2011. Prosecutor Sarah Collin said in closing arguments that Weber created a "perfect recipe for prolific sexual abuse for 18 years." She said Weber carefully chose and groomed his victims.

Harvey Steinberg, one of Weber's private defense lawyers, said there was a "lack of investigation" in a "rush to judgment" to convict his client.

Weber is currently in prison for abusing children while he was a pediatrician in Montana.

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

College to push for scholarships to bridge rich/poor gap

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The University of South Dakota is prioritizing the creation of a scholarship program to make college accessible for hard-working and academically qualified students who otherwise couldn't afford to attend, the school's president said.

Efforts earlier this year to set aside \$1 million to fund the needs-based Dakota's Promise scholarships failed in the Legislature.

"Forty-nine other states have already recognized this is a priority and it is time for South Dakota to no longer have the designation of having no needs-based financial aid program," president Sheila Gestring said in her annual State of the University address on Thursday.

She outlined how the gap between the cost of attending and available aid is growing, the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reported.

"USD has been losing Pell-eligible students and furthermore, as the gap grows, so does the difficulty of increasing enrollment and providing educational opportunities for all of those who need and deserve it," she said.

Establishment of the program, in tandem with the South Dakota Board of Regents, could boost enrollment and the state's economy, she said.

"Unless South Dakota makes a real and impactful change — one like Dakota's Promise — our South Dakota universities won't experience dramatic enrollment change nor will we be able to fuel the robust economy in a way that is necessary to support our vibrant business community," she said.

The university must also prepare for the changing landscape of South Dakota's high schools that are becoming more diverse and consider how it welcomes and supports that population, she said.

"Over the next 13 years, South Dakota predicts a decline in the proportion of white students from 86% to 74%," Gestring said. The state has forecast the number of non-white students will increase by 1,400 in that same period, she said.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

Book series promotes literacy in South Dakota

By CORA VAN OLSON Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Authors of the "Porter the Hoarder" children's book series engage kids and encourage families to read together.

Earlier this month at the Yankton Community Library, Sean Covell, a children's book author and movie producer, and Rebecca Swift — illustrator, makeup artist and Yankton native — made an appearance at the Yankton Community Library to introduce a children's book series they are creating.

The books are based on the character Porter the Hoarder, a little girl who stashes all manner of things in her room, from toys to rotting banana peels and chewed-up bubble gum, the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reported .

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 14 of 48

"What I love about Porter the Hoarder is that Rebecca's taken such a simple drawing and pulled so much emotion out of this character," Covell said. "This is great for a few reasons. One, because it's fun to use a simple design and get big, big emotion, but secondly, because kids can draw this, and as part of the presentations that we do in class, Rebecca stands up and says, 'Here's how you do this: here's a cookie for a head and bananas for hair and here's how you do the McDonald's arches for bows.'"

The children pick it up quickly and can begin to start drawing Porter — an emotional character — in ways that express their own emotions, he said.

"Remove her eyebrows and flip her mouth upside down and it's a completely different emotion," Covell said. "Kids have a blast."

In fact, the idea for the character is based on a real child.

"My daughter, Logan, is 14 now, and when she was a little girl, I was helping her tidy up her room and I opened a drawer and I found a mountain of candy and garbage and just weird stuff," Swift said. "I said, 'My daughter's a hoarder,' drew up the picture, and told Sean about Porter the Hoarder."

That was about nine years ago.

Covell, an Edgemont native, produced the movie "Napoleon Dynamite" and has been working in film for the last 15 years. He met Swift when they were both working on a movie in the Black Hills.

"Last year was the first time that we actually put something together," Covell said. "Originally, this was a counting book. What happens is you've got the main character, Porter, and as you flip through, the reader — the adult — is reading with the child in the first 10 pages, let's say, and they are laying out the way the story works."

Covell and Swift made a visit to the second-grade class his sister teaches in Sturgis and read the book to her students.

"At first, it was, 'Count the number of snotty handkerchiefs,' but then, when we got the feedback from the kids, they were like, 'This should be harder to find,'" Covell said. "Suddenly, it became a look-and-find book, and the second that happened, this could be her messy room, but we could have a new character that is Porter on a hike, or a new character that is Porter making pizza or a new character that's Porter trick-or-treating in the monster neighborhood. That's where we came up with the idea for these 64 books."

"The reader gets to help Porter decide what stays and what goes," Swift added. "Some things are absolutely disgusting and some things are toys and trinkets she can keep."

As of this month, there are four complete "Porter the Hoarder" books available on Amazon.com. There are two more "Porter" books written and illustrated and Covell recently finished writing his seventh book.

Though Swift had the idea and drew the basic character, it was Covell who ultimately gave Porter a voice, not just through his dialog on paper, but through the presentations that he and Swift give around the state, a voice that, according to Swift, makes their young fans explode with laughter.

"In January, we did a project with a United Way of the Black Hill's initiative called Black Hills Reads," Covell said. "In that project, we gave away 2,400 copies of the book to every first grader in the Black Hills from as far north as Belle Fourche to as far south as Edgemont."

After the Black Hills pilot, S.D. Statewide Family Engagement Center (SDSFEC) got involved. SDSFEC is one of 13 state family engagement organizations funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Black Hills Special Services Cooperative and South Dakota Parent Connection applied for the grant in partnership with the South Dakota Department of Education, according to S.D. Statewide Family Engagement Project Director Morgan VonHaden.

SDSFEC's goal is to ensure that all learners have the support they need to achieve academic, career and life goals, according to the group's website.

The grant to promote family engagement in literacy and education was awarded last October and is for \$4.8 million for five years, VonHaden said.

"We really were excited to partner with Sean and Rebecca with 'Porter the Hoarder' to get kids excited about literacy and reading and to have parents and kids read together, but also, on a side note, having their book at all these schools has opened the doors of more schools to learn about family engagement,"

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 15 of 48

VonHaden said. "It's been an amazing partnership."

Covel and Swift will continue to work with SDSFEC promoting "Porter the Hoarder" and family literacy for the next four years.

As a reading activity, "Porter the Hoarder" was ideal for family engagement because it was written to be read to a child by an adult. When the book is presented in a classroom, the teacher reads as the students follow along on the large classroom display.

"Once the class has read it, they say, 'Did you like the book?'" Covel said. "Then, suddenly, because of Family Engagement Center, because of United Way, because of Black Hills Reads, the teacher can say, 'Guess what? You get your own copy right now for free.'"

Students are sent home with a special "homework" assignment for their parents. It explains the idea behind the book and asks that they read it with their child.

"The Department of Education is one of our biggest partners, and they have written lesson plans to go along with 'Porter the Hoarder,'" VonHaden said. "So we have STEM lessons and a social/emotional learning plan that is coming from the Department of Education."

Through the grant, SDSFEC will continue to purchase the books to give away to young readers.

"This week, we've given away 5,000 books. So far we've read to probably 1,500 kids; we will have read to another 1,000 by the end of tomorrow," Covel said. "This is a five-year initiative where every first grader in South Dakota will get (his or her) own book every year for the next five years."

During that time, Covel and Swift hope to continue to present "Porter" to schools and communities to bolster literacy across the state, but also to stay in touch with their core fan base.

"It's really cool what the kids have to say," Swift said. "They are our audience and that makes a difference for us. It's really important to see what the kids have to say, because we want them to be happy."

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

This woman's snacks are never half-baked

By KATHERINE GRANDSTRAND Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Some of the recipes Nella Thompson uses were found when she was in high school.

In preparation for the South Dakota Film Fest and a cookie swap with friends, Thompson was doing loads of baking Monday, including chocolate buttersweets, a recipe from the 1964 Pillsbury Bake-Off competition she cut out of a magazine when she was 14.

"I just think it's so funny, a little girl — because you are a little girl when you're 14 — cutting out the picture," Thompson told the Aberdeen American News. "I mean, I cut all around that thing. It was such a serious business to me."

Baking is something Thompson has been doing all her life. She started with her mother, who also taught her to sew, and continues to make sweets and occasionally bread, even though she doesn't indulge herself anymore.

"When I was 9, my mother took me into the kitchen and she said, 'This is how you make a pie crust.' And she showed me how to do it," Thompson said. "And then she said, 'Now, pies are your job.'"

She was allowed to experiment, and there was a grape pie that didn't turn out so well. But usually things that don't turn out are still edible.

"My mother always made sure we had the skills to read a recipe and to know what to do," Thompson said of her Ohio upbringing.

She also had an intense culinary education at school. Home economics in seventh, eighth and ninth grades each dedicated a whole semester to not only learning recipes, but the science behind it, Thompson said.

"You learned cooking and nutrition and the chemistry," she said. "It was kind of an unusually strong program."

It was only girls who took home economics. The boys took shop, Thompson said. She learned wood-

working skills at home from her brothers. The boys had to do the same if they were interested in food.

"This was a long, long time ago," Thompson said.

She evaluates recipes looking for things out of the ordinary. She doesn't like to stick to the old standards of chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin or peanut butter cookies.

"Those are good cookies, but it's just too standard," Thompson said. "I like the gourmet-ish. I like all of my cooking to be on the gourmet-ish side."

As technology has advanced, so has Thompson's recipe search. She no longer scours magazines, clipping out pages and gluing them to index cards, Thompson said.

"I don't do print anymore," she said. "I think that we're out of a print world."

That said, the Christmas supplement from Ken's SuperFair Foods gets her flipping pages every year, she said. Print recipes of interest go into a folder, and the very best make it into Thompson's Christmas folder.

She shuns mixes and easy fixes, and would rather take the time to make something the right way.

And even though she doesn't get to nibble on the goodies herself, she still enjoys the process.

"I think that gifts of what most people think are treats is a nice thing," Thompson said. "Especially time-consuming, where you obviously put thought into it."

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

Afghans vote for president amid Taliban attacks, fraud fears

By RAHIM FAIEZ and KATHY GANNON Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghans headed to the polls on Saturday to elect a new president amid fears that voter turnout would be badly hit by disorganized balloting and threats of violence by Taliban militants, who targeted polling stations in the country's north and south, causing dozens of casualties.

An upsurge in violence in the run-up to the elections, following the collapse of U.S.-Taliban talks to end America's longest war, had already rattled Afghanistan in the past weeks. Yet on Saturday, many voters expressed equal fear and frustration over relentless government corruption and the widespread chaos at polling stations.

In the capital of Kabul, turnout was sporadic and in the morning hours it was rare to see a crowded polling center. No early figures on voter turnout were immediately available. Afghans who had patiently lined up before the voting centers were opened, entered in some locations to find that election officials had yet to arrive by opening time.

Imam Baksh, who works as a security guard, said he wasn't worried about his safety as he stood waiting to mark his ballot, wondering whom he would vote for.

"All of them have been so disappointing for our country," he said.

The leading contenders are incumbent President Ashraf Ghani and his partner in the five-year-old unity government, Abdullah Abdullah, who already alleges power abuse by his opponent. Cameras crowded both men as they cast their vote earlier in Kabul, with Ghani telling voters they too had a responsibility to call out instances of fraud.

The government's push to hold the vote was in itself controversial. In an interview with The Associated Press last week, former Afghan president Hamid Karzai, who still wields heavy influence, warned that the vote could be destabilizing for the country at a time of deep political uncertainty and hinder restarting the peace process with the Taliban.

On Saturday, one of the first reports of violence came from southern Afghanistan, the former spiritual heartland of the Taliban. A bomb attack on a local mosque where a polling station was located wounded 15 people, a doctor at the main hospital in the city of Kandahar said. The doctor spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak with the media.

The wounded included a police officer and several election officials, along with voters. Three were in critical condition.

In northern Kunduz, where Taliban have previously threatened the city — even briefly taking control of some areas — insurgents fired mortar rounds into the city and attacked Afghan security forces on its

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 17 of 48

outskirts, said Ghulam Rabani Rabani, a council member for the province.

Rabani said the attacks are to "frighten people and force them to stay in their home and not participate in the election."

The numbers of casualties wasn't immediately clear, said Rabani, with telecommunication networks disrupted or even completely down at times.

Tens of thousands of police, intelligence officials and Afghan National Army personnel have been deployed throughout the country to protect the 4,942 election centers. Authorities said 431 polling centers will stay closed because it was impossible to guarantee their security since they were either in areas under Taliban control or where insurgents could threaten nearby villages.

The violence came while many Afghans — even those managing to vote — worried the election results would be overwhelmed by accusations of fraud and misconduct as they were during the last election.

In the capital's northern Taimani neighborhood of mostly ethnic Hazaras, two-thirds of the voting registration papers had yet to arrive in the first hours of voting, and angry voters were told their names were not on the list.

Abdul Ghafoor, who spoke on behalf of dozens of men waiting to cast their ballot, said that of about 3,000 registered voters, only 400 appeared on the list that had arrived at the center.

Ghafoor said he was told to return at 2 p.m. and that he would be allowed to vote even if his name was not on the list and without using the biometric machine.

"But how can they do this? My vote won't count if I am not on a list," he said.

In Khoja Ali Mohfaq Herawi mosque in Kabul's well-to-do Shahr-e-Now neighborhood, election workers struggled with biometric machines as well as finding names on voters' lists.

Ahmad Shah, 32, cast his vote, but said the election worker forgot to ink his finger — which is mandatory to prevent multiple voting by the same person.

"What sort of system is this?" he asked, frustrated that he had risked his safety to vote and expressed fear that fraud will mar the election results. "It's a mess."

Still, 63-year old Ahmad Khan urged people to vote.

"It is the only way to show the Taliban we are not afraid of them," he said, though he too worried at the apparent glitches in the process.

In Kabul traffic was light, with police and the army scattered throughout the city, stopping cars and looking for anything out of the ordinary. Larger vehicles were not being allowed into the capital on Saturday, which is normally a working day but for the elections was declared a holiday.

Campaigning for Saturday's elections was subdued and went into high gear barely two weeks ahead of the polls as most of the 18 presidential candidates expected a deal between the United States and the Taliban to delay the vote. But on Sept. 7, President Donald Trump declared a deal that seemed imminent dead after violent attacks in Kabul killed 12 people, including two U.S.-led coalition soldiers, one of whom was American.

While many of the presidential candidates withdrew from the election, none formally did so, leaving all 18 candidates on the ballot.

Elections in Afghanistan are notoriously flawed and in the last presidential polls in 2014, allegations of widespread corruption were so massive that the United States intervened to prevent violence. No winner was declared and the U.S. cobbled together the unity government in which Ghani and Abdullah shared equal power — Ghani as president and Abdullah as chief executive, a newly created position.

Constant bickering and infighting within the government frustrated attempts to bring in substantive legislation as security, which has been tenuous, continued to deteriorate, frustrating Afghans and causing many to flee as refugees.

Neighboring Pakistan, routinely accused of aiding insurgents, said it was re-opening its borders with Afghanistan after receiving a request from the Afghan defense minister to allow Afghans to return home to vote. Pakistan had announced the border would be closed Saturday and Sunday.

Associated Press writer Mukhtar Amiri in Kabul, Afghanistan contributed to this report.

Keep calm and vape on: UK embraces e-cigarettes, US cautious

By MARIA CHENG AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — While the U.S. scrambles to crack down on vaping, Britain has embraced electronic cigarettes as a powerful tool to help smokers kick the habit.

The Royal College of Physicians explicitly tells doctors to promote e-cigarettes “as widely as possible” to people trying to quit. Public Health England’s advice is that vaping carries a small fraction of the risk of smoking.

U.S. public health officials have taken a more wary approach, and have been slow to regulate e-cigarettes. That caution turned to alarm, though, with an explosion in teen vaping, prompting the federal government and some states to take steps to ban fruit and minty flavors that appeal to youths.

And now, with hundreds of U.S. cases of a mysterious lung illness among vapers, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is recommending that people consider not using e-cigarettes, especially those with THC, the compound that gives pot its high.

The U.S. reaction is “complete madness,” said Dr. John Britton, director of the U.K. Center for Tobacco and Alcohol Studies at the University of Nottingham. “The reality with smoking is, if you tell people to stop vaping, they will go back to tobacco and tobacco kills.”

Regulations about e-cigarettes vary by country, making for a patchwork of policies. More than 30 countries ban e-cigarettes outright; India halted sales this month. Many European countries including Austria, Belgium, Germany and Italy classify e-cigarettes as tobacco products, subjecting them to strict controls. They are mostly sold as consumer products in Britain and France, under more lax rules.

Since arriving in the U.S. in 2007, e-cigarettes have been largely unregulated. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration didn’t get the power to do that until three years ago and is still working out the details. Black market versions, meanwhile, have flourished.

Appearing before Congress last week, the U.S. FDA’s acting commissioner was pressed to explain the agency’s position. Several lawmakers suggested e-cigarettes should be completely removed from the market.

“We do not consider these products safe, we think they have harm,” said Dr. Ned Sharpless. “We do not think really anyone should be using them other than people using them in place of combustible tobacco.”

In Britain, a review by Public Health England, an agency similar to the CDC, concluded that vaping is about 95% less dangerous than smoking. A leading British anti-tobacco charity, Ash, even called for e-cigarettes to be licensed as medicines and provided free to smokers trying to quit by Britain’s government-funded health system.

“We need radical solutions to stop smoking and one option is providing smokers with e-cigarettes so they can get the nicotine they need without the tobacco smoke,” said Britton. “We have a much more relaxed attitude to people being addicted to nicotine on the basis that nicotine itself isn’t particularly hazardous.”

E-cigarettes and other vaping devices typically heat a solution containing nicotine into a vapor that’s inhaled. The amount of nicotine varies widely: Some countries set limits on the amount. There’s no cap in the U.S. And the surge in U.S. teen vaping brought warnings from health officials that nicotine can harm a teenager’s still developing brain.

“What’s right for England might not be right for the U.S.,” said Ryan Kennedy of the Institute for Global Tobacco Control at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Compared to the United States, England has had historically higher rates of tobacco use and a “deeper comfort” with the idea of substituting a less harmful habit for a dangerous one, Kennedy said. British health officials have been able and willing to strictly regulate e-cigarettes while promoting them as a stop-smoking tool.

“It’s not very surprising that a place like England has embraced e-cigarettes,” Kennedy said. “A lot of things lined up to make sense to use these devices to help people transition away from cigarettes.”

In the U.S., meanwhile, the rapid rise in e-cigarettes' popularity among teenagers, a thriving black market for vapes containing marijuana extracts and the illness outbreak have muddied the public health message recently, Kennedy said.

"Obviously there are a lot of moving parts with this," he said.

Another key difference is advertising. Unlike in the U.S., Britain has tight regulations on advertising vaping; all TV, online and radio marketing is banned, explained Linda Bauld, a public health professor at the University of Edinburgh.

"E-cigarettes are promoted to middle-aged smokers as a way to quit and the imaging from our annual quit campaign is usually all men with beards, so it looks pretty boring," she said.

On Friday, the CDC said it appears THC vaping products are playing a role in the puzzling U.S. outbreak of lung injuries and deaths. The agency said many of the 800 people who got sick reported vaping THC. It said more information was needed on whether a single product, substance or brand is responsible. Some researchers suspect an ingredient used as a thickener in vaping oils, particularly in black market products.

"It's inconceivable that any legitimate vaping product would cause that degree of damage," Britton said. Some British e-cigarette users said, in the meantime, their own habits wouldn't change.

"There seems to be a bit of a panic over there, but that has nothing to do with us," said Lewis Niall, a personal trainer outside a north London vaping store.

Niall said vaping as a whole shouldn't be tarnished if the problem is illicit marijuana products.

"For me, I feel so much better since switching from cigarettes that I don't think anything will change my mind," he said.

AP Medical Writers Mike Stobbe in New York, Carla K. Johnson in Seattle and Matthew Perrone in Washington contributed to this report.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

US official: Trump's special envoy to Ukraine has resigned

By MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Kurt Volker, a former U.S. ambassador to NATO caught in the middle of a whistleblower complaint over the President Donald Trump's dealings with Ukraine, resigned Friday from his post as special envoy to the Eastern European nation, according to a U.S. official.

The official said Volker told Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday of his decision to leave the job, following disclosures that he had connected Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani with Ukrainian officials to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden and his family over allegedly corrupt business dealings.

Giuliani has said he was in frequent contact with Volker about his efforts. The State Department had no immediate comment on his resignation and has said only that Volker put Giuliani in touch with an aide to Ukraine's president.

Pompeo said Thursday that as far as he knew, all State Department employees had acted appropriately in dealing with Ukraine.

Volker was brought into the Trump administration by former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to serve as envoy for Ukraine. He worked in a volunteer capacity and had retained his job as head of the John McCain Institute for International Leadership at Arizona State University. Arizona State's student newspaper was the first to report his resignation.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 20 of 48

Democrats move ahead with subpoenas, Trump impeachment

By ZEKE MILLER, ERIC TUCKER and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats took their first concrete steps in the impeachment investigation of President Donald Trump, issuing subpoenas demanding documents from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and scheduling legal depositions for other State Department officials.

At the end of a stormy week of revelation and recrimination, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi framed the impeachment inquiry as a somber moment for a divided nation.

"This is no cause for any joy," she said on MSNBC.

At the White House, a senior administration official confirmed Friday a key detail from the unidentified CIA whistleblower who has accused Trump of abusing the power of his office. Trump, for his part, insisted anew that his actions and words have been "perfect" and the whistleblower's complaint might well be the work of "a partisan operative."

The White House acknowledged that a record of the Trump phone call that is now at the center of the impeachment inquiry had been sealed away in a highly classified system at the direction of Trump's National Security Council lawyers.

Separately, Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway told reporters that the whistleblower "has protection under the law," something Trump himself had appeared to question earlier in the day. He suggested then that his accuser "isn't a whistleblower at all."

Still at issue is why the rough transcript of Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukraine's president was put on "lock down," in the words of the whistleblower. The CIA officer said that diverting the record in an unusual way was evidence that "White House officials understood the gravity of what had transpired" in the conversation.

The whistleblower complaint alleges that Trump used his office to "solicit interference from a foreign country" to help himself in next year's U.S. election. In the phone call, days after ordering a freeze to some military assistance for Ukraine, Trump prodded new Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to dig for potentially damaging material on Democratic rival Joe Biden and volunteered the assistance of both his personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, and U.S. Attorney General William Barr.

Pelosi refused to set a deadline for the probe but promised to act "expeditiously." The House intelligence committee could draw members back to Washington next week.

Pelosi said she was praying for the president, adding, "I would say to Democrats and Republicans: We have to put country before party."

At the White House, it was a senior administration official who acknowledged that the rough transcript of Trump's conversation with Ukraine's Zelenskiy had been moved to a highly classified system maintained by the National Security Council. The official was granted anonymity Friday to discuss sensitive matters.

White House attorneys had been made aware of concerns about Trump's comments on the call even before the whistleblower sent his allegations to the intelligence community's inspector general. Those allegations, made in mid-August, were released Thursday under heavy pressure from House Democrats.

One former official said memos of Trump calls with foreign leaders had to be severely restricted after leaks in 2017. Calls with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Russia's Vladimir Putin were among those whose distribution were kept to a minimum. The official cautioned that administrations discuss sensitive matters with both nations, and that the treatment shouldn't imply anything untoward on the call. Even some calls with US allies are also restricted due to discussions of classified topics. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe the process.

On the Ukraine matter, Trump was keeping up his full-bore attack on the whistleblower and the unnamed "White House officials" cited in the complaint, drawing a warning from Pelosi against retaliation.

Late Thursday, Trump denounced people who might have talked to the whistleblower as "close to a spy" and suggested they engaged in treason, an act punishable by death. Then on Friday, he said the person was "sounding more and more like the so-called Whistleblower isn't a Whistleblower at all."

He also alleged without evidence that information in the complaint has been "proved to be so inaccurate." Pelosi told MSNBC, "I'm concerned about some of the president's comments about the whistleblower."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 21 of 48

She said the House panels conducting the impeachment probe will make sure there's no retaliation against people who provided information in the case. On Thursday, House Democratic chairmen called Trump's comments "witness intimidation" and suggested efforts by him to interfere with the potential witness could be unlawful.

Trump's Friday comment questioning the whistleblower's status seemed to foreshadow a possible effort to argue that legal protection laws don't apply to the person, opening a new front in the president's defense, but Conway's statement seemed to make that less likely.

The intelligence community's inspector general found the whistleblower's complaint "credible" despite finding indications of the person's support for a different political candidate.

Legal experts said that by following proper procedures and filing a complaint with the government rather than disclosing the information to the media, the person is without question regarded as a whistleblower entitled to protections against being fired or criminally prosecuted.

"This person clearly followed the exact path he was supposed to follow," said Debra D'Agostino, a lawyer who represents whistleblowers. "There is no basis for not calling this person a whistleblower."

Lawyers say it also doesn't matter for the purposes of being treated as a whistleblower if all of the allegations are borne out as entirely true, or even if political motives or partisanship did factor into the decision to come forward.

Giuliani, already in the spotlight, was scheduled to appear at a Kremlin-backed conference in Armenia on Tuesday, but he said Friday he would not be attending. The agenda showed him speaking at a session on digital financial technologies. Russian President Vladimir Putin also was scheduled to participate in the conference.

Republicans were straining under the uncertainty of being swept up in the most serious test yet of their alliance with the Trump White House.

"We owe people to take it seriously," said Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., a onetime Trump rival who is now a member of the intelligence committee.

"Right now, I have more questions than answers," he said. "The complaint raises serious allegations, and we need to determine whether they're credible or not."

A swift resolution to the impeachment inquiry may not be easy. The intelligence committee is diving in just as lawmakers leave Washington for a two-week recess, with the panel expected to work while away. One person familiar with the committee's schedule said that members might return at the end of next week.

Findings will eventually need to be turned over to Rep. Jerrold Nadler's Judiciary Committee, which is compiling the work of five other panels into what is expected to be articles of impeachment. The panel will need to find consensus.

Meanwhile, Trump's reelection campaign took to accusing Democrats of trying to "steal" the 2020 election in a new ad airing in a \$10 million television and digital buy next week.

The ad also attacks Democrat Biden, highlighting his efforts as vice president to make U.S. aid to Ukraine contingent on that country firing a prosecutor believed to be corrupt. The ad claims that the fired prosecutor was investigating the former vice president's son.

In fact, the prosecutor had failed to pursue any major anti-corruption investigations, leaving Ukraine's international donors deeply frustrated. In pressing for the prosecutor's ouster, Biden was representing the official position of the U.S. government, which was shared by other Western allies and many in Ukraine.

AP writers Lisa Mascaró, Laurie Kellman, Mary Clare Jalonick, Alan Fram, Matt Lee, Padmananda Rama and Matthew Daly contributed to this report.

US ambassador pressed Ukraine corruption fight before ouster

By **BEN FOX** and **MATTHEW LEE** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Months before the call that set off an impeachment inquiry, many in the diplomatic community were alarmed by the Trump administration's abrupt removal of a career diplomat from her post as ambassador to Ukraine.

The ambassador's ouster, and the campaign against her that preceded it, are now emerging as a key sequence of events behind a whistleblower's complaint alleging that the president pressured a foreign country to investigate his political rival.

In a letter Friday to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Sen. Robert Menendez demanded answers about the ouster of Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch.

"Why was the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine recalled in May 2019?" the Democratic senator wrote in a list of questions about what he called the "perversion of U.S. foreign policy" outlined by the whistleblower. "Did you approve that decision?"

Yovanovitch is one of five State Department officials who are to be deposed by the House intelligence, foreign affairs and oversight committees about the whistleblower's complaint. The committees also issued a subpoena for documents from Pompeo.

In addition to Yovanovitch, those to be deposed include former U.S. special envoy for Ukraine Kurt Volker and U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland. Volker resigned from the envoy position Friday.

The removal of Yovanovitch gained little attention at the time it occurred, when many in Washington were preoccupied with escalating tensions with Iran. State Department officials said she was merely ending her term a few months ahead of a departure that had been scheduled for July. She kept quiet and moved back to Washington, remaining a diplomat but with a university fellowship and no fixed State Department assignment.

But, in private, many in the diplomatic community in the U.S. and around the world were appalled, believing she had been improperly removed from a sensitive post at a critical moment, as a new president without any previous political experience was taking office in a struggling country in dire need of American economic and military aid in an ongoing fight against Russia-backed separatists.

President Donald Trump said in his July 25 phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that Yovanovitch was "bad news" and that she is "going to go through some things," according to the memo of the call released this week by the White House. But that characterization of her and her performance was contradicted by five current and former officials who spoke to The Associated Press.

The officials described Yovanovitch as a respected and highly skilled diplomat who was carrying out two main missions on behalf of the administration: pressing the Ukrainian government to address long-standing U.S. concerns about public corruption in the East European nation and building support for Ukraine's effort to fight the separatists.

In fact, it was only because elements of the Ukrainian government wanted her to ease up on pressing for investigations into corruption — and expected her to do so because they perceived Trump would care less about the issue — that they began a campaign against her, said the current and former officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal matters. That campaign gained steam with the arrival on the scene of Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani.

At first, the officials said, Pompeo resisted the demands for her recall and argued she should complete her tour in Kyiv. Pompeo "was opposed to her early removal," one of the current officials said. However, when it became clear that opposition to her was not receding, Pompeo arranged for "a soft landing" for her in Washington, according to the official.

Yovanovitch, a fluent Russian speaker, had previously served as ambassador to Kyrgyzstan and Armenia and had been deputy chief of mission at the embassy in the Ukraine from 2001 to 2004. The removal of the experienced diplomat, and Trump's cryptic but apparently threatening comments about her, prompted protests this week from the diplomatic community.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 23 of 48

"The threatening tone of this statement is deeply troubling," the American Academy of Diplomacy said of Trump's comments. "It suggests actions outside of and contrary to the procedures and standards of a professional service whose officers, like their military counterparts, take an oath to uphold the Constitution. Whatever views the administration has of Ambassador Yovanovitch's performance, we call on the administration to make clear that retaliation for political reasons will not be tolerated."

And, the American Foreign Service Association, the union that represents U.S. diplomats, called for all Americans "to honor and respect the non-partisan, non-political work" of the dedicated public servants of the Foreign Service. "We urge that their service, which at times is under the most serious hardship conditions and security risks, not be politicized, and that they not be dragged into partisan political battles."

Efforts by the AP to reach Yovanovitch were unsuccessful.

The former and current officials said she was likely dismayed by the attention on her, which included a May 2018 letter from Rep. Pete Sessions, a Texas Republican who lost his bid for reelection in November, to Pompeo seeking her dismissal because he had "notice of concrete evidence" that she had "spoken privately and repeatedly about her disdain for the current Administration."

A former official said he knew of no such evidence and said it would have been unlikely for the diplomat to disparage any administration. Sessions did not respond to questions about the letter forwarded to him through a spokeswoman.

Sessions was among GOP politicians and a Trump-affiliated political action committee who received campaign donations in 2018 from Soviet-born business partners, Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman. The Texas congressman received \$5,400 of the nearly \$500,000 given by the men, and met with one of them. They have been working with Giuliani on his investigation of the son of former Vice President Joe Biden, who served on the board of an energy company in Ukraine.

Ukrainian media have reported that the business partners arranged a January meeting in New York between Giuliani and Ukraine's former prosecutor general, Yuri Lutsenko.

Over the next several months, a series of articles appeared criticizing the ambassador. Donald Trump Jr. referred to her and other ambassadors as "jokers" on Twitter and tweeted a link to one piece critical of her. Lutsenko then gave an interview alleging that Yovanovitch, who had been critical of the prosecutor in the past, had given him a "do not prosecute" list of people who should not be pursued, according to the whistleblower complaint. He publicly retracted that claim on April 17.

But the ambassador would be out of her position by the end of the next month. As the whistleblower noted: "I learned from U.S. officials with direct knowledge of the situation that Ambassador Yovanovitch had been suddenly recalled to Washington by senior State Department officials for 'consultations' and would most likely be removed from her position."

Associated Press writer Michael Biesecker contributed to this report.

Subpoenas mark first concrete steps for Trump impeachment

By ZEKE MILLER, ERIC TUCKER and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats took their first concrete steps in the impeachment investigation of President Donald Trump on Friday, issuing subpoenas demanding documents from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and scheduling legal depositions for other State Department officials.

At the end of a stormy week of revelation and recrimination, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi framed the impeachment inquiry as a somber moment for a divided nation.

"This is no cause for any joy," she said on MSNBC.

At the White House, a senior administration official confirmed a key detail from the unidentified CIA whistleblower who has accused Trump of abusing the power of his office. Trump, for his part, insisted anew that his actions and words have been "perfect" and the whistleblower's complaint might well be the work of "a partisan operative."

The White House acknowledged that a record of the Trump phone call that is now at the center of the

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 24 of 48

impeachment inquiry had been sealed away in a highly classified system at the direction of Trump's National Security Council lawyers.

Separately, Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway told reporters that the whistleblower "has protection under the law," something Trump himself had appeared to question earlier in the day. He suggested then that his accuser "isn't a whistleblower at all."

Still at issue is why the rough transcript of Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukraine's president was put on "lock down," in the words of the whistleblower. The CIA officer said that diverting the record in an unusual way was evidence that "White House officials understood the gravity of what had transpired" in the conversation.

The whistleblower complaint alleges that Trump used his office to "solicit interference from a foreign country" to help himself in next year's U.S. election. In the phone call, days after ordering a freeze to some military assistance for Ukraine, Trump prodded new Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to dig for potentially damaging material on Democratic rival Joe Biden and volunteered the assistance of both his personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, and U.S. Attorney General William Barr.

Pelosi refused to set a deadline for the probe but promised to act "expeditiously." The House intelligence committee could draw members back to Washington next week.

Pelosi said she was praying for the president, adding, "I would say to Democrats and Republicans: We have to put country before party."

At the White House, it was a senior administration official who acknowledged that the rough transcript of Trump's conversation with Ukraine's Zelenskiy had been moved to a highly classified system maintained by the National Security Council. The official was granted anonymity Friday to discuss sensitive matters.

White House attorneys had been made aware of concerns about Trump's comments on the call even before the whistleblower sent his allegations to the intelligence community's inspector general. Those allegations, made in mid-August, were released Thursday under heavy pressure from House Democrats.

One former official said memos of Trump calls with foreign leaders had to be severely restricted after leaks in 2017. Calls with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Russia's Vladimir Putin were among those whose distribution were kept to a minimum. The official cautioned that administrations discuss sensitive matters with both nations, and that the treatment shouldn't imply anything untoward on the call. Even some calls with US allies are also restricted due to discussions of classified topics. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe the process.

On the Ukraine matter, Trump was keeping up his full-bore attack on the whistleblower and the unnamed "White House officials" cited in the complaint, drawing a warning from Pelosi against retaliation.

Late Thursday, Trump denounced people who might have talked to the whistleblower as "close to a spy" and suggested they engaged in treason, an act punishable by death. Then on Friday, he said the person was "sounding more and more like the so-called Whistleblower isn't a Whistleblower at all."

He also alleged without evidence that information in the complaint has been "proved to be so inaccurate."

Pelosi told MSNBC, "I'm concerned about some of the president's comments about the whistleblower."

She said the House panels conducting the impeachment probe will make sure there's no retaliation against people who provided information in the case. On Thursday, House Democratic chairmen called Trump's comments "witness intimidation" and suggested efforts by him to interfere with the potential witness could be unlawful.

Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-Texas, a member of the intelligence committee, said the president calling whistleblowers spies is "obscene ... just grotesque."

"If you ask me, I'd like to hear from everybody that was mentioned in that whistleblowers report. I like to hear from Rudy Giuliani, from the attorney general. I think Mike Pompeo has explaining to do as well as the State Department."

Trump's Friday comment questioning the whistleblower's status seemed to foreshadow a possible effort to argue that legal protection laws don't apply to the person, opening a new front in the president's defense, but Conway's statement seemed to make that less likely.

The intelligence community's inspector general found the whistleblower's complaint "credible" despite

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 25 of 48

finding indications of the person's support for a different political candidate.

Legal experts said that by following proper procedures and filing a complaint with the government rather than disclosing the information to the media, the person is without question regarded as a whistleblower entitled to protections against being fired or criminally prosecuted.

"This person clearly followed the exact path he was supposed to follow," said Debra D'Agostino, a lawyer who represents whistleblowers. "There is no basis for not calling this person a whistleblower."

Lawyers say it also doesn't matter for the purposes of being treated as a whistleblower if all of the allegations are borne out as entirely true, or even if political motives or partisanship did factor into the decision to come forward.

Giuliani, already in the spotlight, was scheduled to appear at a Kremlin-backed conference in Armenia on Tuesday, but he said Friday he would not be attending. The agenda showed him speaking at a session on digital financial technologies. Russian President Vladimir Putin also was scheduled to participate in the conference.

Republicans were straining under the uncertainty of being swept up in the most serious test yet of their alliance with the Trump White House.

"We owe people to take it seriously," said Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., a onetime Trump rival who is now a member of the intelligence committee.

"Right now, I have more questions than answers," he said. "The complaint raises serious allegations, and we need to determine whether they're credible or not."

A swift resolution to the impeachment inquiry may not be easy. The intelligence committee is diving in just as lawmakers leave Washington for a two-week recess, with the panel expected to work while away. One person familiar with the committee's schedule said that members might return at the end of next week.

Findings will eventually need to be turned over to Rep. Jerrold Nadler's Judiciary Committee, which is compiling the work of five other panels into what is expected to be articles of impeachment. The panel will need to find consensus.

Meanwhile, Trump's reelection campaign took to accusing Democrats of trying to "steal" the 2020 election in a new ad airing in a \$10 million television and digital buy next week.

The ad also attacks Democrat Biden, highlighting his efforts as vice president to make U.S. aid to Ukraine contingent on that country firing a prosecutor believed to be corrupt. The ad claims that the fired prosecutor was investigating the former vice president's son.

In fact, the prosecutor had failed to pursue any major anti-corruption investigations, leaving Ukraine's international donors deeply frustrated. In pressing for the prosecutor's ouster, Biden was representing the official position of the U.S. government, which was shared by other Western allies and many in Ukraine.

AP writers Lisa Mascaró, Laurie Kellman, Mary Clare Jalonick, Alan Fram, Matt Lee, Padmananda Rama and Matthew Daly contributed to this report.

Pakistan PM warns of 'bloodbath' in Kashmir; India PM silent

By FOSTER KLUG and JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Insisting he wasn't making a threat, Pakistan's leader denounced his Indian counterpart on Friday and warned that any war between the nuclear rivals could "have consequences for the world." India's prime minister took the opposite approach, skipping any mention at the United Nations of his government's crackdown in the disputed region of Kashmir.

"When a nuclear-armed country fights to the end, it will have consequences far beyond the borders. It will have consequences for the world," Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan said in a wide-ranging, at times apparently extemporaneous U.N. General Assembly speech in which he called Modi's actions in Kashmir "stupid" and "cruel."

"That's not a threat," he said of his war comments. "It's a fair worry. Where are we headed?"

An hour earlier, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the U.N. meeting with a speech that

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 26 of 48

focused primarily on his country's development, though he warned of the spreading specter of terrorism. He never mentioned Kashmir directly.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over the Himalayan region. They've been locked in a worsening standoff since Aug. 5, when Modi stripped limited autonomy from the portion of Kashmir that India controls.

Modi's Hindu nationalist government imposed a sweeping military curfew and cut off residents in the Muslim-majority region from virtually all communications. Khan said there were 900,000 Indian forces in the region policing 8 million Kashmiris.

"What's he going to do when he lifts the curfew? Does he think the people of Kashmir are quietly going to accept the status quo?" Khan said. "What is going to happen when the curfew is lifted will be a bloodbath."

He added: "They will be out in the streets. And what will the soldiers do? They will shoot them. ... Kashmiris will be further radicalized."

While not mentioning Kashmir by name, Modi touched on terrorism: "We belong to a country that has given the world not war, but Buddha's message of peace. And that is the reason why our voice against terrorism, to alert the world about this evil, rings with seriousness and outrage."

Modi has defended the Kashmir changes as freeing the territory from separatism. His supporters have welcomed the move.

Late Friday evening, India took advantage of its right of response and sent a diplomat — whose name was not immediately available — to briefly condemn Khan's words. She called them "hate speech" and "brinksmanship, not statesmanship."

"Rarely has the General Assembly witnessed such misuse — abuse — of the opportunity to reflect," she said. She accused Khan of hypocrisy and said his words "reflect a medieval mindset and not a 21st-century vision."

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said during his U.N. speech Friday afternoon that "as a neighbor of both nations, China hopes to see the dispute effectively managed and stability restored to the relationship between the two sides."

The difference in speech styles between the Indian and Pakistani leaders was striking, with Modi sticking closely to a prepared text and Khan appearing to speak off the cuff and riff. While the U.N. distributed a transcript of Modi's speech moments after he finished talking, Khan's had not been released hours later.

Ahead of Modi's and Khan's appearances at the U.N., residents of Indian-controlled Kashmir expressed hope that their speeches would turn world attention to an unprecedented lockdown in the region.

"We really hope these leaders will do something to rid us of conflict and suppression," said Nazir Ahmed, a schoolteacher on the outskirts of Srinagar, the main city in Indian-held Kashmir. "Conflict is like a cancer hitting every aspect of life. And Kashmiris have been living inside this cancer for decades now."

As the two leaders spoke Friday, large dueling protests supporting and opposing India's action in Kashmir were taking place across the street from U.N. headquarters.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who met with both Modi and Khan this week, has urged the sides to resolve their differences.

India and Pakistan's conflict over Kashmir dates to the late 1940s, when they won independence from Britain. The region is one of the most heavily militarized in the world, patrolled by soldiers and paramilitary police. Most Kashmiris resent the Indian troop presence.

Modi, a pro-business Hindu nationalist, and his party won a decisive re-election in May. The election was seen as a referendum on Modi, the son of a poor tea seller whose economic reforms have had mixed results. But he has enjoyed enduring popularity as a social underdog in India's highly stratified society.

Critics, however, say his Hindu-first platform risks exacerbating social tensions in the country of 1.3 billion people.

Longtime Associated Press international correspondent Foster Klug is on assignment at the U.N. General Assembly. Follow him on Twitter at @APKlug. AP writers Shah Abbas and Edith M. Lederer contributed to

this story.

Judge blocks Trump rules for detained migrant kids

By AMY TAXIN Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A U.S. judge on Friday blocked new Trump administration rules that would enable the government to keep immigrant children in detention facilities with their parents indefinitely.

U.S. District Court Judge Dolly Gee in Los Angeles said the rules conflict with a 1997 settlement agreement that requires the government to release immigrant children caught on the border as quickly as possible to relatives in the U.S. and says they can only be held in facilities licensed by a state.

Gee said the Flores agreement — named for a teenage plaintiff — will remain in place and govern the conditions for all immigrant children in U.S. custody, including those with their parents.

“The agreement has been necessary, relevant, and critical to the public interest in maintaining standards for the detention and release of minors arriving at the United States’ borders,” the judge wrote in her decision.

“Defendants willingly negotiated and bound themselves to these standards for all minors in its custody, and no final regulations or changed circumstances yet merit termination of the Flores agreement.”

The Trump administration sought to end the agreement and issued the new rules with the hope of detaining immigrant children in facilities with their parents. The move came as part of a broader crackdown on asylum seekers arriving on the Southwest border, many of them families with children from Central America.

The Flores agreement allows for the settlement to be phased out when rules are issued for the custody of immigrant children that are consistent with its terms.

Attorneys who represent detained immigrant children welcomed Gee’s position, which she initially conveyed to them in a draft ruling during a court hearing Friday. They said they wouldn’t let the administration use young immigrants to try to deter migrants fleeing desperate conditions from seeking asylum in the United States.

“We will continue vigorously to defend the rights of detained immigrant children,” Neha Desai, director of immigration at the National Center for Youth Law, told reporters.

The Department of Justice said the administration is disappointed with the ruling because it did what was required to implement the new rules.

On Friday night, the White House issued a statement criticizing the judge’s ruling.

“For two and a half years, this Administration has worked to restore faithful enforcement of the laws enacted by Congress, while activist judges have imposed their own vision in the place of those duly enacted laws,” the statement said. “The Flores 20-day Loophole violates Congressional removal and detention mandates, creating a new system out of judicial whole cloth. This destructive end-run around the detention and removal system Congress created must end.”

Attorneys for both sides said they would be willing to meet and discuss whether some aspects of the rules aren’t subject to the settlement. Gee gave them until Oct. 4 to do so.

More than 400,000 immigrants traveling in family groups with children have been stopped on the Mexico border in the past year.

In its crackdown, the Trump administration has had migrants await immigration court hearings in Mexico and required those who cross through a third country to seek refuge there before applying for asylum in the U.S.

Immigrant advocates have decried the changes, which threaten asylum for many people fleeing violence in their countries.

Standing by Ellie: Man’s loyalty to dog defies rare illness

By CARRIE ANTLFINGER Associated Press

WEST BEND, Wis. (AP) — It’s hard to regard Ellie as a menace.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 28 of 48

When Greg Manteufel is frustrated or feeling down, she sits by him. At night, she sleeps under his covers. At dinner, she's there next to him, knowing he'll throw something her way. She belies the stereotype of the vicious pit bull.

"We love her like she's our daughter," he said of the dog.

And yet, Ellie may be the reason Manteufel, 49, nearly died.

Gravely ill, he lost parts of his arms and legs, as well as the skin of his nose and part of his upper lip. The cause was capnocytophaga (cap-noh-seye-TOE'-fah-gah), a germ from Ellie's mouth or from another dog he encountered.

Capnocytophaga is commonly found in the saliva of cats and dogs and almost never leads to people getting sick, unless the person has a compromised immune system. But Manteufel was perfectly healthy. In fact, he doesn't think he'd ever used his health insurance before he fell ill.

The case is extremely rare and doctors at his hospital, Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin, had no explanation for why he got so sick. But over the last 10 years there have been at least five other healthy people who have had severe reactions to the germ. A team of researchers connected with Harvard Medical School has developed a theory on why — a gene change in all the victims.

And their finding means doctors can't rule out the capnocytophaga bacteria could strike Manteufel and other victims again.

Greg Manteufel thought he was getting the flu in June of 2018. He had a fever, vomiting and diarrhea. But when he started getting confused, his family took him to the hospital.

Doctors did blood cultures and found capnocytophaga, which caused sepsis, a severe blood infection that led to his blood pressure dropping and many of his organs shutting down.

"Do what you have to, to keep me alive," he told the doctors.

He had so much to live for — foremost, his wife of 16 years, Dawn, and 26-year-old son, Mike. He was just starting to get really good at his day job, painting houses. He cherished his Harley Davidson Electra Glide. He was in the middle of fixing up his '66 El Camino. And of course there was Ellie, the pup.

And so he persisted, through more than 20 surgeries, including amputations of his left and right arms just below the elbow, and legs through the middle of the knee.

His wife and son stayed optimistic, because he was.

"Greg said he didn't come this far to lay down and let this beat him," Dawn Manteufel said.

He was out of the in-patient rehab unit in about two weeks, learning to move from his wheelchair to the bed, toilet and car. The usual stay is three to four weeks, said Dr. David Del Toro, medical director for the inpatient rehab unit at Froedtert.

Manteufel made similar quick advances using his arm prosthetics and leg prosthetics.

"He does not seem like any other patient I've met before," Del Toro said. "He's just, you know, full speed ahead."

Meanwhile, researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, connected to Harvard Medical School, as well as Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center had been investigating cases like his.

The team has done genetic testing on five otherwise healthy people who suffered capnocytophaga infections to see if they could find anything in common. They discovered all had a gene connected to the immune system that was working differently — a genetic variant.

"It was a really thrilling moment," said Elizabeth Fieg, a genetic counselor at Brigham and Women's Hospital. "The stakes are so high with these cases and the patients have gone through so much."

They believe it makes those people more susceptible to developing severe medical problems from capnocytophaga. But they are also trying to determine if there are other risk factors.

Of the five in the study, three survived with amputations and two did not. Fieg hopes their research can determine why some did not survive.

She also hopes if their theory is confirmed, it will help diagnose cases faster, and perhaps save lives and limbs.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 29 of 48

That's why Greg Manteufel jumped at the chance to take part when he was approached in August. Researchers need to gather more evidence, but hope to publish their study in the next year to 18 months.

Manteufel's life now includes frequent occupational therapy appointments to perfect his use of arm prosthetics — the kind with metal moveable hooks at the end. He's using a fork regularly and he's now working on picking up the TV remote, opening doorknobs, cutting vegetables and doing the dishes.

He's using shortened leg prosthetics, called stubbies, to get his body conditioned to eventually use to full-sized ones. Those are expected to arrive any day.

Plastic surgeons plan another surgery to perfect his nose. They've already moved skin from his forehead there. It looks oversized now, but it will eventually fit in with the rest of his face.

He plans to get his car revamped so he can drive with prosthetics. He wants to get a special pole so he can go fishing again. He is even considering going back to work painting.

He's also become less quiet and a lot more outgoing. "Now everybody I see wants to hear something or talk to me. I tell them a 15-minute story about what happened. They probably want me to leave, you know," he said, chuckling.

Ellie's often by his side.

"She loves kids. She loves puppies. Other dogs," Manteufel said.

As harmless as she seems, she may have capnocytophaga germ.

The results of Manteufel's genetic tests are expected in three to four months. Fieg said people with the gene variant are at increased risk for recurrent capnocytophaga or other infections in the future.

While Manteufel doesn't like the sound of that, he said Ellie's accidentally scratched him since he's been home and even licked his mouth. He's been fine.

And even if he does have the gene variant, he said, it changes nothing.

"We didn't even bother testing her," said Manteufel. "We weren't going to get rid of her if it was her that caused it anyway."

"We just love her to death."

This version of the story corrects to say Harley Davidson Electra Glide motorcycle instead of Electric Glide.

China's government, turning 70, tells its story at the UN

By TED ANTHONY AP National Writer

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Four days before its communist government's 70th birthday, China on Friday condemned protectionism and unilateralism as "major threats," took not-entirely-subtle shots at U.S. economic policies and proudly pronounced itself "a country that is open and on the move."

With Chinese President Xi Jinping not attending this year's U.N. General Assembly, it fell to Foreign Minister Wang Yi to tell the story of the People's Republic of China at the seven-decade mark. He did so with dispatch and style, plowing through a speech that outlined many of his country's accomplishments, challenges, philosophies and international beefs.

He called China "an anchor of stability for world peace" and much more.

"Seventy years ago, China put an end to a period in modern history in which the country was torn apart and trampled upon. We stood up and became true masters of our country," Wang said.

The current chapter for China, a culture thousands of years old, began on Oct. 1, 1949 when Mao Zedong stood at a microphone atop Tiananmen Square in Beijing and declared a new government in the nation his communist guerrillas took from Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists after a civil war.

When Mao died in 1976 after an extraordinary tenure punctuated by repression, famine and party intrigue, China began a period known as "reform and opening up." Senior leader Deng Xiaoping engaged with the West, re-established diplomatic relations with the United States and began a period of economic, technological and developmental growth — a "socialist market economy" that drove China to where it is today.

Which is, among other things, in a major trade dispute with the United States — a tariff battle that

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 30 of 48

threatens global economic growth. That was not lost on Wang during his address at the U.N., where a large anniversary display in a heavily trafficked foyer offers onlookers a photo history of the world's most populous nation under communist rule.

"Erecting walls will not resolve global challenges, and blaming others for one's own problems does not work," he said, in a reference likely aimed at the United States. "Tariffs and provocation of trade disputes, which upset global industrial and supply chains, serve to undermine the multilateral trading regime and global economic and trade order. They may even plunge the world into recession."

"Facing the headwinds of protectionism," he said, "we should not just stand idly by."

China is offering to narrow a trade surplus with the United States by purchasing more American exports. But the Beijing government is resisting pressure from Washington to roll back technology plans that their trading partners say violate Beijing's free-trade commitments and hurt foreign competitors.

U.S. President Donald Trump postponed a planned tariff hike on Chinese goods ahead of the 13th round of talks in Washington in early October. Beijing has lifted punitive duties on soybeans in a move that helps both American farmers and Chinese pig breeders who need soy as feed.

Wang, whose address at times read like a listicle about "Things China Has Accomplished," was not shy about touting the formidable progress made by his nation, which he said "has done, in just seven decades, what it took some countries hundreds of years to complete." Chinese often express pride at the speed of their nation's progress and the rise in living standards for many since the country began to open to the larger world after Mao died in 1976.

Not unexpectedly, Wang cited growth and development as the engines behind China's successes thus far. "Development," he said, "is the master key to solving all problems."

China is in the midst of a major, multipronged global strategy called the Belt and Road Initiative, which is developing infrastructure projects in concert with scores of other nations and organizations. Beijing calls it a significant contribution to environmentally friendly growth, but others see it as an influence play designed to extend the country's footprint even further.

In his speech, Wang exhorted other countries to "seize the development opportunities" that the Belt and Road Initiative has created.

Overall, however, his speech seemed almost a position paper for China at age 70. It cast the country under Xi as a defender of peace and justice, an advocate of the principle of independence and a committed multilateralist — all assertions that the government's adversaries have taken issue with.

China has long emphasized what it calls its commitment to multilateralism, a stance that has become even more persuasive to other nations since Trump took office in 2017 and began to pursue an "America first" policy that has unsettled enemies and allies alike.

On Friday, on the sidelines of the U.N. meeting, Wang showed off another side of China's trajectory, officially collecting another in a spate of smaller countries that have ended diplomatic relations with Taiwan, the self-governed island that Beijing claims as part of its territory. Chiang's defeated Nationalist government retreated there in 1949 after being vanquished by Mao's Red Army.

Wang and the president of the island nation of Kiribati signed a document re-establishing relations. An announcement by China's official Xinhua News Agency cited the upcoming 70th anniversary and said the renewed China-Kiribati relationship "will undoubtedly add glory to this important historical moment."

"Over the past seven decades, China has turned itself from a closed, backward and poor country with a weak foundation into a country that is open and on the move," Wang said in his speech.

"Let me make it very clear," he told the global audience gathered at the United Nations. "China is a country with a 5,000-year civilization, 1.4 billion hardworking and courageous people, and a vast land of 9.6 million square kilometers. China will not ever be cowed by threats or subdued by pressure."

Ted Anthony has written about international affairs for The Associated Press since 1995. He was AP's Beijing news editor from 2001 to 2004 and director of Asia-Pacific news from 2014 to 2018. Follow him on Twitter at @anthonyted.

Greta: Grown-ups mock children because world view threatened

By ROB GILLIES and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg said Friday she doesn't understand why grown-ups and world leaders would mock children and teens for acting on science, responding to attacks on her campaign as students conducted a second wave of global protests demanding action on climate change.

When asked about U.S. President Donald Trump and others who have mocked her, the 16-year-old activist said they likely feel their world view and interests are being threatened by climate activism.

"We've become too loud for people to handle so people want to silence us," she said at a rally in Montreal after meeting Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. "We should also take that as a compliment."

The youth climate movement has drawn criticism from some who accuse the students of overreacting and say they would be better off going to school. In an apparent sarcastic jibe at Thunberg this week following her haranguing of world leaders, Trump tweeted: "She seems like a very happy young girl looking forward to a bright and wonderful future. So nice to see!"

Instead of addressing Trump by name, she said Friday that she didn't "understand why grown-ups would choose to mock children and teenagers for just communicating and acting on the science when they could do something good instead."

Thousands later chanted "Greta! Greta!" as she spoke at an afternoon rally in Montreal.

"We will do everything in our power to stop this crisis from getting worse even if that means skipping school or work," she said. "The people have spoken. And we will continue to speak until our leaders listen and act. We are the change and change is coming."

Her comments came as students in Italy symbolically torched a replica of planet Earth, one of many protests as part of the climate strikes sparked by the Swedish teen. Some participants echoed the anger she expressed this week at a U.N. summit in New York.

"How dare you!" read one banner at a rally in Italy's financial hub of Milan, where tens of thousands took to the streets and later gathered around a giant globe to watch it go up in flames.

More than 100,000 people also rallied in Rome, where protesters held up signs with slogans such as "Change the system, not the climate" or just the word "Future."

Fears about the impact of global warming on younger generations drew fresh protests in India, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands and Bolivia a week after hundreds of thousands rallied worldwide ahead of the U.N. summit.

In New Zealand, students marched on Parliament in Wellington, staging one of the largest protests ever held in that capital.

In Berlin, activists from the Fridays for Future group braved persistent rain to denounce a package of measures that the German government recently agreed on to cut the country's greenhouse gas emissions. Experts say the proposal falls far short of what's needed if the world's sixth-biggest emitter is to meet the goals of the landmark 2015 Paris climate accord.

Actor Javier Bardem joined dozens of young people in San Sebastian in one of several rallies held across Spain on Friday morning ahead of evening demonstrations in major cities such as Madrid and Barcelona. Bardem was promoting a documentary he worked on with Greenpeace.

In Austria, organizers said 150,000 people participated, while local APA news agency said the number was 65,000.

In Poland, protesters blocked traffic in downtown Warsaw by chaining themselves to a tent. Police and firefighters tried to negotiate with them.

In Buenos Aires, where school strikes inspired by Thunberg have taken place since March, several thousand people marched from the famed Plaza de Mayo to the Congress. Protests occurred elsewhere in Latin America, including in Chile and Bolivia.

Protesters even rallied on Chile's Easter Island, known for its massive statues known as moai.

In Canada, Thunberg met Trudeau, who praised her activism on climate change.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 32 of 48

"She is the voice of a generation, of young people who are calling on their leaders to do more and do better," Trudeau said. "And I am listening."

Trudeau, who is in the middle of an election campaign, announced a plan to plant 2 billion trees over the next decade.

Thunberg, however, indicated that she expects more, even of leaders who welcome the movement. Scientists this week issued new dire warnings about the consequences of rising temperatures on the world's oceans and cold regions.

Thunberg told a crowd in Montreal it was moving to see people of all generations so passionate for a cause.

"He (Trudeau) is of course obviously not doing enough, but this is just a huge problem, this is a system that is wrong," she said. "My message to all the politicians is the same: Just listen and act on the science."

Giada Zampano reported from Rome. Rob Gillies in Toronto, Nick Perry in Wellington, New Zealand; Mike Corder in The Hague, Netherlands; Debora Rey in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Eva Vergara in Santiago, Chile; and Ciaran Giles in Madrid contributed to this report.

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

Joe Wilson, skeptic on Iraq War intelligence, dies at age 69

By MORGAN LEE and SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Joseph Wilson, the former ambassador who set off a political firestorm by disputing U.S. intelligence used to justify the 2003 Iraq invasion, died Friday, according to his ex-wife. He was 69.

Wilson died of organ failure in Santa Fe, said his former wife, Valerie Plame, whose identity as a CIA operative was exposed days after Wilson's criticism of U.S. intelligence that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was attempting to purchase uranium.

The leak of Plame's covert identity was a scandal for the administration of President George W. Bush that led to the conviction of vice presidential aide I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby for lying to investigators and obstruction of justice.

President Donald Trump pardoned Libby in 2018.

Plame, who is running as a Democrat for Congress — in part as a Trump adversary — called Wilson "a true American hero, a patriot, and had the heart of a lion." Plame and Wilson moved to Santa Fe in 2007 to raise twin children and divorced in 2017.

In 2002, Wilson traveled to the African country of Niger to investigate allegations that Hussein was attempting to purchase uranium, which could have been used to make nuclear weapons.

Plame's identity with the CIA was revealed in a newspaper column days after Wilson said in an opinion piece in The New York Times that the Bush administration twisted prewar intelligence on Iraq to justify going to war. Wilson later accused administration officials and political operatives of putting his family at risk.

A Connecticut native and graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara, Wilson's career with the Foreign Service included posts in a handful of African nations.

He was the senior U.S. diplomat in Baghdad during the first Gulf War, which lasted from 1990 to 1991, and was the last American official to meet with Saddam before the Desert Storm offensive.

Wilson drew intense criticism from Republican lawmakers over his statements regarding Iraq and weapons of mass destruction in the lead-up to the U.S. invasion. A report by the Senate Intelligence Committee in 2004 pointed to inconsistencies.

Wilson dismissed those claims, later authoring the book "The Politics of Truth."

In a 2003 interview with PBS, he said that the post 9/11 security mission went astray with the full invasion of Iraq.

"The national security objective for the United States was clear; it was disarmament of Saddam Hussein," he said. "We should have pursued that objective. We did not need to engage in an invasion, conquest and

occupation of Iraq in order to achieve that objective.”

The dispute vaulted Wilson and Plame into the glare of international celebrity, with Plame emerging as a professional public speaker and book author.

Plame’s book “Fair Game” about her exposure as a CIA operative was made into a 2010 feature film starring actors Sean Penn and Naomi Watts.

Plame is running in a crowded field for the Democratic nomination in an open race to succeed U.S. Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, as the No. 4-ranked House Democrat campaigns for an open Senate seat in 2020.

In an introductory campaign ad for Plame, her aborted CIA career and Trump’s decision to pardon Libby figure prominently.

“My service was cut short when my own government betrayed me. ... And Mr. President, I’ve got a few scores to settle,” she says.

Dallas cop says she wishes neighbor had killed her instead

By JAKE BLEIBERG Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas police officer broke her silence Friday about the night she killed a young accountant who lived in the apartment right above hers, telling jurors that she has to live with the guilt every day and that she wished their roles were reversed.

Amber Guyger tearfully told the packed courtroom at her murder trial that she was sorry for killing 26-year-old Botham Jean last September, explaining that she mistook his fourth-floor apartment for her own. But during cross-examination, prosecutors cast doubt on Guyger’s grief, wondered why she didn’t call for backup instead of confronting Jean and questioned her attempts to save his life.

Guyger, 31, repeatedly apologized for killing Jean as she spoke publicly for the first time about the events of that night.

“I hate that I have to live with this every single day of my life and I ask God for forgiveness, and I hate myself every single day,” she said as she looked across the courtroom at Jean’s family.

Guyger, who was fired after the shooting, said she wished “he was the one with the gun” and had killed her, instead. “I never wanted to take an innocent person’s life. And I’m so sorry. This is not about hate. It’s about being scared that night,” she said.

Jean grew up in the Caribbean island nation of St. Lucia before coming to the U.S. for college. His shooting drew widespread attention because of the strange circumstances and because it was one in a string of shootings of unarmed black men by white police officers.

Guyger testified that upon returning home in-uniform after a long shift that night, she put her key into what she thought was her door lock and the door opened because it hadn’t been fully closed. Fearing it was a break-in, she drew her service weapon and stepped inside to find a silhouetted figure standing in the dark.

“Let me see your hands! Let me see your hands,” she said she told the man. But Guyger said she couldn’t see his hands and he began coming toward her at a “fast-paced” walk. She said he yelled, “Hey! Hey! Hey!” right before she opened fire.

“I was scared he was going to kill me,” she said under questioning by her lawyers, who called her as their first witness on the trial’s fifth day. She said she intended to kill him when she pulled the trigger because that’s what she had been trained to do as a police officer.

Lead prosecutor Jason Hermus suggested that Guyger was less than grief-stricken in the aftermath of the shooting, saying that two days after she shot Jean, Guyger asked her police partner, with whom she was romantically involved, if he wanted to go for drinks.

Hermus also asked Guyger why she didn’t radio in for help when she thought there was a break-in at what she thought was her home. She replied that going through the doorway with her gun drawn, “was the only option that went through my head.”

Hermus also grilled Guyger about why she didn’t perform “proper CPR” on Jean after she shot him. He asked about an eight-hour de-escalation training course she had taken that April, but Guyger told the

jury she could no longer remember what she learned in the course. She said she performed some chest compressions on Jean with one hand while using her phone with the other, but she also acknowledged stopping several times.

The basic facts of how Jean died aren't in dispute. But the jury will have to decide whether Guyger's actions constitute murder, a lesser offense such as manslaughter or criminally negligent homicide, or no crime at all.

Guyger has said she fired in self-defense after mistaking Jean for a burglar and her lawyers say the identical appearance of the floors at their complex frequently led to tenants parking on the wrong floor or trying to enter the wrong apartments.

Prosecutors have questioned how Guyger could have missed numerous signs that she was in the wrong place and suggested she was distracted by sexually explicit phone messages with her police partner. They say Jean was no threat to Guyger, noting that he was in his living room eating a bowl of ice cream when she entered his apartment.

In a frantic 911 call played in court earlier this week and again Friday, Guyger said "I thought it was my apartment" nearly 20 times.

Associated Press writer Jamie Stengle contributed to this report.

At UN, Africa balances highlighting its progress and poverty

By SARAH DiLORENZO Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — At the modernist U.N. building on New York's East Side, "United Nations" means the trappings of protocol, the gravitas and pettiness of diplomatic relations, the grandiose speeches and agendas of heads of state. But out in the world — the place where the nations that unite here actually are — the words evoke something different.

In the field, sure, there is still bureaucracy and its maddening assault on language, but there is less showmanship. In the field, to many, the "United Nations" means water wells and mosquito nets and vaccination drives. It means busloads of peacekeepers and truckloads of cooking oil and rice.

One by one this week, African leaders brought the field to the headquarters as they spoke in front of a green marble backdrop and told stories of illiteracy and malnutrition, about people living with HIV and without electricity.

"As I speak, poverty thrives in the least-developed countries," President Peter Mutharika said Thursday. And sub-Saharan Africa "has more people trapped in poverty than any other part the world."

Guinean President Alpha Condé told world leaders that two-thirds of Africans do not have access to electricity. Zambian President Edgar Lungu reminded them that 1 billion people still live in extreme poverty. And Burkina Faso's president, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, warned that attacks by Islamic extremists had forced his government to divert money to security that had been meant for education, health and other social programs.

This is very different from the material that the big-ticket speakers bring to the podium. For the leaders of the world's most powerful nations, the General Assembly is a chance to meet one another, often in swank New York hotels outside the vast riverside compound. For countries locked in protracted conflicts, it's an opportunity to face off against rivals and argue their case on a world stage.

The dance the African leaders must perform each year is delicate. Paint too bleak a picture, and rich countries, global funds and the U.N. system itself might wonder: What happened to the money we gave last year? But fail to lay out the very real challenges of people living through drought and rebel attacks and crop failure and malaria, and they will fail to ignite the urgency needed to solve those problems.

President Idriss Deby of Chad lamented Wednesday that the "excitement in the air" when countries adopted the "Agenda 2030" plan to eradicate poverty four years ago "was not followed by far-reaching results compared to the commitments that were made." But he was careful to note, too, that the country had continued to invest in education despite an economic crisis.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 35 of 48

The dance is not limited to African nations. El Salvador's president addressed it with reporters after a speech in which he urged the U.N. to overhaul how it holds the General Assembly. When asked why he hadn't used his speech to talk about his country's problems — that is, to do what we expect of a leader from a poor country beset by violence — Bukele said he had already spoken about them elsewhere. Doing so here, he said, would add nothing.

"What should I have done? Tell fairy tales, as other presidents who have presented a version of El Salvador that didn't exist? 'We've fought poverty, inequality, we've grown, people are fine, as well as health and education,'" he told reporters after his speech. He might have been talking about an African nation.

On Thursday, Sierra Leonean protesters gathered outside the U.N. building while their president spoke inside. They accused him of propagating that kind of fiction.

"We see the U.N. week as a hypocritical stage for African leaders to set out their agenda to the international community," said Joseph Kalokoh, who was among the protesters. "Falsely!" a fellow protester added.

Inside, their president, Julius Maada Bio, touted his country's investment in education, especially for girls, its provision of skills training for young people, and its adoption of progressive sex-crimes legislation.

But, he warned: "The threat of inequality, lack of opportunity and exclusion of our youth still persist."

In other words, it's getting better, but we're not there yet. And the dance goes on.

Sarah DiLorenzo has covered global affairs for The Associated Press on five continents since 2008. Follow her on Twitter at @sdilorenzo. Associated Press writer Claudia Torrens contributed to this report.

AP: Democrats in Trump country cautious about impeachment

By SEAN MURPHY Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Democrat Kendra Horn surprised even her own supporters in 2018 when the first-time candidate eked out a victory in an Oklahoma City congressional district that had been in Republican hands for nearly four decades and had voted heavily for Donald Trump in 2016. But now the impeachment drive against the president has put her and others like her in a tight spot.

She opposes an impeachment inquiry at this time, Horn spokeswoman Chacey Schoeppel said Thursday, but she will listen to the facts and "go through them methodically."

As of Friday morning, an Associated Press survey of most of the House Democrats showed six as either not supporting or undecided on the inquiry that was announced this week by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The six represent an extraordinarily small share of the 235 Democrats in the House. And Pelosi doesn't need them to move ahead with an investigation.

But they illustrate the insecurities of those Democrats who managed to get elected from Trump country.

All the holdouts hail from districts that Trump won handily in 2016 and that the Republicans are targeting as they try to win back the House in 2020. Most of the six weighed in after the explosive whistleblower complaint against the president became public Thursday.

Horn's margin of victory in 2018 was just 1.4 percentage points in a district that Trump won by nearly 14 points.

"She's a smart politician. That's why she's being cautious," said University of Oklahoma political science professor Keith Gaddie. "Horn's seat is the No. 1 most competitive Democrat-held district in the U.S. right now."

Other Democrats who have joined Horn in opposing the impeachment inquiry into the president's attempt to enlist Ukraine in digging up dirt on his rival Joe Biden are Reps. Collin Peterson of Minnesota and Anthony Brindisi of upstate New York. Democrats who responded to the AP as "undecided" were Reps. Jared Golden of Maine, Ben McAdams of Utah and Xotchitl Torres Small of New Mexico.

"I think we have allegations and news reports right now, and I'm not going to jump to any conclusion until all the facts come out," said Brindisi, whose district Trump won by 16 points.

Torres Small has had to walk a fine line in her sprawling district in New Mexico's border region, which has traditionally voted Republican.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 36 of 48

"Xochitl Torres Small has to be careful not to be painted as a liberal Democrat who just signs on to anything that let's say Nancy Pelosi supports," said veteran pollster Brian Sanderoff. "She exhibits caution, which is smart politically and probably more reflective of at least half of her district."

Collin Peterson, the lone Democrat in Minnesota holding out against the impeachment push, called the process a waste of time. He has represented a huge swath of northwestern Minnesota for nearly 30 years, and his powerful position as chairman of the House Agriculture Committee adds to his appeal to the district's rural and agricultural base. Trump won Peterson's district by 30 points.

"If anyone thinks a partisan impeachment process would constrain President Trump, they are fooling themselves," Peterson said in a statement. "Without significant bipartisan support, impeachment proceedings will be a lengthy and divisive action with no resolution."

McAdams, a moderate Democrat who flipped a suburban Salt Lake City district in deeply conservative Utah last year, said Thursday he wants more information before deciding on whether to support impeachment proceedings.

Rep. Conor Lamb, a freshman whose Pennsylvania district stretches from some wealthy Pittsburgh suburbs through hardscrabble steel towns, initially was "undecided" on a formal impeachment inquiry but shifted Friday and issued a statement that avoided the words "impeachment" and "Trump." Trump won Lamb's district in 2016, but it has since been redrawn.

"Congress must continue our work to get the truth," Lamb read. "I fully support the House Intelligence Committee's inquiry, and I believe that at each step of the way we must follow the evidence where it leads."

Associated Press writers Doug Glass in Minneapolis; Marc Levy in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Susan Montoya Bryan in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Lindsay Whitehurst in Salt Lake City contributed to this report.

US probe of vaping illnesses focuses on THC from marijuana

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. health officials said Friday that their investigation into an outbreak of severe vaping-related illnesses is increasingly focused on products that contain the marijuana compound THC.

Most of the 800 people who got sick vaped THC, the ingredient in marijuana that causes a high, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But officials said they didn't know if the THC is the problem or some other substance added to the vaping liquid, such as thickeners.

"The outbreak currently is pointing to a greater concern around THC-containing products," said the CDC's Dr. Anne Schuchat.

So far, investigators have not identified a particular electronic cigarette, vaping device, liquid or ingredient behind the outbreak. But officials say patients have mentioned the name Dank Vapes most frequently. Many of the people who got sick in Illinois and Wisconsin said they used prefilled THC cartridges sold in Dank Vapes packaging.

"It's a generic product name that doesn't really tie back to one store or one distributor," said Dr. Jennifer Layden, chief medical officer for the Illinois Department of Public Health.

"Folks are getting it from friends or folks on the street, with no understanding of where it came from prior to that," she said Friday.

Until a cause is pinned down, the CDC continues to advise Americans to consider avoiding all vaping products, though the agency on Friday added the phrase "particularly those containing THC."

"We didn't feel comfortable dropping the broader recommendation yet," said Schuchat.

This week, the CDC reported 805 confirmed and probable cases of the lung illness. Thirteen people have died. Only the U.S. has reported such an outbreak, although Canadian officials this week confirmed that country's first case.

On Friday, the agency provided more details in two reports:

— The first case in the U.S. began in late March. Cases ramped up in late June and rose dramatically in late July.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 37 of 48

— Median age for the illnesses is 23. But the median age of those who died is much older — 50.
— Nationally, 9 in 10 cases required hospitalization. Many young and previously healthy adolescents and young adults needed machines to help them breathe.
—The most illnesses have occurred in California, Illinois, Texas and Wisconsin.
— In Illinois and Wisconsin, patients mentioned 87 different product names and many vaped more than one.

Doctors say the illnesses resemble an inhalation injury. Symptoms have included shortness of breath, fatigue, chest pain, diarrhea and vomiting.

Officials continue to find a substantial numbers of U.S. patients — the new report says 16% — who said they vaped only nicotine, and not THC. But the report noted that in Wisconsin, five patients who initially denied using products with THC turned out to have used them.

In Wisconsin and Illinois, recreational marijuana use is currently illegal.

Since 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has lightly regulated the manufacture and ingredients used in nicotine-based e-cigarettes. But there is no FDA review of THC products, which are illegal under federal law.

The outbreak of illnesses and a surge in underage use of e-cigarettes has brought demands for tighter regulation from politicians, public health officials and parents.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Ukraine's prosecutor says no probe into Biden

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Ukraine's top anti-corruption official said Friday his agency hasn't launched an investigation into former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden or his son, even though U.S. President Donald Trump pressed for one in a summer phone call that touched off an impeachment inquiry.

Trump pushed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to investigate his political rival and his son, Hunter, who served on the board of an energy company in Ukraine. That July 25 phone call is the focus of a whistleblower complaint that triggered the formal impeachment inquiry in the U.S. Congress.

Nazar Kholodnitskiy, the head of the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office, said in an interview with NV radio that Biden and his son weren't the subject of any investigation.

Hunter Biden served on the board of Ukrainian gas company Burisma at the same time as 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. Trump also has claimed that Joe Biden pressured the Ukrainian government to shut down a corruption investigation of Burisma, but that claim has been repeatedly discredited.

Kholodnitskiy said in the radio interview that the earlier investigation of Burisma was closed for lack of evidence in 2017, but a court in the Ukrainian capital overruled the move the following year. Despite the court's ruling, the case has remained on hold and the investigation has stalled.

He emphasized that there was no mention of Biden or his son in the Burisma case, which was focused broadly to look into alleged abuse of power by officials in Ukraine's Ministry of Ecology.

Asked if Ukrainian prosecutors could question Biden or his son, Kholodnitskiy said that to do so they would need to see information that would signal possible wrongdoing.

"As of now, there is nothing there," he said. "If it comes up, measures will be taken to check the information."

In the July call, Zelenskiy appears to make an effort to stay in Trump's good graces, telling him at least twice that he is "absolutely right." But after the rough transcript was released by the White House this week, Zelenskiy told reporters he didn't feel pushed, emphasizing that "no one can pressure me." He also sought to play down the situation involving Biden and his son's activities in Ukraine, calling it just one of

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 38 of 48

"many cases that I talk about with leaders of other countries."

The political furor has come as a severe test for Zelenskiy, a comedian without any political experience who was elected in a landslide on promises to uproot the country's endemic corruption and end fighting with Russia-backed separatists in Ukraine's east.

The publication of the call, in which both presidents made critical comments about German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron, has drawn acerbic comments from Russian officials and lawmakers.

"We are waiting for the party to continue," Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said. "Let them publish transcripts of conversations between NATO allies. It would also be useful to publish minutes of closed meetings at the CIA, the FBI and the Pentagon. Put it all on air!"

Zakharova also scoffed at Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's decision to open an impeachment inquiry based on the call.

"Is it the Democrats' job to make a laughing stock of the United States?" she said. "It's exactly what Ms. Pelosi has done to Congress, the White House and other state institutions."

Asked if Moscow is worried that the White House could similarly publish transcripts of Trump's calls with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that "we would like to hope that it wouldn't come to that in our relations, which are already troubled by a lot of problems."

Speaking in a conference call with reporters, he emphasized that the publication of the Trump-Zelenskiy call is an internal U.S. issue, but added that it was "quite unusual" to release a confidential call between leaders.

"The materials related to conversations between heads of states are usually classified according to normal international practice," he said.

NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week

By AMANDA SEITZ and BEATRICE DUPUY undefined

A roundup of some of the most popular but completely untrue stories and visuals of the week. None of these is legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. The Associated Press checked them out. Here are the real facts:

CLAIM: The FBI relied on the word of a cybersecurity firm, CrowdStrike, to determine that Russia hacked the emails of the Democratic National Committee.

THE FACTS: Social media posts wrongly claim the FBI did not review evidence before concluding Russia breached the DNC's computer system in 2016. The cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike "provided all forensic evidence and analysis to the FBI," the U.S.-owned company confirmed to The Associated Press in an email. The false claims circulated widely on Twitter and Facebook after the White House released a rough transcript of President Donald Trump's July phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, in which he asked Zelenskiy to investigate CrowdStrike. CrowdStrike first identified malware on the DNC's server system, later tracing the hack to Russia. Former FBI Director James Comey told Congress in 2017 that agents never physically examined the DNC's computers but CrowdStrike "ultimately shared with us their forensics from their review of the system." That's typical for such investigations, said Eugene H. Spafford, a professor of computer science at the Center for Education and Research in Information Security at Purdue University. Cybersecurity firms like CrowdStrike make copies of computer systems for law enforcement investigators to examine. "Just making a verified, hardware-level copy of all the bits, all the data that's stored on the system is sufficient for almost all investigations that would have to be conducted," said Spafford, who has assisted the FBI in cases. CrowdStrike has identified cyberattacks for the National Republican Congressional Committee and U.S. government.

CLAIM: Photo shows Swedish teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg with billionaire liberal philanthropist George Soros.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 39 of 48

THE FACTS: The photo was manipulated to include Soros. Social media users began circulating the manipulated image on Facebook and Twitter after Thunberg arrived in New York ahead of the Climate Action Summit at the United Nations. In the original photo, Thunberg is pictured with former Vice President Al Gore. Thunberg tweeted the original photo on Dec. 30, 2018. The 16-year-old activist spoke Monday at the 2019 U.N. climate summit where she delivered an emotional call to action and criticized world leaders for their inaction. Thunberg, who has become the voice of the youth global climate action movement, crossed the Atlantic in a solar-powered boat, traveling two weeks from Plymouth, England, to New York City, where she arrived Aug. 28. She began her protest movement by missing school to demonstrate outside of the Swedish parliament in 2018. Since then students around the world have followed her lead by hosting their own climate protests.

CLAIM: Photo shows park littered with debris after worldwide demonstrations to highlight climate change.

THE FACTS: The photo is real but shows the scene after a cannabis rally on April 20, in Hyde Park, London. Facebook and Twitter users shared the falsely captioned photo, which shows a grassy park filled with trash bags and overflowing garbage bins, after the Sept. 20 Global Climate Strike to raise awareness about climate change. "They protest for climate change and leave this mess behind," some Facebook users wrongly claimed. Ashwin Bolar told The Associated Press in an email that he took the photo after the cannabis rally and posted it to the Facebook page of his employer, The Hemp Trading Company, a British clothing company. In his post, Bolar called on rally attendees to "do better" to clean up after themselves. He described it as "disappointing and deeply angering" that people have misrepresented the image, which was originally intended to encourage people to be "more environmentally conscious."

This is part of The Associated Press' ongoing effort to fact-check misinformation that is shared widely online, including work with Facebook to identify and reduce the circulation of false stories on the platform. The video circulating widely on Facebook was captured earlier this year when a fire broke out in a four-story building in Surat, India, killing 19 students and injuring dozens more.

Find all AP Fact Checks here: <https://apnews.com/APFactCheck>

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

Feds crack Medicare gene test fraud that peddled cheek swabs

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal agents took down an alleged Medicare scam Friday that exploited seniors' curiosity about genetic medicine by enticing them to get their cheeks swabbed for unneeded DNA tests. Medicare was billed \$2.1 billion.

Dubbed "Operation Double Helix," the crackdown targeted telemedicine companies, doctors and labs, in a joint effort by the Justice Department, the FBI, U.S. attorneys' offices, and the Health and Human Services inspector general. Thirty-five people were charged around the country.

The alleged fraud flourished at a time when many people are getting DNA tests to trace back their family heritage.

Fraudsters preyed on people's fears of harboring genetic markers for cancer. However, genetic testing is not routinely used to screen for cancer.

"A decade ago, it would have given Medicare beneficiaries pause if someone wanted to get a swab from their cheek of their saliva," said Shimon Richmond, who heads the inspector general's investigative division. "Today people know and recognize what (genetic testing) is, and they think 'I can get that done, and I can get it done for free and find out if I have health issues that I need to address.'"

It's a bad decision, said Richmond. Not only does it put the patient's Medicare ID in the hands of fraudsters who can then keep reselling it for illicit purposes, but it can potentially compromise unique details

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 40 of 48

of an individual's make-up.

Another downside: Medicare might deny future coverage for genetic testing when it's really needed, since the patient's record would show such an analysis was already done. Patients should only have genetic testing if their own doctor orders it, officials said.

The alleged scheme worked like this: Officials said a telemarketing or in-person "recruiter" would convince a Medicare enrollee to take a genetic test, assuring them that the program would pay the full cost. The patient would provide their Medicare information. A doctor in league with the fraudsters would approve the test, and collect a kickback from the recruiter company. A lab participating in the scheme would run the test, bill Medicare, and share payments collected from the government with the recruiter.

Bills to Medicare connected with the scam typically ranged from \$7,000 to \$12,000, Richmond said, with some much higher. In many cases the patient never got a report back, or the results provided were incomprehensible. Medicare paid out hundreds of millions of dollars before authorities detected the fraud and moved in.

There was no single organization behind the fraud. Friday's operation targeted defendants in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas, the Justice Department said. Nine doctors were among those charged. Others included owners of telemedicine companies and testing labs.

Medicare enrollee Linda Morris of Parker City, Indiana, said she was roped in at a conference on aging well. The retired high school math and journalism teacher got her cheek swabbed by one of the many health vendors at the event.

"Their ploy was, 'Get a mouth swab and we can analyze how well your system synthesizes the drugs you are taking,'" she said. "It never crossed my mind there was anything wrong with this."

Then her Medicare statements started coming in, showing charges as high as \$33,000. The program paid almost \$10,000.

Morris said she was never billed, and was never sent results. When she looked up the address for the test vendor it was "a house on a back road."

"I feel stupid, and in the meantime, I'm furious," Morris said. Health fairs, church events, and senior centers are like magnets for the fraudsters, officials said.

Dennie Krivokapich of Farmington, New Mexico, said he almost sent in his cheek swab following a telemarketing pitch. The retired accountant is a three-time cancer survivor and concerned about his future risk. The company sent him a kit, but the paperwork that came with it made him suspicious.

"The physician who requested it was not my physician," said Krivokapich. The marketing company kept calling him, until he blocked the number.

Government-backed anti-fraud organizations known as the Senior Medicare Patrol have been trying to spread the word about genetic testing scams. Retired federal investigator Jennifer Trussell, a consultant to the groups, said fear of cancer is the scam artists' most effective tool. "These are bad actors trying to take advantage of good medicine," she said.

Fraud against government health care programs is a pervasive problem that costs taxpayers tens of billions of dollars a year. The true extent is unknown.

Experts say part of the problem is that Medicare is required to pay medical bills promptly, which means money often goes out before potential frauds get flagged. Investigators call that "pay and chase."

In recent years, Medicare has tried to adapt techniques used by credit card companies to head off fraud. Law enforcement coordination has grown, with strike forces of federal prosecutors and agents, along with state counterparts, specializing in health care investigations.

AP-NORC poll: Energy-saving habits vary in popularity

By JOHN FLESHER and EMILY SWANSON Associated Press

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — Turn off the lights when they aren't needed? Check. Lower the thermostat a few degrees in winter? Maybe. Go full-time vegetarian? Probably not.

Americans are willing to go only so far in engaging in habits that conserve energy and reduce emissions

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 41 of 48

that are warming the planet, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The poll adds to research showing that many take modest steps they consider convenient and feasible — and good for their pocketbooks. But actions that would involve significant lifestyle choices such as diet or transportation are a tougher sell.

Roughly 9 in 10 Americans say they often or always turn off unnecessary lights, including 6 in 10 who do so all the time.

About half often or always set the thermostat at 68 degrees or lower in winter to reduce heating, while slightly fewer say they keep summertime air conditioning temperatures at 76 degrees or higher.

"It has to be pitch dark outside for me to turn a light on," said sandwich shop worker Tay Harris, 25, of Terre Haute, Indiana, who said she wants to help with climate change and considers it common sense to save electricity. "If you have the beautiful sun that God blessed us with, use it."

The poll found about 2 in 10 Americans often or always use public transportation, carpool, bike or walk instead of driving, while nearly 3 in 10 do so some of the time.

Similarly, while only 5% say they always eat vegetarian meals, another 13% said they often do so and 37% said they sometimes do. Meat production contributes to global warming in numerous ways, scientists say. It generates manure that releases methane to the atmosphere and encourages destruction of forests that store carbon dioxide, the primary greenhouse gas, to clear land for pasture and livestock feed crops.

Overall, 14% said they frequently plant trees. About 6 in 10 city dwellers said they rarely or never plant trees, as opposed to about half of those living elsewhere.

Climate concern isn't the only reason Americans conserve energy. Previous research by The AP-NORC Center suggests another motive is saving money. The latest survey, conducted last month, shows that some people who don't believe in climate change routinely take some actions, such as turning off lights and limiting use of heat and air conditioning. So do many who acknowledge the planet is warming but think it's happening naturally, instead of from human activities.

Jon Dahlstrom, 77, who lives in Iowa's Lynn County, said climate change is real but described the idea of people causing it as "kind of grandiose thinking." Still, he often dims the lights and sometimes adjusts the thermostat to limit energy use.

"That's just to help lower the bills, or get to where I feel comfortable," the retired elevator mechanic said.

Still, the poll found that people who believe in climate change are more likely to take environmentally friendly steps than those who don't. For example, more than half of those who think climate change is happening often or always set the thermostat at 68 degrees or lower in winter, while about 4 in 10 of the nonbelievers do so.

The poll found that 19% of those who believe climate is warming use alternatives to driving, compared to 7% of the nonbelievers.

Among climate change believers, those who think their actions can make a difference are slightly more likely than those who do not to take some climate-friendly actions. For example, about 8 in 10 of those who believe their actions matter say they at least sometimes keep the thermostat lower in winter, compared with about 7 in 10 of those who don't think their actions make a difference.

Feasibility is a big factor with some actions. While 30% of those who live in urban areas say they frequently use alternatives to driving, just 14% of those in suburbs or rural areas do the same.

"I'm out in the middle of the county in Iowa, so there is no public transportation," Dahlstrom said.

George Johnson, 48, a barber in Deltona, Florida, said he rarely uses public transportation but is worried about climate change and keeps his driving to a minimum. He sometimes eats vegetarian meals and plants trees; he always turning off unnecessary lights.

"You've got to start somewhere," he said. "If everybody just turned off their lights one hour or anything, it can help."

The poll also found Democrats were slightly more likely than Republicans to often cut off lights, though both groups tend to do that. Democrats were significantly more willing than Republicans to use alternatives to driving and to eat vegetarian at least sometimes.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 42 of 48

Americans with college degrees were more likely than those without them to say they always or often set the thermostat lower in winter and higher in summer, as well as eat vegetarian meals.

Individual actions alone won't solve the climate crisis, said Peter Kalmus, an atmospheric scientist who wrote a book about his personal efforts to reduce carbon emissions, which included giving up air travel. But they can build support for government policies and technological advances needed to turn the tide, he said.

"If you're an advocate for climate action and you want to see systems change and global emissions go down, your message becomes far more urgent if you're actually walking the walk," Kalmus said. "The best reason to do this is to shift the culture."

The AP-NORC poll of 1,058 adults was conducted Aug. 15-18 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.2 percentage points. Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods and later were interviewed online or by phone.

Swanson reported from Washington, D.C.

Online:

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

UK's Boris Johnson defends his fraught Brexit language

By JILL LAWLESS and DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Friday rebuffed allegations that he was inciting violence by accusing his Brexit opponents of "surrender" and "betrayal," saying the only way to calm the simmering tensions was to stop delaying and leave the European Union.

Johnson, a Conservative, took power two months ago with a "do-or-die" promise that Britain will leave the EU on the scheduled date of Oct. 31, even if there is no divorce deal to cushion the economic consequences.

With talks between the U.K. and the EU showing little sign of progress, Johnson's foes in Parliament are determined to avoid a no-deal exit. Economists say leaving without an agreement would disrupt trade with the EU, plunge the country into recession and — according to Britain's government watchdog — potentially interrupt the supply of essential medicines for patients in Britain.

During raucous, ill-tempered parliamentary debates this week, Johnson said postponing the country's departure would "betray" the people, referred to an opposition law ordering a Brexit delay as the "Surrender Act" and brushed off concerns that his forceful language might endanger legislators as "humbug."

Opponents said Johnson's language could incite violence. But he said the country's social tensions were being caused by Britain's failure to leave the EU more than three years after voting in a referendum to do so.

"Once you do that, then so much of the heat and the anxiety will come out of the debate," Johnson said Friday as he visited a hospital — part of unofficial campaigning for an election that looks set to come soon. "Get it done and then we will all be able to move on."

In Parliament, Johnson was repeatedly reminded that a Labour lawmaker, Jo Cox, was stabbed and shot to death a week before the 2016 Brexit referendum by a far-right attacker shouting "Death to traitors!" Many British lawmakers say they routinely receive death threats now.

On Friday, a 36-year-old man, Michael Roby, was charged with a public order offense after a disturbance outside the office of Labour lawmaker Jess Phillips, an outspoken critic of Johnson. She said her staff had to be locked inside when a man kicked the door and tried to smash the windows on Thursday.

Amber Rudd, who served in Johnson's Conservative Cabinet until she quit three weeks ago, said she was "disappointed and stunned" by Johnson's dismissal of their concerns. She told the Evening Standard newspaper that the incendiary language used by Johnson and his aides "does incite violence."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 43 of 48

Johnson said that all threats to politicians were “absolutely appalling,” but defended his use of the term “Surrender Act.”

“The use of that kind of metaphor has been going on for hundreds of years,” he said.

Johnson argues that he is safeguarding the will of the public against the interests of the political establishment, which wants to remain in the EU. In truth, the British public and its politicians are both bitterly divided over how, or even whether, to leave the 28-nation bloc.

Church of England bishops appealed for calm amid the growing acrimony.

“We should speak to others with respect,” the bishops said in a statement. “And we should also listen ... We should not denigrate, patronize or ignore the honest views of fellow citizens, but seek to respect their opinions, their participation in society, and their votes.”

Johnson’s divisive senior adviser Dominic Cummings also dismissed concerns that politicians’ heated rhetoric was polarizing society, and said the government’s plan to deliver Brexit on Oct. 31, come what may, would succeed.

“We are going to leave and we are going to win,” he said.

Meanwhile, the National Audit Office said in a report Friday there was still a “significant amount” of work to do to make sure Britain has enough medical drugs if it leaves the EU on Oct. 31 without a divorce deal.

It said additional shipping capacity chartered by the government might not be operational until the end of November, a month after the Brexit deadline. Of the more than 12,300 medicines licensed in the U.K., about 7,000 arrive from or via the EU, mostly across the English Channel.

Alan Boyd of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges said people with epilepsy were a particular concern in the event of any drug shortages, noting that “one seizure can have a life-changing impact.”

Johnson insists he wants to strike a deal, but is demanding significant changes to the withdrawal agreement negotiated by his predecessor, Theresa May. That deal was rejected three times by Britain’s Parliament.

Talks continued Friday with a meeting between U.K. Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay and EU negotiator Michel Barnier in Brussels.

The EU, however, says it is still waiting for concrete proposals from Britain on maintaining an open border between the U.K.’s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland — the key sticking point.

Barnier said after the meeting that “it is essential that there is a fully operational solution in the Withdrawal Agreement to avoid a hard border on the island of Ireland.”

Barclay said a Brexit agreement was possible, but “I think we are coming to a moment of truth in these negotiations.”

“We will see if there is political will on both sides,” he said.

Britain says it doesn’t want to submit detailed proposals too early, in case they leak, but plans to do so before an EU summit on Oct. 17-18.

EU Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker said a no-deal Brexit would be a “catastrophe” for both the U.K. and Europe — but if it happened, “the responsibility for this lies on the British side alone.”

Johnson’s political opponents have passed a law compelling the government to ask the EU for a delay to the U.K.’s exit if no deal has been struck by late October. Johnson is adamant he won’t do that — but also says he will comply with the law.

A former Conservative prime minister, John Major, said he feared the government would use constitutional trickery to get around the law by suspending it until after the Oct. 31 Brexit deadline.

International Development Secretary Alok Sharma refused to say whether the Cabinet had discussed such a tactic.

“We are absolutely going to comply with the law, we are working incredibly hard to get a deal and we will be leaving on Oct. 31,” he said.

Maria Cheng in London, Raf Casert in Brussels and Geir Moulson in Berlin contributed to this report.

Follow AP’s full coverage of Brexit and British politics at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

Split no more, Spider-Man gets another swing with Marvel

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Spider-Man won't be leaving the Marvel Cinematic Universe anytime soon. After a public fallout last month, Sony Pictures Entertainment and The Walt Disney Studios have found a way to work together. The studios said Friday that they would be teaming up once more to produce a third "Spider-Man" film starring Tom Holland.

Disputes over the profit-sharing structure put Spidey's future in the MCU in doubt, much to the chagrin of many fans who had enjoyed seeing Spider-Man fighting alongside The Avengers.

Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige said in a statement that he's thrilled that the character's journey in the MCU is continuing. Producer Amy Pascal added that it has been a "winning partnership" for both studios.

The next Spidey film will hit theaters on July 16, 2021.

Iran releases seized UK-flagged tanker

By NASSER KARIMI Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran on Friday released a British-flagged oil tanker it had seized in July, while the country's president, returning from an annual United Nations meeting, said he had been told the United States had offered to lift sanctions if Tehran returned to the negotiating table over its nuclear program.

The British-flagged Stena Impero left the port of Bandar Abbas on Friday morning, heading to Dubai where its crew would disembark, the vessel's Swedish-based ship-owning company Stena Bulk said.

Iran seized the tanker on July 19 in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of all oil passes. The raid saw commandos rappel down onto the vessel from a helicopter carrying assault rifles in dramatic images later replayed on state television.

The raid came after authorities in Gibraltar, a British overseas territory, seized an Iranian supertanker carrying \$130 million in crude oil on suspicion it was breaking European Union sanctions by taking the oil to Syria. Gibraltar later released the tanker, then called the Grace 1, after it said Iran promised the ship wouldn't go to Syria.

That ship, renamed the Adrian Darya 1, later sat off the Syrian coast, angering Britain. Iran hasn't said who purchased its 2.1 million barrels of crude oil.

Britain responded to Iran's release of the Stena Impero on Friday by accusing Tehran of trying to disrupt freedom of navigation.

U.K. Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said the ship "was unlawfully seized by Iran" and that the action was "part of a pattern of attempts to disrupt freedom of navigation. We are working with our international partners to protect shipping and uphold the international rule of law."

The ship seizures come after months of heightened tensions in the Persian Gulf, sparked by President Donald Trump's decision over a year ago to unilaterally pull out of a nuclear deal with Iran. The U.S. has imposed sanctions that have kept Iran from selling its oil abroad and have crippled its economy. Iran has since begun breaking terms of the deal.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, returning to Tehran after attending the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York, said Friday that U.S. sanctions were ineffective and a barrier to dialogue. "Otherwise Iran does not fear negotiation," he said.

Rouhani said the leaders of Germany, France and Britain had told him the U.S. was prepared to lift the sanctions if Tehran agreed to negotiations on the nuclear deal.

"Germany's chancellor, Britain's prime minister and France's president were there. They all insisted on a meeting. ... They said America was saying it would lift the sanctions," the president said.

But he said Iran could not accept negotiation before the sanctions were lifted.

However, Trump had a different take on events, tweeting that "Iran wanted me to lift the sanctions imposed on them in order to meet. I said, of course, NO!"

There have been a series of attacks across the Middle East that the U.S. blames on Iran. They reached

their height on Sept. 14, with a missile and drone attack on the world's largest oil processor in Saudi Arabia and an oil field, which caused oil prices to spike by the biggest percentage since the 1991 Gulf War. While Yemen's Iranian-allied Houthi rebels claimed the assault, Saudi Arabia says it was "unquestionably sponsored by Iran."

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

Jon Gambrell and Elena Becatoros in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Jan M. Olsen in Copenhagen, Denmark and Jill Lawless in London contributed.

Poignant New Year for Jewish community scarred by massacre

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

There will be some differences — and some constants — over the coming days as the New Light congregation observes Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, for the first time since three of its members were among 11 Jews killed by a gunman nearly a year ago at a Pittsburgh synagogue.

The man who last year blew New Light's shofar, the ram's horn trumpet traditionally sounded to welcome the High Holy Days, was among those killed. Richard Gottfried, 65, a dentist nearing retirement, was one of the congregation's mainstays in reading the haftara, a biblical passage that follows the Torah reading.

In Gottfried's place, the shofar will be blown this year by the congregation's rabbi, Jonathan Perlman. And the venue for the services will not be the Tree of Life synagogue, the site of the massacre. All three congregations that shared space there have been worshipping at neighboring synagogues since the attack on Oct. 27, 2018.

However, Perlman's wife, writer Beth Kissileff, said the congregation plans no changes in the substance of its services over the two-day holiday that starts Sunday evening.

"I feel conducting Rosh Hashana prayers as we have in the past is a form of spiritual resistance," Kissileff said. "Part of our defiance of what the shooter was trying to do is to conduct our religious lives with as much normality as possible."

A week ago, looking ahead to the New Year holiday, Kissileff wrote a first-person article for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency describing how her congregation was coping.

Referring to the shofar, she said the horn's sounds are intended to resemble wailing.

"That won't be hard; there is plenty to wail about this year," she wrote. "We need to hear this wailing, and be induced to wail ourselves, so that we can change."

She also noted that many members of the congregation, which numbers about 100 families, deepened engagement in their faith and their community over the past year by attending services more regularly, learning or relearning the skills needed to serve as cantors, or making an effort to learn Hebrew.

As Rosh Hashana arrives, Kissileff wrote, "all American Jews, shocked to our core at the resurgence of violent anti-Semitism here — a country to which our ancestors immigrated as a haven from such things in the rest of the world — will hear the shofar as a wail and scream."

"However, this deep trauma we have experienced also means we can and need to think about how as a community we can attempt to work through the trauma to achieve meaningful growth," she added. "It is not uncomplicated, but Rosh Hashanah is coming, and we all have the opportunity to begin again — however difficult."

She suggested that surviving members of the congregation could honor those who were killed by doing good deeds in their name. She cited slain congregation member Melvin Wax as a role model, recalling his efforts to organize hurricane relief and encourage people to register to vote.

"Those of us who knew the people killed, we just want to honor their memories by continuing to value the things they valued and connect to the traditions the way they did," she said.

Leaders of Tree of Life's three congregations have been planning for commemorations on Oct. 27 to mark the passage of one year since the massacre. Planned events include a private Jewish service in the

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 46 of 48

morning, a community service event, and a public memorial service in the evening.

The leaders say they plan to return eventually to the Tree of Life synagogue to worship there regularly, although no date has been set.

"Even now, there are family members who cannot even drive by the building, they are in so much pain," New Light's co-president, Stephen Cohen, said last week.

Authorities charged Robert Bowers, 47, a truck driver from Baldwin, Pennsylvania, in the synagogue attack. Bowers, who has pleaded not guilty and awaits trial, faces the death penalty if convicted; authorities say he expressed anti-Semitic hatred before and during the attack.

Kissileff said her husband, Rabbi Perlman, has been limiting his media availability heading into the Jewish holidays. But she shared a poem that he recently co-authored with two other rabbis, commemorating the martyrdom of the 11 slain worshippers.

One of its verses reads:

"We buried our bodies.

And upon them we wept

And even so, this did not break us.

Nonetheless we were steadfast in our place

And we continued to stand."

How the White House and Justice learned about whistleblower

By **ERIC TUCKER, MICHAEL BALSAMO and ZEKE MILLER** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and the Justice Department learned about a CIA officer's concerns about President Donald Trump around the same time the individual filed a whistleblower complaint that is now at the center of an impeachment inquiry, according to a U.S. official and another person familiar with the matter.

The new details help flesh out the timeline of how alarm bells about Trump's call with the Ukraine leader, in which he pressed for an investigation of a political rival, reverberated across the U.S. government and inside the upper ranks of its intelligence and law enforcement agencies. The details are fueling objections by Democratic lawmakers that the administration stonewalled them for weeks about the phone call and took extraordinary measures to suppress it from becoming public.

The intelligence official initially filed a complaint about Trump's Ukraine dealings with the CIA, which then alerted the White House and the Justice Department. On Aug. 12, the official raised a separate flag, this time with the intelligence community's inspector general, a process that granted the individual more legal "whistleblower" protection.

At that time, the complaint filed with the inspector general, the report that was the focus of House hearings this week, remained private.

But information about the whistleblower was already making its way through the administration. On Aug. 14, a White House lawyer, John Eisenberg, and a CIA official alerted the head of the Justice Department's national security division about the original complaint to the CIA.

John Demers, who has led the national security division for the past year and a half and was a senior official at the department during the George W. Bush administration, went to the White House the next day to review materials associated with the call.

In the following weeks, Demers had discussions with other Justice Department officials about how to handle the CIA complaint, according to the person familiar with the matter. It was during that period that the Justice Department also received a notification from the intelligence community's inspector general about the whistleblower complaint.

The timeline raises questions about how the White House and the Justice Department handled that second complaint. The administration initially blocked Congress from viewing it, and only released a redacted version of the report to lawmakers this week after the House impeachment inquiry had begun.

The Justice Department said Attorney General William Barr was first notified of Trump's Ukraine call in

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 47 of 48

late August, weeks after it happened, when the department learned that the inspector general believed the conversation could have amounted to a federal campaign finance crime.

The attorney general himself is referenced repeatedly in the call. The president presses Ukraine's leader to work with Barr and Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani to investigate corruption accusations, repeated with no evidence, against Democratic rival Joe Biden. The Justice Department has said Trump has never discussed the matter with Barr, or asked Barr to speak with Ukraine's president about it.

Justice Department prosecutors reviewed a rough transcript of the Trump-Ukraine call - the official record kept by the White House - and determined that no crime was committed.

The House intelligence committee released the whistleblower's complaint on Thursday. The nine-page letter details a July 25 phone call between Trump and Volodymyr Zelenskyy and also alleges that the White House sought to "lock down" details of the call by moving it onto a secure, classified computer system.

The complaint also details extensive interactions between Giuliani and Ukrainian officials.

The person familiar with the matter, as well as another person with knowledge of the case, confirmed that the whistleblower was a CIA officer.

The Associated Press is publishing information about the whistleblower's background because the person's credibility is central to the impeachment inquiry into the president. The New York Times first reported that the individual was a CIA officer.

A U.S. official and the two people familiar with the matter spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

One of the whistleblower's attorneys, Mark Zaid, said publishing details about the individual places the person in a dangerous situation, personally and professionally. The CIA referred questions to the inspector general.

Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Sept. 28, the 271st day of 2019. There are 94 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 28, 1920, eight members of the Chicago White Sox were indicted for allegedly throwing the 1919 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds. (All were acquitted at trial, but all eight were banned from the game for life.)

On this date:

In 1542, Portuguese navigator Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo arrived at present-day San Diego.

In 1781, American forces in the Revolutionary War, backed by a French fleet, began their successful siege of Yorktown, Va.

In 1787, the Congress of the Confederation voted to send the just-completed Constitution of the United States to state legislatures for their approval.

In 1892, the first nighttime football game took place in Mansfield, Pennsylvania, as teams from Mansfield State Normal and Wyoming Seminary played under electric lights to a scoreless tie.

In 1924, three U.S. Army planes landed in Seattle, having completed the first round-the-world trip by air in 175 days.

In 1928, Scottish medical researcher Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, the first effective antibiotic.

In 1960, Ted Williams hit a home run in his last career at-bat as his team, the Boston Red Sox, defeated the Baltimore Orioles 5-4 at Fenway Park.

In 1962, a federal appeals court found Mississippi Gov. Ross Barnett in civil contempt for blocking the admission of James Meredith, a black student, to the University of Mississippi. (Federal marshals escorted Meredith onto the campus two days later.)

In 1976, Muhammad Ali kept his world heavyweight boxing championship with a close 15-round decision over Ken Norton at New York's Yankee Stadium.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019 ~ Vol. 29 - No. 089 ~ 48 of 48

In 1989, deposed Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos died in exile in Hawaii at age 72.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat signed an accord at the White House ending Israel's military occupation of West Bank cities and laying the foundation for a Palestinian state.

In 2000, capping a 12-year battle, the government approved use of the abortion pill RU-486.

Ten years ago: Iran tested its longest-range missiles and warned they could reach any place that threatened the country, including Israel, parts of Europe and U.S. military bases in the Mideast. Former Panamanian President Guillermo Endara, 73, who'd led his country to democracy after the U.S. invasion that toppled Gen. Manuel Noriega, died in Panama City.

Five years ago: In an interview that aired on CBS' "60 Minutes," President Barack Obama acknowledged that U.S. intelligence agencies had underestimated the threat from Islamic State militants and overestimated the ability and will of Iraq's army to fight. Gov. Jerry Brown announced that he had signed a bill making California the first in the nation to define when "yes means yes" and adopt requirements for colleges to follow when investigating sexual assault reports. Europe defeated the United States to win the Ryder Cup, 16 1/2 to 11 1/2.

One year ago: Reversing course, President Donald Trump agreed to the demands of Democrats for a deeper FBI investigation of Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. Israeli troops killed seven Palestinians, two of them children, as Gaza's Hamas rulers stepped up protests along the border fence. Tesla stock plunged nearly 14 percent after government regulators accused Elon Musk of committing securities fraud and sought to oust him as CEO of the electric car maker. Facebook reported a major security breach in which 50 million user accounts were accessed by unknown attackers; the attackers had stolen digital keys the company used to keep users logged in. An earthquake and tsunami struck the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, leaving more than 4,400 people dead.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Brigitte Bardot is 85. Actor Joel Higgins is 76. Singer Helen Shapiro is 73. Actress Vernee Watson is 70. Movie writer-director-actor John Sayles is 69. Rock musician George Lynch is 65. Zydeco singer-musician C.J. Chenier (sheh-NEER') is 62. Actor Steve Hytner is 60. Actress-comedian Janeane Garofalo (juh-NEEN' guh-RAH'-fuh-loh) is 55. Country singer Matt King is 53. Actress Mira Sorvino is 52. TV personality/singer Moon Zappa is 52. Actress-model Carre Otis is 51. Actress Naomi Watts is 51. Country singer Karen Fairchild (Little Big Town) is 50. Singer/songwriter A.J. Croce is 48. Country musician Chuck Crawford is 46. Country singer Mandy Barnett is 44. Rapper Young Jeezy is 42. World Golf Hall of Famer Se Ri Pak is 42. Actor Peter Cambor is 41. Writer-producer-director-actor Bam Margera is 40. Actress Melissa Claire Egan is 38. Actress Jerrika Hinton is 38. Neo-soul musician Luke Mossman (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 38. Pop-rock singer St. Vincent is 37. Comedian/actress Phoebe Robinson is 35. Rock musician Daniel Platzman (Imagine Dragons) is 33. Actress Hilary Duff is 32. Actor Keir Gilchrist is 27.

Thought for Today: "A great truth is a truth whose opposite is also a truth." — Thomas Mann, German writer (1875-1955).

Copyright 2019 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.