

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 1 of 41

[2- Tonight on GDILIVE.COM](#)

[3- Weekly Vikings Roundup](#)

[4- Living Wax Museum](#)

[4- Auxiliary help at Pumpkin Fest](#)

[5- Dr. Holm's Column: Suicide, a Permanent Answer to a Temporary Problem](#)

[6- Weather Pages](#)

[9- Daily Devotional](#)

[10- 2019 Groton Events](#)

[11- News from the Associated Press](#)

“Kindness is igniting
a light in someone
else for no
reason other
than to
watch them
enjoy the
glow.”

-Author Unknown

Chicken Soup
for the Soul

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Monday, Oct. 21

Volleyball at Langford. (7th grade at 4 p.m., 8th grade at 5 p.m., JV at 6:30 p.m. followed by the varsity match)

Tuesday, Oct. 22

End of First Quarter
Volleyball hosting Northwestern (7th/C matches at 5 p.m., 8th/JV matches at 6 p.m. followed by the varsity match)

Thursday, Oct. 24

7 p.m.: First Round Football Playoffs - Groton Area at Webster Area

Friday, Oct. 25

Volleyball hosting Milbank (C/JV matches start at 6 p.m. followed by the varsity match)

Saturday, Oct. 26

State Cross Country Meet at Huron
ACT Testing at GHS, 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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

© 2019 Groton Daily Independent

It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



Langford Area

Lions

VS



Groton Area Tigers

7:00 p.m., Monday, Oct. 21, 2019
at Langford

Broadcast Sponsored by

Groton Legion

C & B Operations

Weber Landscaping

Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc.

Project Fitness

Dakota Risk Management

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 3 of 41

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Once is a chance. Twice is a coincidence. Three times is a pattern.

Three weeks ago, things were looking down for the Minnesota Vikings. After coming off an embarrassing loss to Chicago where the Vikings' offense only scored six points, they seem to have turned things around after defeating the Detroit Lions 42-30. Over the past three games, the Vikings are averaging 36 points and 480 yards, making them the hottest offense in the NFL over that stretch.

Apparently, Kirk Cousins is the Hulk, because opponents don't like him when he's (playing) angry. Against the Lions, the Vikings' quarterback completed 24 of 34 passes for 337 yards and four touchdowns – while also not throwing an interception or taking a sack. Over the past three games, Cousins has 976 yards, 10 touchdowns and only one interception (which was a pass that went right through Stefon Diggs' hands).

After his 167-yard, three touchdown performance against the Eagles last week, Stefon Diggs kept it rolling against the Lions, catching seven passes for 142 yards. He almost had a long touchdown on Sunday but dropped the well-placed throw by Cousins. Adam Thielen caught a touchdown pass midway through the first quarter but injured his hamstring in the process. He didn't play the rest of the game and will get an MRI to determine the severity of the injury.

Dalvin Cook and the rest of the Vikings' running game had another great performance. Cook carried the ball 25 times for 142 yards and two touchdowns, while Alexander Mattison and C.J. Ham added another eight carries for 27 yards. The Vikings are averaging 160 rushing yards a game this season, and with the passing game now carrying its weight, the Vikings offense is hard to stop.

The Vikings offense is on fire, but the defense appears to have lost some of its typical dominance. After giving up a season high 20 points to the Eagles last week, the Vikings allowed the Lions to score 30. Xavier Rhodes is having a rough year, and the Vikings' defensive line isn't getting as much pressure as they used to. Mike Zimmer's defense has also taken a big step back on third down. Add it all up, and the Vikings defense doesn't appear to be as feared as it once was.

The player of the game on offense was Kirk Cousins, who is completing 76% of his passes and averaging 10.8 yards per attempt since the Bears game. Cousins is also the first Minnesota quarterback to throw for four touchdowns in back-to-back weeks since Dante Culpepper in 2004.

The player of the game on defense was Eric Kendricks, who led the team with 12 tackles. Even though the Vikings' defense has taken a step back these last two weeks, the Vikings' middle linebacker continues to be rock solid.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will look to protect their home turf against the Washington Redskins. This will be a Thursday night game and will air on both FOX and NFL Network. The Vikings are the superior team, but they usually have difficulties in primetime games. There are plenty of intriguing storylines in this one, as Cousins will get to play his old team. On the flip side, Case Keenum and Adrian Peterson come back to Minnesota wearing burgundy instead of purple. If this game started at noon, the Vikings would likely dominate this one, but the nation will be watching, so it's anybody's guess. Skol!

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



The American Legion Auxiliary volunteered to help the children paint their pumpkins at the 4th Annual Pumpkin Fest on Saturday, October 19. Members included Deb McKiver, Jan Seibel, and KayLynn Overacker, along with friends and family of the Auxiliary: Drew, Collette, Jace, and Shallyn.

Some of the helpers pictured here are Drew Thurston, Deb McKiver and Jan Seibel. (Courtesy Photo)

Living Wax Museum

by Jan Seibel

The seventh grade Reading class will be doing a "Living Wax Museum" presentation at Groton Area School during open house on Tuesday, Oct. 29. from 5-6:30 in the gym, library, conference room and the hallway between the gym and library.

Our living wax museum will be comprised of well-known individuals who made a positive impact on society. Students have read biographies and researched information on the person they will portray in preparation for their performance.

Suicide, a Permanent Answer to a Temporary Problem

Years ago, a family brought a 25-year-old farmer into the emergency room with a gunshot hole over his heart and with no pulse or breathing for more than ten minutes. It was a self-inflicted wound and this young farmer would farm no more. The family was besides themselves with loud and sorrowful wailing that wrenched my soul. They told me that the impending harvest looked poor, the loan was coming due, and he had been isolating himself, drinking more and getting angry at every little thing. They had no clue he was at risk of suicide. Sure, he was a little down, but not this! He picked a permanent answer to a temporary problem.



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

Significant thoughts of suicide occur in one of four women and one of eight men. Although there are more attempts by women, more deaths occur by men. In 2017 there were 1.4 million attempts and 47,000 deaths due to suicide, and despite these high numbers, the money invested in depression and suicide research is sadly low.

Risk factors for suicide include family history or prior experience of depression or manic depression, a history of being abused or being an abuser, excessive use of alcohol, sleeping pills or substance dependence, a recent emotional loss or a significant medical illness. Also, there is higher risk during local epidemics of suicide in youth especially on reservations. Sometimes depression and suicide have no reason whatsoever.

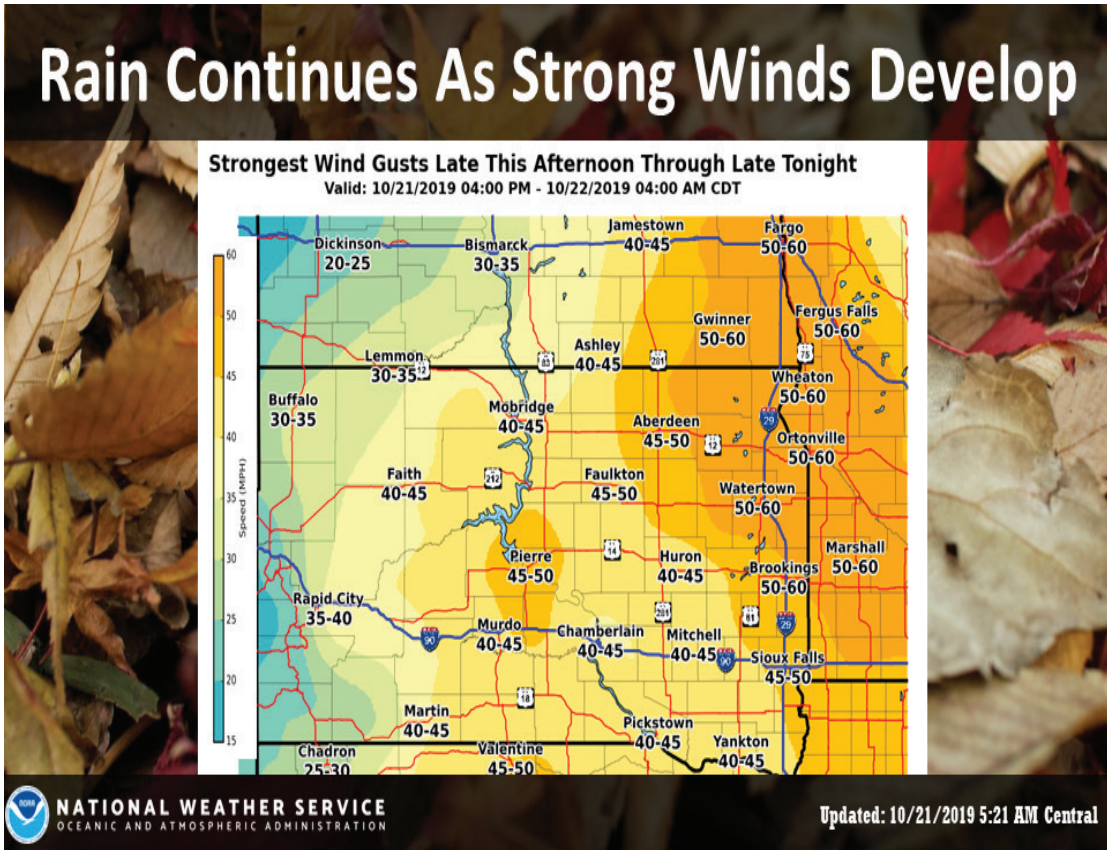
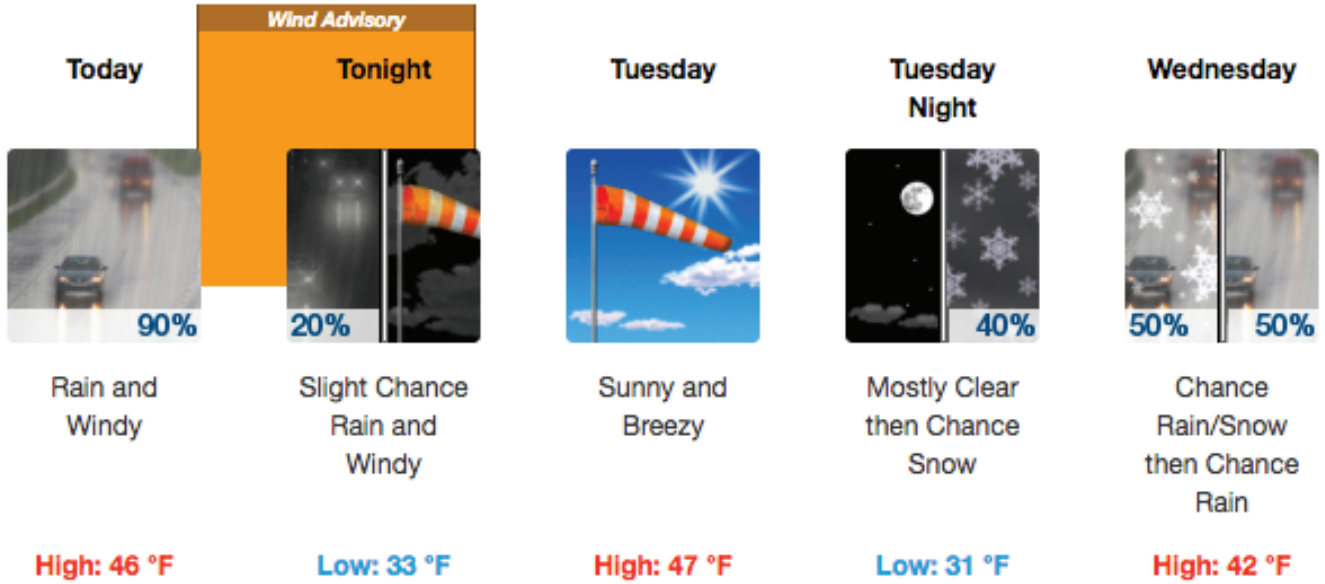
How can any of us help ourselves or a person at risk? First, remember it never hurts to ask, "Are you thinking about suicide?" Those words will NOT bring it on but could encourage the person to find someone to give lifesaving assistance. If you sense there is an emotional downward change happening, encourage that person to get help. If depression is milder and NOT at the suicide level, nonmedicinal treatment can give relief. Examples abound such as daily 30-minute walks, regular interaction with friends and family and the regular opening of one's heart to spiritual connectedness. If more help is needed, talk with your physician or care provider and consider medicines that effectively work for depression. Although two thirds of people with depression do not seek or receive help; when the one third who do get help are treated, four out of five of those folks are better in a month. Get help if needed.

Finally, if you are in crisis, call the Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) which is available 24/7. Please don't chose a permanent answer to a temporary problem.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 6 of 41



Published on: 10/21/2019 at 1:28AM

The low pressure system bringing rain to the region will generate strong northerly winds across the region today and tonight. Northeast South Dakota into west central Minnesota could see the strongest of the wind gusts by early this evening and during the overnight, with sustained winds approaching 40 mph at times and gusts as high as 60 mph.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 7 of 41

Today in Weather History

October 21, 1987: Cold arctic air continued to invade the central U.S. Eleven record lows were reported in the Great Plains Region, including lows of 12 degrees at Valentine, Nebraska, and 9 degrees at Aberdeen, South Dakota. Temperatures warmed rapidly during the day in the Southern and Central Plains Region. Goodland, Kansas warmed from a morning low of 24 degrees to an afternoon high of 75 degrees.

1934 - A severe windstorm lashed the northern Pacific coast. In Washington State, the storm claimed the lives of 22 persons, and caused 1.7 million dollars damage, mostly to timber. Winds, gusting to 87 mph at North Head WA, produced waves twenty feet high. (David Ludlum)

1957 - The second in a series of unusual October storms hit southern California causing widespread thunderstorms. Santa Maria was drenched with 1.13 inches of rain in two hours. Hail drifted to 18 inches in East Los Angeles. Waterspouts were sighted off Point Mugu and Oceanside. (20th-21st) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Cold arctic air continued to invade the central U.S. Eleven record lows were reported in the Great Plains Region, including lows of 12 degrees at Valentine NE, and 9 degrees at Aberdeen SD. Temperatures warmed rapidly during the day in the Southern and Central Plains Region. Goodland KS warmed from a morning low of 24 degrees to an afternoon high of 75 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Joan, the last hurricane of the season, neared the coast of Nicaragua packing 125 mph winds. Joan claimed more than 200 lives as she moved over Central America, and total damage approached 1.5 billion dollars. Crossing more than 40 degrees of longitude, Hurricane Joan never strayed even one degree from the 12 degree north parallel. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Unseasonably cold weather continued to grip the south central and southeastern U.S. Twenty cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Calico AR with a reading of 26 degrees, and Daytona Beach FL with a low of 41 degrees. Squalls in the Great Lakes Region finally came to an end, but not before leaving Marquette MI buried under 12.7 inches of snow, a record 24 hour total for October. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

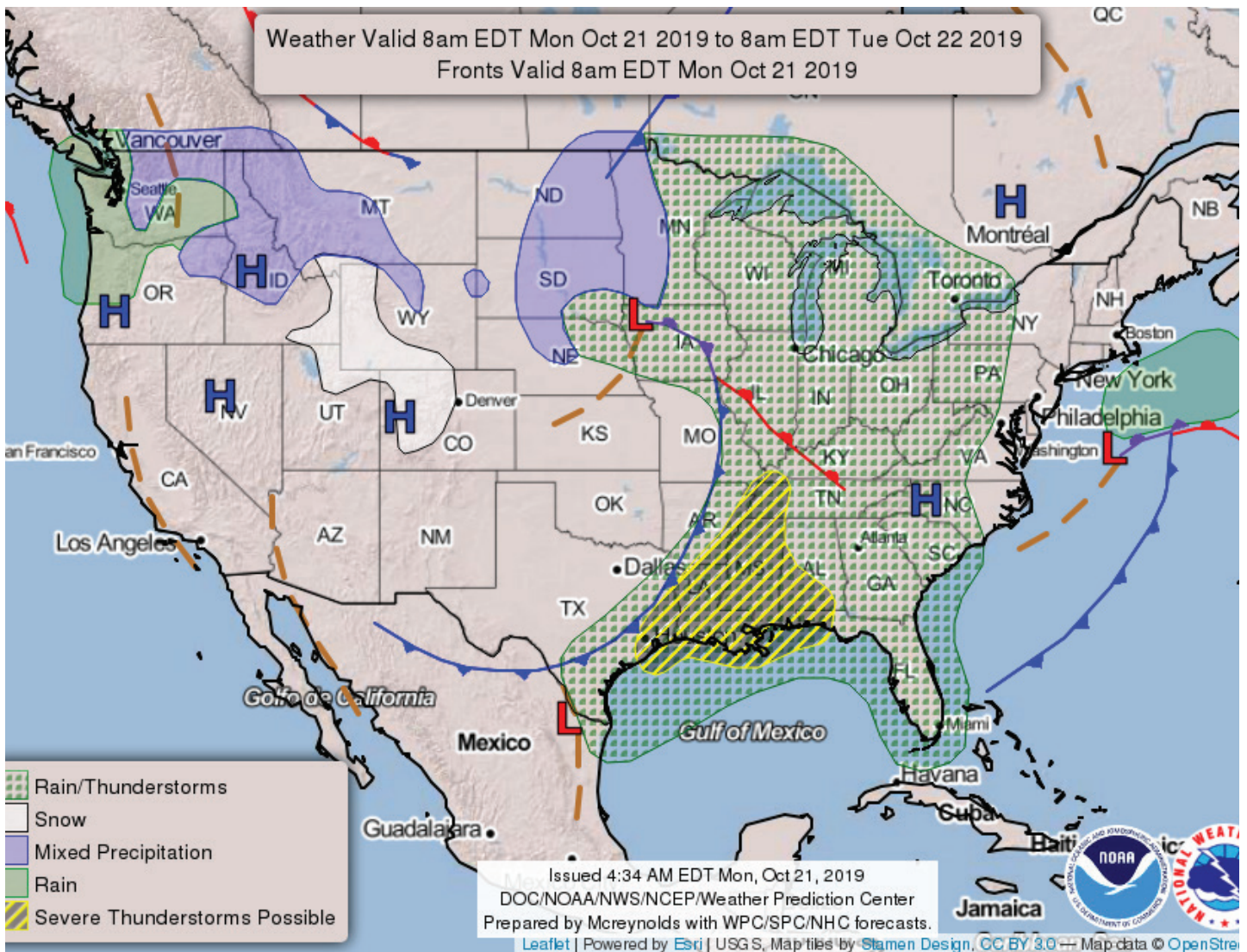
Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 8 of 41

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 59 °F at 2:43 PM
Low Temp: 37 °F at 4:34 AM
Wind: 35 mph at 5:15 PM
Day Rain: 0.15

Record High: 86° in 1947
Record Low: 9° in 1987
Average High: 55°F
Average Low: 31°F
Average Precip in Oct.: 1.43
Precip to date in Oct.: 1.42
Average Precip to date: 19.91
Precip Year to Date: 26.44
Sunset Tonight: 6:38 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:59 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 9 of 41



SITTING OR STANDING?

Young Timothy was running through the house as fast as his little legs could carry him. As he was going around a corner he slipped, fell, and broke his mother's most expensive vase. Pointing at a chair, his mother raised her voice and said, "Sit!"

"I won't!" he said defiantly.

Taking him by the shoulders she backed him into a chair, forcing him to sit down. As she was about to begin a lecture, he said boldly, "I may be sitting on the outside, but I'm still standing on the inside!"

Many Christians have the same attitude toward God. With hearts that are hard and minds that are determined, they stand before His presence with an attitude of defiance. Often, when we do not get what we want from God, we seem to raise our fists and say, "If You won't give me what I want, I'll get it on my own. I don't need Your strength or power, I'll use my own."

When we turn from God and willingly allow sin to harden our hearts as a lump of clay hardened by the sun there is nothing He can do. When we refuse to be open to the Spirit of God and choose to go our own way and do our own thing He will not stop us. Be careful not to turn against the Lord.

Prayer: Father, may we realize that You do for us and give to us what is best for us. Give us open minds and willing hearts. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 95:6-11 Today, if only you would hear his voice, "Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 10 of 41

2019 Groton SD Community Events

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

2020 Groton SD Community Events

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

News from the Associated Press

Breast cancer survivor finds help, support in Watertown

By LAURA BUTTERBRODT Watertown Public Opinion

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — When Holly Rehder and a group of her work friends decided to go together to get mammograms, she wasn't expecting anything. She hadn't noticed anything abnormal and was just along for the ride.

"I hadn't had a mammogram in a couple of years, so we went in, and mine was one that came back that there was a lump," Rehder told the Watertown Public Opinion. "I'd never felt it, and even when the doctor tried to show me where it was, I couldn't feel it."

She said she was shocked to be diagnosed with stage one breast cancer in February. After having the cancer removed in a lumpectomy, Rehder underwent six sessions of chemotherapy as a preventative measure.

Despite her surprise and fear from the diagnosis, 64-year-old Rehder said she was guided through every step of her cancer treatment by the Prairie Lakes Cancer Center staff and the Watertown Breast Cancer Support Group.

"Our cancer center is amazing. Amazing. We are very fortunate," Rehder said. "There's so many different places in town that will help you and guide you."

She said Codington County Cares Cancer Foundation provided her with wigs to wear when she lost her hair from chemo, and the Lake Area Technical Institute cosmetology department showed her how to wash and style her wigs, plus how to apply false eyelashes, all for free.

Colita Remmers, who started the Breast Cancer Support Group in 2005 with Christy Kinney, said the group tries to help those going through treatment. They give blankets to comfort those undergoing chemo, provide resources and advice, and also give financial assistance with money earned through fundraisers.

"We started as an emotional support group, but then in 2007 we realized that people really need financial help, so that's how we started doing the golf tournament (fundraiser), and that's how we get the financial help," Remmers said.

Rehder received financial assistance from the Chrisy Kinney Pay it Forward fund, which was started by the support group in memory of Kinney, who died last November. The fund is now managed by Prairie Lakes Cancer Center. Rehder said Remmers came to her one day and handed her the check out of the blue.

"Everybody's so kind," Rehder said.

One of her biggest concerns when starting treatment was losing her hair. She said she told the support group how silly she felt to be worried about something as trivial as hair, but she was assured it was a normal concern for most women.

"Wigs aren't so bad! In time my hair will come back," said Rehder. "You realize it's not that big of a deal."

The Watertown Breast Cancer Support Group meets the third Wednesday of every month from September to May. Typically meetings are held at the Watertown Regional Library, and about 15 to 20 members from all over the region attend.

"I just want people to be aware that we are here, and nobody should go through breast cancer alone," Remmers said. "Reach out for help."

Rehder plans to continue to be active in the support group to continue to help women in their times of need.

"I hope that I can help somebody now, with as many people that came to me out of the blue," she said.

Rehder starts radiation soon. She credits the "Three Fs" for getting her through cancer: her faith, family and friends.

"You think it's a terrible experience, but boy, what I've gotten out of it is just love and kindness," Rehder said. "This community just gives, gives, gives; and I've met so many people that I would've never known."

Information from: Watertown Public Opinion, <http://www.thepublicopinion.com>

South Dakota prison inmates make road signs, Braille books

By **MAKENZIE HUBER** Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Inmates at the South Dakota State Penitentiary make thousands of everyday items each year, from traffic tickets to sensory toys for children with special needs. About 245 are employed by Pheasantland Industries making 25 to 40 cents an hour.

This year, the city also began hiring inmates to work for 25 cents an hour on a variety of projects, and both the city and Pheasantland say it's a way for inmates to learn workplace skills, the Argus Leader reported.

"They're trying to make positive changes in their lives, and I think they're more valued as fellow citizens when they return to it," said Stefany Bawek, director of Pheasantland.

Here's a look at some products inmates placed in the Sioux Falls prison make within the Pheasantland's seven workshops:

Braille textbooks: All of the braille in the South Dakota State Library comes from the workshop, as well as many textbooks used at the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and master copies of tactile textbooks redistributed by the American Printing House across the United States. The workshop produced 4,980 textbook pages last fiscal year, Bawek said.

Educational tools: The Dinosaur Dig sandbox as well as the Mount Rushmore wall graphic at the Washington Pavilion are made by inmates at the prison.

House cabinetry: Inmates built cabinetry for houses in the Governor's Housing Program, which is a program allowing low-income residents to buy homes at a reduced cost.

School desks: Inmates built commissioned school desks for the Pierre School District.

Toy airplanes: The toys are given to law enforcement officials to give to children as a community outreach effort.

Machinery: Prisoners have a hand in building the cells and gates that surround them in the penitentiary. They also build metal bunk beds, tables for the chow hall, bars and hand rails, as well as flammable storage cabinets used by the Department of Transportation.

Printing: Inmates print a variety of items including school planners, traffic tickets, utility bills and emergency flyers issued by the city or county. Inmates are also skilled in book binding, laser engraving, sublimation printing, as well as regular printing.

"Almost everyone has encountered something from this shop if they live in Sioux Falls," Bawek said.

Signs: Almost all signs used by the South Dakota Department of Transportation are made by inmates, Bawek said. Interstate exit signs, stop signs, "Welcome to South Dakota" signs and even hiking trail signs are all made inside the penitentiary walls.

Football helmet decals: The workshop creates decals for Sioux Falls area high school football helmets, such as O'Gorman, Roosevelt and Brandon Valley High Schools

Adhesive vinyls: Schools in the Sioux Falls School District employ prisoners for their vinyl graphics.

License Plates: Inmates have been making license plates since 1913, shortly after motorized vehicles hit the streets in the United States.

Furry Friends: Bawek partnered with administrators at Harvey Dunn Elementary School to have prisoners make more affordable sensory items for children. Inmates have made 476 weighted, scented items called Furry Friends for educators and the South Dakota Department of Education.

Mattresses, pillows and towels: The items can be used inside the prison, but they are also used at the Children's Home Society and other nonprofits in the state.

Padded rooms: Inmates helped create padded rooms used at Lifescape.

What's next?

Eventually, Bawek said she'd like to get more customers outside of the penitentiary and expand the shops. One idea she has is to make gym equipment for local high schools, such as weight benches and pull up stands.

She's also played with the idea of a dog grooming shop and a chemical shop, where inmates can mix cleaning solutions and other chemical products used by the state.

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

Mankato entrepreneur uses Lakota traditions in salves, soaps

By DAN GREENWOOD Mankato Free Press

MANKATO, Minn. (AP) — As a child growing up in the small rural community of Milks Camp by the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, Megan Schnitker's parents provided a wealth of knowledge about traditional Lakota culture.

As a maker of natural medicines and a teacher of the natural history of the Lakota people, she frequently attended family and community events led by her father, a hereditary chief originally from nearby Pine Ridge.

"I grew up traditionally in Lakota Culture," Schnitker told the Mankato Free Press. "My mom and dad grew up in it."

Her mother ran a cultural-based recovery program ever since she can remember, integrating Lakota culture with drug, alcohol and violence prevention. When Schnitker found herself in recovery after overcoming an addiction as a young-adult, she began working there, helping design the curriculums for after-school programs teaching kids about coming-of-age ceremonies. They brought in elders who were well-educated in the traditions and history of the Lakota people.

The only thing missing from the curriculum at the recovery nonprofit was the incorporation of natural medicines found in the Upper Midwest that had been used for centuries by her ancestors. So Schnitker took a class on native plants and their medicinal uses at Sente Gleska University in Mission, South Dakota.

That was 13 years ago. Ever since she's been on a lifelong mission of research, accumulating knowledge from elders and sharing what she learned with people throughout the Midwest; making teas, soaps and salves from native plants with medicinal properties passed down generation after generation.

"I love to teach and make things at the same time," Schnitker said. "All the classes I teach are basically hands-on."

Expanding her reach

Four years ago, Schnitker's uncle, Dave Brave Heart, an organizer for Mankato's annual Wacipi, or pow-wow, held every year at Land of Memories Park in Mankato, invited her to come to Mankato to lead presentations on medicinal plants to fifth-, sixth- and seventh-graders.

She met her husband-to-be here and has lived in Mankato ever since, teaching classes at places like Rock Bend Alternative Learning Center in St. Peter and the Blue Earth County Historical Society. Schnitker has traveled as far as Omaha to lead classes on traditional Lakota culture and frequently makes trips back to South Dakota to interview Lakota elders about those traditions. She volunteers her time for some classes, others on a sliding fee-scale, and the gas money and lodging was beginning to add up.

Then her husband Ethan said, "Why don't you just sell what you make?" As a stay-at-home mom it made perfect sense. Their home, designed as a duplex, had an extra kitchen where she could experiment with different recipes.

In 2018, she founded the Mahkato Revitalization Project, with the ultimate goal of making children's books about traditional plants funded through the soaps, salves and teas she makes.

"I have all these plants mapped out but nobody really has the old stories that go with them and how people came to use them a long time ago in our culture," she said. "Lakota Made helps fund that with gas and travel, materials, and meeting with elders."

She said the ingredients are easy to find and easily overlooked, but their value is immeasurable.

"There are natural plants that come from my backyard basically," she said. "I make teas, tinctures, soaps, medicinal salves, and tonics from natural medicines."

The ingredients range from wild plantain, yarrow, and white willow bark to jewelweed, echinacea and

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 14 of 41

mint. Some have pain-relieving properties while others are used to treat poison ivy and stinging nettle, a plant that causes an itchy rash if touched, but that surprisingly can be made into an antioxidant-rich tea. Schnitker said it also makes a great side dish when boiled and infused with butter, salt and pepper, as a substitute for spinach.

The Lakota-made products she sells, along with the establishment of the nonprofit Mahkato Revitalization Project, have led to more opportunities for teaching and also helped her narrow down the scope of what she hopes to accomplish in the long run.

"One of the biggest things I want to do with the Mahkato Revitalization Project is to get these books going for kids in Lakota and Dakota languages," she said.

"There's not a lot of native herbalists. In order for us to preserve that, I want to write these books. There's a few people who have put stuff down into books but there's not a lot of children's books and that's where the culture needs to be taught — for the younger generation."

While she primarily sells her products online, a visit to Vagabond Village led owner Natalie Pierson to suggest she sell her products there.

On display since June, Pierson said there's been a great deal of interest from customers. Starting in October, Schnitker will be offering classes at Vagabond Village as well.

"She's going to offer a class once a week; a five dollar drop in," Pierson said. "She's going to be teaching about the different types of plants; how to locate them, what they look like, their purposes and then talk a little bit about her process."

Along with the children's books on the horizon, Schnitker said her long-term goal is to establish a cultural center in Mankato and has been scouting out locations.

"That's the big dream," she said.

Information from: The Free Press, <http://www.mankatofreepress.com>

Man dies after early-morning shooting at Sturgis residence

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Police say a man is dead after an early-morning shooting at a Sturgis residence. The Rapid City Journal reports that officers responded to a 911 call just after 4 a.m. Sunday. The caller reported that a homeowner shot someone who had entered the residence.

Officers found a man with a single gunshot wound to the chest. First aid was administered until he was transported by ambulance to a Sturgis hospital, where he died as a result of his injuries.

Police say this is an isolated incident and there is no threat to the public. No other information has been released.

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

ESPN's 'GameDay' will feature 2 FCS powerhouses from Dakotas

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — ESPN's popular Saturday morning college football show is coming to South Dakota for the FCS rivalry game between defending national champion North Dakota State and perennial challenger South Dakota State.

The Argus Leader reports that "College GameDay" host Reece Davis posted on Twitter Sunday afternoon that the show will broadcast from Bookings this Saturday before the top-ranked Bison play the No. 3 Jackrabbits at Dana J. Dykehouse Stadium.

The show began travelling to campus sites in 1993 and usually broadcasts from a major FBS game. However, it has set up twice in downtown Fargo, North Dakota, for Bison home games in 2013 and 2014.

The 7-0 Bison have won seven of the last eight national titles. The Jackrabbits are 6-1 after losing their season opener to unbeaten FBS team Minnesota.

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

Fire engulfs furniture store that opened in Aberdeen in 1945

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say fire has gutted a family-owned furniture store that has been a fixture on Main Street in Aberdeen since 1945.

No injuries were reported from the Saturday night blaze at the Malchow's Home Furnishings building, which had 17 apartments on the second floor, at least 14 of which were rented.

The American News reports that the fire was reported just after 6 p.m. and flames were seen shooting out of the north side of the second floor.

Bud Malchow opened the store in 1945. He was manager of a Gambles store in Aberdeen in the 1930s and was eventually relocated to Minneapolis. Malchow's son, Tom, became involved in the business in 1969 and Tom's son, Mark, joined the company in 2002. It is one of Aberdeen's oldest businesses.

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

APNewsBreak: US taking step to require DNA of asylum-seekers

By COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is planning to collect DNA samples from asylum-seekers and other migrants detained by immigration officials and will add the information to a massive FBI database used by law enforcement hunting for criminals, a Justice Department official said.

The Justice Department will publish an amended regulation Monday that would mandate DNA collection for almost all migrants who cross between official entry points and are held even temporarily, according to the official. The official spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the regulation had not yet been published.

The rule does not apply to legal permanent residents or anyone entering the U.S. legally. Children under 14 are exempt. It's unclear whether asylum-seekers who come through official crossings will be exempt.

Homeland Security officials gave a broad outline of the plan to expand DNA collection at the border two weeks ago, but it was unclear then whether asylum-seekers would be included or when it would begin.

The new policy would allow the government to amass a trove of biometric data on hundreds of thousands of migrants, raising major privacy concerns and questions about whether such data should be compelled even when a person is not suspected of a crime other than crossing the border illegally. Civil rights groups already have expressed concerns that data could be misused, and the new policy is likely to lead to legal action.

Justice officials hope to have a pilot program in place shortly after the 20-day comment period ends and expand from there, the official said. The new regulations are effective Monday, after the regulation is published.

Trump administration officials say they hope to solve more crimes committed by immigrants through the increased collection of DNA from a group that can often slip through the cracks. The Justice official also said it would be a deterrent — the latest step aimed at discouraging migrants from trying to enter the United States between official crossings by adding hurdles to the immigration process.

Currently, officials collect DNA on a much more limited basis — when a migrant is prosecuted in federal court for a criminal offense. That includes illegal crossing, a charge that has affected mostly single adults. Those accompanied by children generally aren't prosecuted because children can't be detained.

President Donald Trump and others in his administration often single out crimes committed by immigrants as a reason for stricter border control. But multiple studies have found that people here illegally are less likely to commit crime than U.S. citizens, and legal immigrants are even less likely to do so.

For example, a study last year in the journal *Criminology* found that from 1990 through 2014, states with bigger shares of migrants have lower crime rates.

Immigrant rights advocates were immediately critical following initial disclosure of the DNA collection

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 16 of 41

plans two weeks ago.

“That could really change the purpose of DNA collection from one of criminal investigation to population surveillance,” American Civil Liberties Union attorney Vera Eidleman said then.

Curbing immigration is Trump’s signature issue, but his administration has struggled in dealing with the surge of people trying to enter the United States, mostly Central American families fleeing poverty and violence.

Authorities made more than 810,000 arrests at the border during the budget year that just ended in September — a high not seen for more than 10 years. Officials say numbers have since fallen following crackdowns, changes in asylum regulations and agreements with Central American countries, but they remain higher than in previous years.

DNA profile collection is allowed under a law expanded in 2009 to require that any adult arrested for a federal crime provide a DNA sample. At least 23 states require DNA testing, but some occur after a suspect is convicted of a crime.

The FBI database, known as the Combined DNA Index System, has nearly 14 million convicted offender profiles, plus 3.6 million arrestee profiles, and 966,782 forensic profiles as of August 2019. The profiles in the database do not contain names or other personal identifiers to protect privacy; only an agency identifier, specimen identification number and DNA lab associated with the analysis. That way, when people aren’t a match, their identification isn’t exposed.

The only way to get a profile out of the system is to request through an attorney that it be removed.

Federal and state investigators use the system to match DNA in crimes they are trying to solve. As of August 2019, the database produced 479,847 hits, or matches with law enforcement seeking crime scene data, and assisted in more than 469,534 investigations.

Justice Department officials are striking a line in the regulation that gave the secretary of Homeland Security discretion to opt out of collecting DNA from immigrants because of resource limitations or operational hurdles.

Justice and Homeland Security officials are still working out details, but cheek swab kits would be provided by the FBI, the official said. The FBI will help train border officials on how to get a sample, which shouldn’t take more than a few minutes.

Customs and Border Protection already collects fingerprints on everyone over 14 in its custody.

The new regulations will apply to adults who cross the border illegally and are briefly detained by Customs and Border Protection, or for a longer period by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Those who come to official crossings and are considered inadmissible and not further detained will be exempt. Other exceptions are being worked out, the official said.

More than 51,000 detainees are in ICE custody. Border Patrol custody fluctuates its facilities only hold migrants until they are processed and either released or sent to ICE custody. At the height, more than 19,000 people were held. Recently it was down to fewer than 4,000.

Esper discusses keeping small US force in northeast Syria

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Defense Secretary Mark Esper says he is discussing an option that would keep a small residual U.S. military force in northeast Syria to secure oil fields and continue the fight against Islamic State militants.

Esper said on Monday that he had not made a final decision on that option and has not yet presented it to President Donald Trump.

Speaking at a press conference in Kabul, Esper said that some American forces that are in northeast Syria have not yet started to withdraw. He said they are working with Syrian Kurdish fighters to secure the oil fields in that region so they don’t fall under control of IS. He said it’s important to make sure IS doesn’t gain revenue from the oil.

Esper said that the troops around Kobani are withdrawing first and that troops in the Northeast are still in the towns near the oil.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 17 of 41

Esper also said that the U.S. is maintaining combat air patrol over U.S. forces in Syria as the withdrawal goes on. He said the U.S. is using overhead surveillance to try to monitor the recently negotiated cease-fire "as best we can."

While Trump has insisted he's bringing home Americans from "endless wars" in the Mideast, Esper said all U.S. troops leaving Syria will go to western Iraq and the American military will continue operations against the Islamic State group.

The troops aren't coming home and the United States isn't leaving the turbulent Middle East, according to plans outlined by Esper before he arrived in Afghanistan on Sunday. The fight in Syria against IS, once spearheaded by American allied Syrian Kurds who have been cast aside by Trump, will be undertaken by U.S. forces, possibly from neighboring Iraq.

Esper did not rule out the idea that U.S. forces would conduct counterterrorism missions from Iraq into Syria. But he told reporters traveling with him that those details will be worked out over time.

Trump nonetheless tweeted: "USA soldiers are not in combat or ceasefire zones. We have secured the Oil. Bringing soldiers home!"

The Republican president declared this past week that Washington had no stake in defending the Kurdish fighters who died by the thousands as America's partners fighting in Syria against IS extremists. Turkey conducted a weeklong offensive into northeastern Syria against the Kurdish fighters before a military pause.

"It's time for us to come home," Trump said, defending his removal of U.S. troops from that part of Syria and praising his decision to send more troops and military equipment to Saudi Arabia to help the kingdom defend against Iran.

Esper's earlier comments to reporters traveling with him were the first to specifically lay out where American troops will go as they shift from Syria and what the counter-IS fight could look like. Esper said he has spoken to his Iraqi counterpart about the plan to shift about 1,000 troops from Syria into western Iraq.

Trump's top aide, asked about the fact that the troops were not coming home as the president claimed they would, said, "Well, they will eventually."

Acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney told "Fox News Sunday" that "the quickest way to get them out of danger was to get them into Iraq."

As Esper left Washington on Saturday, U.S. troops were continuing to pull out of northern Syria after Turkey's invasion into the border region. Reports of sporadic clashes continued between Turkish-backed fighters and the Syria Kurdish forces despite a five-day cease-fire agreement hammered out Thursday between U.S. and Turkish leaders.

The Turkish military's death toll has risen to seven soldiers since it launched its offensive on Oct. 9.

Trump ordered the bulk of the approximately 1,000 U.S. troops in Syria to withdraw after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan made it clear in a phone call that his forces were about to invade Syria to push back Kurdish forces that Turkey considers terrorists.

The pullout largely abandons America's Kurdish allies who have fought IS alongside U.S. troops for several years. Between 200 and 300 U.S. troops will remain at the southern Syrian outpost of Al-Tanf.

Esper said the troops going into Iraq will have two missions: help defend Iraq and perform a counter-IS mission.

The U.S. has more than 5,000 American forces in Iraq, under an agreement between the two countries. The U.S. pulled its troops out of Iraq in 2011 when combat operations there ended, but they went back in after IS began to take over large swaths of the country in 2014. The number of American forces in Iraq has remained small due to political sensitivities in the country, after years of what some Iraqis consider U.S. occupation during the war that began in 2003.

Esper said he will talk with other allies at a NATO meeting in the coming week to discuss the way ahead for the counter-IS mission.

Asked if U.S. special operations forces will conduct unilateral military operations into Syria to go after IS, Esper said that is an option that will be discussed with allies over time.

On Sunday, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi led a group of American lawmakers on a visit to Jordan to

discuss "the deepening crisis" in Syria.

Jordan's state news agency said that King Abdullah II, in a meeting with the Americans, stressed the importance of safeguarding Syria's territorial integrity and guarantees for the "safe and voluntary" return of refugees.

This story has been corrected to reflect that the U.S.-Turkey agreement was reached on Thursday, not Friday.

WikiLeaks founder Assange in UK court to fight extradition

By GREGORY KATZ Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange appeared in court Monday to fight extradition to the United States on charges of espionage, saying he needed more time to prepare his case.

Assange and his legal team failed to convince District Judge Vanessa Baraitser that a slowdown was justified. The full extradition is still set for a five-day hearing in late February, with brief interim hearings in November and December.

Assange defiantly raised a fist to supporters who jammed the public gallery in Westminster Magistrates Court. He appears to have lost weight but looked healthy. Assange wore a blue sweater and a blue sports jacket for the hearing, and wore his silvery-gray hair slicked back.

After the judge turned down his bid for a three-month delay, Assange — speaking very softly and at times appearing to be near tears — said he didn't understand the proceedings.

He said the case is not "equitable" because the U.S. government has "unlimited resources" while he doesn't have easy access to his lawyers or to documents needed to prepare his battle against extradition while he is confined to Belmarsh Prison on the outskirts of London.

"They have all the advantages," the 48-year-old Assange said.

Lawyer Mark Summers, representing Assange, told the judge that more time was needed to prepare Assange's defense against "unprecedented" use of espionage charges against a journalist. Summers said the case has many facets and will require a "mammoth" amount of planning and preparation.

He also accused the U.S. of illegally spying on Assange while he was inside the Ecuadorian Embassy seeking refuge and taking other illegal actions against the WikiLeaks founder.

"We need more time," Summers said, asking for a three-month delay. He said Assange would mount a political defense that will be laborious to prepare.

Summers said the initial case against Assange was prepared during the administration of former President Barack Obama in 2010 but wasn't acted on until Donald Trump assumed the presidency. He said it represents the administrations aggressive attitude toward whistleblowers.

Representing the U.S., lawyer James Lewis said the U.S. opposed any delay to the proceeding.

The case is expected to take months to resolve, with each side able to make several appeals of rulings.

The public gallery was jammed with Assange supporters, including former London Mayor Ken Livingstone, and outside the courthouse others carried placards calling for Assange to be released. There were chants calling for him to be set free.

The judge said the full hearing will be heard at Belmarsh Court, which would make it easier for Assange to attend and contains more room for the media.

Assange's lawyers said the five days wouldn't be enough for the entire case to be heard.

Former Home Secretary Sajid Javid signed an order in June allowing Assange to be extradited. U.S. authorities accuse Assange of scheming with former Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning to break a password for a classified government computer.

Assange claims he is a journalist entitled to First Amendment protection.

Public, election officials may be kept in the dark on hacks

By COLLEEN LONG and CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — If the FBI discovers that foreign hackers have infiltrated the networks of your county election office, you may not find out about it until after voting is over. And your governor and other state officials may be kept in the dark, too.

There's no federal law compelling state and local governments to share information when an electoral system is hacked. And a federal policy keeps details secret by shielding the identity of all cyber victims regardless of whether election systems are involved.

Election officials are in a difficult spot: If someone else's voting system is targeted, they want to know exactly what happened so they can protect their own system. Yet when their own systems are targeted, they may be cautious about disclosing details. They must balance the need for openness with worries over undermining any criminal investigation. And they want to avoid chaos or confusion, the kind of disruption that hackers want.

The secrecy surrounding foreign hacks is not a hypothetical issue. The public still doesn't know which Florida counties were breached by Russian agents in the 2016 election. Rick Scott, Florida's governor in 2016 and now a U.S. senator, was not told at the time and didn't learn most of the details until this year.

And the threat to electoral systems is real. Federal officials believe Russian agents in 2016 searched for vulnerabilities within election systems in all 50 states. And the nation's intelligence chiefs warn that Russia and other nations remain interested in interfering in U.S. elections.

Meanwhile, experts worry the White House hasn't highlighted the threat as President Donald Trump argues it's OK for foreign countries to provide damaging information on his political rivals, a matter now the subject of an impeachment inquiry led by House Democrats.

In general, it's up to electoral agencies to disclose when they've been hacked. That, plus the federal policy protecting the identity of cyber victims, could mean that state election officials might not be told immediately if one of their local election offices experiences a breach. In addition, the whole situation could be considered classified as part of a federal investigation.

At least two states — Colorado and Iowa — have implemented policies to compel local officials to notify the state about suspected breaches involving election systems.

"Every American in this nation deserves to have a democracy they can believe in, and when there is not good communication on cyber incidents ... it does create a lack of confidence in the system," said Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold. "Luckily we have been able to work around the void of federal policy that has been leaving our nation in a precarious spot."

But Department of Homeland Security officials say privacy is needed to ensure that officials come forward and share valuable threat information, such as suspect IP addresses.

Some election officials could be hesitant about public disclosures, concerned their agencies would be portrayed in a negative light. They could opt to handle any breach alone.

That could create dangerous delays in sharing information, said Jeanette Manfra, assistant director for cybersecurity at Homeland Security's new cyber agency.

Homeland Security acts as the middleman between the intelligence community and the states. In general, communication and coordination on election security have improved in the last two years.

"We've worked over the years to be able to declassify even more and to do it faster," Manfra said. "It's still not a perfect process."

Due to the criminal nature of cyber breaches, law enforcement officials may seek to withhold releasing certain information long after the incident. When Florida's current governor, Ron DeSantis, was briefed this year on the 2016 cyber breaches, he said he signed an agreement preventing him from identifying the affected counties.

The secrecy surrounding Florida helped spur bipartisan legislation that would compel reporting among federal, state and local officials and to voters potentially affected by a breach. Rep. Stephanie Murphy, a Florida Democrat, co-sponsor of the bill, said she believes voters are the victims, not the election office,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 20 of 41

and that not disclosing information about election-related breaches could undermine public confidence.

In June, a majority of Americans expressed at least some concern that voting systems are vulnerable to hackers, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

"It's hard for me to assess if what people are doing in response is sufficient when I don't know the full scope of the problem," Murphy said. "And I think that's the same issue with voters: How can they feel comfortable or confident that this next election will be free and fair?"

Yet election officials want to ensure they have a good understanding of what happened before going public so they don't contribute to the confusion that the hackers may be trying to achieve.

Cyber intrusions are inherently complicated, taking time to understand and contain. There is also a concern of inadvertently releasing information that could invite further compromises or undermine an investigation.

"It is important to be as transparent as possible, but as with any crime, the full details of an investigation are not discussed," said Paul Pate, Iowa's Republican secretary of state. "It's a balancing act that needs to be measured on a case-by-case basis."

In 2017, California election officials quickly disclosed the state had been notified by federal officials that its election systems were among those scanned by Russians the year before. Five days later, they had to correct the announcement after discovering the scans involved a non-election system. Secretary of State Alex Padilla, a Democrat, said it was an important lesson in making sure all the facts were there, especially considering the public is not familiar with cybersecurity terminology.

In the summer of 2016, hackers accessed Illinois' voter registration database, and officials moved fast to shut down the system and isolate the threat. State officials knew the move wouldn't go unnoticed and felt it was important to notify the public.

It became clear only later that Russian agents were involved, and the breach was part of an unprecedented campaign to interfere in U.S. elections.

Matt Dietrich, spokesman for the Illinois State Board of Elections, said it would be hard to imagine that any election office would seek to keep something like that quiet today.

"In 2016, it was a story and then it was dealt with and then it kind of went away for a year," Dietrich said. "That is not going to happen this time. It will be a national and a worldwide story. We all know this. We all know we are going to be under the microscope."

Cassidy reported from Atlanta. Associated Press writer Hannah Fingerhut contributed to this report.

Follow the reporters on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ctlong1> and https://twitter.com/AP_Christina

AP FACT CHECK: Trump exaggerates scope of cease-fire deal

By CALVIN WOODWARD, HOPE YEN, and LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As President Donald Trump describes it, the U.S. swooped into an intractable situation in the Middle East, achieved an agreement within hours that had eluded the world for years and delivered a "great day for civilization."

It was a mission-accomplished moment that other Republican leaders, Democrats and much of the world found unconvincing.

Trump spent much of the past week trying to justify his decision to pull U.S. troops away from America's Kurdish allies in Syria, leaving those Kurdish fighters vulnerable on several fronts and already reeling from attacks by Turkish forces.

In the process, Trump exaggerated the scope of a deal bringing a temporary cease-fire to Turkish-Kurdish hostilities, falsely suggested that U.S. troops in Syria will come home and mischaracterized the history of the conflict and even the geography of it.

A look at his rhetoric on that topic and other subjects over the past week as well as a sampling of statements from the latest Democratic presidential debate:

SYRIA

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 21 of 41

TRUMP: "It's time to bring our soldiers back home." — news conference Wednesday.

THE FACTS: That's not what he's doing.

While the U.S. has begun what the Pentagon calls a deliberate withdrawal of troops from Syria, Trump himself has said that the 200 to 300 U.S. service members deployed to a southern Syria outpost in Al-Tanf will remain there.

And on Saturday, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said the current plan calls for all U.S. troops who are leaving Syria to go to western Iraq, not home. They number more than 700.

Asked Sunday why troops weren't coming home as Trump said they would, his acting chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, said: "Well, they will eventually."

TRUMP: "This is a great day for civilization. I am proud of the United States for sticking by me in following a necessary, but somewhat unconventional, path. People have been trying to make this 'Deal' for many years. Millions of lives will be saved. Congratulations to ALL!" — tweet Thursday.

TRUMP: "A lot of things are in that agreement that nobody ever thought possible." — remarks at Dallas rally Thursday.

THE FACTS: The agreement he is hailing is not nearly as consequential to the prospects for peace as he claims. It provides for a five-day cease-fire in the Turks' deadly attacks on Kurdish fighters in northern Syria, which began after Trump announced he would withdraw U.S. troops.

The agreement requires the Kurds to vacate a swath of territory in Syria along the Turkish border in an arrangement that codifies nearly all of Turkey's stated goals in the conflict and relieves it of U.S. sanctions.

It imposes no apparent long-term consequences for Turkey's move against the Kurds, important U.S. partners in the fight against the Islamic State group. Trump calls that fight a mission accomplished despite the U.S. officials' fears of an IS resurgence.

TRUMP, on the Syrian areas of Turkish-Kurdish conflict: "It's a lot of sand. They've got a lot of sand over there. So there's a lot of sand that they can play with." — remarks Wednesday.

THE FACTS: The area of conflict is not known for being particularly sandy. In contrast to Trump's imagery of arid, worthless land that other countries — not the U.S. — should fight over, it's actually the breadbasket of Syria.

The area is part of what was historically known as the Fertile Crescent, where settled farming and early civilizations first began.

TRUMP: "We were supposed to be in Syria for one month. That was 10 years ago." — news conference Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Previous administrations never set a one-month timeline for U.S. involvement in Syria.

The U.S.-led coalition began airstrikes on Islamic State militants in Syria in September 2014. About a year later, the Pentagon said teams of special operations forces began going into Syria to conduct raids and start efforts to partner with the Kurdish forces.

Then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter made it clear to Congress at that time that the Pentagon was ready to expand operations with the Kurds and would continue to do so as needed to battle IS, without setting a specific deadline.

TRUMP: "Our soldiers are mostly gone from the area." — news conference Wednesday.

THE FACTS: They're mostly still there.

Close to 30 U.S. troops moved out of two outposts near the border area where the Turkish attack was initially centered. But the bulk of the roughly 1,000 U.S. troops deployed to Syria are still in the country.

According to officials, most of the U.S. troops have largely been consolidated into a few locations in the north, including an airfield facility in the western part of the country known as the Kobani landing zone. A couple hundred have left in recent days with military equipment, and officials say the withdrawal will

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 22 of 41

take weeks.

JOE BIDEN: "I would not have withdrawn the troops, and I would not have withdrawn the additional 1,000 troops that are in Iraq, which are in retreat now, being fired on by Assad's people." — Democratic debate on Tuesday.

THE FACTS: The former vice president is wrong. There is no evidence that any of the approximately 1,000 American troops preparing to evacuate from Syria have been fired on by Syrian government forces led by President Bashar Assad. A small group of U.S. troops came under Turkish artillery fire near the town of Kobani last week, without anyone being injured, but there is no indication that Syrian troops have shot at withdrawing Americans.

Also, Biden was addressing the situation in Syria, not Iraq.

WOMEN IN SPACE

TRUMP: "This is the first time for a woman outside of the Space Station. ... They're conducting the first-ever female spacewalk to replace an exterior part of the Space Station." — speaking to flight engineers Jessica Meir and Christina Koch outside the International Space Station in a teleconference Friday.

THE FACTS: Meir corrected the record, telling Trump: "First of all, we don't want to take too much credit, because there have been many other female spacewalkers before us. This is just the first time that there have been two women outside at the same time. "

AMMUNITION

TRUMP: "When I first got in, a general told me we could have had a conflict with someone. Said, Sir, we don't have ammunition. And I said I never want to hear a president — I just never want to hear somebody have that statement made to them again as president of the United States. We don't have ammunition. Think of how bad. Now we have so much ammunition we don't know what to do with it." — Dallas rally Thursday.

THE FACTS: Trump periodically quotes unidentified generals as saying things that he wants to hear and that are hard to imagine them actually having said. This is no exception. The U.S. doesn't go to war without sufficient ammunition.

At most, budget constraints may have restricted ammunition for certain training exercises at times and held back the development of new forms of firepower. It's not unusual for generals to want more people and equipment at their disposal than they have. But they don't run out of bullets.

ECONOMY and TRADE

TRUMP: "Just out: MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME IS AT THE HIGHEST POINT EVER, EVER, EVER! How about saying it this way, IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY!" — tweet Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Another way of saying it is that median household income has been this high before.

Trump also builds his boast on the records of others.

In the Census Bureau's definitive annual report on income and poverty, it found that median household income in 2018 matched the previous peak of \$63,200, in inflation-adjusted dollars, reached in 1999.

While that was a welcome increase after household income fell sharply in the Great Recession, it also suggests that the median American household went back to where it was 19 years ago. (The median is the point where half of households earn more and half earn less).

Household income began rising in 2014, after falling in the aftermath of the recession, and jumped 5.1% in 2015, making its most significance gains in President Barack Obama's second term.

It grew just 0.9% in 2018, the slowest in three years. The Census Bureau says its data is difficult to compare with previous years because it changed its methods in 2013.

It released a supplemental report showing that, adjusted for those methodological changes, median incomes in 2018 matched those in 1999. A separate census report, which has fewer details on incomes,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 23 of 41

said last month that median household income has reached a record high, but those data only go back to 2005.

TRUMP, on a World Trade Organization ruling allowing the U.S. to tax impose tariffs on \$7.5 billion worth of European imports annually: "I think the WTO award has been testament to a lot of good work by the Trump administration. We never won with the WTO, or essentially never won. Very seldom did we win. And now we're winning a lot." — remarks Wednesday before meeting with Italy's president.

TRUMP: "We didn't win anything for years practically. Now we've won a lot of cases. You know why? Because they know I'll leave if they don't treat us fairly." — Dallas rally Thursday.

THE FACTS: He's incorrect to say the U.S. never or rarely got any WTO victories under other presidents. The U.S. has always had a high success rate when it pursues cases against other countries at the WTO. In 2017, trade analyst Daniel Ikenson of the libertarian Cato Institute found that the U.S. had won 91% of time it brought a complaint that ended up being adjudicated by the Geneva-based trade monitor. True, Ikenson noted, the countries bringing complaints tend to win overwhelmingly. That's because they don't bother going to the WTO in the first place if they don't have a pretty strong case.

The WTO announcement culminated a 15-year fight over EU subsidies for Airbus — a fight that began long before Trump was in office.

JULIÁN CASTRO: "Ohio, Michigan, and Pennsylvania actually in the latest jobs data have lost jobs, not gained them." — Democratic debate.

THE FACTS: No. Figures from the Labor Department show that the former Housing and Urban Development secretary is wrong.

Ohio added jobs in August. So did Michigan. Same with Pennsylvania.

So Castro's statement is off.

These states do still have economic struggles. Pennsylvania has lost factory jobs since the end of 2018. So has Michigan. And Ohio has shed 100 factory jobs so far this year.

TRUMP: "MORE PEOPLE WORKING TODAY IN THE USA THAN AT ANY TIME IN HISTORY!" — tweet Tuesday.

THE FACTS: True, but it's due to population growth, not just steady hiring.

A more relevant measure is the proportion of Americans with jobs, and that is still far below record highs. According to Labor Department data, 61% of people in the United States 16 years and older were working in September. That's below the all-time high of 64.7% in April 2000, though higher than the 59.9% when Trump was inaugurated in January 2017.

CLIMATE CHANGE

BERNIE SANDERS: "We're forgetting about the existential threat of climate change." "Right now the CEOs in the fossil fuel industry know full well that their product is destroying this world and they continue to make huge profits." — Democratic debate.

THE FACTS: Earth's existence and life on the planet will not end because of climate change, as the Vermont senator suggests. Fossil fuels do not have Earth on a path of destruction.

Science says climate change will cause great harm, but it won't wipe out everything and won't end humanity.

"It's an existential threat for many species," said Princeton University climate scientist Michael Oppenheimer. "It's an existential threat for many ecosystems. I don't think it's an existential threat for humanity."

Life will be dramatically altered if the burning of fossil fuels continues unabated, said Oppenheimer, a co-author of many of the most dire international science reports on climate change.

"Existential" has perhaps lost its literal meaning, as politicians in general and Democrats in particular cast many threats as existential ones even when existence is not on the line. In the debate, for example, New

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 24 of 41

Jersey Sen. Cory Booker described the closing of two Planned Parenthood clinics in Ohio as an existential threat to abortion rights in America.

GUN CONTROL

PETE BUTTIGIEG: "On guns, we are this close to an assault weapons ban. That would be huge." — Democratic debate.

AMY KLOBUCHAR: "I just keep thinking of how close we are to finally getting something done on this." — Democratic debate.

THE FACTS: No, the U.S. is not close to enacting an assault-weapons ban, as Buttigieg claimed, nor close on any significant gun control, as Klobuchar had it. Congress is not on the verge of such legislation. Prospects for an assault-weapons ban, in particular, are bound to remain slim until the next election at least.

Legislation under discussion in the Senate would expand background checks for gun sales, a politically popular idea even with gun owners. But even that bill has stalled because of opposition from the National Rifle Association and on-again, off-again support from Trump. Democrats and some Republicans in Congress say they will continue to push for the background checks bill, but movement appears unlikely during an impeachment inquiry and general dysfunction in Congress. And Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has made it clear he won't move forward on gun legislation without Trump's strong support.

Buttigieg was citing the chance for an assault-weapons ban as a reason for not supporting the more radical proposal by Democratic presidential rival Beto O'Rourke to force gun owners to give up AR-15s and other assault-style weapons. Klobuchar spoke in a similar context.

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

ELIZABETH WARREN: "Mueller had shown to a fare-thee-well that this president obstructed justice." — Democratic debate.

THE FACTS: That's not exactly what special counsel Robert Mueller showed.

It's true that prosecutors examined more than 10 episodes for evidence of obstruction of justice, and that they did illustrate efforts by Trump to stymie the Russia investigation or take control of it.

But ultimately, Mueller did not reach a conclusion as to whether the president obstructed justice or broke any other law. He cited Justice Department policy against the indictment of a sitting president and said that since he could not bring charges against Trump, it was unfair to accuse him of a crime. There was no definitive finding that he obstructed justice.

Associated Press writers Christopher Rugaber, Seth Borenstein, Josh Boak, Robert Burns, Matthew Daly, Eric Tucker and Paul Wiseman in Washington, Lisa Marie Pane in Boise, Idaho, and Amanda Seitz in Chicago contributed to this report.

Find AP Fact Checks at <http://apne.ws/2kbx8bd>

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

Mulvaney getting second-guessed on his defense of Trump

By ZEKE MILLER, JILL COLVIN and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For Mick Mulvaney, the hits just keep on coming.

First, President Donald Trump's acting chief of staff stirred up a tempest by acknowledging that the administration had held up aid to Ukraine in part to prod that country to investigate Democrats and the 2016 elections. Then Mulvaney went on television Sunday to defend his boss in effusive terms — and ended up making a new problematic comment.

Explaining why Trump had tried to steer an international summit to one of the president's own properties before giving up on the idea, Mulvaney said Trump "still considers himself to be in the hospitality business." That did nothing to allay concerns that the Republican president has used his office to enrich

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 25 of 41

his business interests.

The bookended performances over the span of a few days were panned by the president's allies and cast doubt on Mulvaney's job security at the White House.

Mulvaney denied on "Fox News Sunday" that there was any consideration of his resignation, "Absolutely, positively not."

At a press conference Thursday, Mulvaney tried to put a positive spin on Trump's selection of his Doral, Florida, golf resort to host next year's Group of Seven world summit. It was also an opportunity for Mulvaney demonstrate his ability to defend the president.

He struggled, in the process offering fresh fodder to critics of a president already besieged by an impeachment inquiry. He asserted in the briefing that military aid to Ukraine was delayed partly because Trump wanted officials there to look into a security company hired by the Democratic National Committee that discovered that Russian agents had broken into the committee's network in 2016.

"The look back to what happened in 2016 certainly was part of the thing that he was worried about in corruption with that nation," Mulvaney told reporters. "Did he also mention to me in the past the corruption that related to the DNC server? Absolutely, no question about that." Mulvaney continued: "That's why we held up the money." Trump's personal lawyers quickly dissociated themselves from the chief of staff's comments.

Mulvaney's description of the administration's handling of the Ukraine aid amounted to a quid pro quo, though he later claimed his comments had been misconstrued.

"That's not what I said," Mulvaney told "Fox News Sunday" as host Chris Wallace repeatedly confronted him with his own comments. "That's what people said that I said."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo refused to defend the comments in an interview Sunday with ABC's "This Week."

"I will leave to the chief of staff to explain what it is he said and what he intended," Pompeo said.

Mulvaney is unaware of any effort to replace him, according to a person close to him who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal conversations. The president has also expressed his support for Mulvaney to the acting chief of staff's team, the person said. Press secretary Stephanie Grisham said Sunday afternoon that Mulvaney still has the confidence of the president.

The news conference on Thursday left aides in the West Wing dumbfounded at the former South Carolina congressman's performance and some quarters of Trump's orbit — the Justice Department and Trump's personal attorney, among them — dissociating themselves from his account. The president himself, already angry that Republicans were not defending him on Syria and Doral, was also displeased that Mulvaney only made the headlines worse, according to three White House officials and Republicans close to the White House not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

Still, a swift dismissal doesn't appear on the horizon, according to nine staffers and outside advisers, who noted the difficulties Trump has faced attracting and retaining high quality White House staff even before the impeachment episode. The shortage of viable replacements has kept other officials in their posts months after he soured on them.

Even before Democrats launched the impeachment inquiry, Mulvaney was on thin ice, with diminished status in the White House. Holding the job of acting chief of staff since January, Mulvaney has frustrated aides who saw him as less willing than his predecessors to challenge the president.

Once Democrats began investigations meant to remove Trump from office, Mulvaney drew the brunt of criticism from presidential allies who felt the White House wasn't prepared to fight back forcefully.

He has also clashed with White House counsel Pat Cipollone, sometimes mentioned as a potential Mulvaney successor, over strategy and tactics in response to impeachment. Mulvaney has complained that he had been iced out of the process, which the lawyer was treating as a legal, not political, matter.

Trump's decision late Saturday to reverse course on his much-criticized plan to host the G-7 at Doral was the latest move that called into question Mulvaney's job security.

Mulvaney had insisted that White House staff concluded that Doral was "far and away the best physical

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 26 of 41

facility” and tried to push back at concerns raised by Democrats and some Republicans that Trump was using the presidency to enrich himself.

Mulvaney said Sunday that Trump was “honestly surprised at the level of pushback” on his choice of Doral.

That notion struck some Trump allies as hollow, because the uproar was resounding in August when the president first floated the idea of choosing Doral. They argued that the president’s aides, Mulvaney first among them, either should have persuaded him not to hold it there or devised a better communications strategy.

“Could we have put on an excellent G-7 at Doral? Absolutely,” Mulvaney concluded on Fox. “Will we end up putting on an excellent G-7 someplace else? Yes we will.”

Researchers find second warship from WWII Battle of Midway

By CALEB JONES Associated Press

MIDWAY ATOLL, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (AP) — A crew of deep-sea explorers and historians looking for lost World War II warships have found a second Japanese aircraft carrier that went down in the historic Battle of Midway.

Vulcan Inc.’s director of undersea operations Rob Kraft and Naval History and Heritage Command historian Frank Thompson reviewed high frequency sonar images of the warship Sunday and say that its dimensions and location mean it has to be the carrier Akagi.

The Akagi was found in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument resting in nearly 18,000 feet (5,490 meters) of water more than 1,300 miles (2,090 kilometers) northwest of Pearl Harbor.

The researchers used an autonomous underwater vehicle, or AUV, equipped with sonar to find the ship. The vehicle had been out overnight collecting data, and the image of a warship appeared in the first set of readings Sunday morning.

The first scan used low-resolution sonar, so the crew sent their AUV back to get higher-quality images.

“I’m sure of what we’re seeing here, the dimensions that we’re able to derive from this image (are) conclusive,” Kraft said. “It can be none other than Akagi.”

The vessel is sitting among a pile of debris and the ground around the warship is clearly disturbed by the impact of it hitting the seafloor.

“She’s sitting upright on her keel, we can see the bow, we can see the stern clearly, you can see some of the gun emplacements on there, you can see that some of the flight deck is also torn up and missing so you can actually look right into where the flight deck would be,” said Kraft.

The find comes on the heels of the discovery of another Japanese carrier, the Kaga, last week.

“We read about the battles, we know what happened. But when you see these wrecks on the bottom of the ocean and everything, you kind of get a feel for what the real price is for war,” said Frank Thompson, a historian with the Naval History and Heritage Command in Washington, D.C., who is onboard the Petrel. “You see the damage these things took, and it’s humbling to watch some of the video of these vessels because they’re war graves.”

Until now, only one of the seven ships that went down in the June 1942 air and sea battle — five Japanese vessels and two American — had been located.

The crew of the research vessel Petrel is hoping to find and survey all lost ships from the 1942 Battle of Midway, which historians consider a pivotal fight for the U.S. in the Pacific during WWII.

The battle was fought between American and Japanese aircraft carriers and warplanes about 200 miles (320 kilometers) off Midway Atoll, a former military installation that the Japanese hoped to capture in a surprise attack.

The U.S., however, intercepted Japanese communications about the strike and were waiting when they arrived. More than 2,000 Japanese and 300 Americans died.

The expedition is an effort started by the late Paul Allen, the billionaire co-founder of Microsoft. For years, the crew of the 250-foot (76-meter) Petrel has worked with the U.S. Navy and other officials around the world to locate and document sunken ships. It has found more than 30 vessels so far.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 27 of 41

Kraft says the crew's mission started with Allen's desire to honor his father's military service. Allen died last year.

"It really extends beyond that at this time," Kraft said. "We're honoring today's service members, it's about education and, you know, bringing history back to life for future generations."

Follow Associated Press Hawaii correspondent Caleb Jones on Instagram and Twitter as he joins the crew of the Petrel on its expedition.

Cowboys run over Eagles, take 1st in NFC East with 37-10 win

By SCHUYLER DIXON AP Pro Football Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Ezekiel Elliott powered into the Philadelphia secondary and simply ran over safety Malcolm Jenkins.

The apparent 14-yard touchdown run by the star Dallas running back was overturned on review because his knee was down at the 1 — but the message had been sent early in a game with the division lead on the line.

The Cowboys (4-3) are back in control of the NFC East after ending a three-game losing streak that clouded the high expectations for the defending division champions following a 3-0 start.

Elliott got his touchdown the play after overpowering Jenkins on his way to 111 yards, Dak Prescott threw an easy scoring pass on a great fake to his backfield mate before a late TD run and the Cowboys rolled to a 37-10 victory over the Eagles on Sunday night.

"That's how I play every week," Elliott said. "I like to think of the defense as a shield. In the first quarter, you hit them a couple times, you dent the shield a little bit. You keep on hitting it."

Prescott's 8-yard scoring run for the final points broke Roger Staubach's club record of 20 rushing TDs by a quarterback and sent the Cowboys into their open week feeling good after a week of talk that coach Jason Garrett's job might be on the line.

Next time out, they'll be going for a season sweep of the New York Giants and possibly a firmer hold on first in the NFC East.

"No doubt in my mind about how we were going to come out and perform tonight," Prescott said. "We didn't panic. We didn't have to say everything hit the fan, let's start over. We doubled down on who we are and just got better."

Carson Wentz threw an interception and had two of Philadelphia's three lost fumbles. The Eagles (3-4) dropped their second straight game after a two-game winning streak that looked like it might get their season going.

"A little embarrassed," Wentz said. "We didn't show up."

Brett Maher finished the highest-scoring half against Doug Pederson since he became coach of the Eagles in 2016, kicking a 63-yarder on the final play before halftime for a 27-7 lead.

Maher is the first kicker in NFL history with three field goals of at least 60 yards — and all three have been at least 62. He kicked a 62-yarder last week against the New York Jets. Maher's other from 62 was against the Eagles last season, his first in the league.

Pederson had to clarify during the week that he wasn't guaranteeing a win after saying on his radio show that his team would go down to Dallas, win the game and fly home in first place.

And the coach tried to reverse Philadelphia's trend of slow starts by taking the ball after winning the coin flip, just the second time in 33 winning flips that Pederson hasn't deferred in order to start the second half on offense.

It backfired when the Eagles fumbled on their first two possessions, leading to a pair of touchdowns after the Cowboys got the ball on the opponent's side of the 50 for the first two times this season.

Before that, Dallas was the only team in the NFL that hadn't started a drive on the favorable side of midfield.

"I feel like he got a statement today, and so we're going to let him go sleep on it," said defensive end

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 28 of 41

DeMarcus Lawrence, whose sack of Wentz created the second turnover.

Dallas Goedert fumbled on a hit from Jaylon Smith at the end of an 8-yard catch on the opening possession, and Maliek Collins recovered at the Philadelphia 45. Five plays later, receiver Tavon Austin took an option pitch 20 yards for the score.

After Wentz fumbled on the sack by Lawrence, and Antwaun Woods recovered, Elliott ran over Jenkins on the next play, then scored from the 1 after this initial TD was overturned.

"It starts with me," Pederson said. "This is one of those games that I take personal from that standpoint. I've got to get that fixed."

The Cowboys answered the only touchdown from Eagles — Wentz's 28-yard pass to Goedert — when Prescott faked a handoff to Elliott from the 1 and threw to a wide-open Blake Jarwin in the end zone for a 21-7 lead.

Prescott was 21 of 27 for 239 yards with a touchdown and an interception and had another 30 yards rushing. Amari Cooper caught five passes for 106 yards after missing most of a loss to the previously winless Jets with a thigh injury.

Wentz was 16 of 26 for 191 yards and the Cowboys held the Eagles to 283 yards after letting second-year Jets quarterback Sam Darnold have one of his best games as a pro last week.

GROUND CONTROL

Dallas finished with 189 yards rushing, 116 more than the average that the league's No. 2 run defense was allowing.

Elliott, the last back to get 100 yards against the Eagles, did it again on 22 carries. The two-time NFL rushing champion is averaging 115 yards in five games against his division rival. It was his fourth 100-yard game of the season.

INJURIES

Dallas linebacker Leighton Vander Esch didn't return after injuring his neck in the first half. He walked off the field after staying down for a few minutes. Cowboys defensive end Robert Quinn had a sack in the first half before leaving with a rib injury.

UP NEXT

Eagles: At Buffalo next Sunday.

Cowboys: At the Giants on Monday, Nov. 4.

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

1st federal opioid crisis trial to focus on distribution

By **JULIE CARR SMYTH** and **GEOFF MULVIHILL** Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — The case is about the conduct of a group of companies in two Ohio counties, but far more than that is riding on the first federal trial on the opioid crisis, expected to open Monday in Cleveland.

The counties are looking for money to help them fight and fix the epidemic, while families who lost loved ones to overdoses are seeking justice. The companies, meanwhile, say they followed the law and are aren't to blame for the crisis.

"This is not your typical tort product liability case. It's really about an epidemic," said Carl Tobias, a professor in the law school at the University of Richmond. "There are so many different motivations among so many different players, it's virtually impossible to know what would be good."

State, local and tribal governments plus hospitals and others have filed a total of more than 2,600 lawsuits against drugmakers, distributors and pharmacies seeking to hold them accountable for the nation's opioid crisis, which has been linked to more than 400,000 deaths in the U.S. since 2000. That includes fatal overdoses from both prescription opioids and illegal ones such as heroin and illicitly made fentanyl.

The Cleveland case focuses on just two of those claims, from Ohio's Cuyahoga and Summit counties. But the case is a legal bellwether intended to signal how rulings might go in other cases in federal court, so it's being closely watched by the drug industry and advocates.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 29 of 41

Just six companies remain in the case after a series of settlements, including one with Johnson & Johnson and a tentative deal with OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma, which has since filed for bankruptcy protection. They are drugmaker Teva, which owns Cephalon and Actavis; the major distributors AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson; the smaller distributor Henry Schein; and pharmacy chain Walgreens in its capacity as a distributor.

The heart of most opioid lawsuits is a claim that drug companies improperly marketed the powerful painkillers to doctors and other prescribers, overselling the benefits and understating the risks of a class of drugs long linked to addiction. In the only opioid crisis case to go to trial so far in state court, an Oklahoma judge ruled against Johnson & Johnson and ordered the company to pay \$572 million in damages.

With just one drugmaker left in the federal trial, the Cleveland case is expected to focus on how the drugs were distributed: Were the companies obligated to halt shipments of suspicious orders and, if so, did they comply?

In legal filings, the companies have asserted that they should not be found liable. The drugs were prescribed by doctors with orders filled by pharmacies. The federal Drug Enforcement Administration kept raising the quota for how many should be made even as overdoses rose.

Distributors argue that their function was mostly as a delivery service.

"The distributors' role is to help ensure that medicines prescribed by licensed doctors are delivered to licensed pharmacies, so they are available for patients who need them, when they need them, where they need them," the three large distributors said in a joint statement issued after settlement negotiations hit an impasse on Friday. "We have to balance our mission to deliver medicines to pharmacies and hospitals when and where they need them against our important efforts to prevent and detect illegal diversion of those drugs."

The companies said they were prepared to mount a vigorous defense.

Federal distribution data released as part of the Cleveland litigation showed they moved a massive quantity of drugs. An Associated Press analysis of federal drug distribution data found that in 2012, enough prescription opioids were shipped for every man, woman and child in the U.S. to have a 20-day supply.

In court filings, the companies have questioned the fairness of the trial, saying it should be longer than seven weeks and that splitting 100 hours among them for questioning witnesses is not adequate.

Witnesses expected to be called during the opening days of testimony include two experts on addiction, an official with the Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Service Board, a fire chief and Travis Bornstein, whose son Tyler fatally overdosed in 2014 at age 18.

U.S. District Court Judge Dan Polster, who is handling the Cleveland trial and overseeing all the opioid suits in federal courts, has long been pushing for settlements as a way to distribute money and make a difference in the fight against a complicated epidemic.

Last week, Teva, the three major distributors and Johnson & Johnson, were working on a deal that North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein said would have been worth about \$48 billion in cash and free treatment drugs over time. The deal was intended to resolve all the suits against the companies, not just the claims to be heard in Cleveland.

Attorneys general, lead lawyers for local governments and CEOs of the companies met for a daylong negotiating session in Cleveland on Friday. They could not get a deal completed but talks were to continue. The differences were not only between the companies and the government entities, but also between the attorneys general and local government attorneys about how the money would be distributed.

On Sunday, a committee helping guide Purdue's bankruptcy sent a letter to defendants in cases across the country suggesting they might be able to contribute to a fund and have the bankruptcy judge handling Purdue's case end suits against them, too.

David Humes, a Delaware man whose son Greg died of a heroin overdose in 2012, has dedicated himself to fighting the opioid epidemic. He does not want to wait for hundreds of lawsuits to work their way through courts to see major nationwide action.

"The longer these several hundred municipal suits take is a delay in getting help for the people who

most need it," he said.

But he also was critical of the settlement proposals on the table: "The offers we've seen so far are nothing close to the right settlement," he said.

Mulvihill reported from Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

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

Frustrated US diplomats fight back in impeachment probe

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three years of simmering frustration inside the State Department is boiling over on Capitol Hill as a parade of current and former diplomats testify to their concerns about the Trump administration's unorthodox policy toward Ukraine.

Over White House objections, the diplomats are appearing before impeachment investigators looking into President Donald Trump's dealings with Ukraine and they're recounting stories of possible impropriety, misconduct and mistreatment by their superiors.

To Trump and his allies, the diplomats are evidence of a "deep state" within the government that has been out to get him from the start. But to the employees of a department demoralized by the administration's repeated attempts to slash its budget and staff, cooperating with the inquiry is seen as a moment of catharsis, an opportunity to reassert the foreign policy norms they believe Trump has blown past.

"It's taken a while to understand just how weird the policy process has become but it was inevitable," said Ronald Neumann, president of the American Academy of Diplomacy. The group wrote a letter last month calling for the administration to support career diplomats and protect them from politicization.

The State Department officials parading through Capitol Hill include high-ranking diplomats with decades of experience serving both Republican and Democratic administrations. Among them: Kurt Volker, who resigned as the administration's special envoy to Ukraine after being named in the whistleblower complaint that jumpstarted the impeachment inquiry.

Others who have testified behind closed doors include Marie Yovanovitch, the former ambassador to Ukraine who was pushed out of the post after a concerted campaign by Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani; Michael McKinley, who resigned after 37 years in the foreign service in part over treatment of Yovanovitch; and Fiona Hill, a National Security Council staffer who worked closely with the former Ukrainian ambassador.

Volker told investigators he did not believe there was anything improper in his dealings in Ukraine. But the others have all spoken of their unease and concern about Trump's approach to Ukraine and their testimony has largely corroborated the whistleblower's complaint, which centered on a July phone call between Trump and Ukraine's leader, as well as Giuliani's dealings in the former Soviet republic.

Yovanovitch, who remains a State Department employee, said she was "incredulous" at being recalled early from her post despite having been told she did nothing wrong. She lamented that her experience is evidence that American diplomats can no longer count on support from their government if they are attacked by foreign interests.

"That basic understanding no longer holds true," she said according to the text of her opening statement to lawmakers. "Today, we see the State Department attacked and hollowed out from within."

McKinley said he was "disturbed by the implication that foreign governments were being approached to procure negative information on political opponents."

Trump has long cast career government officials as part of the "deep state" out to undermine him, associating the officials' service under Democratic administrations as signs of their political leanings. That's despite the fact that most longtime career officials have served under both Republicans and Democrats.

Mick Mulvaney, the acting White House chief of staff, argued last week that the diplomats were disparag-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 31 of 41

ing Trump because they were upset that he was imposing his political priorities on their work. He singled out in particular McKinley, who entered the foreign service while Republican Ronald Reagan was in the White House and had served under presidents from both parties.

"Elections have consequences and foreign policy is going to change from the Obama administration to the Trump administration," Mulvaney said. "And what you're seeing now, I believe, is a group of mostly career bureaucrats who are saying, 'You know what? I don't like President Trump's politics, so I'm going to participate in this witch hunt that they're undertaking on the Hill.'"

Former Deputy Secretary of State William Burns called Mulvaney's assertion "offensive."

"For them to be dismissed unfairly and accused of acting out of some political motive I think is just wrong," said Burns, who is now president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"They are demonstrating that they are responsible, decent public servants and that they have an obligation to tell the truth even when it isn't convenient for the administration," he said. "It gives a lie to the deep state caricature. These aren't people plotting behind anyone's back. They are stepping up to do their jobs."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, in an interview Sunday with ABC's "This Week," joked, "I think Bill Burns must be auditioning to be Elizabeth Warren's secretary of state." Warren, a Massachusetts senator, is a Democratic presidential candidate.

The White House has insisted the administration, including career officials, would not participate in the impeachment investigation. Democrats have compelled the testimony of most of the officials through subpoenas and the State Department has so far not retaliated against those who have appeared.

Neumann, the American Academy of Diplomacy president, urged Pompeo to back up his staff if there are calls for them to be punished.

"So far, Pompeo has failed to show loyalty to the people who work for him," he said. "But, he has another test. Does anything happen to those who testify? If nothing happens, I would give Pompeo credit for having blocked it."

Pompeo has not spoken frequently about the inquiry except to say it is unfair to the people who work for him because they are not allowed to bring State Department lawyers with them to testify.

"My view is that each of us has a solemn responsibility to defend the Constitution and to speak the truth. ... I hope those officers who go to Capitol Hill will speak truthfully, that they'll speak completely," he said Sunday.

Two more diplomats get their turn to talk this week: William Taylor, currently the top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine, and Philip Reeker, the acting assistant secretary of state for Europe.

Donald Trump Jr.: A potent voice for father's campaign

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The shout of "2024!" from the crowd was unmistakable. It stopped Donald Trump Jr. cold.

President Donald Trump's eldest son had been in the midst of a humor-laced screed in which he decried Joe Biden as too old and Elizabeth Warren as too liberal and insisted his father's 2016 campaign was too disorganized to possibly collude with the Russians. As many in the crowd of several hundred laughed, Trump Jr. held a dramatic pause before exclaiming his response:

"Let's worry about 2020 first!" he yelled.

The son has become the prime warmup act for the father at political rallies, often appearing more than an hour before the president speaks, another bombastic provocateur who revels in the tribal loyalty of the supporters who pack Trump rallies. It is a call to arms to a fawning crowd and Donald Jr. has become a master preacher.

His speeches are laced with the same incendiary, sometimes false rhetoric as his father's, at times even questioning whether Democrats can call themselves Christians. But in these venues, his word is gospel.

The "2024" call from the audience at a San Antonio convention center room on Tuesday underscored the rising stardom of the president's eldest son, who has become the swaggering embodiment of the "Make

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 32 of 41

America Great Again" ethos.

By far the presidential scion with the closest connection to conservative voters, Trump Jr. is already key in his father's reelection effort, especially in deep red Republican districts. But where he was once under the scrutiny of special counsel Robert Mueller, now he is drawing criticism for seemingly hypocritical attacks on another son of a famous politician.

And he doesn't seem to care at all.

"In 2016, my father said something very serious. He goes: 'What do you have to lose?' And he was right," said Trump Jr, broadening a pitch the president first made to black voters to reach the entire electorate. "So America, you gave him a chance and he has delivered on those promises. Now, what do you have to lose? A lot."

And then Trump Jr, who was the headliner on this warm October day, gleefully skewered one of the president's Democratic foes. "Joe Biden, when on the campaign trail, his whole thesis was that government has failed. No s--t, Joe!"

Trump Jr. was one of the campaign's potent tools in 2016, frequently sent out to small towns and rural areas where the Republican candidate looked to turn out disaffected voters who hadn't cast ballots in years. An even more aggressive campaign schedule is in the works for 2020.

"He's the future," said Annie Davidson, 65, of Alamo Heights. "He's just like his father and I can't wait to vote for him someday too."

By far the most outspoken of his siblings, Trump Jr. has never shied away from a political fight, even when it leads some to question his own sense of self-awareness.

He has been one of the loudest critics of Biden's son Hunter, suggesting that Hunter Biden only had opportunities in other countries, including Ukraine, because of family connections.

"When you're the father and your son's entire career is dependent on that, they own you," Trump Jr. told Fox News this past week.

Some critics could not resist noting that Donald Trump Jr. shares both the first and last names of a man who gave him his high-paying corporate job and elevated his standing during the 2016 presidential campaign. It was the president's push for Ukraine to investigate the Bidens that prompted House Democrats to launch an impeachment investigation.

"We're left with a situation where every presidential action is under a cloud of suspicion for corruption, and that suspicion increasingly seems justified," said Noah Bookbinder, executive director of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington.

Trump Jr. has pushed back, suggesting that his criticism of Hunter Biden was not for having a famous father, but rather for trading access to his father's office to enrich himself. But neither Biden has been charged with wrongdoing.

Hunter Biden told ABC this past week that while his decision to take the job was not unethical, it showed "poor judgment." But he also made clear that "Trump Jr. is not somebody that I really care about."

Despite a pledge to cease all new international business once the president took office, the Trump Organization has continued to work on previously struck agreements and profited from the presidency. Congress has called for investigations into foreign officials being steered to stay at the Trump hotel in Washington, Air Force crew members spending nights at Trump's Scotland golf resort and Vice President Mike Pence lodging at Trump's Irish golf course, more than an hour from his destination.

Trump Jr.'s eyebrow-raising attacks on another political son came just days after he had to distance himself from a headline-grabbing tempest when it was revealed that he had recently attended a Florida conference for Trump supporters where a parody video was screened that depicted the president killing members of the news media and political opponents.

Trump Jr. said he never saw the video, which aired as part of a three-day conference at the president's golf club outside Miami. But Trump Jr., who prides himself in his ability to use social media to poke at liberals, was quick to draw an equivalency on Friday. He used Twitter to point out an apparel company's Midtown Manhattan billboard that depicted the president being assaulted.

"Since you had time to thoroughly cover a stupid and tasteless meme seen by 8 people with incredible

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 33 of 41

outrage, I figured you should dedicate the same time and outrage to THIS BILLBOARD IN TIMES SQUARE you hypocrites!" he tweeted. "Unless of course you're just full of s--t."

Trump Jr. has long relished posting button-pushing tweets. His Twitter feed has traded in conspiracy theories and hardline messages about immigration and gun control and he has a book on the way that hits the same themes. He once circulated a post that compared Syrian refugees to a bowl of Skittles candy that contained some that "would kill you."

Trump Jr. declined a request for an interview for this story.

He is unbowed and unapologetic, and his approach appears to mirror his father's combative defiance toward the controversies that swirl around the White House and the Trump family.

Though he runs the Trump Organization with his brother, Eric, Trump Jr.'s political obligations frequently keep him far from his office on the 25th floor of Trump Tower. The more politically minded of the two brothers, Trump Jr. has embraced his role as a popular emissary for his father, crisscrossing the country on campaign trips, showcasing his relationship with former Fox News host Kim Guilfoyle and headlining Republican fundraisers.

Though he grew up in Manhattan and Florida's gilded coast, Trump Jr. has established deep ties among rural Republicans and has become an outspoken defender of the Second Amendment. He is viewed by many close to the president as a more logical political heir apparent than his sister, the far more cosmopolitan and refined Ivanka Trump. Where Ivanka Trump, a senior White House aide, has taken to promoting women's and economic issues while hovering in diplomatic circles at international summits, Trump Jr.'s Instagram feed is filled with hunting and fishing photos.

In 2018, he did more than 70 events for GOP candidates and state parties and will easily eclipse that next year when his father's name is on the ballot. Those close to him say he may run for office someday, but probably not until after his five children are considerably older.

His front-and-center role for the campaign is a relatively unusual one for recent presidential offspring. Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton had children too young to campaign. While President George H.W. Bush's adult children, including a future president, were in Washington at times, they did not possess the star presence of Trump Jr.

He has not shied away from the spotlight or criticism, having been battle-hardened by the pressure he faced during special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation, which looked into a 2016 meeting Trump Jr. had with a Kremlin-connected lawyer seeking damaging information on Hillary Clinton. No charges were brought against him.

On the campaign trail, Trump Jr. derides the impeachment inquiry and credits his father's business skills for economic gains, declaring in San Antonio: "It's nice to have someone running the country who has signed the front of a paycheck and not just the back."

The crowd roared and Guilfoyle applauded. After the rally, the eldest Trump son headlined a big-dollar dinner in Texas and, days later, was barnstorming in West Virginia for more Republican candidates.

There was more talk of, someday, a possible Trump political dynasty.

"I expect Don to be a player in the conservative movement for years and years to come," said Andrew Surabian, a Republican strategist who advises Trump Jr.

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

Canada elects Parliament in vote seen as threat to Trudeau

By **ROB GILLIES** Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canadians are electing a new Parliament on Monday after a tight election campaign that has raised the threat of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau being knocked from power after one term.

The 47-year-old Trudeau channeled the star power of his father, the liberal icon and late Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, when he won in 2015 but a combination of scandal and high expectations have damaged his prospects.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 34 of 41

Polls indicate Trudeau's Liberal Party could lose to the rival Conservatives, or perhaps win but still fail to get a majority of seats in Parliament and have to rely on an opposition party to remain in power.

Not in 84 years has a first-term Canadian prime minister with a parliamentary majority lost a bid for re-election.

Trudeau reasserted liberalism in 2015 after almost 10 years of Conservative Party government in Canada, but he is one of the few remaining progressive leaders in the world. He has been viewed as a beacon for liberals in the Trump era, even appearing on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine under the headline "Why Can't He Be Our President?"

Perhaps sensing Trudeau is in trouble, Barack Obama made an unprecedented endorsement by a former American president in urging Canadians to re-elect Trudeau and saying the world needs his progressive leadership now.

But old photos of Trudeau in blackface and brownface surfaced last month, casting doubt on his judgment.

Trudeau also was hurt by a scandal that erupted this year when his former attorney general said he pressured her to halt the prosecution of a Quebec company. Trudeau has said he was standing up for jobs, but the damage gave a boost to the Conservative Party led by Andrew Scheer.

No party is expected to get a majority of Parliament's 338 seats, so a shaky alliance may be needed to pass legislation.

If Conservatives should win the most seats — but not a majority — they would probably try to form a government with the backing of Quebec's separatist Bloc Quebecois party. Trudeau's Liberals would likely rely on the New Democrats to stay in power.

Scheer is a career politician described by those in his own party as bland, a possible antidote for those tired of Trudeau's flash. Scheer, 40, calls Trudeau a phony who can't even recall how many times he has worn blackface.

Jason Kenney, Alberta's premier and a close friend of Scheer, calls the Conservative leader "an extremely normal Canadian" who is so nice he "can't fake being mean."

Scheer, however, has so relentlessly attacked Trudeau that Nik Nanos, a Canadian pollster, said he hasn't been himself.

"Scheer has been hostage to the message," Nanos said. "His campaign has made him into an attack machine."

Conservative supporters chanted "Lock him up! Lock him up!" at a rally Saturday after Scheer said he would investigate Trudeau's attorney general scandal — mirroring the Hillary Clinton "Lock her up!" chant popular at Donald Trump rallies. Scheer moved to calm the crowd and changed the chant to "Vote him out."

Trudeau embraced immigration at a time when the U.S. and other countries are closing their doors, and he legalized cannabis nationwide.

His efforts to strike a balance on the environment and the economy have been criticized by both the right and left. He brought in a carbon tax to fight climate change but rescued a stalled pipeline expansion project to get Alberta's oil to international markets.

His also negotiated a new free trade deal for Canada with the U.S. and Mexico amid threats by President Donald Trump to scrap it.

Scheer is promising to end the carbon tax and cut government spending, including foreign aid, by 25%. "That money belongs to you, not to them," Scheer said.

Mulvaney's missteps draw scrutiny from Trump allies

By ZEKE MILLER, JILL COLVIN and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For Mick Mulvaney, the hits just keep on coming.

First, President Donald Trump's acting chief of staff stirred up a tempest by acknowledging that the administration had held up aid to Ukraine in part to prod that country to investigate Democrats and the 2016 elections. Then Mulvaney went on television Sunday to defend his boss in effusive terms — and ended up making a new problematic comment.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 35 of 41

Explaining why Trump had tried to steer an international summit to one of the president's own properties before giving up on the idea, Mulvaney said Trump "still considers himself to be in the hospitality business." That did nothing to allay concerns that the president has used his office to enrich his business interests.

The bookended performances over the span of a few days were panned by the president's allies and cast doubt on Mulvaney's job security at the White House.

Mulvaney denied on "Fox News Sunday" that there was any consideration of his resignation, "Absolutely, positively not."

At a press conference Thursday, Mulvaney tried to put a positive spin on Trump's selection of his Doral, Florida, golf resort to host next year's Group of Seven world summit. It was also an opportunity for Mulvaney demonstrate his ability to defend the president.

He struggled, in the process offering fresh fodder to critics of a president already besieged by an impeachment inquiry.

Mulvaney asserted in the briefing that military aid to Ukraine was delayed partly because Trump wanted officials there to look into a security company hired by the Democratic National Committee that discovered that Russian agents had broken into the committee's network in 2016.

"The look back to what happened in 2016 certainly was part of the thing that he was worried about in corruption with that nation," Mulvaney told reporters. "Did he also mention to me in the past the corruption that related to the DNC server? Absolutely, no question about that." Mulvaney continued: "That's why we held up the money." Trump's personal lawyers quickly dissociated themselves from the chief of staff's comments.

Mulvaney's description of the administration's handling of the Ukraine aid amounted to a quid pro quo, though he later claimed his comments had been misconstrued.

"That's not what I said," Mulvaney told "Fox News Sunday" as host Chris Wallace repeatedly confronted him with his own comments. "That's what people said that I said."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo refused to defend the comments in an interview Sunday with ABC's "This Week."

"I will leave to the chief of staff to explain what it is he said and what he intended," Pompeo said.

Mulvaney is not aware of any effort to replace him, according to a person close to him who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal conversations. The president has also expressed his support for Mulvaney to the acting chief of staff's team, the person said. Press secretary Stephanie Grisham said Sunday afternoon that Mulvaney still has the confidence of the president.

The news conference on Thursday left aides in the West Wing dumbfounded at the former South Carolina congressman's performance and some quarters of Trump's orbit — the Justice Department and Trump's personal attorney, among them — dissociating themselves from his account. The president himself, already angry that Republicans were not defending him on Syria and Doral, was also displeased that Mulvaney only made the headlines worse, according to three White House officials and Republicans close to the White House not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

Still, a swift dismissal doesn't appear on the horizon, according to nine staffers and outside advisers, who noted the difficulties Trump has faced attracting and retaining high quality White House staff even before the impeachment episode. The shortage of viable replacements has kept other officials in their posts months after he soured on them.

Even before Democrats launched the impeachment inquiry, Mulvaney was on thin ice, with diminished status in the White House. Holding the job of acting chief of staff since January, Mulvaney has frustrated aides who saw him as less willing than his predecessors to challenge the president.

Once Democrats began investigations meant to remove Trump from office, Mulvaney drew the brunt of criticism from presidential allies who felt the White House wasn't prepared to fight back forcefully.

He has also clashed with White House counsel Pat Cipollone, sometimes mentioned as a potential Mulvaney successor, over strategy and tactics in response to impeachment. Mulvaney has complained that he had been iced out of the process, which the lawyer was treating as a legal, not political, matter.

Trump's decision late Saturday to reverse course on his much-criticized plan to host the G-7 at Doral was

the latest move that called into question Mulvaney's job security.

Mulvaney had insisted that White House staff concluded that Doral was "far and away the best physical facility" and tried to push back at concerns raised by Democrats and some Republicans that Trump was using the presidency to enrich himself.

Mulvaney said Sunday that Trump was "honestly surprised at the level of pushback" on his choice of Doral.

That notion struck some Trump allies as hollow, because the uproar was resounding in August when the president first floated the idea of choosing Doral. They argued that the president's aides, Mulvaney first among them, either should have persuaded him not to hold it there or devised a better communications strategy.

"Could we have put on an excellent G-7 at Doral? Absolutely," Mulvaney concluded on Fox. "Will we end up putting on an excellent G-7 someplace else? Yes we will."

US defense chief in Afghanistan for firsthand look at war

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR** Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Mark Esper sought a firsthand assessment Sunday of the U.S. military's future role in America's longest war as he made his initial visit to Afghanistan as Pentagon chief. Stalled peace talks with the Taliban and unrelenting attacks by the insurgent group and Islamic State militants have complicated the Trump administration's pledge to withdraw more than 5,000 American troops.

Esper told reporters traveling with him that he believes the U.S. can reduce its force in Afghanistan to 8,600 without hurting the counterterrorism fight against al-Qaida and the Islamic State group. But he said any withdrawal would happen as part of a peace agreement with the Taliban.

The U.S. has about 14,000 American troops in Afghanistan as part of the American-led coalition. U.S. forces are training and advising Afghan forces and conducting counterterrorism operations against extremists. President Donald Trump had ordered a troop withdrawal in conjunction with the peace talks that would have left about 8,600 American forces in the country.

U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad had a preliminary peace deal with the Taliban, but a surge in Taliban violence and the death of an American soldier last month prompted Trump to cancel a secret Camp David meeting where the peace deal would have been finalized. He declared the tentative agreement dead.

"The aim is to still get a peace agreement at some point, that's the best way forward," said Esper. He visited Afghanistan in his previous job as U.S. Army secretary.

He would not say how long he believes it may be before a new peace accord could be achieved.

A month after the peace agreement collapsed, Khalilzad met with Taliban in early October in Islamabad, Pakistan, but it was not clear what progress, if any, was being made.

Esper's arrival in Kabul came as Afghan government leaders delayed the planned announcement of preliminary results of last month's presidential election. Esper met with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and other government officials.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was visiting Afghanistan with a congressional delegation at the same time.

Her office said in a statement Sunday night the bipartisan delegation met with top Afghan leaders, civil society representatives and U.S. military chiefs and troops serving there. Pelosi says the delegation emphasized the importance of combating corruption and ensuring women are at the table in reconciliation talks.

Both Ghani and his current partner in the unity government, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, have said they believe they had enough votes to win. The Sept. 28 vote was marred by widespread misconduct and accusations of fraud.

Officials said the announcement of preliminary results has been delayed due to problems with the transparency of the process, delays in transferring ballot papers and delays in transferring data from a biometric system into the main server.

Esper planned to meet with his top commanders in Afghanistan as the U.S. works to determine the way ahead in the 18-year war.

Trump, since his 2016 presidential campaign, has spoken of a need to withdraw U.S. troops from the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 37 of 41

"endless war" in Afghanistan. He has complained that the U.S. has been serving as policemen in Afghanistan, and says that's not the American military's job.

Hong Kong descends into chaos again as protesters defy ban

By KELVIN CHAN Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong streets descended into chaotic scenes following an unauthorized pro-democracy rally Sunday, as protesters set up roadblocks and torched businesses, and police responded with tear gas and a water cannon.

Protesters tossed firebombs and took their anger out on shops with mainland Chinese ties as they skirmished late into the evening with riot police, who unleashed numerous tear gas rounds on short notice, angering residents and passers-by.

Police had beefed up security measures ahead of the rally, for which they refused to give permission, the latest chapter in the unrest that has disrupted life in the financial hub since early June.

Some 24 people were hurt and treated at hospitals, including six with serious injuries, the Hospital Authority said.

Police did not give an arrest figure. One person was seen being handcuffed and taken away to a police van.

As the rally march set off, protest leaders carried a black banner that read, "Five main demands, not one less," as they pressed their calls for police accountability and political rights in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Supporters sang the protest movement's anthem, waved colonial and U.S. flags, and held up placards depicting the Chinese flag as a Nazi swastika.

Many protesters wore masks in defiance of a recently introduced ban on face coverings at public gatherings, and volunteers handed more out to the crowd.

Matthew Lee, a university student, said he was determined to keep protesting even after more than four months.

"I can see some people want to give up, but I don't want to do this because Hong Kong is my home, we want to protect this place, protect Hong Kong," he said. "You can't give up because Hong Kong is your home."

Some front-line protesters barricaded streets at multiple locations in Kowloon, where the city's subway operator restricted passenger access.

They tore up stones from the sidewalk and scattered them on the road, commandeered plastic safety barriers and unscrewed metal railings to form makeshift roadblocks.

A water cannon truck and armored car led a column of dozens of police vans up and down Nathan Road, a major artery lined with shops, to spray a stinging blue-dyed liquid as police moved to clear the road of protesters and barricades.

At one point, the water cannon sprayed a handful of people standing outside a mosque. Local broadcaster RTHK reported that the people hit were guarding the mosque and few protesters were nearby. The Hong Kong police force said it was an "unintended impact" of its operation to disperse protesters and later sent a representative to meet the mosque's imam.

As night fell, protesters returned to the streets, setting trash on fire at intersections.

Residents jeered riot police, cursing at them and telling them to leave. The officers, in turn, warned people that they were part of an illegal assembly and told them to leave, and unleashed tear gas to disperse the crowds.

Along the way, protesters trashed discount grocery shops and a restaurant chain because of what they say is the pro-Beijing ownership of the companies. They also set fire to ATMs and branches of mainland Chinese banks, setting off sprinklers in at least two, as well as a shop selling products from Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi.

The police used a bomb disposal robot to blow up a cardboard box with protruding wires that they

suspected was a bomb.

Organizers said ahead of the march that they wanted to use their right to protest as guaranteed by Hong Kong's constitution despite the risk of arrest.

"We're using peaceful, rational, nonviolent ways to voice our demands," Figo Chan, vice convener of the Civil Human Rights Front, told reporters. "We're not afraid of being arrested. What I'm most scared of is everyone giving up on our principles."

The group has organized some of the movement's biggest protest marches. One of its leaders, Jimmy Sham, was attacked on Wednesday by assailants wielding hammers.

On Saturday, Hong Kong police arrested a 22-year-old man on suspicion of stabbing a teenage activist who was distributing leaflets near a wall plastered with pro-democracy messages. A witness told RTHK that the assailant shouted afterward that Hong Kong is "a part of China" and other pro-Beijing messages.

The protest movement sprang out of opposition to a government proposal for an extradition bill that would have sent suspects to mainland China to stand trial, and then ballooned into broader demands for full democracy and an inquiry into alleged police brutality.

Follow Kelvin Chan at twitter.com/chanman

Leaning cranes toppled at partly collapsed New Orleans hotel

By **REBECCA SANTANA** Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Thundering explosions toppled two cranes Sunday that had loomed precariously for days over a partially collapsed hotel in New Orleans, in what city officials hailed as a success and said efforts now would focus on retrieving two bodies still inside the ruined building.

The fiery afternoon explosions sent up massive clouds of dust and sent one crane crashing to the street while the second fell in a way that left much of it resting atop the hotel where officials said it was "stable" and could be removed piecemeal.

"We know that we are safer now than we have been in the past eight days," said Mayor LaToya Cantrell, speaking at a news conference after the explosions roared through the city's downtown.

It was a little more than a week ago — Oct. 12 — that the Hard Rock Hotel that was under construction near the historic French Quarter partially collapsed. Three workers died that day when several floors of the multistory building pancaked. Only one body has been removed so far.

The cranes — one around 270 feet (82 meters) high, the other about 300 feet (91 meters) — weighed thousands of tons and were badly damaged in the collapse. They had been tilting dangerously, and officials had feared the towers would come down on their own, possibly smashing into nearby buildings or severely damaging underground gas and electric lines.

But once the dust had cleared Sunday, it appeared that none of those worst-case scenarios came to pass. The mayor said three windows at the historic Saenger Theater across the street were damaged but they hadn't received reports of other buildings damaged.

A sewer line was damaged as well, but the mayor said padding that was designed to protect the gas and electric lines — a major concern — worked as expected.

"I do not think it could have gone much better," said Fire Chief Tim McConnell, flanking the mayor.

He added that one crane fell and got "hooked on the building like we wanted. It's very stable." He said "it's way better than what it looks" because of the way it is resting, adding it would now be cut away in pieces by workers using another crane and taken away.

Officials had repeatedly asked people not to come see the explosions but there were still throngs of people on the streets. Some had brought their own earplugs and masks to protect against the dust. Others had to be removed from nearby rooftops where they had gathered to gawk as police did their final checks.

Loud alarms sounded, and a voice on the police radio said repeatedly "Prepare for detonation!" before explosions set off a thunderous boom. Flashes from the blasts could be seen as the explosives went off.

One crane that officials had been referring to as Charlie landed on Rampart Street — standing straight

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 39 of 41

up — the blackened end visible where the explosives had been placed.

"We did shake the building pretty good," McConnell said.

Cantrell told reporters that authorities will now begin focusing on bringing out the bodies of the two remaining workers. Already, workers were beginning to remove rubble from the streets shortly after the blasts, and engineers were going through the building to assess the situation as a drone flew overhead for an aerial view.

The mayor said a monitor had been placed near one of the bodies before the crane demolition so they would know where to locate it, and the demolition didn't seem to affect the areas where the bodies were.

Authorities cautioned that the building remains dangerous and unstable though it did not collapse further with Sunday's demolition. After the bodies are removed, Cantrell said, the building would be demolished.

"Let me be very clear. The expectation and the next mission after we remove our people from the site will be full demolition," she said.

Since the building collapsed, the towering cranes had been the focus of officials' concern. Experts, including engineers who worked on demolitions following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, were called in to try to devise a plan before the cranes fell on their own.

On Thursday, officials announced plans to drop the cranes in a controlled demolition. Workers suspended in a small bucket attached small explosives to various locations on the two cranes, with the goal of causing a series of explosions that would weaken the cranes at key locations and cause them to collapse.

Once planned for Friday, the demolition was pushed back to Saturday, then Sunday.

Officials expanded an evacuation zone in the leadup to the detonation, and in an even wider area, vehicles were prohibited and people were told to stay indoors until the demolition was complete.

The cause of the collapse remains unknown. The Occupational Health and Safety Administration and police are investigating and, officials said evidence gathering began soon after the collapse.

Follow Santana on Twitter @ruskygal.

Report: Synagogue massacre led to string of attack plots

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — At least 12 white supremacists have been arrested on allegations of plotting, threatening or carrying out anti-Semitic attacks in the U.S. since the massacre at a Pittsburgh synagogue nearly one year ago, a Jewish civil rights group reported Sunday.

The Anti-Defamation League also counted at least 50 incidents in which white supremacists are accused of targeting Jewish institutions' property since a gunman killed 11 worshippers at the Tree of Life synagogue on Oct. 27, 2018. Those incidents include 12 cases of vandalism involving white supremacist symbols and 35 cases in which white supremacist propaganda was distributed.

The ADL said its nationwide count of anti-Semitic incidents remains near record levels. It has counted 780 anti-Semitic incidents in the first six months of 2019, compared to 785 incidents during the same period in 2018.

The ADL's tally of 12 arrests for white supremacist plots, threats and attacks against Jewish institutions includes the April 2019 capture of John T. Earnest, who is charged with killing one person and wounding three others in a shooting at a synagogue in Poway, California. The group said many of the cases it counted, including the Poway shooting, were inspired by previous white supremacist attacks. In online posts, Earnest said he was inspired by the deadly attacks in Pittsburgh and on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, where a gunman killed 51 people in March.

The ADL also counted three additional 2019 cases in which individuals were arrested for targeting Jews but weren't deemed to be white supremacists. Two were motivated by Islamist extremist ideology, the organization said.

The ADL said its Center on Extremism provided "critical intelligence" to law enforcement in at least three of the 12 cases it counted.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 40 of 41

Last December, authorities in Monroe, Washington, arrested a white supremacist after the ADL notified law enforcement about suspicions he threatened on Facebook to kill Jews in a synagogue. The ADL said it also helped authorities in Lehigh, Pennsylvania, identify a white supremacist accused of using aliases to post threatening messages, including a digital image of himself pointing an AR-15 rifle at a group of praying Jewish men.

In August, an FBI-led anti-terrorism task force arrested a Las Vegas man accused of plotting to firebomb a synagogue or other targets, including a bar catering to LGBTQ customers and the ADL's Las Vegas office. The ADL said it warned law enforcement officials about the man's online threats.

"We cannot and will not rest easy knowing the threat posed by white supremacists and other extremists against the Jewish community is clear and present," the group's CEO, Jonathan Greenblatt, said in a statement.

The ADL said it counted at least 30 additional incidents in which people with an "unknown ideology" targeted Jewish institutions with acts of arson, vandalism or propaganda distribution that the group deemed to be anti-Semitic or "generally hateful," but not explicitly white supremacist.

"These incidents include the shooting of an elderly man outside a synagogue in Miami, fires set at multiple Jewish institutions in New York and Massachusetts, Molotov cocktails thrown at synagogue windows in Chicago, damaged menorahs in Georgia and New Jersey, as well as a wide range of anti-Semitic graffiti," an ADL report said.

Today in History By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Oct. 21, the 294th day of 2019. There are 71 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 21, 1892, schoolchildren across the U.S. observed Columbus Day (according to the Gregorian date) by reciting, for the first time, the original version of "The Pledge of Allegiance," written by Francis Bellamy for The Youth's Companion.

On this date:

In 1797, the U.S. Navy frigate Constitution, also known as "Old Ironsides," was christened in Boston's harbor.

In 1879, Thomas Edison perfected a workable electric light at his laboratory in Menlo Park, N.J.

In 1917, members of the 1st Division of the U.S. Army training in Luneville (luhn-nay-VEEL'), France, became the first Americans to see action on the front lines of World War I.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. troops captured the German city of Aachen (AH'-kuhn).

In 1960, Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon clashed in their fourth and final presidential debate in New York.

In 1966, 144 people, 116 of them children, were killed when a coal waste landslide engulfed a school and some 20 houses in Aberfan, Wales.

In 1967, the Israeli destroyer INS Eilat (ay-LAH'T') was sunk by Egyptian missile boats near Port Said (sah-EED'); 47 Israeli crew members were lost. Tens of thousands of Vietnam War protesters began two days of demonstrations in Washington, D.C.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon nominated Lewis F. Powell and William H. Rehnquist to the U.S. Supreme Court. (Both nominees were confirmed.)

In 1976, Saul Bellow won the Nobel Prize for literature, the first American honored since John Steinbeck in 1954.

In 1985, former San Francisco Supervisor Dan White — who'd served five years in prison for killing Mayor George Moscone (mahs-KOH'-nee) and Supervisor Harvey Milk, a gay-rights advocate — was found dead in a garage, a suicide.

In 1996, President Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military survived its first Supreme

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 112 ~ 41 of 41

Court test.

In 2001, Washington, D.C., postal worker Thomas L. Morris Jr. died of inhalation anthrax as officials began testing thousands of postal employees.

Ten years ago: Northwest Airlines Flight 188, an Airbus A320, flew past the Minneapolis airport by more than 100 miles before turning around and landing safely; the pilots later said they'd been distracted while talking about their schedules. Authorities found the body of missing Florida 7-year-old Somer Thompson in a Georgia landfill (Jarred Harrell later pleaded guilty to kidnapping, rape and murder, and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole). Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jack Nelson of the Los Angeles Times died in Bethesda, Maryland, at 80. The Philadelphia Phillies beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 10-4 in Game 5 of the National League Championship Series to win their second straight NL pennant.

Five years ago: North Korea abruptly freed Jeffrey Fowle, an American, nearly six months after he was arrested for leaving a Bible in a nightclub. Former Washington Post executive editor Ben Bradlee, 93, died in Washington. The San Francisco Giants defeated the Kansas City Royals 7-1 in the first game of the World Series.

One year ago: A growing caravan of Honduran migrants continued through southern Mexico toward the United States, after getting past Mexican agents who briefly blocked them at the Guatemalan border. One of Taiwan's fastest passenger trains derailed on a curve along a popular weekend route, killing 18 people and injuring nearly 200 others. Bluegrass and country star Ricky Skaggs, singer Dottie West and fiddler Johnny Gimble were inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Joyce Randolph is 95. Rock singer Manfred Mann is 79. Musician Steve Cropper (Booker T. & the MG's) is 78. Singer Elvin Bishop is 77. TV's Judge Judy Sheindlin is 77. Actor Everett McGill is 74. Musician Lee Loughnane (LAHK'-nayn) (Chicago) is 73. Actor Dick Christie is 71. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is 70. Actress LaTanya Richardson Jackson is 70. Musician Charlotte Caffey (The Go-Go's) is 66. Movie director Catherine Hardwicke is 64. Singer Julian Cope is 62. Rock musician Steve Lukather (Toto) is 62. Actor Ken Watanabe (wah-tah-NAH'-bee) is 60. Actress Melora Walters is 59. Rock musician Che (chay) Colovita Lemon is 49. Rock singer-musician Nick Oliveri (Mondo Generator) is 48. Christian rock musician Charlie Lowell (Jars of Clay) is 46. Actor Jeremy Miller is 43. Country singer Matthew Ramsey (Old Dominion) is 42. Actor Will Estes is 41. Actor Michael McMillian is 41. Reality TV star Kim Kardashian (kahr-DASH'-ee-uhn) West is 39. Actor Matt Dallas is 37. Actress Charlotte Sullivan is 36. Actor Aaron Tveit (tuh-VAYT') is 36. Actor Glenn Powell is 31. Country singer Kane Brown is 26.

Thought for Today: "Silence is sometimes the severest criticism." — Charles Buxton, English writer (1823-1871).

Copyright 2019, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.