

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 1 of 39

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Dakota Brush Ad
- 1- Flea Market Ad
- 2- Reminder to remove hay bales
- 2- St. John's Luncheon Ad
- 3- Gas prices drop
- 4- Mosquito control Tuesday night
- 5- Pre-school screening for 3 year olds
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 7- Local Weather Forecast
- 8- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 8- Today's Weather Climate
- 8- National Weather map
- 9- Golden Living Ad
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10 - AP News

Netters lost to Webster Area last night, 3-0, by three identical scores of 25-22. We'll have more in tomorrow's GDI as I'm running short on time this morning.

Apts for Rent

1 bedroom and HUGE 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartments available NOW! All utilities included except A/C, 1 bedroom \$504 and HUGE 2 bedroom 2 bath \$674 Please call or text 239-849-7674

Flea Market

Flea Market for 12 days, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Aug. 26-Sept. 7. Vintage, Crocks, Fishing, Jewelry, Cream Cans, Marbles, Buttons, Lanterns, Oil Lamps, Yard Ornaments, Bookcases, Antiques, and Much More. 201 Hwy 25, across from Community Oil Co., Roslyn. New items added daily. 5 (10'x20') Canopys full!

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

© 2016 Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7

National Salami Day

Neither Rain nor Snow Day

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice or milk

School Lunch: Soft shell taco, tater tot, lettuce and tomato, fruit.

Senior Menu: Turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, carrot bar, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Alana White • Dannielle Dobberpuhl

• Faye Berndt • Kris Ferrington • Crystal Waage

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

3:45pm: St. John's Lutheran Confirmation

5:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Sarah Circle

6:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran League meets at Doeden's

Men's Night at Olive Grove

8

International Literacy Day

National Date Nut Bread Day

Pardon Day

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice or milk.

School Lunch: Meatballs, baked tiny potato, corn-tea bun, fruit.

Senior Menu: Lasagna rotini, tossed salad with dressing, ambrosia fruit salad, oatmeal spice cookie, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Seth Duncan • Kelly Kjelden

11:00am: **St. John's Soup, Sandwich and Pie Luncheon**

4:00pm: Boys Soccer at James Valley Christian

4:30pm: VB: at Britton-Hecla ((7th/C at 4:30,

Dakota Brush

Brooms, Brushes, Mops, Can Liners, Paper Products.

Get Ready for Spring With
Wash Brushes & Squeegees

397-9337

104 N. Main, Groton

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 2 of 39

Reminder to Remove Hay Bales from the Right of Way

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Department of Transportation reminds land owners hay remaining in highway ditches after Oct. 1 is deemed illegal.

After Oct. 1, the department will remove or authorize the removal of any illegal hay bales remaining in the public right of way.

Any person wishing to claim ownership of illegal bales must obtain a permit from the South Dakota Department of Transportation. Those permits are issued on a first-come first-served basis and allow permit holders to take ownership of any illegal hay bale.

Permits are available at Department of Transportation area offices in the following communities: Aberdeen, Belle Fourche, Custer, Huron, Mitchell, Mobridge, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Watertown, Winner and Yankton. Phone numbers can be found on the website at <http://www.sddot.com/dot/region/Default.aspx>.

For more information, contact the Division of Operations at 605-773-3571.

Soup, Sandwich and Pie Luncheon

\$2 Each

Thursday, Sept. 8

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Groton**

Craft and Bake Sale

**Supplemental funds have been
applied for from**

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 3 of 39

Gas Prices Drop to Close Out Labor Day Weekend

September 6, 2016 – South Dakota's pump price has dropped 8 cents since the end of June to stand today at \$2.278, according to <http://gasprices.aaa.com>.

"The good news for motorists is that gasoline prices typically fall after Labor Day as the end of the summer driving season reduces demand and the nation stockpiles oil," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "September also marks the start of refineries beginning their yearly transition to producing cheaper winter blends of gasoline. We expect retail prices to inch downward in the coming weeks."

	Today	Last Week	Change	Aug. 1	Change	Last year
Aberdeen	\$2.286	\$2.288	-\$0.002	\$2.23	\$0.052	\$2.402
Brookings	\$2.286	\$2.318	-\$0.032	\$2.10	\$0.187	\$2.458
Huron	\$2.319	\$2.366	-\$0.047	\$2.37	-\$0.052	\$2.751
Mitchell	\$2.274	\$2.227	\$0.047	\$2.29	-\$0.016	\$2.524
Pierre	\$2.402	\$2.450	-\$0.048	\$2.37	\$0.035	\$2.739
Rapid City	\$2.370	\$2.369	\$0.001	\$2.38	-\$0.010	\$2.758
Sioux Falls	\$2.127	\$2.212	-\$0.085	\$1.96	\$0.166	\$2.312
Vermillion	\$2.157	\$2.124	\$0.033	\$2.05	\$0.108	\$2.399
Watertown	\$2.299	\$2.332	-\$0.033	\$2.23	\$0.067	\$2.355
Yankton	\$2.261	\$2.380	-\$0.119	\$2.20	\$0.059	\$2.477
South Dakota	\$2.278	\$2.310	-\$0.032	\$2.22	\$0.060	\$2.541

The national average price for regular unleaded gasoline has dropped six consecutive days after rising for 16 straight days to close out August. Today's national average is \$2.20 per gallon. Gas prices started turning lower heading into the Labor Day weekend, which marks the unofficial end to the summer driving season. Today's national average is two cents less than a week ago and 18 cents less than a year ago but 8 cents more than one month ago. The year-on-year discount persists but has closed more than 30 cents in just 20 days.

Prices rose in the second half of August due to increasing crude oil prices and uncertainty regarding Hurricane Hermine's impact on Gulf Coast refineries. When it became clear that the storm would not impact production, prices dropped quickly during the second half of last week and through the weekend. While the possibility of future storms over the remaining months of hurricane season could send prices temporarily higher, the seasonal effects of lower demand – with the busy summer driving season in the rear view – combined with the changeover to cheaper-to-produce winter blend gasoline likely mean prices will move lower over the next several months.

Quick stats:

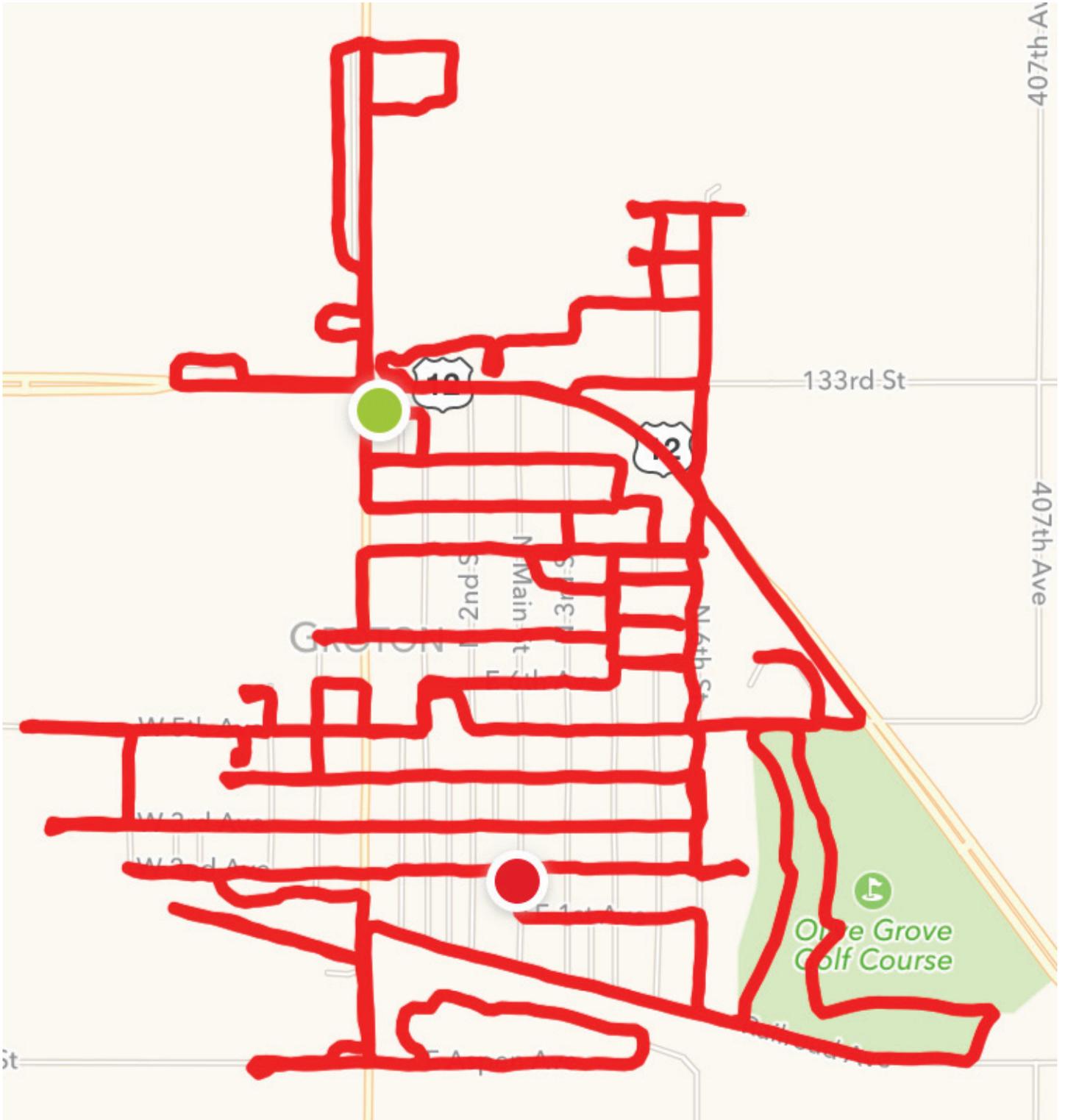
- Gas prices in four states are below \$2.00 per gallon: South Carolina (\$1.94), Alabama (\$1.97), Mississippi (\$1.98) and New Jersey (\$1.99).
- The biggest weekly price decreases are reflected in Michigan (-11 cents), Missouri (-7 cents), Oklahoma (-7 cents), Illinois (-6 cents), Minnesota (-4 cents), Ohio (-4 cents), Alaska (-3 cents), Iowa (-3 cents), Kentucky (-3 cents) and South Dakota (-3 cents).

Oil Market Dynamics

After jumping more than 20 percent during the first half of August, the price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil has dropped 10 percent over the past several weeks. The forces driving the market continue to be the strength of the U.S. dollar relative to other global currencies and the potential for OPEC and non-OPEC members to agree to a freeze in oil production when countries meet in Algiers later this month. Monday evening brought reports that Saudi Arabia and Russia met during the G20 summit and signed an oil cooperation agreement signaling an effort to work together in the world oil market. The possibility of an agreement briefly caused oil prices to rally, but when it was clear that the two countries did not make a firm commitment to halt production, prices again started to slide. Traders will continue to monitor these factors in the coming weeks for guidance on what direction oil markets will move this fall. At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI was up \$1.28 to settle at \$44.44 per barrel.

Mosquito Control Tuesday Night

The City of Groton did a mosquito control Tuesday night. Avenues were done as there was a slight northly breeze. Five gallons of Evolver was used and the temperature was 62 degrees.



2016 Groton Area Elementary

Preschool Developmental Screening for 3 year olds

September 19 and 22

Parents of children age 3 in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to either confirm their screening time or set up a time. Letters will be send out the week of September 6. If your child is already receiving services or enrolled at Groton Elementary School they will not need to be screened. If your child has already been screened but you have concerns please contact the elementary school.

The Developmental Screening will take place at the Groton Area High School Arena. Please park and use the east entrance to the arena.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 6 of 39

Today in Weather History

September 7, 1961: A tornado struck a farm near the McPherson-Brown county line, or about 10 miles east and 2 miles north of Leola, at around 825 pm CDT. All farm buildings were destroyed including two chicken coops, granary, machine shop, and two trailer homes. The house was pushed about a foot off its foundation and had windows broken, plaster cracked, and part of the roof ripped. A farm truck and tractor were both blown about 500 feet and demolished. Rain up to 2.5 inches and hail accompanied the storm and caused minor damage.

1881 - The temperature soared to 101 degrees at New York City, 102 degrees at Boston MA, and 104 degrees at Washington D.C. (David Ludlum)

1888 - Much of the Middle and Northern Atlantic Coast Region experienced freezing temperatures. Killer frosts resulted in a million dollars damage to crops in Maine. (David Ludlum)

1909 - Topeka, KS, was drenched with 8.08 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a record for that location. (6th- 7th) (The Weather Channel)

1970 - A lightning bolt struck a group of football players at Gibbs High School in Saint Petersburg FL, killing two persons and injuring 22 others. All the thirty-eight players and four coaches were knocked off their feet. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Showers and thunderstorms produced 4 to 8 inch rains in three to six hours in Virginia, with totals across the state for the Labor Day weekend ranging up to fourteen inches. The Staunton River crested at 34.44 feet at Altavista on the 8th, its highest level since 1940. Damage due to flooding was estimated at seven million dollars around Bedford, Henry, and Franklin. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Fifty cities across the eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. The low of 56 degrees at Mobile AL was their coolest reading of record for so early in the season. The mercury dipped to 31 degrees at Athens OH, and to 30 degrees at Thomas WV. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms in the central U.S. produced four inches of rain at Texamah overnight, and up to six inches of rain in southwestern Iowa. Evening thunderstorms in eastern Colorado produced golf ball size hail at Clear Creek and at Nederland. Late evening thunderstorms in Iowa drenched Harlan with more than four inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

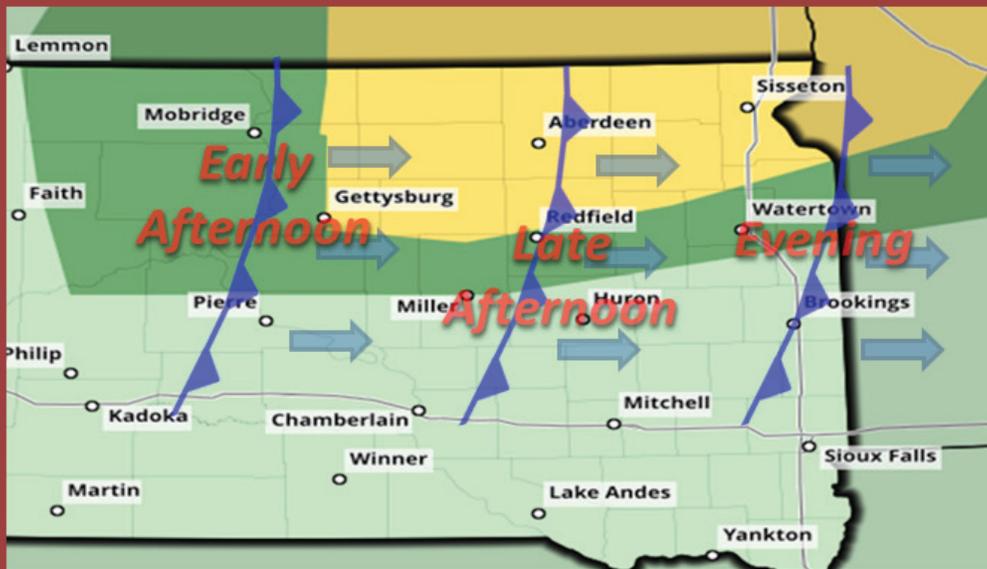
1998: Two Derechos occurred on this day with one affecting most of Pennsylvania and New York City, the other impacting central New York.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 7 of 39

Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
70%	30%		30%	20%		
Partly Sunny then Severe Thunderstorms	Severe Thunderstorms then Mostly Clear	Sunny	Chance T-storms	Partly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 74 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 77 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 71 °F	Low: 49 °F	High: 73 °F

Severe Storms Possible This Afternoon



1 - MARGINAL (MRGL)	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT)
Isolated severe thunderstorms possible	Scattered severe storms possible
Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity	Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms possible
	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winds 40-60 mph Hail up to 1" Low tornado risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One or two tornadoes Reports of strong winds/wind damage Hail ~1", isolated 2"

Threats



Damaging Winds



Large Hail



Isolated Tornadoes



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 9/7/2016 5:28 AM Central

Published on: 09/07/2016 at 5:33AM

A front will push across the Dakotas today generating thunderstorms, with a risk for severe weather. Expect development early this afternoon across the Missouri Valley. Storms should pass into Minnesota during the early evening hours.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 8 of 39

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 73.9

Low Outside Temp: 60.1

High Gust: 20.00

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 101° in 1897

Record Low: 29° in 1895

Average High: 76°F

Average Low: 50°F

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.52

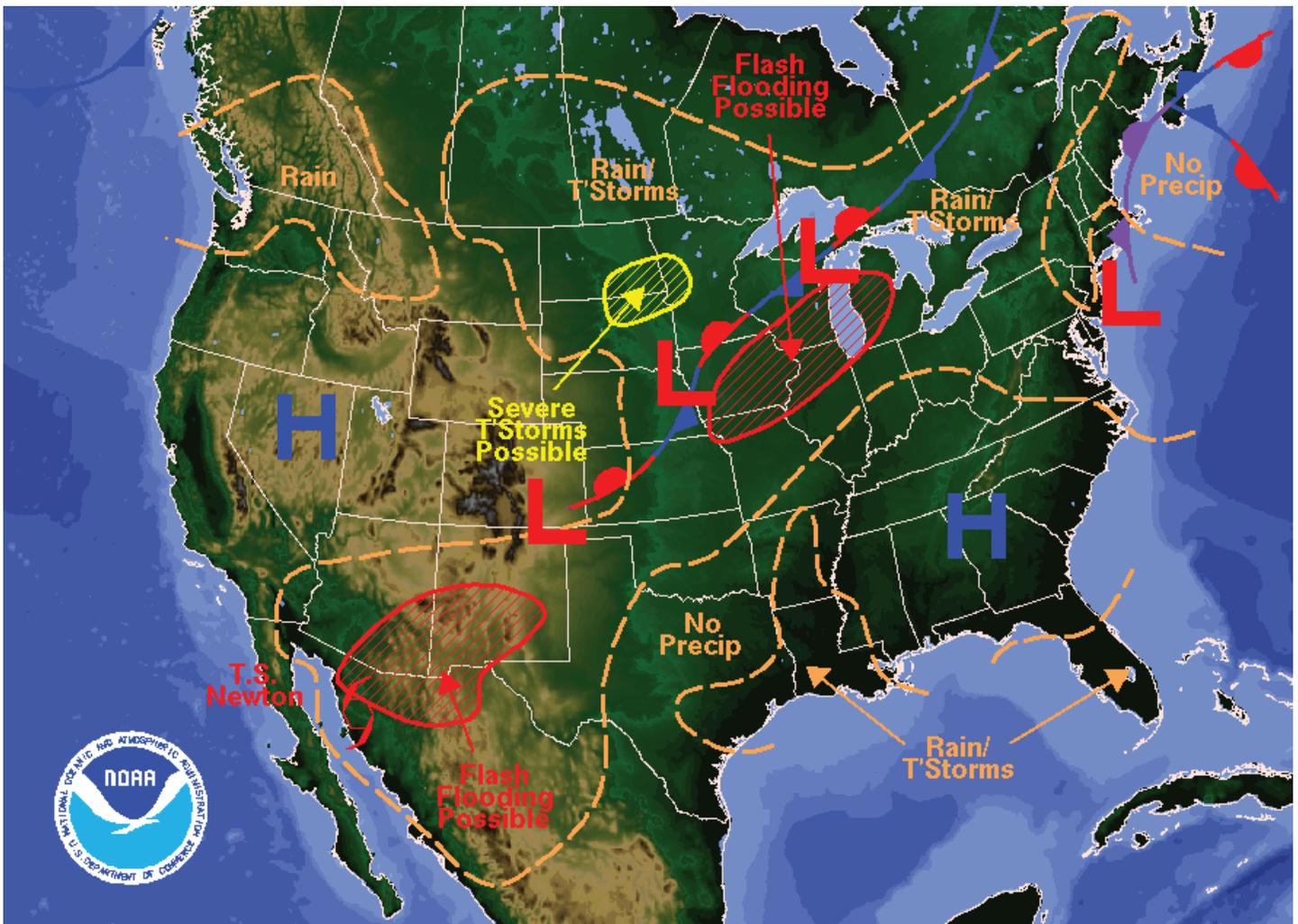
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.15

Average Precip to date: 16.81

Precip Year to Date: 12.81

Sunset Tonight: 7:58 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:04 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Sep 07, 2016, issued 4:49 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 9 of 39



DANGER AHEAD!

A battered, old truck was rambling down a country road and approached a sharp right turn. Unfortunately, the driver applied the brakes but nothing happened. It missed the turn and ended up in a field.

Fortunately, the driver climbed out of the cab uninjured. Dusting himself off, he said to the crowd that gathered around him, "I reckon I should've bought brake fluid before I needed it!"

Procrastination presents problems. One of the problems for procrastinators is that what they tend to put off leads to crises. Like the truck driver ending up in a field. Fortunately, he ended up in a field with no injury to himself.

One unfortunate result of procrastinating is that it can result in irreversible consequences. This is true of those who face death thinking there will always be time to make things right with God. This is certainly one of Satan's greatest accomplishments: convincing the lost to believe that "there will be time tomorrow. And if not tomorrow, the next day. Perhaps next week." Not wise!

Satan takes great pleasure when he gets us to focus on tomorrow instead of today. He rejoices when we have "spiritual intentions" that we "reserve" for "tomorrow." Those "intentions" also include our promises to read His Word, pray, attend church and witness.

Prayer: We pray, Father, for those who have delayed accepting You as Savior. May Your Spirit work in their hearts and help all of us to turn our intentions into actions. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Zechariah 1:4 "Do not be like your forefathers, to whom the earlier prophets proclaimed: This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Turn from your evil ways and your evil practices.' But they would not listen or pay attention to me, declares the LORD."

The logo for Golden Living, featuring the words "golden" in orange and "living" in blue, with a stylized orange and blue wave graphic below.

We now accept

The logo for Avera Health Plans, featuring the word "Avera" in white on a blue background, with a white cross symbol to the right, and "Health Plans" in white below.

for out patient therapy.

**1106 N 2nd St., Groton
605/397-2365**

News from the Associated Press

Final painting by outdoors artist Redlin to be unveiled

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Redlin Art Center in South Dakota is unveiling the final painting by the late outdoors artist Terry Redlin.

Executive Director Julie Ranum says the center in Watertown will put the painting on display Friday and leave it up for viewing until Sept. 19.

Redlin is famous for his paintings of wildlife and outdoors scenes. He died in April at the age of 78 after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Ranum says his final painting, "Evening on Ice," is different from the rest of his collection, and is being put on display to raise awareness about Alzheimer's.

Judge grants partial stop on North Dakota pipeline work

PADMANANDA RAMA, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An American Indian tribe succeeded Tuesday in getting a federal judge to temporarily stop construction on some, but not all, of a \$3.8 billion four-state oil pipeline, but its broader request still hangs in the balance.

U.S. District Judge James Boasberg said Tuesday that work will temporarily stop between North Dakota's State Highway 1806 and 20 miles east of Lake Oahe, but will continue west of the highway because he believes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lacks jurisdiction on private land.

He also said he will rule by the end of Friday on the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's challenge of federal regulators' decision to grant permits to the Dallas, Texas-based operators of the Dakota Access Pipeline, which will cross North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Illinois.

A weekend confrontation between protesters and construction workers near Lake Oahe prompted the tribe to ask Sunday for a temporary stop of construction. Four private security guards and two guard dogs received medical treatment, officials said, while a tribal spokesman noted that six people — including a child — were bitten by the dogs and at least 30 people were pepper-sprayed.

Dakota Access attorney Bill Leone said during Tuesday's hearing that if it weren't for the stoppages, the section in question would be finished by the end of this week.

Standing Rock Sioux tribal chairman Dave Archambault II issued a statement after the ruling, saying: "Today's denial of a temporary restraining order ... west of Lake Oahe puts my people's sacred places at further risk of ruin and desecration." Attorney Jan Hasselman with Earthjustice, who filed the broader lawsuit on behalf of the tribe, noted the tribe will "know more by the end of the week about where we're heading."

A spokeswoman for Energy Transfer Partners didn't immediately respond to telephone messages requesting comment.

Leone also said in court that there were two more attacks on crews in North Dakota on Tuesday. Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier said law enforcement officers pulled back from responding to a report of 150-200 protesters gathered at a construction area on private land because they determined it wasn't safe to respond.

He said some protesters had hatchets and knives, and two secured themselves to heavy equipment. No pipeline workers were at the site, and no arrests have been made.

Over the weekend, workers allegedly bulldozed sites on private land that Hasselman said in court documents was "of great historic and cultural significance to the tribe." The tribe's cultural expert, Tim

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 11 of 39

Mentz Sr., said in court documents that the tribe believes there are human remains in the area and that it wants "an opportunity to rebury our relatives."

"The elders say that reburying can help deal with the loss and hurt of disturbing these graves," he said.

Lawyers for Energy Transfer Partners filed court documents Tuesday morning denying that workers have destroyed any cultural sites and asking the judge to reject the tribes' request for a temporary work stoppage. The company said it "has taken and continues to take every reasonable precaution" to protect cultural sites.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers didn't oppose the tribe's most recent request, with Assistant Attorney General John Cruden saying in court documents that "the public interest would be served by preserving peace."

The tribe's outstanding lawsuit attempts to halt construction of the pipeline, which is due to be finished this year. The suit says the project violates several federal laws, including the National Historic Preservation Act, will harm water supplies on the reservation and downstream and disturb ancient sacred sites.

Hundreds of protesters have camped out near the reservation for weeks. Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein, who advocates for clean energy, spent Monday evening with them and used red spray paint to write "I approve this message" on the blade of a bulldozer, a spokeswoman said.

Kirchmeier said authorities plan to pursue charges of trespassing and vandalism against Stein. State court records Tuesday evening didn't yet list any formal counts against her.

Tuesday's Scores The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Waubay/Summit, 25-6, 25-10, 25-13
Arlington def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-11, 25-18, 25-21
Avon def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-17, 25-15, 25-23
Beresford def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-13, 25-12, 25-14
Bon Homme def. Vermillion, 27-25, 25-20, 27-25
Brandon Valley def. Mitchell, 27-25, 25-19, 25-13
Bridgewater-Emery def. Menno, 25-22, 25-15, 25-27, 22-25, 15-6
Burke/South Central def. Chamberlain, 25-17, 25-15, 25-16
Canistota def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-11, 25-10, 25-13
Castlewood def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 20-25, 25-10, 25-15, 25-22
Chester def. Baltic, 25-22, 25-17, 25-20
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. McLaughlin, 25-18, 25-16, 26-24
Custer def. Sturgis Brown, 25-23, 25-11, 25-15
Deubrook def. Estelline, 25-15, 25-18, 25-16
Edmunds Central def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-21, 25-23, 25-19
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Colman-Egan, 25-21, 25-20, 25-16
Ethan def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-13, 18-25, 25-23, 25-20
Faulkton def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-21, 25-11, 17-25, 25-21
Gayville-Volin def. Scotland, 25-23, 25-21, 22-25, 25-23
Gregory def. Bennett County, 25-16, 25-15, 15-25, 23-25, 16-14
Hankinson, N.D. def. Sisseton, 25-13, 25-22, 25-16
Hanson def. Howard, 25-22, 17-25, 25-17, 25-16

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 12 of 39

Harding County def. Bowman County, N.D., 25-19, 25-8, 25-10
Harrisburg def. Yankton, 25-15, 25-17, 25-12
Hendricks, Minn. def. Iroquois, 25-9, 25-18, 25-17
Herreid/Selby Area def. Strasburg-Zeeland, N.D., 25-18, 25-10, 25-12
Highmore-Harrod def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-7, 25-4, 25-13
Kadoka Area def. Little Wound, 23-25, 25-19, 25-19, 25-21
Lemmon def. McIntosh, 25-20, 25-17, 26-24
Lisbon, N.D. def. Britton-Hecla, 25-19, 25-19, 25-19
McCook Central/Montrose def. Sioux Valley, 25-12, 25-17, 25-22
Mobridge-Pollock def. Eureka/Bowdle, 25-18, 25-16, 25-19
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. James Valley Christian, 25-12, 25-19, 25-15
Parkston def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-18, 20-25, 25-17, 25-18
Philip def. Jones County, 25-15, 25-18, 25-23
Potter County def. Dupree, 25-19, 25-11, 25-18
Rapid City Christian def. Oelrichs, 25-18, 25-16, 25-19
Redfield/Doland def. Leola/Frederick, 25-16, 25-17, 25-11
Richland, N.D. def. Wilmot, 25-23, 25-14, 25-22
Sioux Falls Christian def. Madison, 25-23, 22-25, 25-16, 25-13
Sioux Falls O’Gorman def. Huron, 25-23, 25-23, 21-25, 25-23
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 15-25, 25-21, 25-18, 25-19
St. Thomas More def. Hot Springs, 21-25, 25-16, 25-16, 25-21
Sully Buttes def. Ipswich, 25-11, 25-9, 25-11
Tea Area def. Lennox, 23-25, 25-16, 25-15, 25-16
Warner def. Miller, 25-8, 25-16, 25-13
Watertown def. Brookings, 22-25, 25-22, 25-19, 25-16
Webster def. Groton Area, 25-22, 25-22, 25-22
Wessington Springs def. Mitchell Christian, 25-17, 25-21, 25-23
West Central def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-15, 25-14, 22-25, 25-20
Winner def. Bennett County, 25-0, 25-3, 25-16
Wolsey-Wessington def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-13, 25-23, 25-14

Governor names September to be Attendance Awareness Month

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has named September to be Attendance Awareness Month as students settle into school across South Dakota.

Daugaard says the importance of attendance can’t be overstated. The state Department of Education is doing outreach to schools and other stakeholders to raise awareness about the importance of regular attendance.

Secretary of Education Melody Schopp says research shows that students who are chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade are less likely to read at grade level when they reach fourth grade.

South Dakota Prep Polls

The Associated Press \

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The inaugural 2016 South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school football poll is below. Teams are listed with first-place votes in parentheses, vote points and ranking last week.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 13 of 39

Class 11AAA

Rank-School	FPV	Record	TP	Pvs
1. Sioux Falls Roosevelt	(4)	2-0	32	2
2. Sioux Falls Washington	(3)	2-0	31	1
3. Brandon Valley	-	1-1	20	4
4. Sioux Falls O'Gorman	-	1-1	14	3
5. Sioux Falls Lincoln	-	1-1	8	5

Others receiving votes: None.

Class 11AA

Rank-School	FPV	Record	TP	Pvs
1. Harrisburg	(7)	2-0	35	2
2. Mitchell	-	1-1	28	3
3. Pierre	-	1-1	20	5
4. Yankton	-	1-1	14	1
5. Brookings	-	0-2	5	4

Others receiving votes: Spearfish 2, Huron 1.

Class 11A

Rank-School	FPV	Record	TP	Pvs
1. Madison	(7)	2-0	35	1
2. St. Thomas More	-	2-0	27	2
3. SF Christian	-	2-0	21	3
4. Tea Area	-	2-0	15	4
5. Dakota Valley	-	1-1	4	5

Others receiving votes: Milbank Area 2, West Central 1.

Class 11B

Rank-School	FPV	Record	TP	Pvs
1. Winner	(7)	2-0	35	1
2. Tri-Valley	-	2-0	26	2
3. Groton Area	-	2-0	18	3
4. Sioux Valley	-	2-0	12	T4
5. Bridgewater-Emery5Ethan	-	1-1	6	T4

Others receiving votes: Aberdeen Roncalli 6.

Class 9AA

Rank-School	FPV	Record	TP	Pvs
1. Wolsey-Wessington	(5)	2-0	32	1
T2. Canistota	(1)	1-0	23	2
T2. Webster Area	(1)	2-0	23	3
4. Bon Homme	-	1-0	12	5
5. Chester Area	-	2-0	10	4

Others receiving votes: Mount Vernon/Plankinton 3, Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central 1, Gregory 1.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 14 of 39

Class 9A

Rank-School	FPV	Record	TP	Pvs
1. Sully Buttes	(6)	2-0	31	1
2. Scotland	-	2-0	26	2
3. Potter County	-	2-0	17	4
4. Warner	(1)	1-0	16	3
5. Phillip	-	2-0	11	5

Others receiving votes: Castlewood/Estelline 4.

Class 9B

Rank-School	FPV	Record	TP	Pvs
1. Langford Area	(7)	2-0	35	1
2. Corsica-Stickney	-	1-0	22	3
3. Harding County	-	2-0	21	2
4. Hamlin	-	2-0	17	4
5. Colome	-	1-1	6	5

Others receiving votes: De Smet 4.

2-vehicle crash in Boulder Canyon near Sturgis kills man

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a 72-year-old man who died after his car hit a pickup truck in Boulder Canyon near Sturgis.

The Highway Patrol says Rudolph Witton of Sturgis failed to negotiate a curve on U.S. Highway 14A, crossed the center line and collided with the pickup that was pulling a camper and a small trailer.

The crash happened about 9:45 a.m. Monday. Witton was pronounced dead at the scene, about 3 1/2 miles west of Sturgis. Two people in the pickup who are from North Dakota weren't hurt.

Hundreds turn out to help with storm cleanup in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, S.D. (AP) — Hundreds of volunteers turned out to help residents of Springfield after a storm wreaked havoc in the town and displaced 70 people.

The storm early Monday brought straight-line winds of up to 110 mph that destroyed four homes and damaged dozens more, according to the Bon Homme County Emergency Management Office. No serious injuries were reported.

Mike Scheetz's home was among those leveled. He was watching TV when the storm hit shortly after midnight Sunday, and witnessed windows shattering and debris flying around.

"Then bam — that quick, it was over," he said. "It was two minutes or less, I'm sure. The garage is gone — I don't even know where the pieces are."

More than 430 volunteers showed up later Monday to help with cleanup, Emergency Management spokesman Lee Rettig said. They brought more than 60 pieces of heavy equipment, including tractors, dump trucks and skid-steer loaders. More than 80 first responders from Springfield and four other area towns led the effort to remove downed trees and clean up debris.

"We are pleasantly overwhelmed by the volunteer response," Fire Chief Shannon DeFries said. "It's great to see neighbors helping neighbors in a time of need."

The storm caught the community of 2,000 people by surprise. National Weather Service meteorologist Todd Heitkamp said no warning was issued because the storm didn't have a history of damaging winds.

"Thankfully, no one was injured or killed by this storm," he said. "There were severe weather warnings

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 15 of 39

all afternoon and evening, but there was no warning for this storm because it intensified as it crossed the (Missouri) River.”

The American Red Cross set up a shelter at the local school for people displaced by the storm, and served meals to first responders and volunteers.

Sharon Olds wins \$100,000 poetry prize

NEW YORK (AP) — One of the country’s leading poets, Pulitzer Prize winner Sharon Olds, has won a \$100,000 lifetime achievement award.

The Academy of American Poets told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Olds had been given the Wallace Stevens Award for “proven mastery in the art of poetry.” Olds, 73, won the Pulitzer in 2013 for “Stag’s Leap.”

The academy announced several other prizes Wednesday, including a \$25,000 honor for former U.S. poet laureate Natasha Trethewey, who received a fellowship for “distinguished poetic achievement.” Lynn Emanuel’s “The Nerve of It” won the \$25,000 Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize for last year’s best poetry book.

Ron Padgett was cited for his translation of “Zone: Selected Poems by Guillaume Apollinaire.”

Confession in boy’s death solves case that haunted Minnesota

AMY FORLITI, Associated Press

STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — For nearly 27 years, one man knew where Jacob Wetterling was.

Late last month, Danny Heinrich agreed to confess to killing the 11-year-old boy — setting in motion a flurry of difficult negotiations between defense attorneys, investigators and prosecutors that would put him behind bars for decades and finally unlock the secrets to a mystery that has long haunted the state of Minnesota.

“This was not an opportunity we could pass up,” U.S. Attorney Andy Luger said. “After almost 27 years, Danny Heinrich was willing to talk, and we had to grab the moment.”

Heinrich, 53, admitted Tuesday that he abducted, sexually assaulted and shot Jacob to death in 1989, then buried the boy’s body in a field in rural central Minnesota. The confession came as part of a plea agreement in which Heinrich will likely get 20 years in prison on a federal child pornography charge when he’s sentenced in November, but will not be prosecuted on state murder charges. Following his prison sentence, a civil commitment is possible, meaning he could spend the rest of his life in custody.

As part of the deal, which the family approved, Heinrich led authorities to Jacob’s remains last week.

Some questioned whether the deal was enough punishment for the crime, which shattered childhood innocence for many rural Minnesotans, changing the way parents let their kids roam. Jacob’s smiling face was burned into Minnesota’s psyche, appearing on countless posters and billboards over the years.

Last year, authorities found images of child pornography at the Annandale home of Heinrich, who had long been under investigators’ scrutiny in Jacob’s disappearance. They recognized the best way to get to the truth was to pursue federal charges, which carry stiff penalties that could be used as leverage, Luger said.

Stearns County Attorney Janelle Kendall said too much time had passed to charge Heinrich with kidnapping or assault. A murder charge could still apply — but not without a body.

“To prove murder, we had to be able to prove that Jacob Wetterling died. Up until last Friday, proof that Jacob Wetterling was no longer alive did not exist.” Kendall said. “We did not have proof of murder,

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 16 of 39

so we literally had to find Jacob in order to move forward at all.

"What was most important to the Wetterlings was to bring Jacob home and know what happened to him," Kendall said. "Jacob would not have been found and the details wouldn't have been told without the events of today."

Luger added, "He's not getting away with anything."

In chilling detail, Heinrich stood before a federal judge Tuesday and calmly described how he abducted, molested and killed Jacob, as some members of the Wetterling family cried. Heinrich's voice wavered at one point, but he showed little emotion in court—and Luger said he has expressed no remorse to authorities.

Heinrich said that on the night of Oct. 22, 1989, he saw Jacob, Jacob's brother, and a friend bicycling down a rural road near Jacob's home in St. Joseph. Heinrich laid in wait for the three to return, and when they did, he put on a mask and confronted them with a revolver.

Heinrich said he told the two other boys to run and not look back or he'd shoot. He said he then handcuffed Jacob and put him in his car, and Jacob asked: "What did I do wrong?"

Heinrich said he drove Jacob to a gravel pit near Paynesville and assaulted him. Afterward, Jacob asked whether he was taking him home.

"I said, 'I can't take you all the way home,'" Heinrich said. "He started to cry. I said, 'Don't cry.'"

Heinrich said at some point a patrol car with sirens and lights passing nearby caused him to panic. He said he pulled out his revolver, which had not been loaded, and put two rounds in the gun. He told Jacob to turn around, held the gun to the boy's head and pulled the trigger, he said. The gun didn't fire. Heinrich then fired two shots. After the second, Jacob fell to the ground.

Heinrich said he went home for a couple of hours, then went back to the gravel pit and buried Jacob about 100 yards away. He said he returned to the site about a year later and saw that Jacob's jacket and some bones had become exposed, so he gathered what he could and re-buried the remains across the highway in a field.

The buried remains were identified as Jacob's on Saturday.

"It's incredibly painful to know his last days, last hours, last minutes," his mother, Patty Wetterling, said after the guilty plea. "To us, Jacob was alive until we found him."

Heinrich's attorneys declined to comment after the hearing.

Authorities named Heinrich as a person of interest in Jacob's disappearance last October when they announced the child pornography charges.

He had first been questioned shortly after Jacob's abduction, but he maintained his innocence and authorities never had enough evidence to charge him. They turned a renewed spotlight on him as part of a fresh look into Jacob's abduction around its 25th anniversary.

As part of that effort, investigators took another look at the sexual assault of 12-year-old Jared Scheierl, of Cold Spring, nine months before Jacob's disappearance.

Using technology that wasn't available in 1989, investigators found Heinrich's DNA on Scheierl's sweat-shirt, and used that evidence to get a search warrant for Heinrich's home, where they found the child pornography.

The statute of limitations had expired for charging him in the assault on Scheierl, but as part of Tuesday's plea deal, Heinrich also admitted to that crime.

The AP typically doesn't identify victims of sexual assault, but Scheierl has spoken publicly for years about his case, saying he hoped it could help investigators find his attacker and Jacob's kidnapper.

In the years after Jacob's disappearance, his mother became a nationally known advocate for missing children. A 1994 federal law named for Jacob requires states to establish sex offender registries.

Showcasing Lao culture, Obama pushes back on US isolationism

KATHLEEN HENNESSEY, Associated Press

JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

LUANG PRABANG, Laos (AP) — President Barack Obama ventured Wednesday to a remote mountain town in Laos to tour a centuries-old Buddhist temple, gently chiding Americans to resist turning a blind eye to the world outside their borders.

Obama used a visit to the northern city of Luang Prabang to push back against an America-centric world view promulgated by Republican Donald Trump. Questioned by young Southeast Asians, Obama said the U.S. could be a great force for good but has been constrained by the tendency to look inward.

"If you are the United States, sometimes you can feel lazy and think, you know, 'we're so big, we don't really have to know anything about other people,'" Obama said. "That's part of what I'm trying to change."

Though he didn't mention Trump by name, Obama appeared to counter the isolationist approach epitomized by the Republican presidential nominee's "America first" rallying cry. An ardent opponent of Obama's efforts to boost global trade, Trump has questioned the U.S. alliance with NATO and vowed to build a wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

So when an Indonesian woman asked Obama about American multiculturalism and the edict "e pluribus unum" — out of many, one — Obama seized the chance to explain that when times are tough and people feel stressed "they turn on others who don't look like them." He said that's why it's critical for the U.S. to promote principles that rise above any individual religion, nationality or race.

"Not everybody in America agrees with me on this, by the way," Obama said. After a moment's hesitation, he added: "I'll leave it at that."

Throughout his visit to Laos, Obama has lamented that most Americans know little about the country or the devastating secret nine-year war the U.S. waged here half a century ago. He sought to use his presence and the spotlight that follows him to bring attention to an unfamiliar corner of the world.

In Luang Prabang, he showcased a rich cultural and religious heritage. A UNESCO World Heritage List site along the Mekong River, the city was a hub for the Buddhist faith during the Lan Xang kingdom starting in the 14th century.

Obama's first stop was Wat Xieng Thong, a 16th century complex of ornate gold buildings known as the "Temple of the Golden City." He removed his shoes before entering the carriage house, where he examined a line of golden statues.

"It's gorgeous," Obama said.

Greeting the temple monks, Obama posed for a group photo with about 20 boys in bright orange robes after being informed they weren't supposed to shake hands. He bought gifts for daughters Sasha and Malia at an open-air shop and sipped from a coconut.

On this first visit by a sitting American president, Obama has placed a particular emphasis on trying to heal wounds inflicted by the war the U.S. waged here as part of the Vietnam War.

Obama paid tribute to survivors maimed by some of the 80 million unexploded bombs America dropped on Laos during the war. Vowing the U.S. will do more to help finally remove them, he touted his administration's move to double spending on ordnance cleanup to roughly \$90 million over three years.

"For the last four decades, Laotians have continued to live under the shadow of war," Obama said as he toured a rehabilitation center in the capital of Vientiane that cares for bomb survivors. "The war did not end when the bombs stopped falling."

Some 20,000 people have been killed or wounded since the war ended, Obama said after viewing

displays of small rusted grenades and photos of a child missing a foot. He insisted those were “not just statistics,” but reminders of the heavy toll inflicted by war.

“I’m inspired by you,” Obama told Thoummy Silamphan, a survivor who uses a prosthetic after losing a hand to one of the bombs.

The president did not come to Laos to apologize. Instead, he said he hoped the strengthened partnership on bomb clearing could mark a “decisive step forward” between the U.S. and this landlocked communist nation.

The visit also served as a capstone to his effort to bolster relations with Southeast Asian countries long overlooked by the United States. The outreach is a core element of Obama’s attempt to shift U.S. diplomatic and military resources away from the Middle East and to Asia to counter China in the region and ensure a U.S. foothold in growing markets.

Philippines shows photos of Chinese ships in disputed sea

JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — The Philippine government on Wednesday released what it says are surveillance pictures of Chinese coast guard ships and barges at a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, in an apparent diplomatic gambit to publicize its concerns at a regional summit being attended by China’s premier and Southeast Asian leaders.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte plans to ask Premier Li Keqiang at the summit in the Laotian capital whether the vessels were on another island-making mission on the Scarborough Shoal. China has built seven such islands in the disputed, resource-rich sea, alarming neighbors and rival claimants.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said that China hadn’t done anything to alter the circumstances in the waters surrounding the shoal.

“What I can tell you is that the situation in waters near Huangyan Island remains unchanged and China hasn’t made any new moves,” Hua said in Beijing, using the shoal’s Chinese name. “We should be highly alert against the mischief-making intentions of people who spread such groundless information in such situations.”

Asked how disturbed the Philippines was by the presence of the Chinese ships, Duterte’s spokesman Ernesto Abella told a news conference: “Enough to announce it.”

He said that China and the Philippines were discussing the issue, but gave no details.

“There are talks at this stage,” Abella said. He refused to comment if the Philippine policy was to prevent any country from constructing at or transforming Scarborough, a coral reef, into an island.

If the Chinese government confirms the photos, the Philippines will lodge an official protest, said Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

Duterte has taken a more reconciliatory track to rebuild relations with China and has said he would not raise the long-simmering territorial disputes in an adversarial manner that might upset Beijing.

Relations were severely strained under Duterte’s predecessor because of the conflict.

However, Duterte expressed alarm after a Philippine surveillance plane recently spotted four Chinese coast guard ships, four suspected barges, including one equipped with what appeared to be a crane. The government released the photos with a diagram showing the vessels’ exact locations at the shoal, which the Chinese coast guard seized after a tense standoff with Philippine vessels in 2012.

Hours after the Philippines released the pictures, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations met with Li and his aides. The South China Sea dispute was tackled at the closed-door meeting with some of

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 19 of 39

the leaders, including Duterte, who reiterated calls for the conflicts to be resolved peacefully and in accordance with international law, Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said.

He quoted the Chinese premier as saying that there was now a "positive direction" in Beijing's relations with ASEAN and that the disputes should not affect overall relations.

The U.S. military has also expressed concerns over the possibility that China might turn Scarborough into another island, something that would give Beijing's forces control over a swath of the South China Sea used as a passageway to the Taiwan Strait.

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea as its own, citing historical reasons. It has rejected a July 12 international arbitration ruling that called its claims illegal. The tribunal ruling also rebuked China for its land reclamation activities.

10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

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

1. OBAMA HONORS LAO CULTURE

Aiming to cement closer ties with the Southeast Asian nation, the U.S. president tours a Buddhist temple and takes questions from young people at a town hall-styled event.

2. TRUMP, CLINTON POISED FOR 'COMMANDER IN CHIEF' EVENT

The presidential candidates will appear at separate times and will not face each other on stage during a national security-themed forum on NBC.

3. NEWTON SWEEPS TOWARD MEXICO'S U.S. BORDER

Now a tropical storm as it makes landfall in mainland Mexico, it could bring potentially dangerous rains for Arizona and New Mexico.

4. WHERE THERE'S PEACE BUT EXTREME POVERTY

The Wakhan corridor, Afghanistan's most peaceful region, is so poor that people get food on credit or barter for it, and kids go barefoot during long, harsh winters.

5. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT CYBER BREACH SPELLED OUT

A congressional report lays out a series of missed opportunities to delay or even prevent one of the worst-ever cyberattacks on a U.S. government agency.

6. UNICEF SAYS 28 MILLION CHILDREN UPROOTED BY GLOBAL CONFLICT

The U.N. agency adds that nearly as many have abandoned their homes in search of a better life.

7. VENEZUELAN ECONOMIC CRISIS LEADS TO THE UNTHINKABLE

Food shortages and rising poverty are forcing Venezuelans to let their pets starve or abandon them in the streets.

8. NEW LAW ALLOWS FEMALE WWII PILOT TO BE INURNED AT ARLINGTON

It took an act of Congress, but Elaine Harmon is finally being laid to rest at the U.S. military cemetery.

9. WHAT TECH GIANT MAY HAVE IN STORE

Apple is expected to show off new iPhones, an updated smartwatch — and maybe some new gear for listening to both — when it holds its annual fall product launch event.

10. COAST GUARD'S LAST LIGHTKEEPER LOOKS TO MILESTONE

Boston Light, the nation's first and oldest lighthouse station, turns 300 on Sept. 14 and Sally Snowman, the Coast Guard's last resident keeper, is helping with celebrations.

Hurricane Newton on path toward Mexico's border with Arizona

IGNACIO MARTINEZ, Associated Press

CABO SAN LUCAS, Mexico (AP) — Hurricane Newton swept onto the Gulf of California after slamming the resorts of southern Baja before making landfall Mexico's mainland and weakening to a tropical storm.

And the storm remained on a path Wednesday morning that was expected to take it to the U.S. border with potentially dangerous rains for Arizona and New Mexico.

Newton first came ashore near the Los Cabos resorts Tuesday morning as a Category 1 hurricane with winds of 90 mph (150 kph), pelting the area with torrential rain as residents sheltered at home and tourists huddled in hotels. The storm broke windows, downed trees and knocked out power, but the area was spared the kind of extensive damage seen two years ago when they were walloped by a stronger storm.

A shrimp boat capsized in rough seas in the Gulf of California, killing two people and leaving three others missing, authorities said. The boat had set out from the port of Ensenada and was bound for Mazatlan.

After passing over the resort area, Newton headed northward up the sparsely populated interior of the peninsula and then sput out over the gulf during the night. Early Wednesday, its center was about 10 miles (15 kilometers) southeast of Bahia Kino and was moving north at around 17 mph (28 kph) with maximum sustained winds of 70 mph (110 kph).

After passing over relatively little populated areas in Sonora, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said Newton could push into southeastern Arizona in the afternoon and drop 1 to 3 inches of rain there and over parts of New Mexico through Thursday.

"Heavy rain could cause life-threatening flash floods and mud slides, especially in mountainous terrain," the center said.

About 14,000 tourists were in Los Cabos during the storm, tourism officials said, and visitors began venturing out after Newton passed.

"Just trying to make it through the day, with a little help," Mark Hernandez, a visitor from California, said as he raised a can of beer at one of the few bars open in Cabo San Lucas. "We pray for the city of Cabo San Lucas. It was a rough one as you can see."

Palm trees were toppled along the town's coastal boulevard and some windows were broken. But there was calm in the city as firefighters cleaned refuse from the streets during the day.

In 2014, Los Cabos suffered heavy damage to homes, shops and hotels when it was hammered by Hurricane Odile, which hit land as a Category 3 storm.

"You know, it could have been a lot worse and I think we are very fortunate that it wasn't as bad as Odile," said Darlene Savord, another tourist from California. "I think that we are very fortunate and blessed."

Japan's ex-leader backs sick US sailors who blame radiation

YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Several hundred American service personnel who say they became sick from radiation after participating in relief operations for the 2011 tsunami that set off the Fukushima nuclear disaster are now getting high-profile support in Japan.

Junichiro Koizumi, prime minister from 2001 to 2006, told reporters Wednesday he has set up a special fund to collect private donations for the former service members, with the goal of collecting \$1 million (100 million yen) by the end of next March, mainly to help with medical bills.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 21 of 39

"I felt I had to do something to help those who worked so hard for Japan," he said at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan. "Maybe this isn't enough, but it will express our gratitude, that Japan is thankful."

Koizumi, 74, one of Japan's most popular prime ministers in recent decades, was in San Diego in May to meet with 10 of the former service members, who have joined a class-action lawsuit against Tokyo Electric Power Co., or TEPCO, the utility that operates the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant.

The lawsuit, filed in 2012, is ongoing, and a California judge has ruled it will proceed. More Navy personnel and Marines are joining the suit, now numbering about 400, according to Koizumi. Some 70,000 Americans took part in Operation Tomodachi, or Friend, flying in aid from an aircraft carrier and other warships off the coast of northeastern Japan.

Since then, some servicemen and women have become sick with cancers, leukemia, thyroid ailments, brain tumors and other diseases, and they blame radiation. The ships to which they were assigned were in an area of the ocean in the direction of the radioactive plumes spewed from the Fukushima plant.

Aircraft carriers routinely use drinking water from the ocean, which the lawsuit says was contaminated with radiation, and service members showered in and ate food cooked in such water. Some Navy personnel also flew on helicopters to the disaster zone.

TEPCO denies any link between the illnesses and radiation, saying the radiation levels are too low.

Koizumi acknowledged he is not a medical expert, but said he had "common sense." He questioned why so many healthy young men and women were suddenly sick with symptoms often associated with radiation exposure, such as nosebleeds.

The U.S. command has said it was not told immediately about the reactor meltdowns at Fukushima.

The lawsuit alleges that TEPCO withheld key information and caused the Americans to be sent in harm's way.

Seven of those who joined the lawsuit have already died.

Koizumi has already raised 40 million yen (\$400,000) by charging people 10,000 yen (\$100) to attend his lectures, with help from Pritzker Prize-winning Japanese architect Tadao Ando.

Koizumi said he had been a proponent of nuclear power while prime minister, but living through the Fukushima disaster taught him that what experts said about atomic power being safe, cheap and clean was "all lies."

Even after the nuclear accidents at Three Mile Island in the United States and Chernobyl in Ukraine, the experts insisted that Japan's nuclear plants were different, he recalled.

"I became ashamed how I had believed such lies," Koizumi said. "They said Japan was safe. And that simply was not true."

Wounded LAX agents recall chaos as shooter pleads guilty

AMANDA LEE MYERS, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — James Speer had just helped a shell-shocked passenger run away from a gunman at Los Angeles International Airport and thought they were in the clear.

That's when Speer, an officer with the Transportation Security Administration, watched as a bullet ripped through the calf of another passenger.

"A split second before I could say, 'Oh my God,' I felt boom, boom in the back and upper left arm. I was thrown forward from the blast," said Speer, who ran wounded into a convenience store amid the chaos.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 22 of 39

Speer hid behind a pillar as the gunman moved through the terminal, asking people if they were TSA agents and letting them go when they said no.

The gunman, Paul Anthony Ciancia, pleaded guilty Tuesday to killing TSA Officer Gerardo Hernandez and 10 other charges stemming from the Nov. 1, 2013, attack motivated by anger over the security measures imposed on airline passengers.

Speer, another TSA agent and a teacher survived gunshot wounds.

Ciancia, 26, showed no emotion during the hearing as survivors and Hernandez's family members cried listening to prosecutors describe the attack in detail. The bespectacled, soft-spoken Ciancia was spared the death penalty by entering the plea. But he faces a mandatory term of life in prison on Nov. 7.

"I'm satisfied," Speer said. "Unfortunately we can't bring Gerardo back, but this is probably the next best thing."

The other agent who survived, Tony Grigsby, said the sentence was fair and brings closure to his family, which includes a mother and a sister who are also TSA agents at the same airport.

"He caused a lot of pain to a lot of people," Grigsby said. "I'm never going to get back my friend. I'm never going to get back the moments that I lost to this man making this decision."

But, he added, a life sentence is much easier to secure than the death penalty.

Had Ciancia chosen to go to trial, he would have faced overwhelming evidence, including a note he wrote about the attack, receipts for the gun and ammunition he bought to carry it out, and surveillance video that all but captured the entire incident.

Ciancia first used a semi-automatic rifle to fire on Hernandez, who was manning a document-screening podium. He wounded the 39-year-old father of two before he headed up an escalator to the main security area.

When he turned around to see Hernandez moving, he returned and fired more shots at point-blank range. Hernandez was hit 12 times in all and died.

Ciancia then returned to the upper level, where terrified passengers and TSA agents were running for their lives.

Police shot and wounded Ciancia in the food court, hitting him four times. Officers found a duffel bag Ciancia dropped that had 500 rounds of ammunition inside and a handwritten note saying he wanted to kill TSA officers for treating Americans like terrorists.

"I want to instill fear in your traitorous minds," the note said. "I want it to always be in the back of your head just how easy it is to take a weapon to the beginning of your Nazi checkpoints."

Ciancia, an unemployed motorcycle mechanic living in Los Angeles after growing up in Pennsville, New Jersey, signed the note with his name, adding underneath, "Pissed-off Patriot."

Hernandez's wife, Ana Machuca, declined to comment after Ciancia's hearing. But she told The Associated Press last week that no sentence would bring peace for her family.

"My husband died, and my children lost their father," she said. "There isn't anything anyone can do for us."

Missed opportunities to stop OPM cyber breach spelled out

ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was time to purge the hacker from the U.S. government's computers. After secretly monitoring the hacker's online movements for months, officials worried he was getting too close to critical information and devised a plan, dubbed "the Big Bang," to expel him.

Trouble was, with all their attention focused in that case, they missed the other hacker entirely.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 23 of 39

A new congressional report provides previously undisclosed details and a behind-the-scenes chronology of one of the worst-ever cyberattacks on the United States, laying out missed opportunities before the break-in at the Office of Personnel Management exposed security clearances, background checks and fingerprint records. That attack — widely blamed on China's government — compromised personal information of more than 21 million current, former and prospective federal employees, led to the resignation of the OPM director and drew outrage over changing explanations about the hack's seriousness.

The report by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform faulted the personnel agency for failing to secure sensitive data despite warnings for years that it was vulnerable to hackers. It concluded that the hacking revealed last year could have been prevented if OPM had put in place basic, required security controls and recognized from an earlier break-in that it was actually dealing with a sophisticated, persistent enemy.

"We have literally tens of millions of Americans whose data was stolen by a nefarious overseas actor, but it was entirely preventable," Rep. Jason Chaffetz, a Utah Republican and committee chairman, said in an interview.

"With some basic hygiene, some good tools, an awareness and some talent, they really could have prevented this," he added.

OPM Acting Director Beth Cobert said in a statement the agency disagrees with much of the report and it "does not fully reflect where this agency stands today." She said the OPM hack "provided a catalyst for accelerated change within our organization," including hiring new cybersecurity experts and strengthening its security.

The government discovered the first OPM hacking in March 2014 when a specialized Homeland Security Department team noticed suspicious streams of data leaving its network between 10 p.m. and 10 a.m. — the online equivalent of moving trucks hauling away filing cabinets containing confidential papers in the middle of the night. The government's so-called Einstein intrusion warning system detected the theft.

"DHS called us and let us know, hey, we think this is bad," Jeff Wagner, OPM's director of information security operations, told officials investigating the hack, according to the hack.

For two months, the personnel office worked with the FBI, National Security Agency and others to monitor the hacker to better understand his movements. Officials developed a plan to expel the hacker over a three-day weekend in May 2014, dubbed "the Big Bang." The effort included resetting administrative accounts, building new accounts for users who had been compromised and taking offline compromised systems.

"The risk of kicking them out too early had come and gone," Wagner said, "and now the risk was becoming having them in too long, and we didn't want to keep them around any longer than we had to."

The problem was far from solved.

Unknown to the experts focused on expelling the hacker, a second intruder posing as an employee of a federal contractor had infiltrated the system weeks before "the Big Bang." That hacker used a contractor's credentials to log into the system, install malicious software and create a backdoor to the network, according to the report.

Over the next several months, roaming unchecked through the system, the hacker stole sensitive security clearance background investigation files, personnel files and, ultimately, fingerprint data.

That breach was not detected until April 2015, when an OPM contract employee traced the flow of stolen material back to an Internet address that had been registered to Steve Rogers, the alter ego of Captain America, indicating a spoof account. By then, sensitive information on millions of American workers had already been compromised.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 24 of 39

The report also faulted the personnel office for failing to quickly deploy security tools from an outside firm to detect malicious code and other threats. Once deployed, the tool from Cylance Inc. of Irvine, California, "lit up like a Christmas tree," indicating it found malware throughout the federal computers, an engineer is quoted as saying in the report.

"Could they have done better? Absolutely," said Cylance founder and chief executive Stuart McClure. "But once they had been definitively convinced there was a breach, they took it very seriously."

It said OPM officials misled the public about the scope of the breach and also by saying the two breaches were unrelated when, instead, "they appear to be connected and possibly coordinated," according to the congressional report.

"The two attackers shared the same target, conducted their attacks in a similarly sophisticated manner, and struck with similar timing," the report said.

Though the U.S. suspects the hack was an act of Chinese espionage, the House inquiry did not go into great detail about who was responsible. It mentions that the data breaches discovered in April 2015 were likely perpetrated by the group "Deep Panda," which has been linked to the Chinese military.

GOP faces choices on Zika, shutdown, impeaching IRS chief

ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress' Republican leaders face decisions on averting a federal shutdown, containing the Zika virus and impeaching the head of the IRS, with approaching elections pressuring the GOP to avoid doing anything that could damage its standing with voters.

House Republicans were meeting behind closed doors Wednesday to hash out strategy on those and other issues. GOP leaders, hoping to retain Senate and House majorities in November's elections and maximize Donald Trump's prospects for winning the White House, aim to send Congress home by September's end so lawmakers can campaign.

In what's been a post-summer fixture for Congress, Republicans and Democrats remain divided over federal expenditures. Lawmakers have a long way to go to complete spending legislation to keep agencies functioning after Sept. 30.

With zero chance of completing all 12 spending bills by then, the key questions are how many weeks a temporary spending package will last — and whether the GOP can garner enough votes for such a measure without triggering a government shutdown sure to enrage voters.

Some conservatives want spending to be temporarily extended into next year. That would avert settling the issue during a post-election, lame-duck session in December, when they believe retiring lawmakers who don't have to face voters again are more inclined to accept wasteful spending.

But President Barack Obama and Senate Democrat oppose that idea. Even House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., has said he wants to keep negotiating into the fall on full-year spending measures.

"I'm sure we'll have a successful outcome to make sure just that the trains are running on time," Ryan told hometown radio host Stan Milam of AM 1380 in Janesville, Wisconsin, on Tuesday.

Late Tuesday, the Senate used its first vote since returning to recess to highlight that partisan battling over financing the battle against Zika remains as bitter as ever.

For the third time this year, Senate Democrats blocked a Republican measure to battle the virus. A 52-46 vote to advance the money fell short of the 60 votes needed as Democrats opposed provisions blocking Zika prevention and treatment money from going to Planned Parenthood clinics in Puerto Rico.

Republicans called that a shaky excuse compared to the threat of the mosquito-carried Zika virus. No. 3 Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York said the GOP was using the bill "to assuage

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 25 of 39

the hard right.”

There have been dozens of Zika cases in the political battleground state of Florida. Tuesday’s vote might prod Republicans to attach Zika money to temporary spending legislation.

Part of the spending fight is over the Pentagon. Republicans want to use emergency war funds to artificially increase the basic defense budget by \$16 billion next year.

The Obama administration and its Democratic allies oppose the idea, saying if Republicans want more money for defense, domestic programs will have to receive an equal boost. Senate Democrats also blocked that measure from advancing Tuesday.

Still unclear is how GOP leaders will handle conservatives’ demands that the House impeach John Koskinen, the IRS commissioner.

Enraged over the IRS’ aggressive inquiries into tea party groups seeking tax exemptions, conservatives want the House to vote on whether Koskinen should be removed from office.

Their resolution accuses him of offenses including not cooperating with congressional subpoenas for documents and making false statements to Congress about destroyed emails in the probe. Koskinen has said the charges are without substance.

Ryan and other GOP leaders have shown little fervor for an election-season impeachment fight. House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., told reporters Tuesday that while the IRS made “real mistakes,” there are “different beliefs” Republicans must resolve about whether impeachment is the proper course.

Trump faces national security test with speeches, forum

STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Republican Donald Trump is unveiling a plan for a major increase in defense spending as he works to convince skeptics in both parties that he’s ready to lead the world’s most powerful military.

The New York businessman, who has struggled at times to demonstrate a command of foreign policy, will outline plans to “add substantially” to the nation’s arsenal of submarines, ships and combat troops in a Wednesday morning speech in Philadelphia, according to a briefing provided by his campaign. Trump’s address comes hours before his national security acumen is tested at a “commander in chief” forum on NBC.

The appearances mark an intense, two-day focus on national security by Trump, who has offered tough rhetoric on the nation’s challenges abroad but few details.

“I think my single greatest asset, of any assets I have, is my temperament,” Trump declared in North Carolina on Tuesday, fighting to undercut arguments that his erratic disposition is a major liability.

Democrat Hillary Clinton repeated just such an attack on Trump’s ability to command America’s military.

“They know they can count on me to be the kind of commander in chief who will protect our country and our troops, and they know they cannot count on Donald Trump,” Clinton said en route to Florida. “They view him as a danger and a risk.”

While Clinton and Trump will be featured at the Wednesday night forum, they will appear at separate times and will not face each other on stage. The forum could serve as a warm-up to their highly anticipated first presidential debate, scheduled for Sept. 26 in New York.

Trump was set to deliver another speech Wednesday evening, at the convention of New York’s Con-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 26 of 39

servative Party, also expected to feature a heavy national security focus.

A late morning address at Philadelphia's Union League will outline his plans to eliminate deep military cuts, known as the "sequester," enacted when Congress failed to reach a budget compromise in 2011.

A Trump adviser, speaking on the condition of anonymity to share details ahead of the speech, said Trump would ensure the additional spending is fully paid for. The adviser did not explain how, but suggested there would be no need for structural budget cuts to pay for the billions of additional military spending over 10 years.

Beyond new spending on troops and naval assets, Trump will also call for additions to sea-based missile defense.

Trying to emphasize his military support, Trump's campaign released a letter on Tuesday from 88 retired generals and admirals citing an urgent need for a "course correction" in America's national security policy. It was aimed at rebutting Clinton's arguments that she would be best positioned to lead the military and reassuring Republicans who have openly worried that his provocative statements might undermine U.S. alliances.

"We believe that such a change can only be made by someone who has not been deeply involved with, and substantially responsible for, the hollowing out of our military and the burgeoning threats facing our country around the world," the military leaders wrote. "For this reason, we support Donald Trump's candidacy to be our next commander in chief."

On Tuesday night, Trump promised to convene his military commanders soon after taking office with "a simple instruction" aimed at the Islamic State group. "They will have 30 days to submit to the Oval Office a plan for soundly and quickly defeating ISIS," he told North Carolina voters.

California panel to weigh development on coastal oil land

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (AP) — A hotly-contested proposal to build homes on a stretch of Southern California coastline long used for oil drilling that also provides wildlife habitat will be up for public discussion Wednesday.

The California Coastal Commission will hold a hearing in Newport Beach on the plan to build 895 homes, a 75-room hotel and retail complex on the 401-acre site long used for oil drilling. It is considered to be the largest remaining, privately-held coastal property that could be developed south of Los Angeles, according to a commission spokeswoman.

While the plan would preserve roughly 80 percent of Banning Ranch as open space, environmentalists want a much larger chunk protected, saying the property is home to threatened and endangered species.

Newport Banning Ranch — a partnership involving an oil producer and investment and real estate companies — has argued that developing about 70 acres would help fund an estimated \$30 million to \$40 million in restoration costs following years of drilling and that the public would have access to walking trails and educational programs.

But environmental advocates contend the oil mess should be cleaned up regardless of whether homes are built. While some oil wells still operate, many have since been abandoned and old, rusty pipes are strewn across the brush-covered property overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Commission staff members recommended developers confine building to 20 acres to protect habitat for the burrowing owl. Last year, a larger version of the project was denied, and developers were urged to work with Newport Banning Ranch to help downsize the proposal.

The land provides critical habitat for the owl and the threatened California gnatcatcher, a small, blue-gray songbird. It is also home to a rare vernal pool system that fills with rainwater each spring where

endangered San Diego fairy shrimp are known to thrive.

WHY IT MATTERS: Education

JENNIFER C. KERR, Associated Press

EDITOR'S NOTE _ One in an AP series examining issues at stake in the presidential election and how they affect people

WASHINGTON (AP) — THE ISSUE: Hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars are spent each year on the country's public schools. The U.S. has record-high graduation rates, 82 percent, but also stubborn achievement gaps and dismally lagging math and reading scores compared with other countries. And university degrees are leaving millions mired in debt. Few issues touch the lives of families like the state of education.

WHERE THEY STAND

Hillary Clinton has made the soaring costs of college her primary education focus. She has proposed free tuition at in-state public colleges and universities for working families with incomes up to \$125,000. Of course, that's only free for student and families, not for taxpayers. To counter the crush of student debt, she also wants to implement a three-month moratorium on loan payments for all federal borrowers. During that time, borrowers would be able to consolidate their loans or enroll in other plans that could help cut costs.

Donald Trump has railed against the Common Core academic standards that have been adopted in more than 40 states, calling them a "total disaster." He's pledged to do away with them if elected, even though the standards were created and adopted by states, not the federal government. Trump says he wants to see more local control of education. He's vowed to give students choice, let charter schools thrive and end tenure policies "that reward bad teachers."

WHY IT MATTERS

Just look at the numbers.

About 100,000 public schools opened their doors to some 50 million students in kindergarten through high school in the new school year.

The bill for taxpayers: \$582 billion, or about \$11,670 per pupil each year, on average, to teach those students and set them on a path toward college or careers. About 10 percent of that money comes from the federal government. The rest is from states and local districts, facing ever-tight budgets.

The Obama administration and others before it — both Republican and Democratic — have preached the importance of a quality education that opens the door to opportunity and success. Yet the cost of college is rising, leaving students saddled with debt. And some who have attended for-profit schools have seen their degrees rendered virtually worthless, with the government picking up the tab for discharging their student loans.

There's no doubt that better educated students more often get better paying jobs. The median annual earnings for someone age 25 to 34 with no high school diploma is \$40,000. For those with a bachelor's degree or higher, it's \$52,000.

The good news: High school graduation rates are up sharply and dropout rates are down.

The bad: Progress for the nation's schoolkids isn't nearly on pace with other countries. This has implications well beyond bragging rights. A country that's trailing others in education will lag in international

competitiveness and that will contribute to economic hardship. And within the U.S., there are challenging gaps by race and wealth, for achievement and more.

Globally, American schoolchildren trail their counterparts in Japan, Korea, Canada, Germany, France and more.

Education remains primarily the responsibility of the states, even though the federal government can use its pocketbook to influence policies and practices. The Obama administration issued waivers and grants through programs like Race to the Top to get its say on academic standards and other issues.

A law enacted last year with bipartisan support has vastly diminished the powers of the federal government in how the county's schools are run and their performance judged, but the Education Department still plays an oversight role. While the current administration has started putting the law into place, it will be up to the next president to finish the process.

AP Top 25 Heat Check: Badgers, 'Horns surge; Tigers tumble

RALPH D. RUSSO, AP College Football Writer

The first weekend of the college football season mostly lived up to the hype, no thanks to Southern California.

Seven teams ranked in the AP Top 25 preseason poll, including two in the top five, lost. The first poll of the regular season had four new teams in it, with No. 10 Wisconsin and No. 11 Texas making huge jumps into the rankings.

The first month or so of the season is always the most volatile and difficult for the 61 media members who vote in the poll. How do you balance wanting to rank on results with the fact that there are so few games of value?

In recent years, voters have become more comfortable making dramatic shifts in early season polls — which is how you get LSU dropping 16 spots after one loss and Wisconsin going from unranked to 10th. How did the voters do this week? Time for a heat check.

No. 1 Alabama (1-0)

The only nit to pick is there are still seven voters giving their No. 1 vote to other teams. Maybe they're upset Nick Saban lied about his quarterbacks?

Next: Western Kentucky

Heat check: Just right.

No. 2 Clemson (1-0)

It wasn't Deshaun Watson's best game against Auburn, but he made a handful of spectacular plays that few others can. And that was the difference between winning and losing.

Next: Troy

Heat check: A touch too hot.

No. 3 Florida State (1-0)

Who else coaches quarterbacks as well as Jimbo Fisher? It'd be a short list.

Next: Charleston Southern.

Heat check: Too cold. Flip-flop with Clemson.

No. 4 Ohio State (1-0)

Look out for H-back Curtis Samuel playing the versatile role that the Buckeyes never quite found the sweet spot last season with Braxton Miller. Samuel had 84 yards rushing and 177 receiving in the Bowling Green blowout.

Next: Tulsa.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 29 of 39

Heat check: Too hot.

No. 5 Michigan (1-0)

The Wolverines don't leave home for a game until Oct. 8.

Next: UCF.

Heat check: Too hot.

No. 6 Houston (1-0)

The Cougars made a big jump to their best ranking since 1990, but are likely to settle in right around here for a while. How much credit will they get from voters for road victories against American Athletic Conference rivals Cincinnati and Navy in the next month?

Next: Lamar.

Heat check: Too cold after one of the weekend's best victories.

No. 7 Stanford (1-0)

QB Ryan Burns was great against Kansas State. If he keeps burning opponents who stack the box to stop McCaffrey, the Cardinal will be just fine.

Next: vs. USC, Sept. 17.

Heat check: Just right.

No. 8 Washington (1-0)

One red flag from an easy victory against Rutgers: No running back averaged more than 4 yards per carry.

Next: Idaho

Heat check: Huskies hype is too hot.

No. 9 Georgia (1-0)

Great start for Kirby Smart, but a top-10 ranking for beating North Carolina seems like a bit much.

Next: Nicholls.

Heat check: Too hot.

No. 10 Wisconsin (1-0)

Badgers can bask in the big win for a couple weeks. Then, starting Sept. 24: at Michigan State, at Michigan, Ohio State, at Iowa, Nebraska. This top-10 thing might not last long.

Next: Akron.

Heat check: Just right.

No. 11 Texas (1-0)

It is way too early to proclaim Texas truly back, but what the Longhorns have most lacked under Charlie Strong was a quarterback and an offensive identity. For the first time it looks as if they now have those.

Next: UTEP.

Heat check: Too cold. Top-10? Sure.

No. 12 Michigan State (1-0)

We'll find out soon enough if the Spartans were saving themselves against Furman for Notre Dame.

Next: at No. 18 Notre Dame, Sept. 17.

Heat check: Just right.

No. 13 Louisville (1-0)

After eight touchdowns against Charlotte, QB Lamar Jackson gets a nice stage to show off this week. Then things get serious in Week 3 when Florida State comes to the 'Ville.

Next: at Syracuse, Friday.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 30 of 39

Heat check: Just right.

No. 14 Oklahoma (0-1)

Under almost no circumstances is it acceptable for Samaje Perine and Joe Mixon to get a combined 12 rushing attempts in a game for the Sooners again this season.

Next: Louisiana-Monroe.

Heat check: Just right.

No. 15 TCU (1-0)

Should we be worried about the spotty performance, especially on defense, against South Dakota State? We'll find out Saturday.

Next: Arkansas.

Heat check: Too hot.

No. 16 Iowa (1-0)

What better way to celebrate a victory against Miami, Ohio, than by giving a six-year contract extension to coach Kirk Ferentz.

Next: Iowa State.

Heat check: Ferentz possibly coaching 27 seasons at Iowa sounds just right.

No. 17 Tennessee (1-0)

The Volunteers' offensive line was brutal against Appalachian State. Better improve against Bud Foster's defense or the next slide will be right out of the Top 25.

Next: Virginia Tech at Bristol Motor Speedway.

Heat check: Too hot. Other team's losses were better than the Vols' win.

No. 18 Notre Dame (0-1)

At this point we can assume Brian Kelly is continuing the quarterback competition to keep Malik Zaire focused. Because DeShone Kizer has nothing left to prove.

Next: Nevada.

Heat check: Too cold.

No. 19 Mississippi (0-1)

The way it happened made the loss to Florida State feel worse than it was.

Next: Wofford.

Heat check: Too cold.

No. 20 Texas A&M (1-0)

Department of everything is relative: Longhorns blow a lead and win in OT. Is Texas back? Aggies blow a lead and win in OT? Is Sumlin off the hot seat?

Next: Prairie View.

Heat check: Too cold.

No. 21 LSU (0-1)

Maybe we shouldn't be surprised about LSU: When nothing changes, why expect different results? Though it does seem as if the voters were being a punitive in their treatment of the Tigers.

Next: Jacksonville State.

Heat check: Too cold.

No. 22 Oklahoma State (1-0)

Cowboys power booster T. Boone Pickens prefers SMU and Houston for Big 12 expansion.

Next: Central Michigan.

Heat check: Just right.

No. 23 Baylor (1-0)

Didn't think the Bears should have been ranked in the first place.

Next: SMU.

Heat check: Too hot.

No. 24 Oregon

As bad as the Ducks' D was last season, allowing 4.9 yards per play, even to UC Davis, is somewhat encouraging.

Next: Virginia.

Heat check: Too cold, but not because of anything the Ducks did in the opener.

No. 25 Miami

Voters traded in the Gators for the Hurricanes in this spot because why not?

Next: FAU.

Heat check: Just right.

Paralympics: As games begin, athletes want progress

EMILY GIAMBALVO, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — At the 2012 London Paralympics, athletes competed in venues full of spectators who cheered from the first event to the last. Lines for tickets extended out the doors.

"Everybody in the crowd was legitimately excited," said U.S. swimmer Brad Snyder, who won two gold medals in London. "It wasn't production. It wasn't any magic."

London set a new standard for Paralympic attendance and organization. Four years later, concerns over budget problems and slow ticket sales have plagued the Rio Games. The athletes who will march in Wednesday night's opening ceremony at historic Maracana Stadium said their performances won't be affected, and they hope the new, higher profile of the Paralympics won't be either.

"We want progress," Snyder said. "We want to say that we've taken a step forward."

Rio Paralympics organizers have seen an uptick in ticket sales in recent days, announcing Tuesday that 1.6 million tickets have been sold. Yet concerns about budget and lags in preparation linger. On Tuesday, workers still were paving parts of the plaza around the Olympic Tennis Centre in Rio's Olympic Park.

"I don't want the movement to plateau or become stagnant," said U.S. wheelchair basketball player Desiree Miller, who also competed in London. "I want it to catch fire after Rio so by the time Tokyo comes around there's not a person in the States or a person in the world that doesn't know who a Paralympian is."

Organizers in London, in the country that gave birth to the Paralympics after World War II, sold a record 2.7 million tickets. Miller said that during the 2012 Games, people on the streets of London knew who she was and what sport she played.

The spotlight followed her home to Wisconsin. Customers recognize her at the sporting goods store where she works.

"They'll use the word Paralympian," Miller said. "Just for the public to use that word is huge — that people know the difference."

NBC, which broadcast six hours of coverage from the London Paralympics, is planning more than 70 hours of coverage on NBC, NBCSN and the NBC Sports app.

"We see how much work we're putting into it, but it's nice for the rest of the world to see," Irish cyclist Peter Ryan said.

Snyder said that if people tune in to the games and fans haven't shown up to watch an event live, they might be more likely to change the channel.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 32 of 39

London's ticket sales surpassed the 2008 Beijing Games by almost 1 million.

When it was revealed in mid-August that only 300,000 tickets of the available 2.5 million for the Rio Games had been purchased, Greg Nugent, the brand, marketing and culture director for London 2012, launched an online crowdfunding campaign to raise money to send Brazilian children to the competition.

As of Tuesday, \$200,000 has been donated, according to a post on the campaign site. American wheelchair racer Tatyana McFadden, Coldplay and Prince Harry have been among the donors.

"For (kids) to see, 'They're in wheelchairs and they can do this. Or, they don't have a leg and they do this, then I guess I can, too,'" said Abby Dunkin, who is on the U.S. wheelchair basketball team in Rio. "It's more than just playing our game. It's more about the movement and educating everyone outside."

Canadian rower Andrew Todd said that while the Paralympics initially focused on participation, the event has shifted to have a stronger competitive spirit.

"The lay person's perspective of Paralympics is, 'Oh it's great that people swim. That's neat,'" Snyder said. "When you actually see it, you see how intense these athletes are. When you see how much a person with no legs can bench press or squat, it really is quite impressive.

"We've known all along the power of the Paralympic movement, but London was the first time it got shown to the community in a really big way, not only from a production standpoint, from a spectator standpoint."

Ball men? At US Open, chasing down balls has no age limit

JAMES MARTINEZ, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When 55-year-old banking executive Vijay Parimoo told his friends he would be a rookie ball boy at this year's U.S. Open, he expected, and got, a little teasing.

"They were like, 'Isn't there an age limit? Shouldn't there be?'" he said.

But the U.S. Open has indeed never put an upper limit on the age of its ball chasers, which tournament officials say sets Flushing Meadows apart from the other Grand Slams. Of the 275 ball people this year — all of whom had to make it through grueling tryouts — about 75 are 18 or older and more than 20 of those are over 30. Several are in their 50s. One who gave it up a couple of years ago was 63.

Top players who make it their habit to thank the "ball boys and ball girls" in their victory speeches on tour have been seen giving double-takes when handed a ball or towel by grownups.

"I see many adults," says No. 1-ranked defending champion Novak Djokovic. "I don't know if all of them are adults, but they're doing their job very well."

While the very idea of "ball men" and "ball women" has been lampooned over the years — most notably on TV's "Seinfeld" when Kramer finds a way to bungle the "great ball man experiment" — it's a point of pride for the hardy few who have actually done one of the most coveted minimum-wage jobs in sports. And U.S. Open officials say there are plenty of wrinkles, so to speak, at this particular Grand Slam that make older ball people a sensible choice.

For one, the two-week U.S. Open normally straddles the Labor Day weekend, when the school year kicks in and labor laws prevent kids from working extended hours, especially at night.

"The older ballpersons are gold in the night matches," says Cathie Delaney, a U.S. Tennis Association pro who manages the day-to-day court assignments for ball people who can be as young as 14. "Some of these matches go until 2 a.m. We can't have a 14-year-old on the subway at 2 a.m."

And then there's the U.S. Open's distinction of being the only major in which the ball person's move the balls around the court by throwing them rather than rolling them, which on changeovers can mean

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 33 of 39

80-foot, baseball-like guns from one end of the court to the other. Over the three weeks of work — through the qualifying rounds, the main draws, junior, college and wheelchair events — all that throwing can take a toll on young arms.

Former college baseball player Yitz Liberman answered the call several years ago, not out of a particular devotion to tennis but because he knew he had a rocket arm. Now, the 34-year-old adjunct professor of Judaic studies at Yeshiva University has worked his way up to the position of crew chief in some of the top matches in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"There's a lot going on around you. It's my job to keep everyone focused and everyone in line," says Liberman, who high-fived his mostly teenage crew when they were assigned Venus Williams' match in front of more than 23,000 fans.

Dressed in identical blue uniforms, the six-person crew marches on and off the court like soldiers. In a choreographed flourish, they fan out onto the court to their assigned spots, the runners at the net who scamper for loose balls, and the throwers at the end who bounce the balls to the players and handle their sweaty towels.

Tina Taps, who has been in charge of the ball persons since 1989, says she doesn't care about age, only a love of the tennis and the ability to make it through tryouts, which involve sprints, agility drills and throwing competitions. Each summer, about 400 people try out for just 80 rookie spots.

"It's a hard job," she said. "More mature ball persons can deal with the heat and the various things that occur on the court and can teach the younger ones to persevere."

One of those vets is Laray Fowler, a 32-year-old sales associate from Great Neck who has worked every U.S. Open since she was 14. She specializes in knowing and anticipating the on-court likes, dislikes and nuances of some of the game's biggest stars, including Serena Williams.

"It's kind of like I know what she wants without her even having to ask," says Fowler, who, for reasons that have never been explained to her, ends up getting assigned to just about every Serena match.

So will there ever come a day Fowler will give up being a ball person? No way, she says. "I'm going to do this until I can't walk anymore."

For Parimoo, the 55-year-old rookie from Warren, New Jersey, taking his place on court is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. It began in his native India when he watched Jimmy Connors, Chris Evert and Bjorn Borg at the Open on television and noticed the youngsters chasing the balls across the court. "What do these kids have to do to be in this tournament?" he wondered. "They must be super smart or special."

When his 15-year-old son, Shray, tried out this summer, he took his dad with him. Amazingly, they both made it.

In one of his first assignments, Parimoo handled the towel in a doubles match for one of his idols, Martina Hingis. But his biggest honor came this week when he was assigned to work as part of the same crew with his son.

It reminded him once again of the biggest advantage he has over younger ball people: perspective.

"This is a privilege," he says. "I enjoy every minute I am here. I may not be able to do it tomorrow."

Pledging US help, Obama says Laos living in 'shadow of war'

JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

KATHLEEN HENNESSEY, Associated Press

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — Acknowledging the dark aftershocks of the Vietnam War, President Barack Obama paid tribute Wednesday to survivors maimed by some 80 million unexploded bombs America dropped on Laos decades ago and pledged U.S. help to finally clean them up.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 34 of 39

Touring a rehabilitation center in Vientiane, Obama said the U.S. had a "profound moral and humanitarian obligation" to work to prevent more bloodshed from the remnants of the U.S. bombardment. He touted his administration's move to double spending on ordinance cleanup to roughly \$90 million over three years.

"For the last four decades, Laotians have continued to live under the shadow of war," Obama said. "The war did not end when the bombs stopped falling."

Some 20,000 people have been killed or wounded since the the war ended, Obama said after viewing displays of small rusted grenades and photos of a child missing his foot. He insisted those were "not just statistics," but reminders of the heavy toll inflicted by war — "some of them unintended."

"I'm inspired by you," he told one survivor, Thoummy Silamphan, who uses a prosthetic after losing a hand to one of the bombs.

Half a century ago, the United States turned Laos into history's most heavily bombed country, dropping some 2 million tons of ordnance in a covert, nine-year chapter of the Vietnam War. The first U.S. president to set foot in Laos while in office, Obama lamented that many Americans remain unaware of the "painful legacy" left behind.

The \$90 million is a relatively small sum for the U.S. but a significant investment for a small country in one of the poorer corners of the world. Obama sought to put a human face on the issue by meeting Wednesday with survivors of bombs that America dropped.

The president did not come to apologize. Instead, he said he hoped the strengthened partnership on clearing the bombs could mark a "decisive step forward" between the U.S. and this landlocked communist nation.

Thanks to global cleanup efforts, casualties from tennis ball-sized "bombies" that still litter the Lao-tian countryside have plummeted from hundreds to dozens per year. But aid groups say far more help is needed. Of all the provinces in landlocked Laos, only one has a comprehensive system to care for bomb survivors.

"We're incredibly proud of the progress the sector has made over the last five years in terms of the decline in casualties and new victims," said Channapha Khamvongsa of the nonprofit Legacies of War. "But we are concerned about the upwards of 15,000 survivors around the country that are still in need of support."

After touring the rehab center, Obama was taking a short flight to Luang Prabang, a city in mountainous northern Laos that is on UNESCO's World Heritage List. He was to tour a Buddhist temple before taking questions from young Southeast Asians at a town hall-style event.

The \$90 million Obama announced follows \$100 million the U.S. has committed in the past 20 years. The Lao government, meanwhile, said it will boost efforts to recover remains and account for Americans missing since the war.

The punishing air campaign on Laos was an effort to cut off communist forces in neighboring Vietnam. American warplanes dropped more explosives on this Southeast Asian nation than on Germany and Japan combined in World War II, a stunning statistic that Obama noted during his first day in Vientiane.

Obama was one of several world leaders visiting Laos to attend a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Taking its turn as chair of the regional forum, Laos' communist government is seizing a rare moment in the spotlight.

For Obama, the visit serves as a capstone to his yearslong effort to bolster relations with Southeast Asian countries long overlooked by the United States. The outreach is a core element of his attempt to shift U.S. diplomatic and military resources away from the Middle East and into Asia in order to counter China in the region and ensure a U.S. foothold in growing markets. The project has yielded uneven

results.

Yet Obama's outreach took an uncomfortable turn just as he headed to Laos from another summit in China. The White House called off a scheduled meeting Tuesday with President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippine - a U.S. treaty ally - after the brash new leader referred to Obama as a "son of a bitch."

Duterte, who had been expecting Obama to criticize his deadly, extrajudicial crackdown on drug dealers, later said he regretted the personal attack on the president.

Obama filled the hole in his schedule by meeting with South Korean President Park Geun-hye in a display of unity a day after North Korea fired three ballistic missiles. Obama vowed to work with the United Nations to tighten sanctions against Pyongyang, but said the door wasn't closed to a more functional relationship.

Judge puts hold on plan to open California lands to fracking

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday tentatively rejected a plan by the federal Bureau of Land Management to open more than 1,500 square miles of lands in central California to oil drilling and fracking.

The BLM failed to take a "hard look" at the environmental effects of the estimated 25 percent of new wells that would be devoted to fracking, U.S. District Judge Michael W. Fitzgerald wrote in the ruling. The process, formally known as hydraulic fracturing, uses high-pressure mixtures of water, sand and chemicals to extract oil and gas from rock.

Fitzgerald ruled that the BLM must provide more study on the effects fracking will have in the area. He gave the agency's attorneys until Sept. 21 to argue why he should not issue an injunction stopping the plan.

The ruling came in a lawsuit brought by a pair of environmental groups, the Center for Biological Diversity and Los Padres ForestWatch.

"This is a huge victory in the fight to protect our water and wildlife from fracking pollution and dangerous drilling," Brendan Cummings, director of the Center For Biological Diversity, said in a statement. "As California struggles against drought and climate change, we've got to end fracking and leave this dirty oil in the ground."

After-hours phone and email messages left seeking reaction from the Bureau of Land Management were not immediately returned.

Catherine Reheis-Boyd, president of the oil-industry group the Western States Petroleum Association, said in response to the decision that "hydraulic fracturing and other well stimulation treatments in California have undergone rigorous analysis and review, culminating in the most stringent environmental standards nationwide."

"Countless independent, state, and federal science-based studies all agree, Boyd added, "Hydraulic fracturing, when regulated, remains a safe technology that provides enormous benefits to American businesses and consumers."

The land involved in the decision is about 1.1 million acres of public lands and federal mineral estate in the mostly agricultural central valley, the southern end of the Sierra Nevada, and parts of the central coast.

The judge's decision says that over one-third of the federally listed threatened and endangered species that live in California can be found on the land that is in the plan, and the land also is home to many groundwater systems that contribute to water supplies for agricultural and residential use.

Execution drop makes some think death penalty is fading away

MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Is the death penalty in America gradually dying?

There have been just two executions since May 1 and the total for 2016 probably will hit a 25-year low.

Execution drug shortages, sometimes grotesque errors in death chambers and legal challenges to sentences imposed by judges have contributed to a dramatic decline in the number of states that are carrying out executions.

Just three states, Texas, Georgia and Missouri, are using the death penalty with any regularity, though Texas has not executed anyone since April. Four executions are scheduled in the state before the end of the year.

The reduction in executions and in the number of states that are enforcing death sentences led Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg to conclude recently, "I think the death penalty is fading away." There is not enough support on the court to abolish capital punishment, Ginsburg said, but added that may not be necessary.

"Most states don't have any executions. The executions that we have are very heavily concentrated in a few states and even a few counties within those states," she said in an interview with The Associated Press in July. Ginsburg joined a lengthy dissenting opinion by Justice Stephen Breyer last year that highlighted problems with the death penalty that led the two justices to conclude that it probably is unconstitutional.

States that have had to halt executions, though, are trying to figure out how to resume. Ohio and Oklahoma are among states that intend to re-start executions once they have corrected well-publicized problems in their death chambers.

Ohio, which last executed an inmate in January 2014, has set a January 12 execution date for a man convicted of raping and killing a three-year-old girl in Akron. But it's unclear whether his execution, or more than two dozen others that are scheduled into 2020, will take place because the state lacks lethal execution drugs and has struggled to find a supplier, as have other states.

In Ohio's last execution, in January 2014, Dennis McGuire gasped and snorted repeatedly during a 26-minute execution that used a never before tried combination of two drugs. That protocol has since been eliminated and those drugs aren't available for executions.

Oklahoma last execution was in January 2015, amid the use of the wrong drug and other problems. The state's prison system is expected to adopt new execution procedures soon. Even then, Attorney General Scott Pruitt says he will wait at least another five months before asking a court to schedule an execution.

Oklahoma imposed a moratorium on the death penalty after two problem-filled executions and a third that was called off when prison officials noticed they received the wrong drug. The top lawyer for Gov. Mary Fallin urged officials to go forward anyway, telling another lawyer to "Google it" to confirm the drug could be used, according to a grand jury investigation.

Alabama and Florida haven't put anyone to death since January because of questions about the way death sentences are imposed in those states.

Even Texas has seen a reduction in executions. The state's highest criminal appeals court has stopped four executions in the past month, though each case raised different issues. Separately, the Supreme Court will take up two Texas death row cases in the coming months, also involving discrete issues.

California has the largest death-row population, 746 inmates as of early August, but hasn't executed

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 37 of 39

anyone in 10 years. Voters in the nation's most populous state will consider separate ballot questions in November that would abolish the death penalty on the one hand and speed up the appeals process on the other.

The longer states go without executions, the harder it may be for them to resume, said Robert Dunham, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center.

"The law of inertia is that a body in motion tends to stay in motion. A body at rest tends to stay at rest. There are policy parallels for that with the death penalty. Right now most states are comfortable not executing anybody. And for the most part, the public is comfortable, even in death penalty states, with their states not executing anybody," Dunham said.

So far there have been 15 executions this year. At the current pace, there would be 19 executions by the end of 2016, the fewest since 1991, when 14 people were put to death. The high-water mark was in 1999, when there were 98 executions.

The number of new death sentences also is approaching historic lows as most jurisdictions are forgoing costly capital trials in favor of seeking life sentences with no chance of parole. Texas, which has executed more people since the modern resumption of the death penalty in 1976 than the next six states combined, had only two new death sentences last year.

Many of the executions that are being carried out are for crimes committed up to 30 years ago, before some states enhanced the legal representation in capital cases, said Stephen Bright, an experienced death penalty lawyer who is president of the Southern Center for Human Rights.

"There are a lot of people who are getting executed who would never be sentenced to death today," Bright said.

Asian stocks drift as Fed rate outlook eases on service data

KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian stocks meandered Wednesday after a weak report on U.S. service companies added to expectations that the Fed won't move anytime soon to raise interest rates.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index lost 0.7 percent to 16,970.24 as the latest U.S. data pushed the yen higher, hurting shares of the country's export manufacturers. South Korea's Kospi added 0.3 percent to 2,072.02. Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged up less than 0.1 percent to 23,804.66 and the Shanghai Composite Index in mainland China climbed 0.4 percent to 3,103.25. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.1 percent to 5,419.90.

SERVICE: A private monthly survey found that U.S. services companies expanded in August at the slowest pace in more than six years. The Institute for Supply Management's services index came in at its lowest level since February 2010. Last month's decline was also the biggest since late 2008, when the U.S. was gripped by a recession amid the global crisis. While Federal Reserve chief Janet Yellen had said last month that the case for raising rates was becoming stronger, the numbers add to other recent evidence that the U.S. economy is still shaky and reduce expectations for such a move.

ANALYST INSIGHT: The latest figures are "highlighting a continuing concern that the recovery in the U.S. economy may be losing steam," said Nicholas Teo at KGI Fraser Securities in Singapore. "This, together with last week's lower than expected payroll numbers, may in turn deny Mrs. Yellen of the confirmation she needs to lift rates later this month."

WALL STREET: Major U.S. benchmarks finished slightly higher. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 0.2 percent to 18,538.12. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.3 percent to 2,186.48. The Nasdaq composite added 0.5 percent to close at 5,275.91, an all-time high.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude oil futures added 31 cents to \$45.14 in electronic trading in the New

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 38 of 39

York Mercantile Exchange. The contract added 39 cents to settle at \$44.83 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the benchmark for international oil prices, rose 33 cents to \$47.59 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar sank to 101.38 yen from 101.99 yen in late trading Tuesday. The euro rose to \$1.1258 from \$1.1246.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 7, the 251st day of 2016. There are 115 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 7, 1916, the Federal Employees Compensation Act, providing financial assistance to federal workers who suffer job-related injuries, was signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson.

On this date:

In 1533, England's Queen Elizabeth I was born in Greenwich.

In 1812, the Battle of Borodino took place as French troops clashed with Russian forces outside Moscow. (The battle, ultimately won by Russia, was commemorated by composer Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky with his "1812 Overture.")

In 1825, the Marquis de Lafayette, the French hero of the American Revolution, bade farewell to President John Quincy Adams at the White House.

In 1927, American television pioneer Philo T. Farnsworth, 21, succeeded in transmitting the image of a line through purely electronic means with a device called an "image dissector."

In 1936, rock-and-roll legend Buddy Holly was born Charles Hardin Holley in Lubbock, Texas.

In 1940, Nazi Germany began its eight-month blitz of Britain during World War II with the first air attack on London.

In 1957, the original animated version of the NBC-TV peacock logo, used to denote programs "brought to you in living color," made its debut at the beginning of "Your Hit Parade."

In 1963, the National Professional Football Hall of Fame was dedicated in Canton, Ohio.

In 1968, feminists protested outside the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, New Jersey. (The pageant crown went to Miss Illinois Judith Ford.)

In 1977, the Panama Canal treaties, calling for the U.S. to eventually turn over control of the waterway to Panama, were signed in Washington by President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos (toh-REE'-hohs).

In 1986, Desmond Tutu was installed as the first black clergyman to lead the Anglican Church in southern Africa.

In 1996, rapper Tupac Shakur was shot and mortally wounded on the Las Vegas Strip; he died six days later.

Ten years ago: British Prime Minister Tony Blair gave in to a fierce revolt in his Labour Party and reluctantly promised to quit within a year. Former Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage confirmed he was the source of a leak that had disclosed the identity of CIA employee Valerie Plame, saying he didn't realize Plame's job was covert.

Five years ago: The latest in a series of Republican presidential debates brought together Mitt Romney, Michele Bachmann, Rick Perry, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Ron Paul, and Rick Santorum in Simi Valley, California. A private Russian jet carrying a top ice hockey team slammed into a riverbank moments after takeoff from the airport near the western city of Yaroslavl, killing 44 people.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 068 ~ 39 of 39

(Investigators blamed pilot error.) A powerful bomb hidden in a briefcase ripped through a crowd of people waiting to enter a New Delhi courthouse, killing 13 people.

One year ago: Hillary Clinton, interviewed by The Associated Press during a campaign swing through Iowa, said she did not need to apologize for using a private email account and server while at the State Department because "what I did was allowed." Courting unions on Labor Day, President Barack Obama denounced Republicans for a "constant attack on working Americans," telling a rally in Boston that he was using his executive power to force federal contractors to give paid sick leave to their employees. Former child star Dickie Moore, 89, died in Connecticut.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Sonny Rollins is 86. Actor Bruce Gray is 80. Singer Gloria Gaynor is 73. Singer Alfa Anderson (Chic) is 70. Actress Susan Blakely is 68. Rock singer Chrissie Hynde (The Pretenders) is 65. Actress Julie Kavner is 65. Rock musician Benmont Tench (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers) is 63. Actor Corbin Bernsen is 62. Actor Michael Emerson is 62. Pianist Michael Feinstein is 60. Singer Margot Chapman is 59. Actress J. Smith-Cameron is 59. Actor W. Earl Brown is 53. Actor Toby Jones is 50. Actress-comedian Leslie Jones (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 49. Model-actress Angie Everhart is 47. Actress Diane Farr is 47. Country singer Butter (Trailer Choir) is 46. Actress Monique Gabriela Curnen is 46. Actor Tom Everett Scott is 46. Rock musician Chad Sexton (311) is 46. Actress Shannon Elizabeth is 43. Actor Oliver Hudson is 40. Actor Devon Sawa (SAH'-wuh) is 38. Actor JD Pardo is 37. Singer-musician Wes Willis (Rush of Fools) is 30. Actress Evan Rachel Wood is 29.

Thought for Today: "When you have a great and difficult task, something perhaps almost impossible, if you only work a little at a time, every day a little, suddenly the work will finish itself." — Karen Blixen (Isak Dinesen), Danish author (born 1885, died this date in 1962).