

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 1 of 43

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Dakota Tree Ad
- 1- Flea Market Ad
- 2- Cross Country results from BH
- 2- Madison Golf Meet Results
- 2-Pre-school screening for 3 year olds
- 2- St. John's Luncheon Ad
- 3- Netters drop match to Webster
- 4- West Nile Update
- 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
- 43- City Council Story

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**

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Thursday, Sept. 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, 8th/JV at 6:00, varsity to follow)

5:00pm: JH FB hosts Sisseton (7th at 5 pm, 8th at 6 pm)

Friday, Sept. 9

Teddy Bear Day

School Breakfast: French toast sticks, fruit, juice or milk.

School Lunch: Cheese pizza, green beans, broccoli and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Tuna noodle casserole, beets, Swedish apple pie square, whole wheat bread.

Anniv: Clint & Audrey Jacobson

Birthday: Amanda Koens

4:00pm: Girls Soccer at West Central

7:00pm: FB vs. Redfield/Doland at Doland

Saturday, Sept. 10

Sewing Machine Day
Swap Ideas Day

Birthdays: • Debbie Tollifson • Tami Herron •

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



**DAKOTA TREE
COMPANY**

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 2 of 43

Cross country results from Britton-Hecla meet held Tuesday

Varsity Boys - 5000 Meters

13th - Isaac Smith - 21:29

14th - Micah Poor - 21:43

23rd - Lee Williams - 23:19

27th - Mitchell Koens - 23:37

Varsity Girls - 4000 Meters

13th - Hannah Lewandowski - 20:39

22nd - Erin Smith - 22:39

23rd - AnneMarie Smith - 24:06

24th - Jenifer Fjelstad - 24:55

JV Boys - 3000 Meters

6th - Tylan Glover - 12:53

13th - Noah Poor - 14:08

19th - Spencer Jacobs - 16:10

JV Girls - 3000 Meters

4th - Allison Wilson - 16:31

7th - Gabby Kramer - 19:55

Schaller places 17th at Madison Golf Tourney

Groton Area's golf team placed eighth in a field of 16 teams at the Madison Golf Meet held earlier this week.

Hunter Schaller placed 17th with a score of 89, Landon Marzahn was 29th with a 93, Cade Guthmiller was 36th with a 96 and Sean Schuring was 52nd with a 103.

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.

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.

Netters drop first match of season

Groton Area's volleyball team suffered its first loss of the season Tuesday night to the hands of the Webster Area Bearcats, 3-0. The score of all three games was 25-22.

Webster led all the way in the first game, holding its largest lead, 20-14. Groton closed to within two, 24-22. Groton led once in the second game but tied the game six times including once at 22.

Groton also held the lead once in the third game at 17-16, and tied the game three times. Groton closed to within one, 23-22.

Both teams had six ace serves with Groton serving 59 of 66 and Webster 54 of 64. Paityn Bonn was 10 of 10 with two ace serves, Katie Koehler was 14 of 15 with two ace serves and Audrey Wanner was seven of 10 with two ace serves. Morgan Hanson led Webster with 12 of 14 serves and three ace serves.

In team attacks, Groton Area was 86 of 103 with 25 kills. Audrey Wanner was 25 of 30 with 10 kills, Taylor Holm was 12 of 16 with six kills and Gia Gengerke was 17 of 20 with five kills. Webster was 53 of 64 in attacks with 34 kills. Morgan Hanson was 12 of 16 with 10 kills and Lindsey Schoenbeck was 14 of 14 with eight kills.

Groton Area was 84 of 85 in sets with 20 assists. Katie Koehler was 74 of 75 with 15 assists and Paityn Bonn was 10 of 10 with five assists. Shae Sichmeller led Webster with 63 of 63 sets and 32 assists.

Groton Area had 40 digs with Payton Maine having 11 and Katie Koehler 10. Morgan Hanson led Webster with 16 and Mollie Rausch had 15 digs.

Gia Gengerke, Taylor Holm and Katie Koehler each had one block while Haley Rithmiller had two for Webster.

Groton won the junior varisty match, 25-20 and 25-17, and the C match, 25-19 and 25-15. The eighth graders won their match, 27-25 and 25-18 while the seventh graders went 2-2, 25-8, 25-10, 21-25 and 26-28.

Groton Area, now 2-1, will travel to Britton-Hecla on Sept. 8th and will be at Mobridge-Pollock on Sept. 13. Webster is now 4-0 on the season.



Audrey Wanner



Payton Maine



Jessica Bjerke

(Photos by Julianna Kosel)

West Nile update: South Dakota, 7 September 2016

■ **95 human cases of West Nile virus disease** have been reported to the SD Department of Health.

■ **Illness:** 14% neuroinvasive disease, 86% WNV fever, 27% hospitalized.

■ **Viremic blood donors:** 13.

■ **Deaths:** 1.

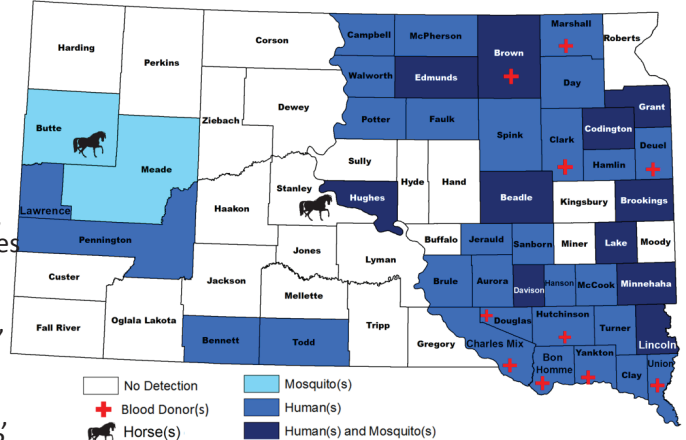
■ **Counties with human WNV cases:** Aurora, Beadle 6, Bennett, Bon Homme, Brookings 4, Brown 11, Brule 3, Campbell, Charles Mix 6, Clark 4, Clay, Codington 3, Davison 2, Day 2, Deuel, Douglas 3, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Hamlin 3, Hanson, Hughes, Hutchinson 3, Jerauld, Lake 3, Lawrence, Lincoln 5, Marshall 3, McCook 2, McPherson, Minnehaha 5, Pennington, Potter, Sanborn, Spink 5, Todd, Turner, Union, Walworth, Yankton.

■ **Counties with viremic blood donors:** Bon Homme 2, Brown 2, Charles Mix, Clark, Deuel, Douglas, Marshall, Union, Yankton 3.

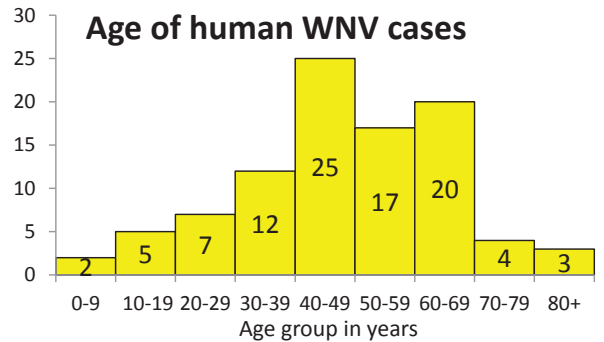
■ **Counties with WNV positive horses:** Stanley, Butte.

■ **Counties with WNV positive mosquito detections:** Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Butte, Codington, Davison, Edmunds, Grant, Hughes, Lake, Lincoln, Meade and Minnehaha.

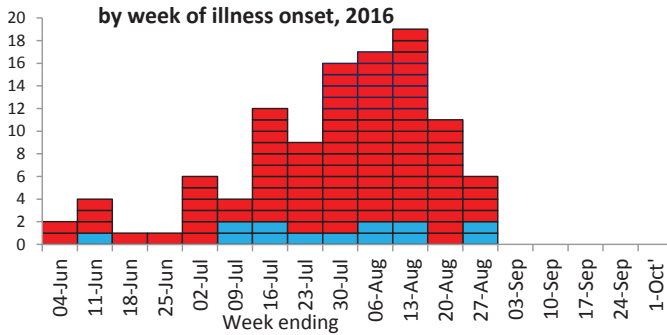
2016 West Nile Virus in South Dakota as of 6 September, 2016



No Detection
 Mosquito(s)
 Human(s)
 Human(s) and Mosquito(s)
+ Blood Donor(s)
 Horse(s)



West Nile Cases (red) and blood donors (blue) by week of illness onset, 2016

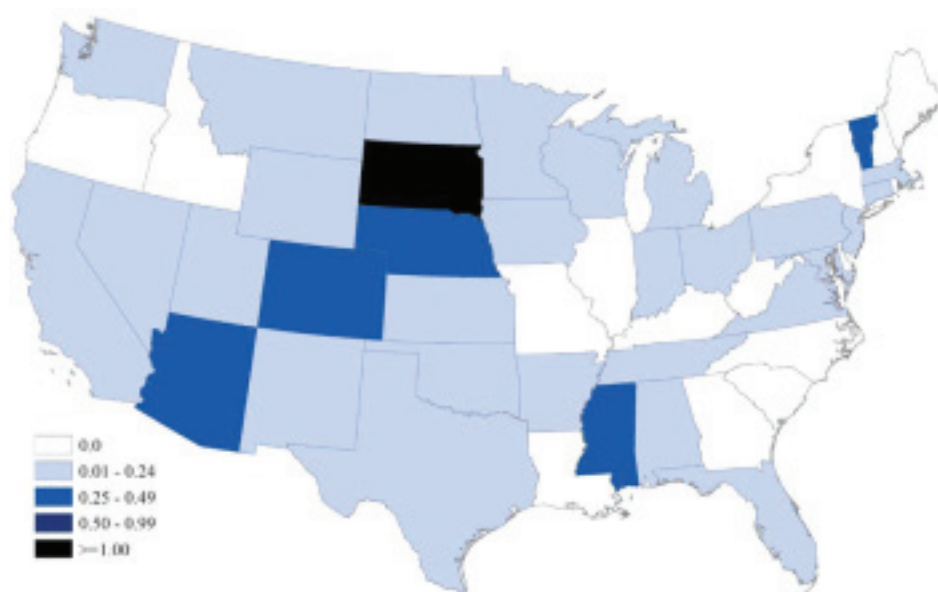


SD Department of Health phone 800-592-1861

SD Department of Health: <http://westnile.sd.gov>

SDSU WNV risk assessment: <http://mosquito.sdstate.edu>

CDC West Nile: www.cdc.gov/westnile



Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 5 of 43

State	Neuro-invasive	Fever	Total	Deaths	WNV + Blood Donors
Alabama	3	2	5	0	1
Arizona	25	13	38	2	7
Arkansas	1	1	2	0	0
California	55	23	78	3	21
Colorado	24	37	61	3	4
Connecticut	1	0	1	0	0
DC	1	0	1	0	0
Florida	3	0	3	0	0
Georgia	0	0	0	0	2
Idaho	0	2	2	0	0
Illinois	0	10	10	0	0
Indiana	1	0	1	0	0
Iowa	2	0	2	0	1
Kansas	6	4	10	1	1
Louisiana	0	1	1	0	3
Massachusetts	1	0	1	0	0
Maryland	1	0	1	0	0
Michigan	7	0	7	0	3
Minnesota	6	8	14	1	4
Mississippi	14	5	19	1	5
Missouri	0	1	1	0	0
Montana	1	2	3	0	1
Nebraska	9	27	36	0	16
Nevada	4	0	4	0	0
New Jersey	1	0	1	0	0
New Mexico	1	0	1	0	0
North Dakota	1	10	11	0	0
Ohio	1	3	4	0	0
Oklahoma	3	3	6	0	1
Pennsylvania	3	2	5	0	0
South Dakota	12	76	88	1	13
Tennessee	1	1	2	0	0
Texas	65	41	106	1	11
Utah	2	1	3	0	0
Vermont	2	0	2	0	0
Virginia	1	0	1	0	0
Washington	3	0	3	1	0
Wisconsin	2	0	2	0	0
Wyoming	1	0	1	0	0
Totals	264	273	537	14	94

West Nile virus (WNV) activity reported to CDC, by state — United States (as of 23 August 2016)

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 6 of 43

Today in Weather History

September 8, 1959: High winds and areas of blowing dust occurred across parts of central South Dakota from Walworth to Mellette. During the evening, wind gusts of 40 to 50 mph affected the counties either side of the Missouri River. Low visibility in blowing dust was blamed for a four-car crash near Pierre, injuring five persons, another accident near Mobridge injured one person. Barn buildings were blown over or unroofed near Delmont in Douglas County. Lightning started grass fires and burned several thousand acres of rangeland in Mellette and Lyman counties.

1900 - The greatest weather disaster in U.S. records occurred when a hurricane struck Galveston TX. A tide fifteen feet high washed over the island demolishing or carrying away buildings, and drowning more than 6000 persons. The hurricane destroyed more than 3600 houses, and total damage was more than thirty million dollars. Winds to 120 mph, and a twenty foot storm surge accompanied the hurricane. Following the storm, the surf was three hundred feet inland from the former water line. The hurricane claimed another 1200 lives outside of the Galveston area. (8th-9th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A tropical depression off the coast of South Carolina brought another round of heavy rain to the Middle Atlantic Coast Region and the Upper Ohio Valley. Showers and thunderstorms produced extremely heavy rain in eastern Pennsylvania, where flooding caused more than 55 million dollars across a seven county area. The afternoon high of 97 degrees at Miami FL was a record for the month of September. (The National Weather Summary)








1988 - Eighteen cities in the south central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Roanoke VA with a reading of 42 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front produced very heavy rain in the central U.S. Thunderstorms during the late morning and afternoon produced five to nine inches of rain around Lincoln NE, with an unofficial total of eleven inches near Holmes Park. Up to six and a half inches of rain soaked northern and western Iowa. Eighty to ninety percent of the homes in Shenandoah IA, where 5.89 inches of rain was received, reported basement flooding. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1998: A severe thunderstorm rapidly developed over the south end of the Las Vegas Valley in Nevada and moved north focusing damaging winds and heavy rain mainly across the eastern half of the metro area. Henderson Executive Airport recorded wind gusts of 80 mph. Air traffic control personnel temporarily evacuated the airport tower. Approximately 15 homes and trailers in Moapa were severely damaged by thunderstorm winds estimated at 80 to 90 mph.

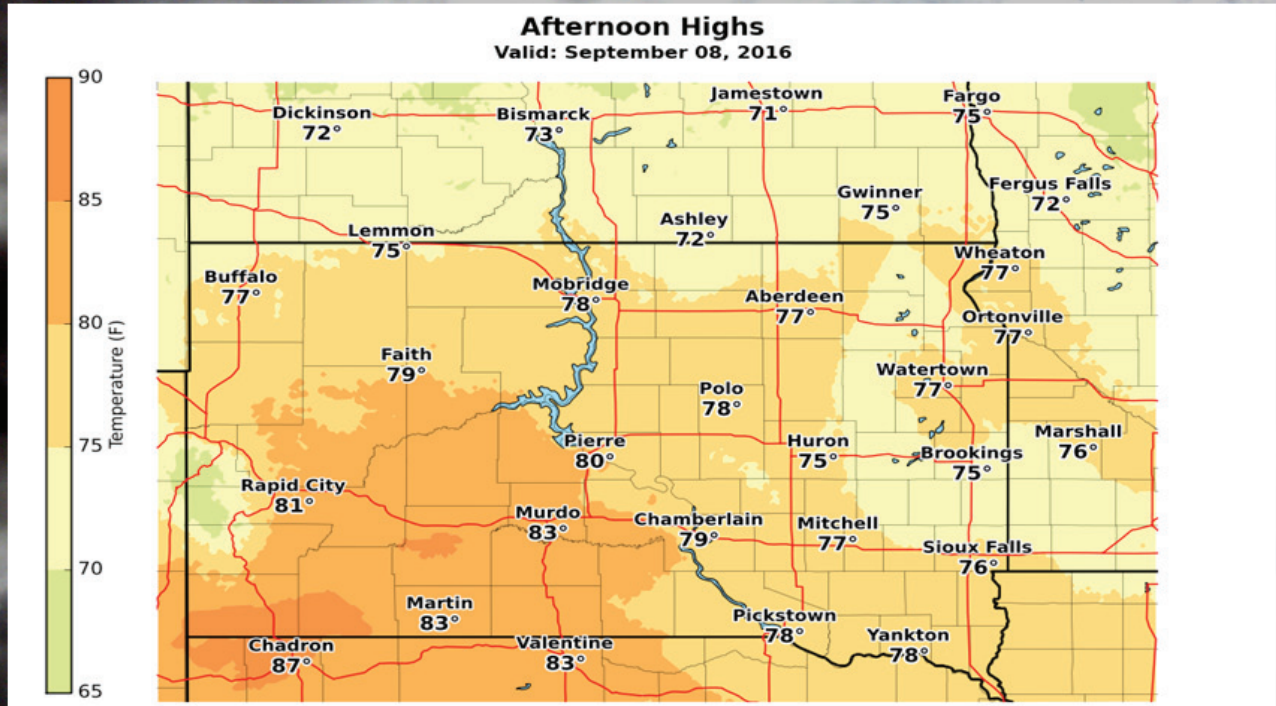
Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 7 of 43

Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Increasing Clouds	Chance T-storms	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 76 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 70 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 73 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 81 °F



Sunny Early – Increasing Clouds Late Isolated Showers



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 9/8/2016 5:24 AM Central

Published on: 09/08/2016 at 5:30AM

High pressure moving south of the forecast area will result in dry conditions for most of the day, but we will see increasing clouds and the chance for an isolated shower or two through the late afternoon and evening. Overnight, more scattered shower and thundershower activity is possible.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 8 of 43

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 74.1 F at 5:59 PM

Low Outside Temp: 54.9 F at 4:49 AM

High Gust: 23.0 Mph at 3:09 PM

Precip: 0.04

Today's Info

Record High: 101° in 1933

Record Low: 32° in 1992

Average High: 76°F

Average Low: 49°F

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.60

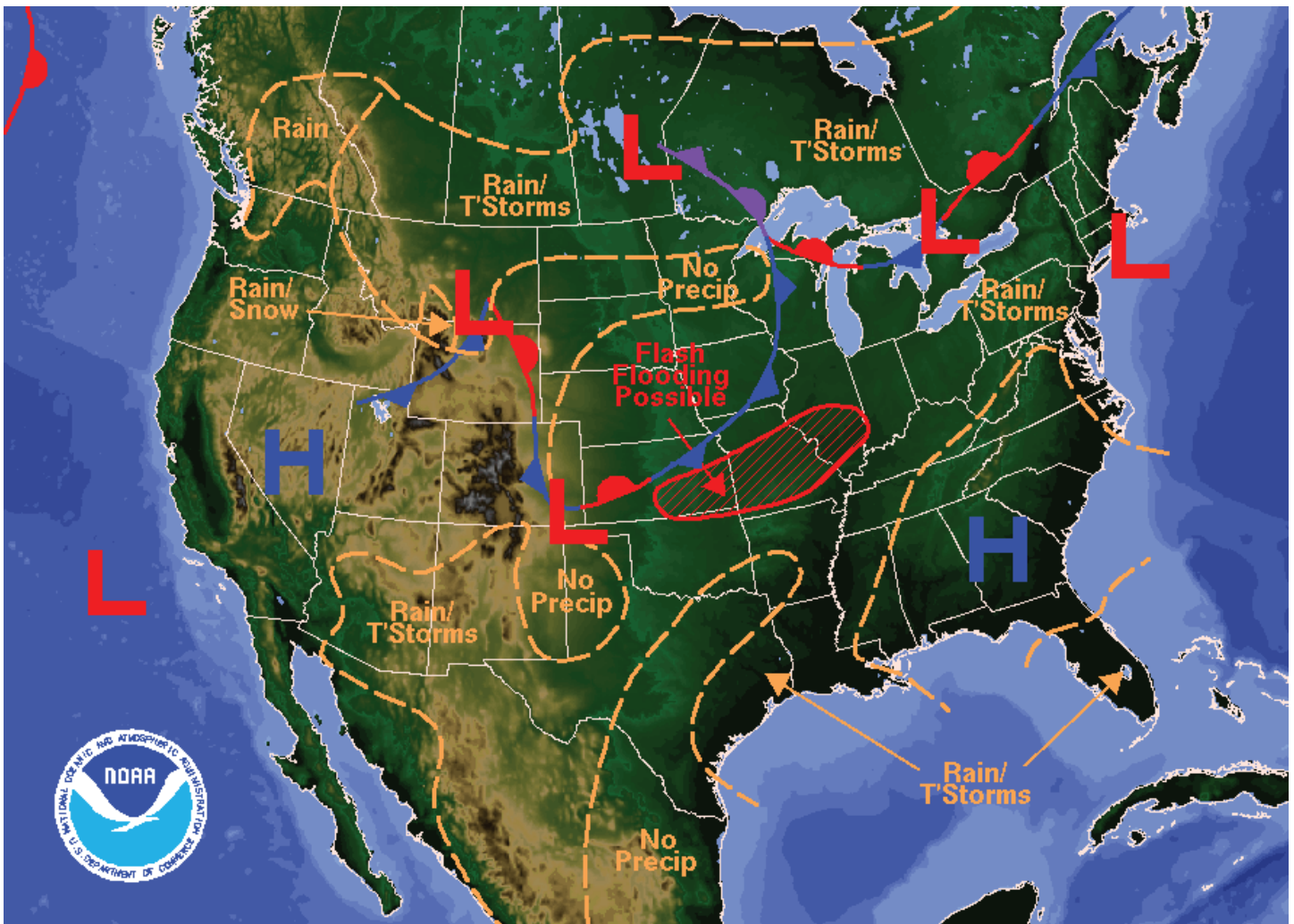
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.19

Average Precip to date: 16.89

Precip Year to Date: 12.85

Sunset Tonight: 7:57 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:05 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, Sep 08, 2016, issued 4:23 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 9 of 43



DOING WHAT'S RIGHT!

It was a dream come true. Robert Gonzales had practiced hard and worked long hours to become the racquetball champion. Finally the day came when he made it to the pro circuit and had an opportunity to play for the championship.

At match point he made a powerful shot into the front wall. The referee and linesman said it was good and he was declared the winner. However, he stunned the crowd. He shook his head back and forth while talking to the referee and said, "That shot hit the floor first and therefore I am not the winner."

Sitting quietly after the match a reporter asked, "Why? Why did you admit that the ball hit the floor first?" "Because it was the only thing I could do to maintain my integrity," came the answer. "I can win another match, but I could never regain my integrity."

Few things in life are as fragile as our integrity. It is our code of conduct, the very standard by which we live our lives and maintain our reputation.

However, there is more. Our reputation is who others think we are. But our character is who God knows us to be. Others may never realize that we have compromised our integrity. But God knows. And ultimately, finally, He is our judge and keeps our record.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, may we remain close to You by reading Your Word, spending time in prayer and in fellowship with others as we guard our integrity. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:121 I have done what is righteous and just; do not leave me to my oppressors.

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

Nevada tribes: Unequal polling access violates voting rights

SCOTT SONNER, Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Tribal leaders in Nevada asked a U.S. judge Wednesday to order the state and two counties to establish satellite polling places on reservations where they say Native Americans are being denied an equal opportunity to vote in the November elections.

Two Paiute tribes filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Reno accusing Nevada Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske and Washoe and Mineral counties of discriminating by illegally refusing tribe members voting access afforded to people in wealthier, mostly white neighborhoods.

Members of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe living in Washoe County say they must travel 96 miles roundtrip to register to vote or to cast ballots in person in Sparks.

Members of the Walker River Paiute Tribe in rural Mineral County say they have to go 70 miles roundtrip to Hawthorne.

The lawsuit says that's twice as far as voters who live on Lake Tahoe's affluent north shore would have to travel to vote if the county had not set up a satellite poll in upscale Incline Village. As a result, both tribes say their rights are being violated under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the U.S. and Nevada constitutions.

Voter registrars in the two counties said earlier that there isn't enough time to set up new sites before registration closes Oct. 18 and early voting begins Oct. 22.

The lawsuit seeks temporary and permanent injunctions against the state and the counties. It alleges failure to establish satellite polls on the reservations has a "significant disparate impact" on the tribes due to socio-economic factors as well as a history of racial discrimination and hostility toward the tribes.

The current practice is an apparent effort to dilute the voting strength of tribe members, according to the suit filed on behalf of the tribes by lawyer Rendal Miller.

Similar legal battles have been waged recently in Utah, Montana and the Dakotas over a variety of issues involving the Voting Rights Acts, including access to polling places as well as unreliable U.S. mail service on reservations.

"If we have the same access and opportunities, we will be able to increase participation by tribal members," Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Chairman Vinton Hawley said.

Washoe County Registrar Luanne Cutler declined to comment specifically on the suit but said in a statement Wednesday the selection of polling sites began in January based on cost, voting populations and other logistics.

"With Election Day fast-approaching, the registrar's plan for the general election remains in place and her decision regarding this matter is final," the statement said.

Neither the secretary of state's office nor Mineral County immediately responded to requests for comment.

Horse owners asked to participate in equine nutrition survey

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota State University Extension is asking horse owners in the state and neighboring communities to participate in an online equine nutrition survey.

Heidi Carroll is the Extension's livestock stewardship associate. She says the survey will give the SDSU Extension a "clear understanding" of what South Dakotans are feeding their horses.

Carroll says the survey will also help understand how current feeding practices in the region compare

to information reported in other areas.

Individuals who are at least 18 years old and own one or more horses can participate in the survey. The questionnaire can be found at www.equinenutrition.questionpro.com.

3 South Dakota women facing child abuse charges

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Three South Dakota women accused of abusing two children on the Rosebud Indian Reservation are facing charges.

The office of U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says 41-year-old Verna Blue Thunder, 25-year-old Lorraina Lydia Stead and 21-year-old Lydia Lorena Stead, all of Mission, have pleaded not guilty to charges of child abuse and assault resulting in serious bodily injury.

Authorities say the women abused two children younger than 7 years old between October 2014 and June. Authorities say Blue Thunder also assaulted and seriously injured another minor between January and June. Court records do not provide details of the alleged incidents.

Blue Thunder's trial is scheduled for Nov. 1. No trial dates have been scheduled for the two other women.

The attorneys for the women did not immediately return calls seeking comment.

State officials say hay must be removed from highway ditches

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Any hay remaining in South Dakota highway ditches after Oct. 1 will be considered illegal.

The South Dakota Department of Transportation will remove or authorize the removal of any illegal hay bales remaining in the public right of way after Oct. 1.

Transportation officials say anyone who wants to claim ownership of illegal bales must get a permit from the state agency. Those permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis and allow people to take ownership of any illegal hay bales.

Permits are available at Transportation Department offices in Aberdeen, Belle Fourche, Custer, Huron, Mitchell, Mobridge, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Watertown, Winner and Yankton.

Green Party's Jill Stein charged with trespassing, mischief

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

A North Dakota judge issued a warrant Wednesday for the arrest of Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein, who is accused of spray-painting construction equipment during a protest against the Dakota Access pipeline.

Court records show Stein was charged Wednesday in Morton County with misdemeanor counts of criminal trespass and criminal mischief. The same charges have been filed against her running mate, Ajamu Baraka.

Stein campaign spokeswoman Meleiza Figueroa could not immediately comment on whether Stein plans to turn herself in.

Activists invited Stein to leave a message at the protest site near the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's reservation on Tuesday, Figueroa said, and Stein sprayed "I approve this message" in red paint on the blade of a bulldozer. A court document shows Baraka painted the word "decolonization" on a piece of construction equipment.

Morton County Sheriff's Office spokesman Rob Keller said the warrant has been filed and if authorities were to come across Stein, "they would arrest her."

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is trying to stop construction of a section of the \$3.8 billion four-state

pipeline that tribal leaders say would violate sacred and culturally sensitive grounds and possibly pollute water.

Before the charges were filed, Stein said in a statement she hoped North Dakota authorities "press charges against the real vandalism taking place at the Standing Rock Sioux reservation: the bulldozing of sacred burial sites and the unleashing of vicious attack dogs."

Daugaard administration proposes plan to boost buffer strips

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard's administration is proposing a plan that would encourage people to install buffer strips of vegetation between agricultural land and hundreds of lakes and thousands of miles of streams, an adviser to the governor said Wednesday.

The draft bill is meant to improve water quality in South Dakota, said Hunter Roberts, a policy adviser to the governor. It would offer property tax breaks for land turned into buffer strips to help trap fertilizer, pesticides and sediments before they reach water.

The proposal allows for the tax incentives on 50- to 120-foot buffers along waterways including 575 lakes and roughly 11,000 miles of streams in South Dakota. Eligible buffer strips would be assessed at 60 percent of the land's agricultural income value.

The administration will present the draft bill to a legislative task force next week for its consideration.

"It's a proven thing to work for water quality," Roberts said, adding that it's a good next step for the state to "give producers and landowners the opportunity to have some financial benefit to doing buffer strips."

The measure would allow buffer strip vegetation to be harvested or mowed after July 10, but would require a minimum of 6 inches of cover at all times. Grazing would be prohibited from May through September to help keep livestock waste out of lakes and streams, Roberts said.

The proposal would be voluntary, but anyone who misrepresents facts to get a property tax break for a buffer strip would be subject to a monetary penalty.

The governor's administration is taking small steps to improve water quality, said Barry Berg, watershed coordinator for the Big Sioux River Watershed Implementation Project. Berg said he would like to see the option for both smaller and larger buffers to give landowners more flexibility.

"I don't think it's going to be a huge flood of people coming in because of it, but it may help a little bit," Berg said.

The administration's plan comes after Daugaard rejected a bill that used a different mechanism to offer tax breaks for buffers in March, citing constitutional and property tax concerns. The new measure is the administration's best effort to reap the benefits of buffer strips while complying with the state constitution, Roberts said.

The South Dakota Corn Growers Association opposed the earlier measure, saying it would change the tax structure without effectively inducing farmers to install buffer strips. The new proposal looks like something the group can work with, executive director Lisa Richardson said.

"We all want to do things that protect our water and this is one tool that could do it," she said.

Feds sue supplements retailer over firing of employee

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Justice Department has sued a Rapid City-based retailer of dietary supplements alleging that the company violated the employment rights of a former member of the South Dakota Air National Guard.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 13 of 43

The federal lawsuit filed Tuesday in Rapid City alleges that BioFusion Health Products Inc. fired Amber Ishmael in February 2015 while she was on active duty attending training. Authorities say that's a violation of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

The lawsuit states Ishmael was terminated via text message and the company later refused to hire her back.

BioFusion CEO Robert Crandall says Ishmael was fired for her poor performance, including throwing away company records and a checkbook, mislabeling products and showing up late.

Ishmael is now a staff sergeant with the Missouri Air National Guard.

Weather aids farmers with silage cutting, late-season haying

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A week of mostly dry, warm weather helped South Dakota farmers with silage cutting and late-season haying.

However, the Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that late-week storms caused crop damage in parts of southeastern South Dakota.

The spring wheat harvest statewide is close to wrapping up, at 93 percent complete. That's near the average pace.

Pasture and range conditions in South Dakota are rated only 37 percent good to excellent. Stock water supplies are 67 percent adequate to surplus.

South Dakota Volleyball Polls The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Here is the South Dakota Sportswriters Association volleyball poll for the week of Sept. 5, 2016. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking:

Class AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Harrisburg	(9)	5-0	45	1
2. Roosevelt	-	4-0	36	3
3. Stevens	-	5-0	24	RV
4. Huron	-	2-1	19	RV
5. Brandon Valley	-	2-2	6	2

Others receiving votes: O'Gorman 1-2, Mitchell 3-1.

Class A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. S.F. Christian	(7)	5-2	43	1
2. Dakota Valley	(2)	4-0	38	2
3. Mount Vernon-Plank	-	2-0	22	3
4. Bon Homme	-	3-0	16	5
5. Custer	-	7-0	8	RV

Others receiving votes: McCook Central-Montrose 3-4, Lennox 4-1, Mobridge-Pollock 3-0, Webster 2-0, Parkston 3-3.

Class B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Warner	(8)	4-2	44	2
2. Chester Area	(1)	4-3	29	1

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 14 of 43

3. Parker	-	3-0	26	3
4. Sully Buttes	-	5-0	19	4
5. Northwestern	-	7-0	16	5

Others receiving votes: Hanson 5-0.

Final painting by outdoors artist Redlin to be unveiled

BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Redlin Art Center in South Dakota is putting the final painting by the late outdoors artist Terry Redlin on display to raise awareness about the disease that robbed him of his talent.

Redlin, famous for paintings of wildlife and outdoors scenes, died in April at age 78 after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease. He had retired after being diagnosed in 2007.

The Watertown center will display "Evening on the Ice," an ice-fishing scene, for 10 days beginning Friday. A live radio broadcast Friday morning will feature Redlin's friends and family discussing his legacy.

His final painting, which he began in 2005 and failed to finish, has a different style, colors and level of detail than his other works, and reflects the difficult time in Redlin's life, said Julie Ranum, the center's executive director.

"It's just very different from what we know he would have done if he hadn't been struggling with Alzheimer's," she said Wednesday.

A version of the painting exists in the marketplace, but the Redlin family held onto the final version for years, unsure what to do with it. The display is in conjunction with the Watertown Alzheimer's Council's annual walk on Sept. 17, which this year is being dedicated to Redlin.

"(The family) saw this might be an appropriate time to share the painting and tell the story of Terry's struggle, and to raise awareness about the disease," Ranum said.

But the painting will not be permanently displayed.

"He was very much a perfectionist about his work," Ranum said. "If he was unhappy with a painting, it was not uncommon for him to destroy it and move on."

Redlin's depictions of ducks, deer and rustic cabins adorn everything from coffee mugs to jigsaw puzzles. In the 1980s, he won Minnesota's Duck Stamp competition twice and the state's Trout Stamp contest once. Through most of the 1990s, he was named America's most popular artist in annual surveys conducted by U.S. Art magazine.

Redlin's art donations also helped raise millions of dollars for conservation work. The Terry Redlin Environmental Center opened in Watertown in 2010.

The Redlin Art Center museum, which features more than 150 of his works, has drawn more than 3 million visitors since it opened in 1997.

The Latest: Clinton camp: Trump has 'no plan' for IS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Latest on Campaign 2016 (all times EDT):

7:10 a.m.

Hillary Clinton's campaign manager says Donald Trump didn't come prepared to answer questions about his foreign policy plans.

Robby Mook said on ABC's "Good Morning America" Thursday that Trump's answer for how to defeat the Islamic State group shows he had "no plan" in the first place.

The Republican presidential nominee insisted during a presidential forum Wednesday night that he

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 15 of 43

has a private blueprint for defeating the extremist group. But he also said he would demand a plan from military leaders within 30 days of taking office.

5:54 a.m.

President Barack Obama is hitting back at Donald Trump for the Republican's frequent criticism of Obama's foreign policy.

Speaking at a news conference in Laos on Thursday, Obama says he continues to believe Trump isn't qualified to be president and that "every time he speaks, that opinion is confirmed."

Trump has blasted Obama's policy toward China as weak and said the president was humiliated by the Chinese during his visit to Asia this week.

Obama tells reporters in Laos that he thinks diplomacy is "serious business" and that Trump's ideas are often "contradictory" and "outright wacky."

3:11 a.m.

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton confronted their key weaknesses in a televised national security forum. The Republican defended his preparedness to be commander in chief despite vague plans for tackling global challenges and the Democrat argued that her controversial email practices did not expose questionable judgment.

The candidates spoke back-to-back at the forum Wednesday night, each fielding 30 minutes of questions. While the candidates never appeared on stage together, the session served as a preview of sorts for their highly anticipated presidential debates.

With just two months until Election Day, national security has emerged as a centerpiece issue in the White House race. Both candidates believe they have the upper hand.

Air China removes mag with offensive article about London

LOUISE WATT, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese flag-carrier Air China said Thursday that it had removed copies of its inflight magazine containing an article criticized as racist for telling visitors to take precautions when visiting areas of London with large ethnic-minority populations.

The state-owned airline said in an e-mail to The Associated Press that the September issue of "Wings of China" used "inappropriate" language and that the article didn't represent the airline's views.

"After discovering this problem, Air China immediately removed this magazine from all flights and demanded that the publishers of 'Wings of China' seriously learn from this lesson, strengthen their content review and avoid making similar mistakes," the airline said.

It also forwarded an email from the magazine's publisher apologizing to Air China and saying the fault lay with an "editing mistake."

The original article in English read: "London is generally a safe place to travel, however precautions are needed when entering areas mainly populated by Indians, Pakistanis and black people." It also advised tourists not to go out alone at night, and for women not to travel alone.

British lawmaker Vivendra Sharma, who represents a diverse London district, said Wednesday that he had written to China's ambassador to Britain to demand an apology for the "blatantly untrue and racist statements."

In the apology to Air China, China Aviation Media Co. Ltd. said the article ran "counter to our original intention to promote the beautiful scenes of London."

"It has brought about misunderstanding from some media outlets and readers and also a huge nega-

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 16 of 43

tive impact on your company's business operations and image. We deeply apologize for that," its statement read.

It's not the first time Chinese businesses have been criticized for being tone-deaf over issues of race and ethnicity.

Earlier this year, a Chinese laundry detergent maker apologized "for the harm caused to the African people" over its TV advertisement that showed a black man being stuffed into a washing machine and coming out a fair-skinned Asian man.

Shanghai Leishang Cosmetics Ltd. Co. said it strongly condemned racial discrimination but blamed foreign media for playing up the controversy.

The examples highlight how companies and much of the population in China remain somewhat oblivious to racial sensitivities, partly a result of China's overwhelming ethnic homogeneity and a relative lack of contact with foreigners until recent years that has allowed stereotypes to persist.

Asked about the magazine's London travel advice, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying responded that the government only issues tourist alerts to people "travelling to high risk areas like war zones."

The Chinese government "resolutely opposes all forms of racial discrimination," she said.

Hawaiian seafood caught by foreign crews confined on boats

MARTHA MENDOZA, Associated Press

MARGIE MASON, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Pier 17 doesn't even show up on most Honolulu maps. Cars whiz past it on their way to Waikiki's famous white sand beaches. Yet few locals, let alone passing tourists, are aware that just behind a guarded gate, another world exists: foreign fishermen confined to American boats for years at a time.

Hundreds of undocumented men are employed in this unique U.S. fishing fleet, due to a federal loophole that allows them to work but exempts them from most basic labor protections. Many come from impoverished Southeast Asian and Pacific nations to take the dangerous jobs, which can pay as little as 70 cents an hour.

With no legal standing on U.S. soil, the men are at the mercy of their American captains on American-flagged, American-owned vessels, catching prized swordfish and ahi tuna. Since they don't have visas, they are not allowed to set foot on shore. The entire system, which contradicts other state and federal laws, operates with the blessing of high-ranking U.S. lawmakers and officials, an Associated Press investigation found.

The fleet of around 140 boats docks about once every three weeks, occasionally at ports along the West Coast, including Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, but mainly at Piers 17 and 38 in Honolulu. Their catch ends up at restaurants and premium seafood counters across the country, from Whole Foods to Costco, and is touted by celebrity chefs such as Roy Yamaguchi and Masaharu Morimoto.

Americans buying Hawaiian seafood are almost certainly eating fish caught by one of these workers, who account for nearly all the fleet's crew.

A single yellowfin tuna can fetch more than \$1,000, and vendors market the catch as "sustainable seafood produced by Hawaii's hard-working fishermen."

But workers such as Indonesian Syamsul Maarif aren't protected or compensated like locals. He was sent home to Indonesia after nearly dying when his boat sank 160 miles off Hawaii. He lost everything, and said it took four months to get his pay.

"We want the same standards as the other workers in America, but we are just small people working

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 17 of 43

there based on the contract that we signed," he said. "We don't have any visa. We are illegal, so we cannot demand more."

Over six months, the AP obtained confidential contracts, reviewed dozens of business records and interviewed boat owners, brokers and more than 50 fishermen in Hawaii, Indonesia and San Francisco. The investigation found men living in squalor on some boats, forced to use buckets instead of toilets, suffering running sores from bed bugs and sometimes lacking sufficient food. It also revealed instances of human trafficking.

This report is part of the AP's ongoing global look at labor abuses in the fishing industry, stretching from Southeast Asia to America's own waters. Last year, the AP reported on fishermen locked in a cage and buried under fake names on the remote Indonesian island village of Benjina . Their catch was traced to the United States, leading to more than 2,000 slaves being freed. But thousands more remain trapped worldwide in a murky industry where work takes place far from shore and often without oversight.

In Hawaii, federal contractors paid to monitor catches said they are troubled by what they've seen while living weeks at a time at sea with the men.

"You get that sort of feeling that it's like gaming the system," said Forest O'Neill, who coordinates the boat observers in Honolulu. "It's a shock. It becomes normal, but it's like, 'How is this even legal? How is this possible?' ... They are like floating prisons."

"THEY'RE TECHNICALLY NOT HERE"

Under the law, U.S. citizens must make up 75 percent of the crew on most commercial fishing vessels in America. But influential lawmakers, including the late Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye, pushed for a loophole to support one of the state's biggest industries. It exempted commercial fishing boat owners from federal rules enforced almost everywhere else.

Thus about 700 foreign workers in Hawaii, who catch \$110 million worth of seafood annually, lack certain labor rights most Americans take for granted. They have little legal recourse in these areas, and are detained on boats where U.S. Customs and Border Protection requires captains to hold the men's passports. That potentially goes against federal human trafficking laws saying bosses who possess workers' identification documents can face up to five years in prison.

U.S. Attorney Florence Nakakuni, the chief federal law enforcement official in Hawaii, said it's all above board.

"People say ... they're like captives," she said. "But they don't have visas, so they can't leave their boat, really."

Federal laws and rules don't mention the Hawaiian fleet by name. However, when specific details are combined, it's clear the language in the loophole applies to these boats.

"It has the fig leaf of legality," said Cornell University law professor Stephen Yale-Loehr, who, like other leading immigration experts contacted by AP, was unfamiliar with Hawaii's arrangement. "This is inconsistent with the general notion in American values, if not law, that workers should be paid a fair wage and not be mistreated."

Hawaii's fishing industry is otherwise one of the most tightly regulated for catch limits and sustainability, attracting companies that pride themselves on being ocean-friendly. Supermarkets, restaurants and chefs selling the seafood condemned labor abuse.

President Barack Obama's recently expanded protections in Hawaii created the world's largest marine preserve but didn't address working conditions. Honolulu's fleet gets only about 10 percent of its catch from the entire restricted area.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 18 of 43

U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Coast Guard routinely inspect the Hawaiian boats. At times, fishermen complain they're not getting paid and officers say they tell owners to honor the contracts. But neither agency has any authority over actual wages.

"This is a unique situation," said Coast Guard vessel examiner Charles Medlicott. "But it is legal."

Here's how it works: When boat owners need crew, they pay brokers abroad or in Honolulu to bring the men from overseas — mostly from Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and the tiny Pacific island nation of Kiribati. It can take weeks to coordinate, sign contracts, buy airline tickets and arrange travel documents for each fisherman.

Workers typically sign two- or three-year renewable contracts, and some extend repeatedly, staying up to a decade on boats with five to six men each.

"For one crew, one person, it's about \$10,000," said Honolulu-based agent Hernan Santiago, who works on commission. He also wires money home to the fishermen's families, gets them phone cards and assists in times of crisis. "I'm playing the middle man."

Regional Customs director Brian Humphrey said his agency could issue the workers temporary permits allowing them to enter the U.S., similar to those sometimes used by cruise ships employees. But he added that option would be "administratively cumbersome." And so these crew members aren't even allowed to land at the airport in Honolulu.

"There really is no purpose for them to come to the U.S. or for them to have a visa because they really don't have any intention of setting foot on shore," Humphrey said.

As a result, the men are first put on planes at home, and then hopscotched from country to country across thousands of miles. A typical route could go from Indonesia to Australia to Fiji to Western Samoa to American Samoa. Some pass through Amsterdam. Others end up in Mexico or Panama. They're then picked up by American captains for the 10- to 20-day sail to Honolulu.

Some fishermen have even been made to leap into the sea. In one video shown to AP, men swam from one boat to another through tossing waves, clutching their belongings in plastic bags.

It used to be easier. Before Sept. 11, the men came on planes. But the terror attacks spurred a national crackdown on foreigners entering the country. As an unintended consequence, the workers now reach U.S. docks with minimal government vetting, creating greater security risks.

"We've been stuck in this hellhole," said Jim Cook, a longtime leader in the commercial fishery who co-owns several vessels, a supply store and a seafood restaurant at Pier 38. "It's a very complicated system that doesn't work well for anybody, not the boat owner, not Customs and Border Protection. And the potential for mischief is far greater."

The fishermen are paid as little as \$350 a month, far below U.S. minimum wage, but still more than they can make back home in countries where people live on less than a dollar a day. Many workers also get small bonuses, lifting their monthly pay to \$500 or \$600. A lucky few get a percentage of the catch, making it possible to triple their wages. They're willing to give up their freedom of movement for these jobs because of the salary.

For many boat owners, the fishermen are a bargain: Bait and ice can cost more than crew salaries. Some of the foreign workers in Hawaii earn less than \$5,000 for a full year. By contrast, the average pay for an American deckhand nationwide last year was \$28,000, sometimes for jobs that last just a few months, according to government statistics. Experienced American crew members working in Alaska can make up to \$80,000 a year.

Owner Quan Do, who brings his workers from Vietnam, said profits depend on the catch. It costs \$35,000 just to head out to sea. If the fish are biting, he can double his money.

"Fishing, it's a gamble," he said, loading groceries onto the Lady Jackie docked at Pier 17. "If you're

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 19 of 43

lucky, you win. If you're not, you lose."

The former refugee is one of many Vietnamese-Americans who sailed from the Gulf of Mexico to Hawaii's rich Pacific waters in the 1980s, tripling the state's commercial fleet. A decade later, owners found themselves short on local crew and turned to overseas workers as a solution.

In the Gulf, foreign laborers also are fishing on oyster, shrimp and menhaden vessels. But unlike in Hawaii, they're allowed on shore, and some get paid \$14 an hour for eight-hour shifts. In addition, boat owners must file for costly permits certifying no U.S. citizens are available to work.

Over the years, environmental and labor advocates in Honolulu have complained that in a state with high unemployment, the foreign workers take away U.S. jobs. However, few in Hawaii are lining up for the grueling work, weeks at sea and low pay.

Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, acknowledges the fishermen's liberties are limited and has unsuccessfully proposed an amendment that would allow them to fly into the country. It's a move that would fix a widely accepted paradox. Currently, even though the men never legally enter the United States, the government provides a transit visa that lets them exit through Honolulu's airport.

AP reporters watched as two fishermen from Kiribati prepared to fly out. They weren't allowed to touch their passports, which were handed to a contracted driver in a black SUV. They would not be paid until arriving home.

Bill Paupe said he's alerted at the Kiribati Consulate in Honolulu every time a worker leaves, but he's otherwise not involved: "They're technically not here."

"WHERE DID THIS FISH COME FROM?"

The fishermen are not just cheap, they're skilled. Many from traditional Indonesian fishing villages, like Pemalang on the central coast of Java, start going to sea as young boys with their fathers. It's a place where the glittering ocean serves as a backdrop, and laughing children set off firecrackers on a path too narrow for cars. Money sent here from fishermen around the world pays for the brightly painted cement houses and new motorbikes parked outside.

But for some, the jobs are a disappointment.

Speaking from a boat docked in Honolulu just before heading back to sea, a 23-year-old Indonesian deckhand said his \$450 monthly salary wasn't worth it. The AP is not identifying any of the men still working because of concerns about potential retribution from their captains or agents.

"I was jealous of my neighbors who returned from Hawaii ... they were able to have a nice house and a prosperous family. So I decided to get a fishing job here," he said. "It turns out that the salary I got is not much better than my job in my homeland. How can I have a house when I'm back home? It's just my silly dream."

If the men are unhappy, some are allowed to skip out on their contracts, but the ticket home can cost up to two months' salary. They also may have to pay back recruiters' fees, ending up trapped by debt.

In one particularly bad situation, a Kiribati fisherman's ledger obtained by AP shows deductions from his pay including \$1,300 for airfare, \$1,800 to pay for his replacement and \$2,100 for breaking a captain's computer. After more than three years of work, at \$350 a month, he should have accumulated close to \$13,000, but he ended up with about half of that.

The U.S. government defines forced labor and debt bondage, often involving migrant workers, as modern-day slavery. Every year, the U.S. blacklists countries that have the worst human trafficking records.

"Most of the fish caught and sold in Hawaii is done by the use of exploiting migrant workers in what looks to be a human trafficking scheme legitimized by our own laws," said Kathryn Xian, who runs the

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 20 of 43

nonprofit Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery.

Authorities are aware Hawaii's fishermen are vulnerable to exploitation. Signs posted at Pier 17 in six languages offer a hotline to help those who have been trafficked.

That's what happened to Abdul Fatah and Sorihin, who arrived from Indonesia seven years ago and were put on the Sea Queen II.

First, a fishing line nearly ripped Sorihin's finger off, and his captain set it straight with a chopstick. Then a winch cable snapped, badly bruising the fisherman's shoulder. That time, he said, he was allowed a two-hour rest.

"I knew if I stayed on that boat I was going to die," said Sorihin, who uses one name.

His friend Fatah, who was kicked awake before dawn for work, was just as scared. He was thrown against a rail and nearly tossed overboard by a wave.

So early one morning when their captain was gone, the two men broke into the skipper's quarters, grabbed their passports and made a run for it while docked in San Francisco.

Eventually, federal officials issued each of them a special visa designated for victims of human trafficking. They remain too terrified to go near the dock at Fisherman's Wharf, where the Sea Queen II still unloads just steps away from clanging cable cars and thousands of tourists. The captain did not respond to messages left by the AP.

Sorihin has advice for American seafood lovers: "Ask, where did this fish come from? Is it the kind of fish that you got from someone in slavery?"

Not all fishing boats have harsh conditions, and some crew members said they enjoy the camaraderie. All said the experience ultimately comes down to each captain.

However, on some vessels, cultural and language barriers, coupled with exhaustion, can exacerbate tensions. Entire crews, at times, have quit. And the days can be grueling. One boat's schedule looked like this: Work from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m., break two hours for lunch and rest. Work from 5 p.m. until 6 a.m., eat and sleep again. Start a new shift at 8 a.m.

"It's very hard work," said a Filipino fisherman who's supporting a teenage daughter and a son studying engineering in college. "When the children finish school, I'm done with this."

Crews typically spend three weeks at sea before coming into the harbor for a few days to sell their catch, restock food, repair damaged gear and fuel up. Most of the Hawaii-based fleet stays at Piers 17 and 38 in Honolulu, but some boats chase swordfish all the way to the West Coast, landing in ports including San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego.

American fishermen can also work exhausting 20-hour days, cramming into small bunks for respite. But when they reach shore, they go home to a bed, a hot shower and a meal. In contrast, Hawaii's fishermen are sometimes even short on food. And unlike their American counterparts, they are dependent on their captain to bring them everything from socks and underwear to rice and meat.

"Mistreatment of workers and failure to provide for basic safety and hygiene is unacceptable. And, regardless of workplace exemptions, is illegal," said Gavin Gibbons, spokesman for the National Fisheries Institute, which represents about 75 percent of the U.S. seafood industry.

In rare cases, boat owners can request passes from federal authorities to take the fishermen ashore for things such as medical care. Though the men are not technically allowed to leave their vessels, security guards turn a blind eye when they go onto the docks, but no farther, to see friends. One afternoon at Pier 17 in Hawaii, the foreign crews visited from boat to boat — Vietnamese cooked a shared meal, Filipinos passed around a phone, Indonesians smoked cigarettes.

One fisherman, sheltering on a boat with his buddies during a rainstorm, said the short down time they get while docked is a welcome break from the nonstop hustle at sea.

"Sometimes you don't even have time to drink water," he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 21 of 43

At the piers, some vessels are tidy, neatly packed with coiled ropes, scrubbed rails and clean decks. Others have piles of garbage, rusting tanks and rotting carpets. On some boats, crews defecate in buckets or plastic bags, or even hang over the side of the ship to do their business.

"It's unhealthy, quite frankly, for people to have to be kept on the boat," said Kitty Simonds, executive director of the Honolulu-based Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. "Maybe there needs to be legislation. I mean, who's going to take that on?"

Even in the best conditions, lives are at risk.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health lists commercial fishing as among the most dangerous jobs in the country. In the past 10 years, five fishermen in the Hawaii fleet have died when boats sank or burned, the agency said, and at least four other workers were never found after falling overboard. Two men's quests for better lives ended with their deaths after they were stabbed at the dock in knife fights.

Some fishermen spoke to the AP of injuries or bore scars.

After one worker began coughing up blood at sea, the Hawaii Department of Health said it was contacted by his captain, who brought him in. Doctors diagnosed the man with a rare case of active tuberculosis, isolating him for months and calling everyone on the boat in for chest X-rays and testing.

It is up to boat owners to provide care to their crews. Some fishermen said their bosses were responsive, quickly arranging medical treatment. Others complained they received inadequate care or none at all.

Dr. Craig Nakatsuka visits Pier 38 with a church outreach project that holds services twice a week, a rare opportunity for fellowship. He spoke at dusk on the dock, wearing a white coat and stethoscope.

He said he sees problems in the men ranging from high blood pressure to skin infections caused by the lack of gloves or improper gear. He's concerned about the possibility of scurvy from a shortage of fruits and vegetables.

It's like a "third-world overseas medical mission support in your backyard," he said.

NOT SO LOCAL

At Honolulu's Pier 38, the tired fishermen dock at the end of another trip. Some venture as far as 50 feet to a nearby public restroom, but they are careful not to stray much farther. They know they can be sent home if caught off their ships.

Just steps away at Uncle's Fish Market & Grill, crowds dine on \$20-plus plates of sashimi and ahi poke bowls, a Hawaiian staple.

The fish is unloaded early every morning at the pier and sold at the only public auction of its kind in the U.S. The sought-after seafood, famous for its taste and quality, commands prices that make the fishery the country's fifth largest.

About 80 percent stays in Hawaii, ending up at hotels, restaurants and supermarkets, said John Kaneko, program manager for the Hawaii Seafood Council. The rest is exported, often flown fresh in airtight cool boxes to the country's finest eateries, from Los Angeles and San Francisco to New York.

For instance, some of Roy's 25 restaurants in eight states source seafood here. AP interviewed buyers getting fish for Whole Foods in Los Angeles, Stavis Seafood and John Nagle seafood in Boston, LaRocca Seafood in San Francisco and other popular fish markets. Delivery drivers in Honolulu were headed for a local Sam's Club, military bases and hotels, including the Hyatt, along with supermarkets.

When asked about the workers in Honolulu, Costco said it was investigating. Wal-Mart, which owns Sam's Club, declined to comment.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 22 of 43

Charlie Nagle, whose family has been in the seafood industry for 130 years, said his buyers "do not and will never knowingly source from vessels that mistreat their crew." Richard Stavis of Stavis Seafood said Thursday that his company is not currently selling fish from Hawaii.

Whole Foods spokeswoman McKinzey Crossland said only 1 percent of their seafood comes from Hawaii, and they had been assured boat crews are well paid with bonuses and health insurance. She added that the company is also looking into the issue.

During the auction at 5 a.m., John Hernandez of John's Fresh Fish picked over rows of seafood, paying about \$840 for a 100-pound bigeye tuna. It was due at New York's New Fulton Fish Market by 11 a.m. the next day. An industry veteran, Hernandez said he knows exactly who's working on the boats. "The owners are a bunch of leeches making money off these crew," he said.

Trucks loaded down with seafood from the sale fan out all over the island. At that point, the connection between the workers and their catch is lost.

"The fishermen aren't Hawaiian?" asked Michael Pollan, a bestselling author on food and agriculture who advocates for workers' rights. He likened the foreign fishermen's "second-class" status in the U.S. to that of farmworkers in years past working without labor protections.

"Food produced for us in conditions approaching slavery is certainly not morally sustainable," he said.

Across the island in an upscale neighborhood where Obama regularly vacations, an array of fish is displayed in a refrigerated case at Whole Foods, with yellowfin tuna selling for \$23.99 a pound. Labels in front of each cut say: "Local matters. Fresh. Product of USA (Hawaii)/Processed in USA."

A store worker, eager to answer questions, smiles and says it's all caught in Hawaiian waters by local fishermen and brought to the store every morning from the auction at Pier 38.

He proudly adds: It's the best you can buy.

The Latest: Obama reflects on implications of war in Laos

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — The Latest on President Barack Obama's historic visit to Laos (all times local):

5:05 p.m.

President Barack Obama says a determination to defeat communism in Southeast Asia may have led U.S. policymakers to not think carefully enough about the implications of their decisions.

He says the U.S. was on the "right side of history" during the Cold War. But he says dropping millions of cluster bombs on Laos may not have been the best way to win over the Lao people's hearts and minds. He says the consequences of decisions made by the U.S. during the Vietnam War didn't necessarily serve America's interests.

The U.S. carried out an intense bombing campaign over Laos to cut off communist forces in neighboring Vietnam. Millions of bombs that didn't explode are jeopardizing farming and development in Laos.

In Laos, Obama announced the U.S. will spend \$90 million over three years to help clean up the unexploded bombs.

4:50 p.m.

President Barack Obama is hitting back at Donald Trump for the Republican's frequent criticism of Obama's foreign policy.

Speaking at a news conference in Laos on Thursday, Obama says he continues to believe Trump isn't qualified to be president and that "every time he speaks, that opinion is confirmed."

Trump has blasted Obama's policy toward China as weak and said the president was humiliated by the Chinese during his visit to Asia this week.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 23 of 43

Obama tells reporters in Laos that he thinks diplomacy is "serious business" and that Trump's ideas are often "contradictory" and "outright wacky."

4:45 p.m.

President Barack Obama says he's not ready to concede that the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, will remain open when he leaves office.

He says aides are still "working diligently" to shrink the prisoner population. About 60 prisoners are being held there, down from hundreds.

Obama set a goal early in his presidency of closing the prison, but he's been blocked by Congress. He says the facility is unnecessary, is too expensive and serves as a recruitment tool for terrorist organizations. He says he hopes that by continuing to shrink the population, Americans will start to ask about the expense.

Obama spoke at a news conference after he attended a pair of regional summits in Laos.

4:40 p.m.

President Barack Obama is wrapping up his last trip in Southeast Asia as president by describing it as an opportunity to deepen connections with the world's fastest-growing region and he hopes his successor will sustain America's engagement.

Obama is wrapping up a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Laos. He says "this is where the action will be" in terms of commerce and trade.

Obama notes that he has told the region's leaders that he is committed to advancing a free trade agreement called the Trans-Pacific Partnership. He says the U.S. will also stand with allies and partners in upholding freedom of navigation and flights in international spaces.

Obama says the leaders also are united in expressing grave concerns about recent ballistic missile launches by North Korea.

3 p.m.

President Barack Obama and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi are holding face-to-face talks on the margins of a regional summit in Laos.

There was no immediate word on what topics the leaders would be discussing, but reporters were allowed in at the start to watch them shake hands for the cameras. Obama and Modi have focused on climate change in their past meetings, so it was likely they would discuss further it during the East Asia Summit.

Obama opened his two-country visit to Asia last Saturday by joining Chinese President Xi Jinping to formally commit their countries to a global climate change agreement. Many of the world's nations agreed to the pact during a summit late last year in Paris.

11:30 a.m.

President Barack Obama says the U.S. wants to work constructively with Southeast Asian nations to lower tensions with China in the South China Sea.

At a meeting in Laos of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Obama says a recent U.N. tribunal ruling against China is binding and clarifies the maritime rights issue.

Obama says he realizes the ruling raised tensions. But he says the U.S. wants these disputes to be resolved peacefully and will keep working to help make that happen.

Obama says the U.S. wants to build on its partnership with Southeast Asia and to promote a "rules-

based order” in the region. He says the U.S. will also keep pushing for completion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade deal. That deal is awaiting ratification in the U.S. Congress.

10 Things to Know for Thursday

The Associated Press

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

1. TRUMP, CLINTON TANGLE OVER SECURITY

The candidates confront their key weaknesses in a national security forum, with the Republican defending his preparedness to be commander in chief and the Democrat arguing that her email practices did not expose questionable judgment.

2. WHO IS CONFINED TO FISHING BOATS IN HAWAII

An AP Investigation finds undocumented foreign fishermen, are working for years at a time earning as little as 70 cents an hour in U.S. waters, thanks to a loophole in federal law.

3. HOW OBAMA HAS TACKLED CHINA BEFORE DEPARTING ASIA

The president puts the long-simmering dispute in the South China Sea front and center at an Asia summit, as other leaders appear ready to let Beijing off with a mild rebuke over its territorial expansion in the resource-rich waters.

4. WHAT APPLE HOPES CONSUMERS WILL BITE ON

By eliminating the standard headphone jack in its newest iPhones, the tech giant is pushing its new “AirPods” listening buds that claim to improve on standard Bluetooth technology.

5. WHY THERE’S A HUBBUB ON THE HUDSON

U.S. accident investigators say they object to their portrayal in a new movie based on the “Miracle on the Hudson” river landing of an airliner seven years ago.

6. OAKLAND TACKLES POLICE SEX SCANDAL

The mayor says disciplinary action has begun against 12 officers implicated by a teenage prostitute, and dismissal proceedings are underway against four officers.

7. LESSONS LEARNED FROM KATRINA

Eleven years after the hurricane exposed huge gaps in the disaster response plans of Louisiana and the U.S., the disaster influenced reaction to flooding that ravaged 20 Louisiana parishes last month.

8. WHERE BOTH SIDES SEE WAR AS POINTLESS

Two-and-a-half years after the conflict in eastern Ukraine started, weary soldiers on opposing sides of the front line see no end in sight — and no reason for the fighting, which continues despite several supposed cease-fires.

9. NEPAL STRUGGLES WITH CHILD MARRIAGE

Traditional practices, poverty, last year’s massive earthquake and ongoing political instability mean underage marriages remain a serious problem in the country, where 10 percent of the girls marry before they are 15.

10. GAMES BEGIN ANEW IN BRAZIL

The Paralympic Games open with 4,350 athletes demonstrating first-hand their Paralympic creed: “The heart knows no limits; everybody has a heart.”

Clinton, Trump confront weaknesses in security forum

JULIE PACE, Associated Press

STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton confronted their key weaknesses in a televised national security forum, with the Republican defending his preparedness to be commander in chief despite vague plans for tackling global challenges and the Democrat arguing that her controversial email practices did not expose questionable judgment.

Trump also renewed his praise of Russian President Vladimir Putin and his disdain for President Barack Obama, saying that the Russian enjoyed an 82 percent approval rating. "The man has very strong control over a country," Trump said. "It's a very different system and I don't happen to like the system, but certainly, in that system, he's been a leader, far more than our president has been a leader."

Speaking to reporters in Laos, Obama said Thursday that Trump confirms his belief that Trump isn't qualified to be president "every time he speaks" and added: "The most important thing for the public and the press is to just listen to what he says and follow up and ask questions to what appear to be either contradictory or uninformed or outright wacky ideas."

Trump and Clinton spoke back-to-back Wednesday night, each fielding 30 minutes of questions. While the candidates never appeared on stage together, the session served as a preview of sorts for their highly-anticipated presidential debates.

By virtue of a coin flip, Clinton took the stage first and quickly found herself responding at length to questions about her years in government. She reiterated that she had made mistakes in relying on a personal email account and private server as secretary of state and in voting for the 2003 invasion of Iraq as a senator. But she defended her support for U.S. military intervention to help oust a dictator in Libya, despite the chaotic aftermath.

"I'm asking to be judged on the totality of my record," said Clinton, who grew visibly irritated at times with the repeated focus on her past actions.

Clinton, who has cast Trump as dangerously ill-prepared to be commander in chief, tried to center the discussion on her foreign policy proposals. She vowed to defeat the Islamic State group "without committing American ground troops" to Iraq or Syria. And she pledged to hold weekly Oval Office meetings with representatives from the Pentagon and Department of Veterans Affairs to stay abreast of health care for veterans.

Trump did little to counter the criticism that he lacks detailed policy proposals, particularly regarding the Islamic State group. He both insisted he has a private blueprint for defeating the extremist group and that he would demand a plan from military leaders within 30 days of taking office.

But he was also harshly critical of the military, saying America's generals have been "reduced to rubble" under Obama. Asked to square his request for military options with that criticism, Trump said simply: "They'll probably be different generals."

Trump stood by a previous comment that appeared to blame military sexual assaults on men and women serving together, but added he would not seek to remove women from the military. And for the first time, he opened the door to granting legal status to people living in the U.S. illegally who join the military.

"I think that when you serve in the armed forces, that's a very special situation," Trump said. "And I could see myself working that out."

The Republican also repeated an incorrect claim that he was opposed to the war with Iraq before the invasion. That assertion is contradicted by an interview Trump did with Howard Stern in September 2002 in which he was asked whether he supported the invasion. He replied, "Yeah, I guess so."

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 26 of 43

With just two months until Election Day, national security has emerged as a centerpiece issue in the White House race. Both candidates believe they have the upper hand, with Clinton contrasting her experience with Trump's unpredictability and the Republican arguing that Americans worried about their safety will be left with more of the same if they elect Obama's former secretary of state.

While GOP candidates are often seen by voters as having an advantage on military and national security issues, Trump is far from a traditional Republican. He has no military experience and has repeatedly criticized the skill of the armed forces.

A flood of Republican national security experts have instead chosen to back Clinton, helping bolster her case that Trump is broadly unacceptable. Earlier Wednesday, former Defense Secretary William Cohen joined the list of GOP officials supporting Clinton.

Ahead of the forum, Trump rolled out a new plan to boost military spending by tens of billions of dollars, including major increases in the number of active troops, fighter planes, ships and submarines.

His address earlier in the day included plans to eliminate deep spending cuts known as the "sequester" that were enacted when Congress failed to reach a budget compromise in 2011. Republicans and Democrats voted for the automatic, across-the board cuts that affected both military and domestic programs, though the White House has long pressed Congress to lift the spending limits.

Trump expressed support for the sequester in interviews in 2013 — even describing them as too small — but seemed to suggest at the time that military spending should be exempt.

Closing Asia trip, Obama touts 'unprecedented' cooperation

JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

KATHLEEN HENNESSEY, Associated Press

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — President Barack Obama said Thursday that the United States and Southeast Asian nations gathered in Laos have advanced a vision of an open, dynamic and competitive economic system in which all nations play by the same rules.

Obama, closing out the first U.S. presidential visit to Laos, also said he planned to do everything possible to persuade the U.S. Congress to ratify the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade deal before the end of the year.

Obama leaves office in January. He said that in recent years, the U.S. and Asia had solidified "unprecedented" cooperation that will create more prosperity for their peoples.

"When I think back to the time I spent here as a boy, I can't help but be struck by the extraordinary progress that's been made by the region in the decades since, even if there's still a lot of work to be done," Obama said.

The president pointed to discussions with Southeast Asian leaders about maritime disputes in the South China Sea and suggested progress had been made in clarifying the path ahead to lower tensions between China and the Philippines. He said the leaders had helped create a unified voice against North Korea in the wake of missile launches that stirred further concerns about the North's nuclear program.

Obama's remarks came at the end of a grueling nine-day trip that took the him to Laos and China following U.S. stops in Nevada, Hawaii and Midway Atoll, a U.S.-controlled coral reef in the Pacific Ocean.

At the top of the agenda for Obama's meetings with Asian leaders in Laos were persistent concerns about China's behavior in the South China Sea. In a joint statement issued by leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, members were expected to issue a mild rebuke to China without referencing it by name.

"I realize this raises tensions," Obama said as he met with ASEAN leader, referring to a recent international arbitration ruling against China on the maritime dispute. "But I also look forward to discuss-

ing how we can constructively move forward together to lower tensions and promote diplomacy and regional stability.”

On his last day in Asia, Obama met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose help Obama is seeking to galvanize further action on climate change, especially among developing countries. The two grinned and shook hands but made no substantive comments as reporters were allowed in briefly for the start of their meeting.

Obama’s final stop in Laos included an informal conversation with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on the sidelines of a summit. Obama had canceled a formal meeting with Duterte after the new Philippine leader used a crude schoolyard epithet to insult the president and warn him not to bring up extrajudicial killings in the Philippines during their meeting.

Girl on bike sues after off-duty officer throws her down

MARTHA BELLISLE, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A teenager rode her bicycle through a mall parking lot when an off-duty officer working for a private security company pulled her down, threw her to the ground and shocked her with a stun gun.

Caught on surveillance video, the 2014 encounter with the girl, who is black, drew outrage. She initially was charged with assaulting an officer before the case was dropped. Now, she’s targeting his Washington state police department in a newly expanded lawsuit.

It claims the Tacoma department’s policies lead officers to attack residents, including minors such as Monique Tillman, then 15, and violate their civil rights. Police supervisors routinely approve “abusive, excessive and unnecessary uses of force” and retain abusive officers, according to the expanded suit filed last week.

The original claim targeted Officer Jared Williams, who is white; the mall’s owner; and the security company. It grew to include the department after it acknowledged that the officer acted within the scope of his police duties despite being paid by a private employer, said Tillman’s lawyer, Vito de la Cruz.

The lawsuit has not affected the department’s policy of allowing officers to work for outside companies, a police spokeswoman said Tuesday. Off-duty officers wear their uniforms on those jobs and are officially police while they work private security or an event, she said.

Police agencies across the country have different policies for off-duty work, experts say.

The suit comes as law enforcement agencies nationwide are under fire for their treatment of minorities and as officers face increasing threats. Police shootings have sparked protests, recently from 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, and retaliation from a man who killed five Dallas officers in a July sniper attack.

In the Washington case, the girl’s attorney said they believe the officer’s actions were racially motivated that she now fears law enforcement. Tillman declined an interview Wednesday, de la Cruz said.

Officer Williams still works for the department, but it does not comment on pending litigation, said Officer Loretta Cool, a spokeswoman. The Associated Press’ attempts to reach Williams were unsuccessful.

Tillman, then a 10th-grader, and her brother, Eric Branch, 16, were heading home from a fast food restaurant and cut across the Tacoma Mall parking lot on their bicycles on May 24, 2014.

Williams, who was working for mall security, pulled up behind them in his police cruiser with lights flashing and an air horn blasting. Another security officer pulled up.

Tillman asked Williams why they were being stopped, and he said they were “causing a disturbance”

and trespassing, the complaint said. Police have since declined to clarify what that disturbance entailed.

As Williams took out a pad of paper, Tillman started to pedal away.

"Williams erupted and began brutalizing this 15-year-old girl," the complaint said.

The video shows Williams grabbing the girl off the bike and pushing her against a car. He then grabbed her hair and threw her to the ground.

He used his stun gun on her, "sending painful electric shocks" through her body, the lawsuit says.

Tillman's brother tried to help his sister, and Williams threatened him with the device, the complaint said. The other security officer grabbed or shoved the boy to the ground and handcuffed him. Both siblings were booked into a juvenile facility.

Tillman was charged with assaulting an officer, resisting arrest and obstruction, but the counts were later dismissed, her lawyer said.

Her lawsuit alleges that the department fails to train, investigate or discipline its officers who use force, so it's become a common practice to the point that it's encouraged.

Geoffrey Alpert, a professor of criminology and criminal justice at the University of South Carolina, said an officer's decision to use force should depend on how much the suspect resists and whether the suspect is a threat.

Police departments should keep track of how officers assess those factors by looking at the number of complaints they receive, he said.

"He needs to explain what threat she posed to him to justify the use of force," Alpert said. "The question becomes what are they doing to manage the use of force? If they're doing nothing, it may appear they are encouraging excessive force."

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages and asks the court to order the department to limit the use of reasonable force and discipline officers who use excessive force.

Apple is betting big on a wireless world

BRANDON BAILEY, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) Apple wants to push consumers further into a wireless world. Its tactics: Eliminate the standard headphone jack in its newest iPhones and market new "AirPods" tiny wireless earbuds that the company claims greatly improve on standard Bluetooth technology.

But that strategy has some risks.

AIRPOD ANGST

Start with the AirPods themselves. These are a pair of earbuds, each with an inch or so of protruding plastic, and nothing else no wires to hold them together, no dangling cords. If they live up to Apple's claims, they're a technological marvel, tiny and expensive. And, perhaps, also easily dislodged or misplaced.

Analysts at IHS Technology say that Apple used a smooth-surfaced design that doesn't conform to the shape of the ear, and note that having AirPods fall out while running or biking "is less forgivable at the \$159 cost level." Or as Bob O'Donnell, a veteran consumer tech analyst at Technalysis Research, puts it: "You start losing those things at \$160 a pair, you're going to go crazy."

The alternative plugging a headphone cord into the iPhone's power port has plenty of downside as well. Older headphones that aren't compatible with Apple's "Lightning" power port will need an adapter. Those will come standard with new iPhones, but many consumers could find it annoying to use the extra "dongle." And they won't be able to plug in headphones if there's a power cord in the Lightning port.

APPLE CUTS THE CORD

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 29 of 43

Apple senior vice president Philip Schiller made it clear Wednesday that the company sees a future where its sleek gadgets are no longer encumbered by cords at all. "It makes no sense to tether ourselves with cables to our mobile devices," he said during the company's annual fall product event.

Eliminating the standard analog jack freed up some space inside the new iPhones, allowing Apple to increase the battery size and add another speaker as it redesigned the interior of the device. Despite some earlier rumors, Apple didn't use the extra space to make the iPhone 7 or 7 Plus any slimmer than last year's models, the 6S and 6S Plus.

Apple did make an effort to improve on standard Bluetooth technology, which can be unreliable and obstinate when used to "pair" wireless headsets with phones or other devices. The new AirPods are based on Bluetooth standards. But in addition to special sensors, a microphone and noise canceling technology, they have a processor chip designed by Apple, combined with software that Apple says will make it simple to sync them with an iPhone, Apple Watch and other Apple gadgets.

The result allows a "seamless connection between you and your devices," said Apple chief design officer Jony Ive in a promotional video. "We're just at the beginning of a truly wireless future we've been working towards for many years."

The new "AirPods" will work with Bluetooth-enabled devices made by Apple's rivals, but they won't have the ease-of-pairing that comes with Apple's software. Schiller didn't mention rival devices during his presentation, nor did he even use the word "Bluetooth."

BOUND BY WIRELESS

Analysts say Apple clearly wants to promote its own brand of wireless listening gear, including new headphones from its own "Beats" division, since the market for such accessories is growing at a time when sales of iPhones and other smartphones are slowing.

Some early reviewers are already captivated by the AirPod. "They fixed Bluetooth headsets," said tech analyst Patrick Moorhead, of Moor Insights & Strategy, after trying a pair. "I think Apple has a real winner here."

But mobile tech analyst Carolina Milanese of the Creative Strategies firm thinks Apple has a bigger goal in mind to make it easier for consumers to use one set of wireless earpieces with a variety of Apple's products.

"It's not just about your iPhone anymore," she said. "It's about getting consumers thinking more about that ecosystem of Apple products and how they all play nicely together."

It's an expensive ecosystem: Buying a new iPhone 7, Apple Watch and a set of AirPods will cost over \$1,000. But Apple has never been shy about marketing its products at a premium price.

COUNTERING THE IPHONE SLUMP

Apple is hoping its new iPhone and an updated Apple Watch, known as Series 2, will help reverse a recent decline in sales. While the company sold nearly 92 million iPhones in the first six months of this year, that's about 15 percent fewer than the same period last year. Industry analysts say the iPhone 6S and 6S Plus, which Apple introduced last fall, didn't offer many compelling new features over the previous year's models.

With the iPhone 7 and 7 Plus, Apple may face a similar challenge.

O'Donnell, for instance, considers the changes from last year's iPhones "modest" overall. A new dual-lens camera in the iPhone 7 Plus may be impressive, he said, but it's only available in the larger and more expensive phone, limiting its appeal.

"Smartphone advancements are slowing down as the market is maturing, so minor things like look and feel get more attention," O'Donnell said, noting that Apple spent several minutes of its presentation

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 30 of 43

extolling the virtues of an optional "jet black" finish for the new phones.

Other smartphone makers are also having trouble dazzling consumers with new advances. But Forrester Research analyst Julie Ask figures consumers will appreciate the faster chip and other improvements once they try the new iPhones. And she's not worried about any backlash over elimination of the hardware jack.

"Apple has a very long history of removing features we all thought were necessary, and then convincing us that we didn't need them," said Ask, noting that Apple paved the way in phasing out the use of floppy discs and optical drives in computers. "Three months later, it will be, 'Why did we ever have that?'"

WHY IT MATTERS: Immigration

ALICIA A. CALDWELL, 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: An estimated 11 million people are living and in many cases working in the United States illegally. The questions of what to do with them and how to curb future illegal immigration have been a campaign issue for more than a decade. Never more so than now. Illegal immigration goes to the heart of Donald Trump's presidential campaign. It's a source of his strength among supporters, contention among critics and confusion over what he really intends to do.

The long debate over immigration in Congress has focused on which should come first: stiffer enforcement at the border and inside the country or a path to legal status for the millions of people who are already a part of their communities. Efforts to overhaul the country's immigration laws have routinely been defined by Republicans supporting an enforcement-first approach with Democrats preferring a path to legal status for those here while working on security efforts at the same time. The result? A standstill.

WHERE THEY STAND

Trump vows to build a wall along the Mexican border complete with a "big beautiful door." He vows Mexico will pay for the wall; Mexico vows it won't. Trump had repeatedly pledged to deport all the people living in the country illegally. Now he'd focus on deporting people who have committed crimes beyond their immigration offenses. As for the rest, he's proposing no path to legal status while they are in the U.S.

Democrat Hillary Clinton has pledged to push for an overhaul that would enable citizenship — not just legal status — for many living in the country illegally. She has also said she would expand programs that protect some groups of immigrants from deportation, including those who arrived as children and the parents of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents. President Barack Obama's effort to shield parents from deportation is on hold after the Supreme Court deadlocked on a decision in a case challenging the president's authority to expand the deportation protection program.

WHY IT MATTERS

Illegal immigration has remained at nearly 40-year lows for the last several years and several estimates of the immigrants living in the country illegally suggest that Mexican migration trends have actually reversed, with more Mexican nationals leaving the United States than arriving. And billions of dollars have been spent in recent years to build fencing, improve technology used at the border and

expand the Border Patrol.

Nonetheless the Mexican border remains a focal point for those who argue that the country is not secure. As evidence that the border is not secure, many Republicans point to the illegal crossings of hundreds of thousands of unaccompanied children and people traveling as families in recent years. The surge of children and families from Central America in 2014 was described as a crisis at the border and the volume of people apprehended overwhelmed government resources.

At the same time, the Obama administration has dramatically slowed the pace of deportations after setting a record by sending home more than 409,000 people in 2012. During the 2015 budget year, the administration removed 235,000 people.

Multiple efforts to overhaul immigration policies have repeatedly ended in a legislative stalemate as Republicans and Democrats spar over how to approach both securing the border and dealing with those immigrants already here.

Despite Katrina lessons, flood plan in Louisiana shows gaps

MELINDA DESLATTE, Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Eleven years ago, Sam Barbera hooked up his boat and headed to New Orleans to ferry people from Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters. Four weeks ago, he found himself in another boat for rescues — this time at home in Baton Rouge, when a massive rainstorm ravaged the area.

It was "night and day," he said. "Katrina was kind of baptism by fire. It was just people showing up, everybody doing their own thing."

But during the catastrophic flooding in mid-August, police directed volunteer boats and their owners — nicknamed the "Cajun Navy" — to neighborhoods where water was rising, and social media postings offered guidance on where victims needed help.

"You didn't have that in Katrina. Katrina was kind of like you just put your boat in. Katrina was may-hem," Barbera said.

In 2005, the monster storm exposed huge gaps in disaster response plans on local, state and federal levels. More than 1,500 people were killed in Louisiana alone. After the levees failed and inundated New Orleans and surrounding communities, thousands were plucked from rooftops and attics. Response was a fly-by-the-seat-of-your pants effort, with no coordinated strategy for rescues — or what to do with the people saved. First responders were overwhelmed, and many were left to fend for themselves.

Lessons learned from Katrina formed the backbone of state and federal reaction as historic flooding ravaged 20 parishes last month. The response in the immediate aftermath was widely praised by officials and storm victims, Republican and Democrat alike.

But the slog of the longer-term recovery is starting to show that cracks remain in the disaster safety net — and that wariness lingers about federal help after the troubled response to Katrina.

Criticisms are emerging about the pace of housing aid, the size of grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the question marks that surround rebuilding and recovery.

"I don't feel like y'all are pushing the issue quick enough or fast enough to be able to get people back in their homes," state Rep. Clay Schexnayder, a Republican who represents hard-hit areas, told FEMA at a recent hearing on flood response.

Stephan Perkins, 46, was waiting for a FEMA inspector to show up 10 days after he registered with the agency. Perkins had a flood insurance policy that covered the structural damage to his home but not its contents. A neighbor with the same type of flood coverage told Perkins that FEMA offered him

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 32 of 43

less than \$200.

"I'm just hearing the horror stories," said Perkins, a father of two.

FEMA defends its response, saying it has approved more than \$575 million in recovery grants for households so far, set up 26 disaster assistance centers and brought more than 2,500 staff to Louisiana.

"FEMA has been on the ground in Louisiana since before the first drop of rain hit the ground. We've already provided shelter and support to thousands of families," agency spokesman Rafael Lemaitre said in a statement.

Perhaps complaints are inevitable when a disaster displaces so many who desperately want to get back to their homes. Officials estimate more than 110,000 homes are damaged from flooding described as the worst disaster since Superstorm Sandy.

But discontent took longer to surface this time, and there's little disagreement about improvements in the federal and state response in the years since Katrina.

People weren't left stranded for days without supplies, like at the New Orleans convention center and on interstate overpasses after Katrina. Hospitals and nursing homes weren't left to fend for themselves when threatened with floodwaters, like in 2005. Shelters allowed pets to come with their owners, to avoid prior disaster scenes where people risked drowning rather than leave pets in flooded homes.

Sgt. Cliff Ortis performed rescue missions for the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in both disasters. To him, the change was obvious. He noted that state and local agencies now hold regular meetings to chart out disaster response protocols and synchronize efforts.

"There's definitely a giant education movement from Katrina to now," Ortis said. "No question the coordination was better."

Republican Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser, who rode out Katrina in devastated Plaquemines Parish, said the state and FEMA response "has been right on target."

That's not to suggest the response wasn't without a hitch. Flood damage to AT&T equipment disrupted service and hampered some communication for first responders. Hundreds of motorists got trapped on an interstate when state officials didn't close it fast enough. Local officials criticized the Red Cross for taking too long to assist with shelters and for turning away donations.

And just like after Katrina, the great challenge moving ahead is funding. With less than one-fifth of storm victims estimated to have flood insurance, Edwards and Louisiana's congressional delegation are discussing an additional flood aid package from Congress.

Carlette Dawson, 49, said she received \$15,000 from FEMA after an inspector visited her Baton Rouge home. Needing much more to repair the damage, Dawson was inquiring about a loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration. Problems with the computer system kept her waiting more than two hours.

"Why is it so hard to get help?" she said.

Tony Romo heads list of declining NFL players

ROB MAADDI, AP Pro Football Writer

Tony Romo followed the best season of his career in 2014 with one injury after another.

The question no longer is whether Romo can duplicate the success he had just two years ago when he led the Dallas Cowboys to 12 wins and the NFC East title. Rather, people wonder if he can stay healthy to play at all.

Romo missed 12 games in 2015 after he broke his left collarbone twice. He begins this year on the sideline after suffering a back injury in the preseason.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 33 of 43

The four-time Pro Bowl quarterback is clearly on the decline.

Here are other players who could trend downward in 2016:

Jason Peters, LT, Eagles: He's an eight-time Pro Bowl pick and two-time All-Pro who has missed only two games in the past three seasons. But the 34-year-old Peters isn't the dominant blocker he used to be. He has 18 penalties and 12 sacks allowed over the last two seasons.

Chris Johnson, RB, Cardinals: Johnson was on his way to his seventh 1,000-yard season in eight years before getting hurt last season. He ran for 814 yards in 11 games. His injury gave David Johnson an opportunity to play more and he was dynamic. The Cardinals are in good hands with either Johnson, but expect David to get the ball more than Chris.

Demaryius Thomas, WR, Broncos: Thomas had 105 catches for 1,304 yards and six TDs in 2015 despite Peyton Manning's rapid decline. But the Broncos are a far more run-oriented offense under Gary Kubiak, who can emphasize his system in Year 2 now that Manning is gone and Trevor Siemian is the quarterback. Thomas will get the ball, but he's not going to catch triple-digit passes in this offense.

Mario Williams, DE, Dolphins: After racking up 38 sacks between 2012-14, Williams had just five sacks in 909 snaps last season. He was released by the Bills following a disappointing year playing linebacker in Rex Ryan's 3-4 system. Miami is banking on Williams being more comfortable in the 4-3, but Williams' best days could be in the past.

Arian Foster, RB, Dolphins: Foster missed 23 games for the Texans over the past three seasons due to back, groin and Achilles tendon injuries. He's a 30-year-old running back who took a lot of hits and has suffered a lot of injuries. That adds up to less production.

Politics of lopsided victories vary between coaches

JOHN MARSHALL, AP College Football Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Ohio State coach Urban Meyer was critical of his starting receivers after the Buckeyes' opener against Bowling Green. Same thing with most of the offensive linemen and Ohio State's kickoff coverage unit. The defensive backs "did OK."

This after Ohio State set a school record with 776 yards and won by 67 while scoring the school's most points in 86 years.

The Buckeyes did what they were supposed to by rolling an overmatched opponent, but Meyer is one of those coaches who can find criticism in a crushing.

"It was good, not great," Meyer said.

Blowouts are inevitable in the early portion of the college football season.

Elite programs often have trouble finding opponents willing to play them and will pay up to \$1 million to lure a lower-tier team for the chance to host another lucrative home game.

The result is usually lopsided games like in the first weekend of the 2016 season: Ohio State 77-10 over Bowling Green; Miami 70-3 over Florida A&M; Michigan 66-3 over Hawaii; Illinois 52-3 against Murray State; Oklahoma State 61, Southeastern Louisiana 7.

Coaches react to these blowouts in different ways.

Some are seemingly never satisfied, always finding something critical to say in hopes of pushing their players to get better and avoid complacency. Others use the lopsided wins as confidence-building springboards toward the rest of the season.

Most fall somewhere in between, offering praise for winning a game they were supposed to with a dash of you-can-do-better criticism.

Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh took the pat-on-the-back route after the Wolverines' blowout of Hawaii, offering effusive praise up and down the roster for their most lopsided victory since 1975.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 34 of 43

Seventh-ranked Michigan has another expected walkover this week against Central Florida, which didn't win a game last season, and Harbaugh is predictably taking the rah-rah approach again.

"We're building and attacking at the same time," he said. "We have a tremendous opportunity and we want to make the most of it."

Arizona State coach Todd Graham went on the offensive after his team's rout against Northern Arizona in its opener.

Not toward his team. At the criticism that was hurled toward it.

The Sun Devils beat the FCS Lumberjacks 44-13, but got off to a slow start, leading 10-3 at halftime, 13-6 until the final minute of the third quarter. At his news conference two days later, Graham took a discussion about his team's offense and pointed it toward the negative comments about the Sun Devils' performance in an effort to defend his team.

"You know, it AMAZES me," he said. "We're 1-0. We won 44-13. We gave up THIRTEEN points, so we're going on to the next week. That's kind of how I feel about that. I just don't get it."

Oklahoma State's coaching staff took the good-but-you-can-do-better route after the 22nd-ranked Cowboys blew out Southeastern Louisiana.

The Cowboys turned it into a rout early, with the starters beginning to get rest by the second quarter, so the game ended with a score in the to-be-expected range. But there also were a few breakdowns, particularly on defense, mistakes the Cowboys will not be able to get away with against a stronger opponent.

"There's an old adage that things are never as good as they seem and they're never as bad as they seem," Oklahoma State defensive coordinator Glenn Spencer said. "Between some missed tackles we had in the open field, some bad reads and some guys relaxing a couple of times, it was very close to getting those guys to realize how close we are to being very average, or how close we are to having a good defense."

Miami's coaches followed Meyer's suit — after watching film on the Hurricane's blowout of Florida A&M.

Miami scored 10 touchdowns and had a school-record 42 points in the second quarter, allowed 22 yards rushing and had two interceptions. Yet after looking at the film, Hurricane's defensive coordinator Manny Diaz said he was "horrified."

"I think most of our guys, the more mature guys anyway, understand when they make a mistake," said coach Mark Richt after his first game at Miami. "They know we can get better."

This week's schedule will include numerous other chances to get better against what should be over-matched opponents.

Top-ranked Alabama plays Western Kentucky, No. 2 Clemson faces Troy, No. 8 Washington plays Lamar, No. 9 Georgia has Nicholls and No. 10 Wisconsin faces Akron, among other potentially-lopsided matchups.

Even if those go as planned, expect a wide range of reactions from the winning coaches.

Obama puts South China Sea back on agenda at summit

VIJAY JOSHI, Associated Press

JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — President Barack Obama put the long-simmering dispute in the South China Sea front and center on the agenda at a regional summit Thursday as it became clear that most of the other leaders gathered in the Laotian capital were going to let China off with a mild rebuke over its territorial expansion in the resource-rich waters.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 35 of 43

"We will continue to work to ensure that disputes are resolved peacefully including in the South China Sea," Obama said in his opening remarks at a meeting with leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN.

He said an international arbitration ruling on July 12 against China was "binding" and "helped to clarify maritime rights in the region."

ASEAN will hold a separate summit later Thursday with other world powers, including China and the U.S. The summit is expected to let China off with a muted reprimand over its expansionist activities in South China Sea, according to a draft of their joint statement to be released Thursday.

The U.S. has repeatedly expressed concern over Beijing's actions in the resource-rich sea. Obama brought that up again.

Referring to the arbitration panel's ruling that invalidated China's claims, Obama said: "I realize this raises tensions but I also look forward to discussing how we can constructively move forward together to lower tensions and promote diplomacy and regional stability."

The draft of the summit statement said that ASEAN and its partners "reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace, stability and security and freedom of navigation in and over-flight in the South China Sea."

"Several Leaders remained seriously concerned over recent developments in the South China Sea ... We stressed the importance for the parties concerned to resolve their disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with universally recognized principles of international laws," it said.

China has turned shoals and coral reefs into seven man-made islands and built airstrips capable of handling military aircraft on three of them. ASEAN leaders at their earlier summit on Tuesday expressed concern over China's island-building.

A joint statement after the Tuesday summit said it "took note of the concerns expressed by some leaders on the land reclamations and escalation of activities in the area, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions and may undermine peace, security and stability in the region."

The use of the phrase "some leaders" in the two statements underscores the fundamental problem ASEAN and the wider East Asia Summit has in dealing with China — not all its members are willing to scold Beijing. Cambodia, for example, remains in China's camp, as does Laos to a large extent, preventing any robust statement from the consensus-bound ASEAN group.

U.S. officials, however, said that there were other critical elements in the ASEAN statement that China failed to block, and which amounted to a strong diplomatic rebuke of Beijing.

China pulled out all the stops to block any reference to the words "recent activities," "serious concern," "reclamation," "militarization," "loss of trust" and "need to respect legal processes," but failed as all these phrases made it into the statement, said a senior U.S. administration official, who requested anonymity to discuss diplomatic discussions.

Though Beijing recently announced a \$600 million aid package to ally Cambodia, China was unable to get it to block the statement, said the official. Cambodia did however block an explicit mention of the tribunal's ruling, which the Philippines was willing to concede, the official said.

The issue of ownership of territories in the South China Sea has come to dominate ASEAN summits in recent years. China claims virtually the entire sea as its own, citing historical reasons. That has pitted it against the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei, all members of ASEAN, which have overlapping claims.

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

Now adults, children of 9/11 draw inspiration from tragedy

JENNIFER PELTZ, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — They were kids, or not even born yet, when America's heart broke for them. More than 3,000 children and young adults lost a parent in the deadliest terror attack on American soil, instantly becoming known as the children of 9/11.

As the 15th anniversary of the attacks approaches, these children are now adults or nearly so, and their Sept. 11 legacy is now theirs to shape.

Many have been guided by a determination to honor the parent they lost or the awareness they so painfully gained. And they have done it in ways as varied as working with refugees, studying the forces that led to the attacks and pursuing a parent's unrealized pro-sports dream.

Here are some of their stories.

"THINGS KIND OF COME FULL CIRCLE"

It's Lindsay Weinberg's job to find and notify families whose loved ones have died, sometimes under violent circumstances. It's a job she's particularly prepared to do.

"I'm giving them among the worst news they can receive, and I've received it," she says.

Weinberg was 12 when the New York City medical examiner's office, where she now works, told her family in 2002 that it had identified her father's remains among the victims of 9/11.

"It adds to the amount of empathy that I can have," says the 26-year-old, whose father, Steven Weinberg, was an accounting manager killed at the World Trade Center.

After recognizing how forensic science helped provide answers for her family, Lindsay got a master's degree in it, and is now an outreach investigator. She hasn't worked on the continuing analysis of the more than 21,000 bits of bone found at ground zero.

She says her connection to 9/11 is "not something that I lead with, personally or professionally." But working at the medical examiner's office, she says, shows "how things kind of come full circle."

"I THOUGHT, 'WHAT WAS IT WE SHARED THE MOST?' AND IT WAS WRESTLING"

Thea Trinidad's pulse thumped as she walked out on the floor of Madison Square Garden as part of pro wrestler Adam Rose's entourage in 2014. It was the first time she'd been there in her own wrestling career. And the first time since she'd been there with her dad.

Looking up at the seats where they always sat "was like a punch to the heart," she says.

She was 10 when she overheard her father calling her mother to say goodbye from the trade center's north tower, where he worked as a telecommunications analyst. Growing up, she pondered how to honor him.

"I thought: 'What was it we shared the most?' And it was wrestling," she recalls.

Michael Trinidad was a former high school wrestler who didn't flinch when his tomboy daughter did leaping moves off the furniture. In fact, "he'd say, 'No, you're doing it wrong — let me show you,'" says Thea, 25, who lives in Tampa, Florida.

At first, the 5-foot-tall wrestler didn't let on about her dad as she backflipped and body-slammed under the monikers Divina Fly and Rosita. (She now uses her own name). She didn't want anyone thinking she was making a play for sympathy.

After her story emerged, Pro Wrestling Illustrated magazine named her Inspirational Wrestler of the Year in 2011.

She says she feels her father's spirit every time she goes into the ring.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 37 of 43

"This one's for you, Dad," she tells herself. "Protect me out there."

"POSITIVE, PERSONAL GROWTH OUT OF SOMETHING THAT WAS SO HORRIFIC"

Several years after 9/11, Michael Massaroli came across a plastic bin filled with condolence messages. They had come from people around the country and world, many of them strangers, after the attacks killed his father and namesake, an investment executive. Michael was 6. His widowed mother had just given birth to a baby girl two months earlier.

"Hearing how people were so selfless and so caring to us really made me want to try to do something, career-wise, that I thought would help other people," he says.

He decided that would be public service, since he was already interested in politics. By high school, he was interning for a state assemblyman.

Now 21 and newly graduated from George Washington University, he got his first job working at a Washington firm that helps political campaigns handle their finances properly. He sees himself eventually working in government as an adviser or aide.

"I really try and at least get positive personal growth out of something that was so horrific," he says, "rather than let it break me down."

"THE LOVE AND THE HERITAGE COMES THROUGH"

Anjunelly Jean-Pierre once had her future all figured out. She planned on joining the military and eventually becoming the doctor or lawyer her mother envisioned.

Then her mother, Maxima Jean-Pierre, was killed at the World Trade Center, where the immigrant from the Dominican Republic managed an executive cafe.

Over the next few years, Anjunelly grieved, regrouped and decided she wanted to do what her mother did. Recalling the Sunday dinners that filled the house with friends and family, "I saw how food brings people together," says Anjunelly, 34.

After culinary school and a stint as a sous-chef for an Emeril Lagasse TV show, Anjunelly now works in a setting where bringing people together is perhaps especially important: She is a manager in the Members' Dining Room in Congress.

Last September, a letter she wrote about Maxima was entered into the Congressional Record. One of the most popular dishes she's made over the years was Maxima's rice and peas, she wrote: "I guess the love and the heritage comes through."

"I WANTED TO MAKE SURE IT NEVER HAPPENED AGAIN"

Alexandra Wald wanted to understand. She soaked up books about the forces and failures that led to Sept. 11. She took four years of Arabic in college, got a master's degree in international relations and aspired to work in intelligence.

"Being as affected as I was by the geopolitical landscape and my dad being killed on 9/11," she says, "I wanted to make sure it never happened again."

It was her first day of high school when her father, stockbroker Victor Wald, was killed at the World Trade Center.

His daughter, who goes by Alex, was already interested in world events. But 9/11 made her want "to be that person to decipher that information, to protect the homeland."

Now 28, she works on a cybersecurity project for a contractor for the federal General Services Administration in Washington.

Studying for her career — with help from the Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund, set up for the children of 9/11 victims — also meant dealing with the frustration of contemplating missed opportuni-

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 38 of 43

ties to disrupt the terror plot.

When the anger stirred, she'd think of some advice her father gave her a few weeks before the attacks.

"You can't look back with regret," he told her. And "never say, 'What if?'"

"ONCE IT'S ON MY SKIN, I HAVE TO TALK ABOUT IT"

It's all right to ask Ryan McGowan about the "IX.XI" tattooed on the back of her neck. It's 9/11 in Roman numerals.

"Once it's on my skin," she says, "I have to talk about it."

Ryan was 5, sister Casey 4, when their mother, investment executive Stacey Sennas McGowan, was killed at the trade center.

As a preteen, Ryan partly played the role of parent, helping her sister pick outfits for school and making dinner when their father, Tom, had to work. She came to think of her mother as "an amazing guardian angel."

Now 20, Ryan is a junior majoring in marketing at Boston College, where 19-year-old Casey is a sophomore in communications.

Often, Ryan makes her way through the campus to a labyrinth inscribed with her mom's name and those of 21 fellow BC graduates killed in 9/11. It's a place she feels close to her mother, whose remains were never identified and buried.

"I can just sit there and reflect," she says. "I don't have that anywhere else."

"I WANTED TO PLAY IN HONOR OF MY DAD"

Ronald Milam Jr. doesn't always tell his football and basketball teammates that there's a reason he wears the number 33. It's for his father, Army Maj. Ronald Milam, who was 33 when he was killed at the Pentagon on 9/11.

Ronald Jr. never met his father. His mother, then-Air Force Capt. Jacqueline Milam, was pregnant with him on 9/11. She safely escaped from the Pentagon.

Ronald Jr., now a 14-year-old high school freshman in San Antonio, is one of the more than 100 Sept. 11 victims' children who were born after the attacks.

He has his dad's features and unflappable personality. And his jersey number was a connection he could make with his father, a college player himself.

"I wanted to play in honor of my dad," he says. "So I picked that."

"I RECOGNIZED HARDSHIP IN OTHER PEOPLE'S LIFE"

Sometimes, after refugees told her their stories of conflict and loss, Sonia Shah would let them know that she had one, too.

Explaining that her father died in 9/11 opened "a bonding moment," says the Baylor University social work student, who spent the summer volunteering with refugee aid organizations in Greece.

Her father, Jayesh "Jay" Shah, was killed at ground zero, where he was a financial trading technology executive. Sonia was 7.

His death fueled Sonia's impulse to try to help where others turn away.

"Because I had faced loss at such a young age and in such a different way than many other people, I recognized hardship in other people's life a lot more easily," says the 22-year-old senior, who took a year off from college for religious study. She says that without her faith, she "wouldn't be as whole and as healed."

California panel mulls development on coastal oil land

AMY TAXIN, Associated Press

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Southern California residents sparred Wednesday over a hotly contested plan to build nearly 900 homes and a hotel on a vast stretch of land riddled with oil drilling that also provides critical habitat for endangered and threatened wildlife.

In a meeting that was still going after 12 hours, hundreds of people packed a crowded meeting room in upscale Newport Beach to hear the California Coastal Commission discuss a plan to develop the 401-acre site known as Banning Ranch. Opponents carried signs with pictures of burrowing owls and urged the state panel to preserve the shrub-covered land as open space.

Linda Mendenhall, who lives near the property, said she's tired of the traffic and congestion in Orange County and relishes the wide open views and animals she has enjoyed seeing from her home for nearly three decades.

"We just don't think they need to build another small city," she said.

More than 400 people signed up to speak on the proposal by Newport Banning Ranch to build 895 homes, a 75-room hotel and retail complex on the tract inhabited by the owls and other wildlife. Many of the homes would have sweeping ocean views and sell for more than \$1 million, according to the developers.

The site is considered to be the largest remaining privately held coastal property that could be developed south of Los Angeles, according to a commission spokeswoman.

Staff members for the commission recommended developers shrink the plan and confine building to 20 acres to protect habitat for the owl, which lives in holes dug by ground squirrels and is considered a bird of special concern in California.

The owl was a very popular topic among both public and commissioners, and sometimes the topic brought laughter.

Referring to the bird's mythology as a wise creature and the dangers humans posed to them, Jonna Engel of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife said "they are not wise about cars."

Jack Ainsworth, the commission's acting executive director, said the proposed development is one of the most important issues the panel has faced in the past four decades.

"It is critically important to get it right, because we may not get a second chance here and significant coastal resources are at stake," he told commissioners.

The plan would preserve roughly 80 percent of the land as open space, but environmentalists want a larger chunk protected, saying the property is home to species including the threatened California gnatcatcher — a small, blue-gray songbird — and a rare vernal pool system that fills with rainwater where endangered San Diego fairy shrimp are known to thrive.

Newport Banning Ranch — a partnership involving Aera Energy, Cherokee Investment Partners and Brooks Street — has argued that developing about 70 acres would help raise as much as \$40 million for restoration following years of oil drilling and give the public access to walking trails and educational programs on the coast.

Michael Mohler, senior project manager for Newport Banning Ranch, said the limitations suggested by the commission's staff were unrealistic and would thwart the project.

"We're proposing to restore the entire site for a beneficial ecosystem for all species, as I said earlier, including man," he said.

Commissioner Mary Shallenberger said this was a good reason to oppose the project, saying the sides

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 40 of 43

are "too far apart on this."

Dozens of people also attended the meeting wearing T-shirts backing the project, which would limit oil drilling to 15 acres. If the homes are not approved, developers say they'll continue drilling on the site.

Environmental advocates contend the oil mess should be cleaned up regardless of whether homes are constructed. While some oil wells still operate, many have been abandoned and old, rusty pipes are strewn across the land overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Steve Ray, executive director for the Banning Ranch Conservancy, urged the panel to deny the homes even if the drilling continues.

"What they see as an oil field, we see as open space," he said.

Last year, developers proposed an even larger version of the project. Staff members recommended that plan be denied, and commissioners encouraged them to work with Newport Banning Ranch to come up with a smaller proposal.

The project faces opposition from some Native American groups that have historic ties to the land where the Santa Ana River meets the ocean.

Elected officials from nearby cities also disputed whether the plan would help, or hurt, their crowded suburban neighborhoods. Newport Beach Mayor Diane Dixon supported the project.

"The Newport Banning oil field is not an environmental gem. It is a brown field," Dixon said. "It would be tragic if we let this historic opportunity slip away."

Asian stocks mixed on stronger China trade, Nasdaq gain

JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stock markets were mixed Thursday after China reported unexpectedly strong trade and Wall Street's Nasdaq index hit a record-high close.

KEEPING SCORE: Tokyo's Nikkei 225 shed 0.2 percent to 16,971.05 points and Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 0.1 percent to 23,769.35. The Shanghai Composite Index was unchanged at 3,089.39 and Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 advanced 0.4 percent to 5,497.40. Seoul's Kospi rose 0.9 percent to 2,017.94 and New Zealand also rose. Benchmarks in Taiwan, Singapore and Jakarta declined.

WALL STREET: The Nasdaq composite turned in its second straight record-high close while the Dow Jones industrial average and the Standard & Poor's 500 index declined. Supermarket chains and other consumer-focused companies were among the biggest decliners. Traders bid up shares in energy, technology and airline companies. The Nasdaq added 8.02 points, or 0.2 percent, to 5,283.93. The Dow dropped 11.98 points, or 0.1 percent, to 18,526.14 and the S&P 500 index slipped 0.32 points, or 0.01 percent, to 2,186.16.

CHINA TRADE: Exports rose in August for the first time since late 2014, while a contraction in imports narrowed in a positive sign for global economic growth. Exports expanded by an unexpectedly strong 1.5 percent, up from July's 12.5 percent plunge. Exports fell 2.8 percent but that also was better than forecast and an improvement over the previous month's 4.4 percent contraction. The export gain was a positive sign for Chinese leaders who are trying to protect millions of trade-supported jobs. The improvement in imports suggested lackluster Chinese domestic demand might be firming up.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Global equities have been climbing to a 12-month high recently, and are showing signs of fatigue," said Bernard Aw of IG in a report. "Corporate earnings challenges aside, market participants will need a fresh catalyst for stocks to resume its bullish trajectory," he said. "This could come in the form of more stimulus from the ECB (European Central Bank) or BOJ, or a stronger consensus on the delay in US rate hike for the rest of the year. However, the ECB is unlikely to come bearing stimulus

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 41 of 43

gifts tonight when the council sets the policy decision, beyond getting another 6-month extension to the QE program."

ECB WATCH: Investors were looking ahead to the European Central Bank's policy meeting for signs of when it might raise euro zone interest rates. Forecasters expected no change following the ECB's comment in its July review that it needed to closely watch the impact of Britain's vote to leave the 28-nation trading bloc. Inflation is well below the bank's target, with consumer prices barely changed this year.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 81 cents to \$46.31 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 67 cents on Wednesday to close at \$45.50. Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 76 cents to \$48.74 in London. It added 72 cents on Wednesday to close at \$47.98.

CURRENCIES: The dollar edged down to 101.50 yen from Wednesday's 101.71 yen. The euro advanced to \$1.1253 from \$1.1241.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Sept. 8, the 252nd day of 2016. There are 114 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Sept. 8, 1966, the science-fiction series "Star Trek" premiered on NBC; the situation comedy "That Girl," starring Marlo Thomas, debuted on ABC.

On this date:

In 1565, a Spanish expedition established the first permanent European settlement in North America at present-day St. Augustine, Florida.

In 1761, Britain's King George III married Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz a few hours after meeting her for the first time.

In 1892, an early version of "The Pledge of Allegiance," written by Francis Bellamy, appeared in "The Youth's Companion."

In 1900, Galveston, Texas, was struck by a hurricane that killed an estimated 8,000 people.

In 1921, Margaret Gorman, 16, of Washington, D.C., was crowned the first "Miss America" in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In 1935, Sen. Huey P. Long, D-La., was shot and mortally wounded inside the Louisiana State Capitol; he died two days later. (The assailant was identified as Dr. Carl Weiss, who was gunned down by Long's bodyguards.)

In 1941, the 900-day Siege of Leningrad by German forces began during World War II.

In 1951, a peace treaty with Japan was signed by 49 nations in San Francisco.

In 1974, President Gerald R. Ford granted a "full, free, and absolute pardon" to former President Richard Nixon covering his entire term in office.

In 1985, Pete Rose of the Cincinnati Reds tied Ty Cobb's career record for hits, singling for hit number 4,191 during a game against the Cubs in Chicago.

In 1986, "The Oprah Winfrey Show" began the first of 25 seasons in national syndication.

In 1994, USAir Flight 427, a Boeing 737, crashed into a ravine as it was approaching Pittsburgh International Airport, killing all 132 people on board.

Ten years ago: A Senate report faulted intelligence gathering in the lead-up to the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, and said Saddam Hussein regarded al-Qaida as a threat rather than a possible ally, contradict-

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 069 ~ 42 of 43

ing assertions President George W. Bush had used to build support for the war. A suicide car bomber struck a convoy of U.S. military vehicles in Kabul, Afghanistan, killing 16 people, including two American soldiers.

Five years ago: Addressing a joint session of Congress, President Barack Obama challenged a reluctant Congress to urgently pass a larger-than-expected \$450 billion jobs plan to "jolt an economy that has stalled." Ten oil workers were forced to abandon a crippled 94-foot research vessel in the Gulf of Mexico and pile into a life raft during Tropical Storm Nate; by the time rescuers arrived three days after, three of the men had died, and a fourth died later at a hospital.

One year ago: After resisting apologizing for using a personal email account run on a private server to conduct government business as secretary of state, Hillary Clinton shifted course, telling ABC News, "That was a mistake. I'm sorry about that. I take responsibility." Kim Davis, the Rowan County, Kentucky, clerk jailed for refusing to issue marriage licenses to gay couples, was released after five days behind bars, emerging to a hero's welcome from thousands of supporters. United Airlines abruptly replaced CEO Jeffrey Smisek (SMY'-zek) as a federal investigation continued into whether the airline had given preferential treatment to David Samson, former chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the agency that operated the New York-area airports. (Samson later admitted using his position to get personal favors from United; Smisek has not been charged with any criminal wrongdoing.)

Today's Birthdays: Ventriloquist Willie Tyler is 76. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., is 75. Actor Alan Feinstein is 75. Pop singer Sal Valentino (The Beau Brummels) is 74. Author Ann Beattie is 69. Cajun singer Zachary Richard (ree-SHARD') is 66. Musician Will Lee is 64. Actress Heather Thomas is 59. Singer Aimee Mann is 56. Pop musician David Steele (Fine Young Cannibals) is 56. Actor Thomas Kretschmann is 54. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marc Gordon (Levert) is 52. Gospel singer Darlene Zschech (chehk) is 51. Alternative country singer Neko (NEE'-koh) Case is 46. TV personality Brooke Burke-Charvet is 45. Actor Martin Freeman is 45. Actor David Arquette is 45. TV-radio personality Kennedy is 44. Rock musician Richard Hughes (Keane) is 41. Actor Larenz Tate is 41. Actor Nathan Corrdry is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Pink is 37. Singer-songwriter Eric Hutchinson is 36. Actor Jonathan Taylor Thomas is 35. Rapper Wiz Khalifa is 29. Dance music artist AVICII is 27.

Thought for Today: "Try to learn something about everything and everything about something." — T.H. Huxley, English biologist and author (1825-1895).

Cemetery could get more trees

Over the years, the aging cottonwood trees have been removed from the Groton Cemetery. Evergreen trees have been planted on the north and east side of the property. An individual said he could come up with \$20,000 to plant different colors of Maple trees and spruce trees. Councilman David McGannon said that \$20,000 will buy a lot of trees. The council agreed to get a price quote and a plan for planting trees at the cemetery. There are several tombstones that are broken and the council authorized the finance officer to find someone that might be able to repair them.

Should the finance officer be an employee of the city or be appointed each year by mayor with council approval. Currently the finance officer is appointed by the mayor and the council approves the appointment each year in May. "At this time, I work for the mayor," said Finance Officer Anita Lowary. McGannon said, "I'm still trying to figure out why we should change this." Lowary said a number of communities are changing from appointment to employee status, mainly because in some situations, a new mayor comes in and does not like the current finance officer and will fire them. Mayor Scott Hanlon said the decision to hire the finance officer should be with the council and not with just one individual. The council gave first reading on the ordinance to have the finance officer hired by the council and that the finance officer would be an employee of the city. The motion passed unanimously. There will be a second reading at the next council meeting. It would take effect in May.

The budget was approved at Tuesday night's meeting with little change to it. Lowary pointed out that the pool wages, as reported at the last council meeting, was not correct. While wages last year at the pool was \$63,000, it down to \$44,000 this year. Added into the budget was \$7,000 for an electric rate analysis. The police will be getting a new vehicle and one was left in the budget for the electric department; however, the council said they would not run out and buy one in January. They may reconsider the \$15,000 vehicle purchase and use the funds for transformers instead.

Shawn Lambertz had expressed an interest in attending more management seminars. The board agreed to send Lambertz to a training course in Aberdeen and to an electric training program in Marshall, Minn.

There will be digging on south end of Fourth Street next week as a new water main will be dug in. It will take a couple of weeks to get it all done as all of the individual services will need to be tied into the new line.

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) is coming back to Brown County to look at revisiting the flood map for the Groton area.

The council approved for free use of the community center for the annual community thanksgiving day dinner.