

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 1 of 51

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Blocker Construction Ad
- 2- Prairie Harvest Choral Festival
- 3- Taking antibiotics for granted
- 3- Hanlon Baby Shower Ad
- 4- Netters beat Florence-Henry
- 5- Stay warm, save energy and lower your utility bill this winter
- 5- Dollar General is Hiring ad
- 7- Today in Weather History
- 7- Upcoming events at GDILIVE.COM
- 8- Local Weather Forecast
- 9- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 9- Today's Weather Climate
- 9- National Weather map
- 10- Golden Living Ad
- 10- Daily Devotional
- 11 - AP News

Tuesday, Oct. 18

School Breakfast: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Chili, corn bread, carrots and dip, fruit.
Senior Menu: Beef stroganoff noodles, mixed vegetables, Angel Food Cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.
5:15 p.m. L VB at Northwestern (7th and C at 5:15, 8th and JV at 6:30, Varsity to follow)

Wednesday, Oct. 19

School Breakfast: Cheese omelettes, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Garlic cheese bread, mixed vegetable, broccoli and dip, fruit.
Senior Menu: Baked chicken breast, mashed potatoes and gravy, California Blend Vegetables, lemon tart bar, whole wheat bread.
PSAT at Groton Area
12:30 p.m.: Sixth Grade MathCounts at Warner
3:45 pm: St. John's Lutheran Confirmation
6:30 pm: Emmanuel Lutheran League
7 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

Thursday, Oct. 20

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Taco salad, tater tots, muffin, fruit.
Senior Menu: Beef stew, buttermilk biscuit, Waldorf salad, sherbet.
9 am: St. John's Lutheran Quilting
1:30 pm: Emmanuel Lutheran WELCA potluck lunch
7 p.m.: FB hosts Parkston

Friday, Oct. 21

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Hamburger, French Fries, fruit, romaine salad.
Senior Menu: Ham and bean soup, egg salad sandwich, Tomato spoon salad, oatmeal raisin cookie.

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

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

© 2016 Groton Daily Independent



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 2 of 51

Prairie Harvest Choral Festival



Groton Area music director Cody Swanson goes over last minute details with the Groton junior high choir students. (Below) Students from Britton-Hecla, Groton, Langford, Oakes, Rosholt, Summit and Waubay took part in the Prairie Harvest Choral Festival held Monday night in Britton. (Photos by Tina Kosel)



Taking antibiotics for granted

By Richard P. Holm, MD

We take a lot of things for granted. With the advent of antibiotics in the 1930s and 40s, we saw a true change in longevity and a reduction in premature death from infectious diseases. Now we are seeing deaths from bacteria which are resistant to every antibiotic and it's not just the sick and decrepit who are affected. Recent studies show many more people are dying in the US from antibiotic resistant bacteria than from AIDS. It's a real crisis from too much of a good thing.

Resistance is due to excessive and overuse of antibiotics, which are often incorrectly seen as the cure for whatever ails us. The most glaring example is when antibiotics are given for what is obviously the common cold, making absolutely no difference in the course of the illness. Often I hear from the patient, "Why not start an antibiotic to keep this viral bronchitis from turning into pneumonia?" To that question I usually answer, "You are correct, when bacterial pneumonia occurs, it often follows a common cold, but studies show antibiotics don't prevent that pneumonia following the cold. It just becomes a pneumonia resistant to treatment."

So why are we overusing antibiotics? Certainly an effective sales effort by the pharmaceutical industry is part of it, but what's most to blame is patient or parent expectation. One study showed that 65% of the time children get antibiotics if the doctor perceives the parents expect them, but only 12% of the time when antibiotics are not expected, even when the children are similarly ill. Ultimately the doctor is responsible but too often influenced to provide unnecessary treatment.

Another huge reason for growing antibiotic resistance results from their regular use in animal and poultry feed. Apparently this boosts growth and profits. Sometimes herds are even getting the newer broad spectrum antibiotics, which absolutely should be reserved for the care of sick individual animals, not the herd.

The good news is that in countries where efforts to use less antibiotics are successful, then, over just a few years, antibiotics become effective again.

So, there is something very important you can do. First, never push your doctor for an antibiotic. Make it clear you would be happy without the stuff unless it's necessary.

Second, please push your grocery store or your restaurant for antibiotic-free meat. If we are willing to pay a little more for antibiotic-free products, farmers will provide.

Let's not take antibiotics for granted. By avoiding the overuse of antibiotics, we can save ourselves from a real crisis.

Open House



**Honoring
Kevin &
Julianne
Hanlon**

**Saturday
October 22nd
2-5 pm
Groton Legion**

Couple Registered at Target & Lori's Pharmacy

Groton Area beats Florence-Henry



Paityn Bonn goes for a kill with Jessica Bjerke in the background. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Area's volleyball season is quickly coming to a close as the Tigers hosted the final home match of the season. It was also Parent's night for the C, JV and Varsity team members.

The Lady Tigers defeated Florence-Henry, 3-0, to improve to 15-5 on the season. Florence-Henry is now 10-12.

Game scores were 25-14, 25-20 and 25-11. Groton also won the junior varsity match, 25-23 and 25-19.

In serving, Groton Area was 63 of 72 with seven ace serves. Katie Koehler was 13 of 15 with two ace serves, Gia Gengerke was five of six with two ace serves, Audrey Wanner was eight of nine with one ace serve, and having one ace serve each were Paityn Bonn and Jessica Bjerke.

In sets, Groton Area was 94 of 95 with 30 assists. Katie Koehler was 79 of 80 with 25 assists and Paityn Bonn was 11 of 11 with five assists.

Groton Area was 98 of 110 in spikes with 36 kills. Gia Gengerke was 17 of 19 with 11 kills,

Audrey Wanner was 26 of 30 with eight kills and Jessica Bjerke was 22 of 23 with six kills.

Groton Area had five blocks with Gia Gengerke having three solo blocks, and Katie Koehler and Taylor Holm each had two assists. Groton Area had 43 digs with Payton Maine having 12, Audrey Wanner 10 and Paityn Bonn eight.

Groton Area travels to Northwestern tonight.



Gia Gengerke gets ready to return the ball.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Stay Warm, Save Energy and Lower Your Utility Bill This Winter

By Nathaniel Sillin

Do you turn the thermostat a notch higher or put on an extra sweater when it gets cold? It's a common household debate as family members try to maintain a balance between comfort and savings during the winter. It's also a debate you may be able to put to rest by investing in energy-saving maintenance and upgrades.

You can start with a home energy audit, an inspection that focuses on finding areas where your home wastes energy. Professional auditors can cost \$300 to \$800 depending on the type of audit, but you could consider tackling an audit and some of the changes yourself. Doing so could make your home more comfortable, lower your ecological footprint and save energy and money.

See if you qualify for state-funded weatherization assistance. Look into state-based financial assistance programs before going at it alone. Contact your state's weatherization agency to review eligibility guidelines, find a local service provider and start an application. If approved, you could receive a professional

energy audit and improvements. On average, about \$4,000 worth of energy saving-related work was completed over one or two days for the 2015 program year.

If you can't or don't want to pay for a professional audit and don't qualify for assistance, consider conducting a do-it-yourself (DIY) audit.

A DIY energy audit can help you identify ways to save money and stay warm.

A thorough inspection of your home can uncover opportunities for improvement, and you be able to rent an infrared camera to help you spot trouble areas. Look over the DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's guide to conducting a DIY home energy audit, and create a log of your findings as you go. Keep in mind, where you live can impact what fixes you want to focus on, the type and amount of insulation you'll need and even your heating system.

Typical trouble spots and simple solutions. The following are common trouble spots and potential improvement you might want to make.

Keep the cold outside air out. The DOE estimates that you can save 5 to as much as 30

DOLLAR GENERAL IS HIRING!

Dollar General is a national discount retailer with over 13,000 stores employing more than 100,000 people. We offer the challenge and growth opportunities you desire. We are seeking energetic & hands-on team players to fill important roles in our stores!

New Store Opening in Groton, SD.

Need all Candidates to apply right away as the store will open in early December:

Store Manager

Assistant Store Manager

Lead Sales Associates

Sales Associates

To apply, go to www.dollargeneral.com/careers

- Click on "Store Careers", then click on "Apply Online"
- Click "Search by Location -> Zip Code" to search for positions in Groton, SD 57445
- Log in to apply

Again thank you for your interest in Dollar General.

Dollar General Corporation is an equal opportunity employer

DOLLAR GENERAL®

Save time. Save money. Every day!

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 6 of 51

percent on your energy bill by just reducing drafts. Check for leaks around your doors, windows, plumbing, cabinets and other potential outlets. Also look for dirty spots on your wall, ceiling and floors as that could indicate air or moisture is getting in. Use foam sealant to fill in large gaps you find and caulking or weather stripping for smaller leaks. Covering drafty windows and doorways with storm windows or doors could also be a worthwhile investment.

Consider adding more insulation. The insulation in your walls and ceiling may not meet today's recommendations. Reinsulating or supplementing what you have could help your home stay warm, or cool, and might not be as difficult as you imagine in easy-to-access attics or basements. However, you may want to check with a professional who can recommend what type of insulation to use and warn you of potential ventilation, fire or moisture hazards during and after installation.

Regularly inspect your heating systems. Heating systems can cost thousands of dollars to replace. While it may not be a DIY job, you may be able to prolong your system's life by hiring a professional HVAC contractor to inspect and tune up your system before each winter. Some utilities also offer free in-home inspections of gas appliances. A job you can take on is checking the air filter and replacing it to the manufacturer's specifications or when it looks dirty. You could also check for, and seal, holes, leaks and poor connections in the ducts.

Weigh the costs and benefits before investing your time or money in a winterization project. Some of the items on your checklist could be no-brainers, but others might require more thought.

Bottom line: A home energy audit can help you identify ways to improve your energy efficiency and make your home more comfortable. Whether you hire professionals, apply for government assistance or do it yourself, preparing before winter hits means you can enjoy a warm home without stressing over the energy bill.

Today in Weather History

October 18, 2012: An area of low pressure rapidly intensified once it moved east of the northern plains. This strengthening resulted in very strong northwest winds across the region. Some of the higher reported wind gusts include 77 mph at the Fort Pierre and Grand River RAWS sites, 74 mph at the Pierre airport, and 70 mph at Murdo, Presho, and Hayes public observation sites.

1916: A tropical depression organized to a tropical storm on October 11 in the western Caribbean. It moved westward, reaching hurricane strength on the 13th before hitting the Yucatán Peninsula on the 15th as an 110 mph hurricane. It weakened over land, and it emerged over the southern Gulf of Mexico as a tropical storm. It quickly re-strengthened to a Category 3 hurricane, hitting Pensacola on October 18. The maximum wind velocity at Mobile was 115 mph from the east at 8:25 am. Pensacola had winds of 120 mph at 10:13 am when the wind instrument tower was blown down.

1906 - A hurricane struck South Florida drowning 124 persons stranded in the Florida Keys. (David Ludlum)

1910 - Northeasterly winds as high as 70 mph (from a hurricane moving northward up the Florida peninsula) carried water out of Tampa Bay and the Hillsboro River. The water level lowered to nine feet below mean low water. Forty ships were grounded. (The Weather Channel)

1930 - A big early season lake effect snowburst on the lee shores of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario produced 47 inches at Gouverneur NY and 48 inches just south of Buffalo. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Thunderstorms in northeastern Texas produced golf ball size hail at Atlanta, along with wind gusts to 86 mph, and four inches of rain. Damage from the storm was estimated at more than a million dollars. Sunny and mild weather continued across much of the rest of the nation. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Eight cities in the southwestern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Red Bluff CA with a reading of 96 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Unseasonably cold air began to invade the central and eastern U.S. Light snow fell across northern Maine, and snow was also reported in the Great Lakes Region, including the Chicago area. Bismarck ND was the cold spot in the nation with a low of 9 degrees above zero. Five cities in Florida reported record high readings for the date, as temperatures warmed above 80 degrees. Miami FL reported a record high of 90 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

The Livestream logo features a red and white stylized leaf or flame icon to the left of the word "livestream" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font.

Upcoming Events

Thursday at 7 p.m.






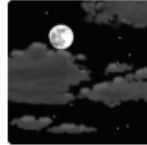

Football

Groton Area hosts Parkston

gdilive.com

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 8 of 51

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Decreasing Clouds	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 64 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 54 °F	Low: 32 °F	High: 53 °F	Low: 34 °F	High: 60 °F

Today



Highs in the low to mid 60s

Wednesday



Highs in the 50s



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 10/18/2016 4:33 AM Central

Published on: 10/18/2016 at 4:42AM

Mainly dry weather will continue through much of the rest of the week. After decreasing clouds today, and highs in the low to mid 60s, a weak cold front will sink across the region. This will result in cooler air rushing in for Wednesday and Thursday, with temperatures topping out in the 50s, near seasonal normal values.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 9 of 51

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 58.4 F at 4:00 PM

Low Outside Temp: 44.8 F at 4:43 AM

High Gust: 18.0 Mph at 3:32 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 81° in 2005

Record Low: 12° in 1930

Average High: 57°F

Average Low: 32°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.30

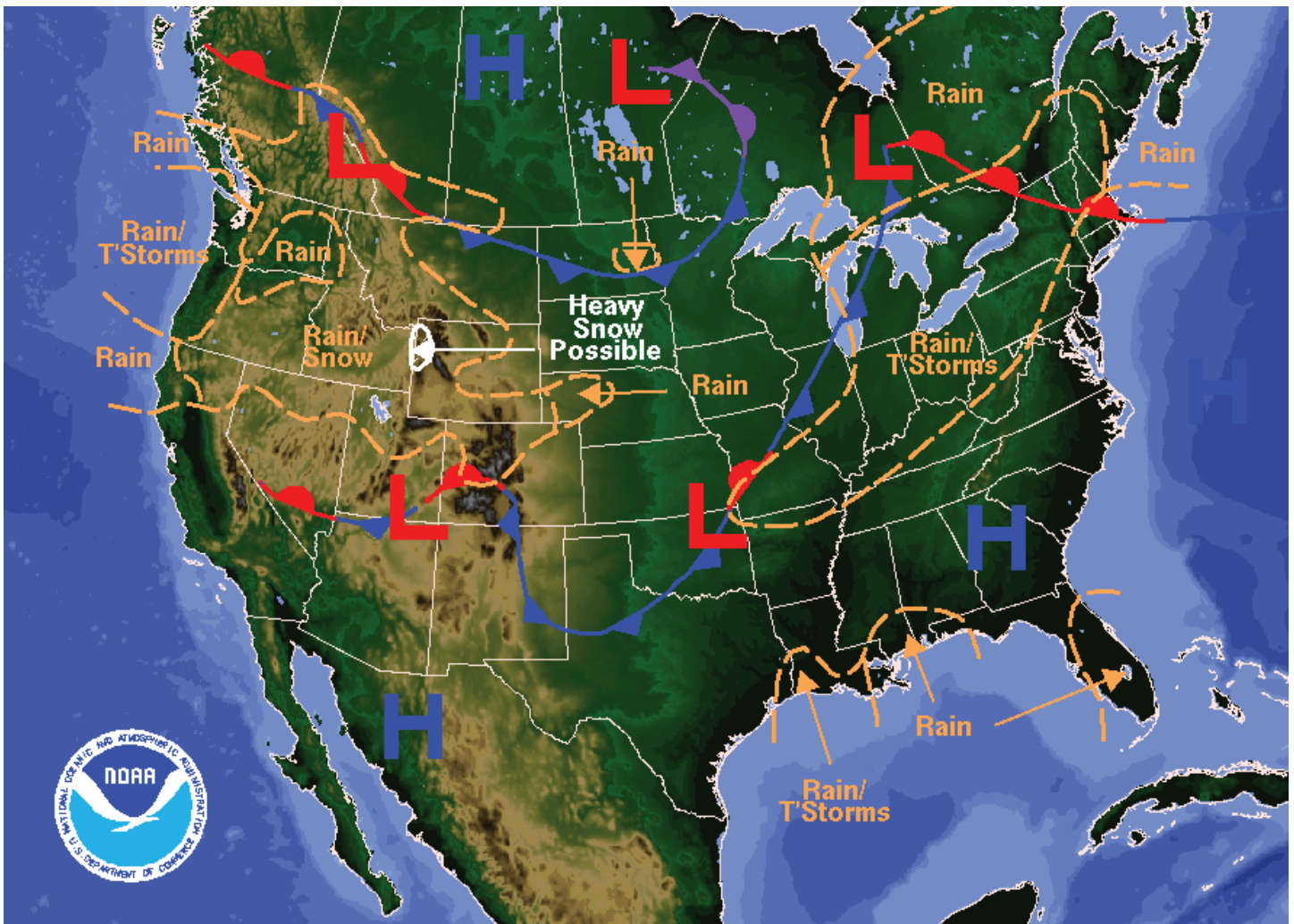
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.63

Average Precip to date: 19.78

Precip Year to Date: 13.83

Sunset Tonight: 6:42 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:55 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Oct 18, 2016, issued 4:22 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 10 of 51



START WHERE YOU ARE!

A pastor once thought that it was his responsibility to change the world. For years he struggled and worked. He finally became so discouraged that he wanted to quit.

In a moment of insight, he decided to utilize a new strategy. "I'll change the attitude of my Elders. That's the place for me to begin." But he soon realized that this was not going to happen. Their resistance was fierce and he soon gave up.

"Since they didn't respond," he said to himself, "I'll change my family." That didn't work either. Each evening when he laid out their tasks for the next day they looked at him with blank stares.

Finally he identified the problem: "I must change and improve myself first and the others will follow."

David got it right! He said, "Search me, O God, and know my heart. Test me and know my thoughts."

It is much easier to look at the lives of others and see things that we think they need to change. It is much easier to want to change them than to want to change ourselves. But seeing what needs to be changed in others and wanting to change them is not the way God works. He wants us to begin with ourselves - to see the sin that is in our lives - the sin that He sees. And when He removes the sin and shortcomings from our lives we become like Him, and then become an example for others to follow.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us not to be concerned about what others need to change in their lives, but what we need to change in our lives to be more like You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

golden
living

We now accept



for out patient therapy.

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

News from the Associated Press

Man pleads not guilty in Foltz family burglary case

A man has pleaded not guilty to charges that he burglarized the home of the brother of the late Nebraska punter Sam Foltz. Scott Davis, of Lennox, South Dakota, entered the pleas Monday in Greeley County District Court. Authorities say Davis broke into the home of Jordan Foltz on Sept. 3 as the Foltz family attended a memorial for Sam Foltz at the Huskers' home opener.

GREELEY, Neb. (AP) — A man has pleaded not guilty to charges that he burglarized the home of the brother of the late Nebraska punter Sam Foltz.

Thirty-eight-year-old Scott Davis, of Lennox, South Dakota, entered the pleas Monday in Greeley County District Court.

Authorities say Davis broke into the home of Jordan Foltz on Sept. 3 as the Foltz family attended a memorial for Sam Foltz at the Huskers' home opener. Davis is also suspected in a theft at a Greeley construction site.

Davis' next court appearance is scheduled for Nov. 21.

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Kimball/White Lake, 20-25, 14-25, 20-25

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Ipswich, 25-8, 25-15, 25-15

Bridgewater-Emery def. Wessington Springs, 25-23, 26-24, 25-15

Britton-Hecla def. Sisseton, 25-21, 25-17, 15-25, 25-21

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Dupree, 25-19, 22-25, 21-25, 25-19, 15-10

Colome def. St. Francis Indian, 25-21, 25-23, 25-22

DeSmet def. Iroquois, 26-24, 25-13, 25-19

Edgemont def. Oelrichs, 25-18, 25-11, 25-12

Ethan def. Avon, 25-15, 25-16, 25-20

Eureka/Bowdle def. Edmunds Central, 25-9, 25-20, 25-20

Groton Area def. Florence/Henry, 25-14, 25-20, 25-11

Hanson def. Scotland, 25-12, 25-16, 25-16

Highmore-Harrold def. Crow Creek, 25-7, 25-13, 25-11

Mobridge-Pollock def. Potter County, 25-15, 25-17, 25-9

Newell def. Takini, 25-14, 25-19, 25-17

Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-9, 25-3, 25-14

Tri-State, N.D. def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-16, 25-17, 25-22

Waverly-South Shore def. Estelline, 25-10, 25-8, 25-18

Watertown woman claims \$100K Powerball prize

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Watertown woman has claimed her \$100,000 Powerball prize.

Debra Amy matched four of five white ball numbers and the Powerball to win the game's \$50,000 third prize in the Oct. 8 drawing. But Amy bought an option for an additional dollar that doubled the amount.

Amy claimed her prize Monday at the Sioux Falls Lottery office. She says she plans to use her winnings to finish remodeling work at her home and to help family members.

Her winning ticket was purchased at Prairie Stop in Watertown. The store will receive a \$2,000 bonus for the sale.

Powerball is played in 44 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The jackpot is at \$137 million for the next drawing, on Wednesday.

Ex-Indian Affairs policeman gets 13 months for kidnapping

By BEN NEARY, Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — A former U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs policeman must serve 13 months in federal custody on a kidnapping conviction stemming from an armed confrontation with his wife, a federal judge in Wyoming ordered Monday.

Judge Alan B. Johnson of Cheyenne on Monday accepted a plea agreement between prosecutors and former officer William Arthur Curran. The agreement limited Curran's sentence to a maximum of 13 months on the kidnapping count while federal prosecutors agreed to dismiss a separate charge of using a gun in a violent crime.

Prosecutors say Curran's wife reported he had handcuffed her, loaded a pistol and then threatened to kill her at their home in Ft. Washakie, on the Wind River Indian Reservation, in April.

Curran, a member of the Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota, declined to address Johnson on Monday. Johnson rejected a request from defense lawyer H. Michael Bennett to sentence Curran to home confinement or to release him immediately.

Curran will get credit for about three months he has spent in custody since pleading guilty in July. Bennett argued that ordering Curran to serve the remaining 10 months would interfere with his desires to pursue his education, spend time with his children and start a construction business.

A federal probation officer had recommended in a pre-sentence report to Johnson that Curran should serve his full sentence in custody, Bennett said. Bennett said the probation officer stated that to do any less would diminish the severity of the kidnapping offense.

However, Bennett said he believed that Curran wasn't like most of the other criminal defendants who come through federal court. Bennett said Curran had no criminal history and had served in the military before entering law enforcement.

"The point of this, your honor, is that 10 months of incarceration is going to get in the way of what we want," Bennett said.

Federal prosecutor Stuart Healy told Johnson he agreed with Bennett that Curran didn't appear likely to commit any more crimes. However, Healy said that with all the discussion of Curran's good qualities, it was important not to forget the seriousness of his crime.

Healy said federal sentencing guidelines called for a maximum sentence of over 11 years for the kidnapping count. Healy said Curran's lack of previous criminal history and other circumstances accounted for his office's willingness to accept such a lower sentence.

Healy said U.S. Attorney Christopher "Kip" Crofts has expressed concern to the Bureau of Indian Affairs about how the Wind River Police Department handled a 911 emergency call that Curran's wife had placed without Curran's knowledge while he was restraining her.

According to an investigator's statement filed in court, a Fremont County emergency dispatcher alerted the Wind River Police Department after receiving the call from Curran's home. The department didn't follow up after calling Curran and hearing from him there was no need for an emergency check.

Healy said it's unacceptable, "when the victim whispers 'help' into the phone, and no help comes."

In accepting the plea agreement, Johnson said the 13-month sentence appeared to take into account the circumstances of Curran and his offense. Johnson said Curran and his wife had marital problems before he took an extremely stressful law enforcement job on the Wind River Indian Reservation.

"It's a very, very tough and challenging occupation," Johnson said of police work on the reservation. He said officers are required to use great restraint every day in dealing with the alcohol problems they encounter.

Republican Noem holds big cash advantage over Democrat Hawks

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Republican U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem has a more than \$1.7 million cash advantage over her Democratic challenger in the race for South Dakota's lone House seat.

Federal campaign finance reports from the latest quarter show that Democratic candidate Paula Hawks has about \$122,000 in the bank compared to Noem's over \$1.8 million on hand. The reporting period covered July through Sept. 30.

Hawks brought in about \$85,000 during that time, while Noem received about \$353,000. Hawks spokesman Michael Ewald says Hawks has remained competitive in individual contributions.

This quarter, Noem received nearly \$156,000 in contributions from individuals. That's compared to Hawks' \$83,000 haul from individual contributors over the same period.

Noem campaign consultant Justin Brasell says the congresswoman is raising the necessary funds to remind voters of her accomplishments for South Dakota.

Pheasant hunting season off to slow start in South Dakota

FULTON, S.D. (AP) — A large amount of crops still waiting to be harvested made it difficult for some hunters to find pheasants during the opening weekend of South Dakota's season.

But a state wildlife official told The Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/2dVXwjB>) that many hunters still got birds, and success rates should improve as the season continues.

A statement released by the department said the bird count in the southeast region of South Dakota ranged between one-half bird per hunter in the east and 1.5 birds in the west. The most populated area to hunt was near Mitchell, to the east of Chamberlain. South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks conservation officer Andy Petersen estimates the average bird count in the Mitchell area was one bird per hunter.

In August, the department reported a 20 percent decrease in statewide pheasants-per-mile index compared to 2015. However, Peterson does not believe the decrease played a significant role during the opening weekend.

"Even though we're projected to be down 20 percent overall, this area was pretty similar to last year," Petersen said.

In the Chamberlain area, Diana Landagent, a state conservation officer in Chamberlain, estimated that the average bird count for the weekend was two to three birds per hunter.

"We have a lot of commercial pheasant operations in the Chamberlain area, and they're designing the land for pheasant habitat," Landagent said. "Trying to optimize their pheasant potential and that's why I think pheasant numbers seem to be doing better here."

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

Judge drops charge against 'Democracy Now' reporter

By JAMES MacPHERSON and BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

MANDAN, N.D. (AP) — "Democracy Now!" reporter Amy Goodman won't face a riot charge stemming from her coverage of a protest against construction of the Dakota Access oil pipeline in North Dakota, with a judge saying Monday that there was no cause for it.

Judge John Grinsteiner refused to sign off on the misdemeanor riot charge, which prosecutor Ladd Erickson had pursued after dismissing a misdemeanor criminal trespass charge against the journalist on Friday. However, authorities would not rule out the possibility Goodman could face other charges.

Erickson has said Goodman was acting like a protester when she reported on a clash between protesters and pipeline security last month. Her defense attorney, Tom Dickson, maintains Goodman was doing her job.

The protests have drawn thousands of people to the area where Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners is trying to wrap up construction on the \$3.8 billion, 1,200-mile pipeline from North Dakota to Illinois.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 14 of 51

Opponents of the pipeline worry about potential effects on drinking water on the Standing Rock Sioux reservation and farther downstream, as well as destruction of cultural artifacts.

Goodman is one about 140 people who have been charged in recent weeks with interfering with the pipeline's construction in North Dakota.

After the judge's decision Monday, Erickson referred questions to Morton County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Donnell Preskey. Asked whether authorities would pursue other charges, Preskey said, "It's all under review." She would not elaborate.

Goodman told reporters outside the courthouse that Grinsteiner's decision was a "vindication for all journalists and a vindication for everyone."

Dickson said prosecutors are wrong to continue to pursue charges against Goodman.

"The first charge was frivolous and the second charge was even more frivolous," Dickson said. "Enough is enough. They need to let it go."

An arrest warrant was issued for Goodman after she reported on a clash on Sept. 3, when Standing Rock Sioux officials said crews bulldozed several sites of "significant cultural and historic value" on private land. Energy Transfer Partners denies those allegations.

Law enforcement officials said four security guards and two guard dogs received medical treatment. A tribal spokesman said six people were bitten by guard dogs and at least 30 people were pepper-sprayed.

Goodman, who is based in New York, said she "came to North Dakota to cover this epic struggle ... what we found was horrifying."

About 200 protesters gathered outside the county courthouse Monday as Goodman was set to appear for a hearing that never happened. Many held signs that included, "This is not a riot." About 100 officers in riot gear were stationed outside the courthouse to monitor those protesters.

Morton County sheriff's spokesman Rob Keller confirmed one man was arrested on charges including disorderly conduct.

Authorities said pipeline protesters earlier Monday briefly blocked a Bismarck-Mandan bridge across the Missouri River. They dispersed when ordered by law officers.

Carlos Lauria, senior Americas coordinator for the Committee to Protect Journalists, said any charges against Goodman are an attempt to intimidate reporters from covering protests of "significant public interest."

Goodman's show airs daily on hundreds of radio and TV stations and over the internet.

It's not the first time Goodman has had a brush with the law while covering events. She and two of her producers received \$100,000 in a settlement over their arrests during the 2008 Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minnesota.

St. Paul and Minneapolis agreed to pay a combined \$90,000 while the federal government agreed to pay \$10,000. The lawsuit named the federal government because a Secret Service agent confiscated the journalists' press credentials.

Goodman said at the time the money would go "to support independent, unfettered" journalism about such events.

Arson suspected in latest Dakota Access pipeline fire

REASNOR, Iowa (AP) — Authorities suspect arson in the latest burning of heavy equipment being used in the construction of the four-state Dakota Access pipeline in central Iowa.

The Jasper County Sheriff's Office says the blaze late Saturday near Reasnor, Iowa, caused about \$2 million damage to an excavator and three bulldozers. The equipment is operated by a contractor for Dakota Access, a subsidiary of Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners.

Opponents have for months been protesting the \$3.8 billion, nearly 1,200-mile project pipeline, warning its construction could jeopardize water supply and damage cultural artifacts.

Another suspected arson of construction equipment happened on Aug. 1 at the same site, about 30 miles east of Des Moines.

No arrests have been made in either fire. The Iowa Fire Marshal Division and the FBI are investigating.

IHS names deputy chief medical officer for the Great Plains

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Indian Health Service has named a deputy chief medical officer for the Great Plains.

The IHS says Mechele Peterson will serve as a regional expert on the agency's medical and public health services, and provide leadership to regional staff.

The South Dakota-based IHS Great Plains Area Office oversees health care to about 130,000 Native Americans in the Dakotas, Nebraska and Iowa.

The IHS has faced scrutiny from Congress after inspections of some hospitals uncovered severe deficiencies. The Office of Inspector General recently recommended the IHS come up with strategies to address the shortcomings.

Peterson most recently was chief of the medical staff at Tséhootsoí (seh-HOH'-soh) Medical Center in Fort Defiance, Arizona. She also has been a faculty member at Dartmouth's medical school and the Army's Special Warfare Medical Group.

Iraqi advance on Mosul slows after day of fighting

By SUSANNAH GEORGE and QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, Associated Press

KHAZER, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi and Kurdish commanders said Tuesday they paused their advance on Mosul, a day after the start of a massive operation to retake the Islamic State-held city, which is expected to take weeks, if not months.

The front lines to the east of Mosul were largely quiet, a day after Iraqi Kurdish forces advanced amid a barrage of U.S.-led airstrikes and heavy artillery.

"We are just holding our positions," said Col. Khathar Sheikhan, of the Kurdish forces known as the peshmerga, which captured a handful of villages east of Mosul on Monday. "The Iraqi army will now advance past our arenas of control."

"We have achieved our objectives," he said.

But an Iraqi special forces commander said his troops have delayed an advance following a request from Kurdish forces for more time to achieve their goals. It was not immediately possible to reconcile the conflicting accounts.

Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil said his men had planned to move at dawn, but postponed the operation. He said Iraqi army and Kurdish commanders would meet later Tuesday.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi had announced the long-awaited offensive before dawn Monday, vowing to liberate the city from more than two years of extremist rule. Mosul is Iraq's second largest city and the IS group's last major urban bastion in the country.

The large and complex battle for Mosul is expected to last weeks or months. It will involve more than 25,000 troops, including the Iraqi army, the Kurdish peshmerga, Sunni tribal fighters and Shiite militias. The U.S. military is providing air support and playing a supporting role on the ground.

A spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition said the operation was proceeding as planned and that Iraqi forces were making "excellent progress."

"There's no pause in efforts to liberate Mosul. Troops are on the move on various axes of advance toward the city," said Col. John Dorrian. "Some commanders have reached their objectives ahead of schedule after encountering light-to-moderate resistance."

The Iraqi Army's 9th Division meanwhile reached the outskirts of the town of al-Hamdaniyah, south of Mosul, but stopped advancing because of snipers and suicide bombers, according to a military officer. The Federal Police reached al-Houd village to the east, another officer said. Both spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to brief the media.

By the end of the day Monday, Kurdish forces had retaken some 200 square kilometers (80 square miles), according to Massoud Barzani, the president of Iraq's largely autonomous Kurdish region.

Peshmerga commanders on the ground estimated they retook nine villages and pushed the front line with IS back eight kilometers (five miles). The front line east of Mosul is now some 30 kilometers (20 miles) from the city.

IS said it carried out 12 suicide attacks on Monday against the forces advancing on Mosul, including eight that targeted the peshmerga. The report carried by the IS-run Amaq news agency said Iraqi forces had captured just three villages and that IS fighters had halted an advance from the south.

In Baghdad, thousands of followers of an Iraqi Shiite cleric marched in front of the Turkish Embassy on Tuesday demanding the withdrawal of Turkish troops from a base near Mosul.

"Get out, Get out, occupier!" and "Yes, yes, for Iraq," chanted the followers of Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

Turkey says the troops are training Iraqi fighters to help retake Mosul, and that they are there with the permission of the Iraqi government. Baghdad denies it granted permission and has ordered the Turks to withdraw — a call Ankara has ignored.

The spat has raised concerns that the defeat of IS could lead to renewed conflict among the various fighting units currently allied against it.

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said Tuesday that the fighters who were trained at the Bashiqa camp near Mosul were at the forefront of the Mosul operation, fighting alongside Kurdish forces.

Also, the Turkish air force was involved in airstrikes alongside the U.S.-backed coalition in the Mosul operation.

"Those who say Turkey has no business in Mosul have gotten their answer," he said.

Associated Press writers Sinan Salaheddin and Joseph Krauss in Baghdad, Maamoun Youssef in Cairo and Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey, contributed to this report.

Mystery swirls around Assange's status at Ecuadorean Embassy

By RAPHAEL SATTER, AP Cybersecurity Writer

PARIS (AP) — Midway through releasing a series of damaging disclosures about U.S. presidential contender Hillary Clinton, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange says his hosts at the Ecuadorean Embassy in London abruptly cut him off from the internet. The news adds another layer of intrigue to an extraordinary campaign.

"We can confirm Ecuador cut off Assange's internet access Saturday, 5pm GMT, shortly after publication of Clinton's Goldman Sachs (speeches)," the group said in a message posted to Twitter late Monday.

With both WikiLeaks and Ecuadorean officials refusing to say much more about the incident, outsiders were left to guess at what was happening behind closed doors at the embassy suite at No. 3 Hans Crescent, a stucco-fronted building which Assange has called home for more than four years. Had Ecuadorean diplomats lost patience with their famous Australian houseguest? Had they finally bowed to pressure from Washington to muzzle the outspoken ex-hacker following one revelation too many? Had there been some other kind of confrontation?

WikiLeaks said unspecified "contingency plans" were in place and its Twitter account was still active Tuesday. On Monday it released the latest tranche of emails from senior Clinton ally John Podesta, suggesting that, for now at least, the group's ability to publish has not been compromised. The disclosure was the 10th installation in a series of leaks which have captured the workings of Clinton's inner circle and included excerpts of her well-compensated speeches to investment bank Goldman Sachs.

WikiLeaks staffers Kristinn Hrafnsson and Sarah Harrison did not return repeated messages seeking comment. A woman who answered the phone at the embassy said she was not authorized to say anything. Ecuador's Foreign Minister Guillaume Long, approached by The Associated Press on the sidelines of a United Nations conference in Quito on Monday, declined to comment when asked about Assange. His office later released a terse statement in response to "the speculation of the last few hours" reaffirming Assange's asylum status and saying that "his protection by the Ecuadorean state will continue while the circumstances that led to the granting of asylum remain."

The statement made no mention of Assange's internet access.

Assange fled to the Ecuadorean Embassy on June 19, 2012, after a drawn-out and ultimately unsuccessful legal battle to avoid extradition to Sweden, where he remains wanted over an allegation of rape.

British authorities have made clear they would arrest him if he tried to leave, and London's Metropolitan Police used to maintain a visible presence outside the building.

Assange has carved out a life at Hans Crescent, dining on delivered food, welcoming famous well-wishers and even occasionally addressing the media the embassy's balcony. But evidence of tension and mutual suspicion with his hosts surfaced after BuzzFeed News drew on confidential Ecuadorean government documents to detail a violent, after-hours confrontation between Assange and an Ecuadorean security guard in September 2012.

The documents also carried a warning that Assange's "evident anger" and "feelings of superiority" could cause stress to those around him — "especially the personnel who work in the embassy, mainly women."

Associated Press Writer Gonzalo Solano contributed reporting from Quito, Ecuador.

Russia, Syria halt Aleppo airstrikes ahead of 8-hour lull

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV and BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian and Syrian warplanes on Tuesday halted their airstrikes on Syria's besieged city of Aleppo in preparation for a temporary pause in the military push that Moscow has announced for later in the week, the Russian defense minister said.

According to Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, the halt in the strikes should help pave way for militants to leave the eastern rebel-held parts of the contested city.

Both Russian and Syrian air raids on Aleppo were suspended on 10 a.m. Tuesday, Shoigu said. He described the suspension as a precursor for the opening of humanitarian corridors.

Moscow on Monday announced a "humanitarian pause" between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Thursday to allow civilians and militants safe passage out of the city.

At that time, Russian and Syrian militaries will desist from any offensive actions. Syrian rebels, including al-Qaida militants, as well as the wounded and the sick will be allowed to leave to the neighboring rebel-held province of Idlib.

"The early halting of airstrikes is necessary to declare a 'humanitarian pause,'" Shoigu said in a televised statement. "It will ... guarantee a safe exit of civilians through six corridors and prepare for the evacuation of the ill and the wounded from the eastern part of Aleppo."

Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said the halt in the airstrikes was a goodwill gesture to pave the way for Thursday's pause. "The Russian military is offering yet another chance, and we hope that our partners will allow us all to take advantage of that," Peskov said.

Aleppo, Syria's largest city and once its commercial hub, has been subjected to the most intense aerial bombardment since the start of the Mideast country's conflict in 2011. In recent months, the Syrian army has pressed its offensive into the rebel-held eastern part of the city. Air raids have killed hundreds and caused international outrage.

A Russia-U.S.-brokered cease-fire collapsed last month as the Syrian army launched an offensive on eastern Aleppo under the cover of Russian warplanes.

Mohammed Abu Rajab, an Aleppo resident, said airstrikes on the eastern neighborhoods stopped early Tuesday, just after the city had been subjected to another intense round of air raids.

"There were airstrikes throughout the night," Abu Rajab, who works at a local hospital, said over the telephone.

In Moscow, Shoigu added that Russia is "asking the countries wielding influence with the (Syrian) rebels ... to persuade their leaders to end fighting and leave the city."

He said the Syrian troops will pull back to distances allowing unimpeded exit for those carrying weapons via two corridors, including the main artery of Castello Road.

The Russian initiative also should boost talks between military experts from several nations that are set to open in Geneva on Wednesday, he added.

"Their work will be aimed first of all at separating the 'moderate opposition' from the terrorists and its

withdrawal from the eastern part of Aleppo," he said.

Moscow has urged Washington to encourage Syria's Western-backed rebels to sever ties with al-Qaida militants.

During a meeting over the weekend co-chaired by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar said they would work to separate moderate opposition groups in Aleppo from Syria's former al-Qaida affiliate once known as the Nusra Front.

Russian and Syrian officials have since embraced a proposal made earlier this month by the U.N. Syria envoy, Staffan de Mistura, to allow al-Qaida-linked militants to leave Aleppo in exchange for a truce and a local administration for the eastern districts. Rebels there, along with many residents, have rejected the offer.

Russia's announcement did not include any promises of an extended cease-fire or local administration in and around Aleppo.

U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner, speaking to reporters in Washington on Monday, said the Russian-Syrian pause planned on Thursday was "a bit too little, too late."

Peskov, Putin's spokesman, would not say if the strikes would resume after the pause, saying that depends on whether the rebels can be persuaded to cut ties with militants.

Mroue reported from Beirut.

UN announces agreement on 72-hour Yemen cease-fire

By AHMED AL-HAJ, Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — The warring parties in Yemen have agreed to a 72-hour cease-fire that will take effect shortly before midnight Wednesday, the U.N. special envoy to Yemen said.

Special Envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed said he hopes the temporary truce can lead to "permanent and lasting end to the conflict."

Ahmed said in a statement Monday that he received assurances from all parties to the conflict of a cease hostilities at 11:59 p.m. local time on Wednesday for an initial period of 72 hours that is subject to renewal.

The warring factions agreed to follow the conditions of a temporary April cease-fire agreement, he said. The agreement requires them to "to allow free and unhindered access for humanitarian supplies and personnel" to all parts of Yemen, he said.

The war in Yemen began in 2014 when Shiite rebels known as Houthis based in the north seized the capital, Sanaa.

In March 2015, Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies launched a campaign of airstrikes against the rebels. The Saudi-led coalition and the United States are backing the internationally recognized government of Yemen's president, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

More than 4,000 civilians have been killed and 3 million of the country's 26 million people have been driven from their homes by the fighting. Hunger has become widespread in the Arab world's poorest country.

The southern city of Taiz is one of the hardest-hit areas.

Foreign Minister Abdel-Malak al-Mukhlafi demanded late Monday that a months-long siege of the city be lifted and relief supplies delivered to its residents without conditions.

"Peace is our permanent choice," he said.

The cease-fire agreement was announced late Monday, a day after Ahmed, the U.N. envoy, met in London with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson.

"This is the time to implement a cease-fire unconditionally and then move to the negotiating table," Kerry said after Sunday's meeting.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. IRAQI FORCES PAUSE MOSUL ADVANCE

The front lines to the east of the IS-held city were largely quiet, with gains being consolidated, a day after Iraqi Kurdish forces advanced amid a barrage of U.S.-led airstrikes and heavy artillery.

2. RUSSIA, SYRIA HALT ALEPPO STRIKES

A Russian official says a temporary truce later in the week would enable militants to leave the besieged northern Syria city and open humanitarian corridors.

3. CLIMATE CHANGE COULD WREAK HAVOC ON 'SPACE FENCE'

Scientists tell AP rising seas from global warming could threaten a nearly \$1 billion radar installation that the U.S. Air Force is building in the Pacific to track dangerous space junk.

4. MICHELLE OBAMA EMERGES AS CLINTON'S GO-TO SURROGATE

In a divisive political year, the first lady is wowing voters with her powerful rhetoric — and emotional center.

5. WHO OBAMA IS RESERVING FINAL STATE DINNER FOR

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi will be attending a glitzy affair that features celebrity chef Mario Batali in the kitchen and a performance by Gwen Stefani.

6. US POLICING LEADER LAMENTS HISTORICAL RACIAL ABUSE

Leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement say words need to be backed by actions, while the head of an officers' union in Minnesota says there was no need to apologize.

7. THIS CO-PILOT UNAFFECTED BY THE HUMAN CONDITION

Government and industry officials are collaborating on an effort to replace the second human pilot in two-person flight crews with robots.

8. UPCOMING COLA RAISES NEGLIGIBLE

For the fifth straight year, millions of Social Security recipients and federal retirees will get only tiny increases in benefits next year.

9. BILLY BUSH GETS WALKING PAPERS

NBC News fires the "Today" show host, who was caught on a 2005 tape in a vulgar conversation about women with Trump before an "Access Hollywood" appearance.

10. INDIANS ONE WIN FROM FIRST PENNANT SINCE 1997

Jason Kipnis and Mike Napoli homer, and Cleveland's bullpen pulls off its most impressive feat yet in these AL playoffs, holding off Toronto 4-2.

FBI records: Effort to reduce Clinton email classification

By MICHAEL BIESECKER and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A senior State Department official asked the FBI last year to help reduce the classification of an email from Hillary Clinton's private server, according to FBI investigative files that have been made public. It was to be part of a bargain that would have allowed the FBI to deploy more agents in foreign countries, according to the files.

It was not immediately clear whether the State Department official or someone at the FBI first raised the prospect of a bargain over the email's classification.

The bureau records, citing an FBI official whose name was censored, said that Undersecretary for Management Patrick F. Kennedy sought assistance in exchange for a "quid pro quo."

But the FBI said Monday, as the documents were released, that it was the now-retired FBI official who first asked Kennedy about deploying more agents overseas. The State Department said the same.

"This allegation is inaccurate and does not align with the facts," State Department spokesman Mark Toner said. He said Kennedy had been trying to understand the FBI's classification decisions, and added that

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 20 of 51

there was never an increase in the number of FBI agents assigned to Iraq as a result of the conversations.

The FBI ultimately rejected the idea, which would have allowed the State Department to archive a message related to the 2012 attacks on the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, in the basement of its Washington headquarters "never to be seen again," according to the FBI files.

The email described reports in November 2012 that Libyan police were arresting suspects in the attack. It had been forwarded to Clinton's private email address by Jake Sullivan, one of her top aides and the department's director of policy planning, who was using his government email account.

Republicans seized on the report as collusion within the Obama administration to protect Clinton, now the Democratic presidential nominee.

"CORRUPTION CONFIRMED: FBI confirms State Dept. offered 'quid pro quo' to cover up classified emails," read a tweet from Team Trump, retweeted by the candidate.

Clinton spokesman Brian Fallon said the campaign had never been part of any such discussion about email classifications.

Kennedy was a close aide to Clinton during her tenure as the nation's top diplomat between 2009 and early 2013. He had served in his position since November 2007 under President George W. Bush.

According to the FBI records, a bureau official said Kennedy "asked his assistance in altering the email's classification in exchange for a 'quid pro quo,'" and that in exchange, "State would reciprocate by allowing the FBI to place more agents in countries where they are presently forbidden."

"Although there was never a quid pro quo, these allegations were nonetheless referred to the appropriate officials for review," the FBI said in a statement Monday.

The disclosure was included in 100 pages the FBI released from its now-closed investigation into whether the former secretary of state and her aides mishandled sensitive government information that flowed through the private mail server located in her New York home.

The FBI official who spoke with Kennedy was not involved in the investigation of Clinton's email use, the bureau said.

According to the account in the FBI records, Kennedy proposed using an obscure provision under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act to keep the existence of the classified document from becoming public. By labeling the email unclassified but exempt under the federal records law, the State Department would have avoided criticism that its employees had mishandled classified files but still would have prevented the email's public release.

The provision cited in the FBI files, known as "B9," is intended to protect geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells, and is the most rarely used FOIA exemption.

"Kennedy told (redacted) that the FBI's classification of the email in question caused problems for Kennedy and Kennedy wanted to classify the document as 'B9,'" The FBI report says. "Kennedy further stated that the 'B9' classification would allow him to archive the document in the basement of DoS (Department of State) never to be seen again."

The FBI official said that after learning later that the information in question concerned the Benghazi attacks, he contacted Kennedy and told him there was "no way he could assist" with declassifying.

Toner suggested that Kennedy may not have raised the "B9" exemption at all, but rather "B7" — a separate exemption protecting confidential communications with law enforcement. Toner said that exemption could have still allowed parts of the document to be released.

Toner also denied there was any proposed deal, saying the FBI official first raised the number of bureau personnel approved to be in Iraq at the end of the phone call as a separate issue.

As for the FBI official's account, he said, "I can't speak to what this person's intent, whether they misunderstood the atmosphere of that conversation, I have no idea. All I can say is that there was no quid pro quo."

The Associated Press reported the existence of the secret Benghazi-related email in May 2015, though the classified content of the document has never been made public.

At the time, administration officials acknowledged interagency disagreements about whether certain information in the emails was classified.

House Republicans said Monday the reports of behind-the-scenes maneuvering with the FBI were "ex-

tremely disturbing.”

“Those who receive classified intelligence should not barter in it — that is reckless behavior with our nation’s secrets,” House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, and House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes, R-Calif., said in a joint statement.

Chaffetz first disclosed the alleged quid pro quo in an interview with Fox News on Saturday.

Associated Press writer Matthew Lee contributed to this report.

Follow AP writer Michael Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck>

Reactions are mixed to police leader’s apology

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — For some, the apology went too far. For others, it didn’t go far enough. For many, it was just right.

The president of one of the largest police organizations in the United States on Monday apologized for historical mistreatment of minorities, calling it a “dark side of our shared history” that must be acknowledged and overcome.

Terrence Cunningham, president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, said at the group’s annual conference that police have historically been a face of oppression, enforcing laws that ensured legalized discrimination and denial of basic rights. He was not more specific.

Cunningham said today’s officers are not to blame for past injustices. He did not speak in detail about modern policing, but said events over the past several years have undermined public trust. His comments come as police shootings of black men have roiled communities in Ferguson, Missouri; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and suburban St. Paul, Minnesota; and as black shooters have targeted officers in Dallas, the St. Louis suburb of Ballwin and Baton Rouge.

“While we obviously cannot change the past, it is clear that we must change the future,” Cunningham said. “We must forge a path that allows us to move beyond our history and identify common solutions to better protect our communities.

“For our part, the first step in this process is for law enforcement and the (International Association of Chiefs of Police) to acknowledge and apologize for the actions of the past and the role that our profession has played in society’s historical mistreatment of communities of color,” he said.

Cunningham received a standing ovation for his remarks from thousands of law enforcement officials before he introduced U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, who largely avoided the topic. He has been police chief since 1999 in his hometown of Wellesley, Massachusetts, an affluent, overwhelmingly white, low-crime suburb near Boston. He served three years as vice president of the police chiefs association before becoming president in 2015 for a one-year term.

David Alexander III, police chief in Pensacola, Florida, said recognizing historical injustices is key to addressing race relations, just as acknowledging domestic violence was a step forward.

“When you don’t know the history and you say, ‘Well, there is no problem,’ then you pretty much present yourself as insensitive to the issues,” said Alexander, who is black. “The issue of racial tension has been a part of American history since its settlement.”

Delrish Moss, who has been police chief of Ferguson, Missouri, since May and is black, said he had negative encounters with police when he was growing up, including being called racial epithets.

“There are communities that have long perceived us as oppressors, there are communities that have long perceived us as the jackbooted arm of government designed to keep people under control, and that’s one of the things we have to work hard to get past,” Moss said. “I’m glad it’s being addressed ... because the only way to get past it is to first acknowledge the existence of it.”

Leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement were less enthusiastic.

Campaign Zero co-founder DeRay Mckesson said he looked forward to Cunningham’s comments being

backed up by deep, structural changes to policing and the criminal justice system.

Lt. Bob Kroll, head of the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis, thought Cunningham's statement went too far. In his city, two white officers fatally shot a black man last November.

"Our profession is under attack right now and what we don't need is chiefs like him perpetuating that we are all bad guys in law enforcement," Kroll said. "I think it's an asinine statement. ... We've got officers dying on almost a daily basis now because of this environment, and statements like that don't help."

Associated Press writers Errin Haines Whack in Philadelphia and Amy Forliti in Minneapolis contributed to this report.

Obama reserves final state dinner for Italy's prime minister

By KEVIN FREKING, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's is reserving his final state dinner for the prime minister of Italy, providing star treatment to a key ally who soon faces a critical leadership test in his home country.

The official visit and state dinner for Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi on Tuesday will be a glitzy affair that features celebrity chef Mario Batali in the kitchen and singer Gwen Stefani performing after the dinner.

White House officials describe the two political leaders as ideologically sharing a great deal of common ground, most notably their belief in the importance of a strongly integrated Europe. Britain's decision to exit the European Union is testing that vision, and a Dec. 4 referendum in Italy on the government's proposed overhaul of the constitution could derail Renzi's political future if it fails.

The White House said Obama strongly supports the economic and political reform efforts that Renzi has undertaken as prime minister, and he wanted to show it.

"He wants to actually demonstrate the strength of the relationship with Italy as well as to get behind and put wind in the sails of someone he sees as one of the most promising young politicians in Europe," said Charles Kupchan, senior director for European affairs at Obama's National Security Council.

Kupchan said it goes without saying that Europe has faced tough times over the last couple of years with sluggish growth and a migration and refugee crisis stemming from conflict in the Middle East. Those trends have created an undercurrent of anti-European Union sentiment. He said Obama believes that Renzi's agenda to revitalize Europe is critically important to the long-term interests of the United States.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama felt it was important before he left office "to memorialize" the partnership and friendship the two countries share.

Renzi and his wife, Mrs. Agnese Landini, will be greeted Tuesday morning at the White House during an ornate arrival ceremony. Renzi will then meet with Obama in the Oval Office. The two leaders will participate in a joint news conference in the afternoon. The state dinner in the evening will take place on the South Lawn.

First Lady Michelle Obama emerges as surrogate MVP

By CATHERINE LUCEY and DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Hillary Clinton was always expected to get a late-campaign enthusiasm boost from the White House. The surprise is that it's not coming from the president.

On a star-studded team of campaign surrogates — including President Barack Obama — the most valuable player of 2016 is undoubtedly first lady Michelle Obama.

During a divisive political year, the hugely popular first lady has wowed voters with her powerful rhetoric. And she can be the emotional center to a campaign whose candidate is not known for projecting warmth.

Last week, in a searing indictment of Republican nominee Donald Trump that was broadcast live by cable news networks, Michelle Obama said his recorded boasts about making unwanted sexual advances toward women had "shaken me to my core in a way that I couldn't have predicted."

With that, the first lady spoke in terms that Hillary Clinton rarely does, given accusations against her

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 23 of 51

own husband that he's long denied — but Trump has raised.

"If Hillary Clinton were out there making these same arguments, we know how Donald Trump would respond, by attacking former President Clinton and bringing up old stories from the 90s," said Democratic strategist Lis Smith.

Michelle Obama also had one of the most memorable lines of the Democratic National Convention, saying her family motto is: "When they go low, we go high."

Clinton has repeated that line in public several times since.

"Michelle Obama is seen as a truly authentic voice that whatever topic she speaks on, people feel that it's really coming from her bones," said Democratic strategist Mary Anne Marsh.

To the Clinton campaign, Michelle Obama is a crucial asset who can connect with the Democratic base — particularly young people — but also reach independent and undecided voters. That was clear Monday, when the campaign signaled a push into traditionally Republican Arizona by announcing that the first lady would host an early-vote rally in Phoenix on Thursday.

"There is no more powerful advocate for our campaign," said Clinton communications director Jennifer Palmieri. "Because the first lady isn't seen as a political figure, when she does speak out, it has a real impact."

Even among Clinton's so-called "uber-surrogates" — the president, Vice President Joe Biden, former President Bill Clinton, Sen. Bernie Sanders and Sen. Elizabeth Warren — Michelle Obama has stood out. Once a reluctant campaigner, she has grown more comfortable after more than eight years on the national stage, promoting her childhood obesity and education initiatives, hosting her own events and showing a playful side on talk shows and in interviews.

"Either she's Meryl Streep, or she's really genuine about this," said Robert Watson, an American studies professor at Lynn University. "In this year of plastic candidates, Michelle just seems the most genuine one out there."

Still, political analysts said the intensity of her advocacy for Clinton is notable.

"It's unusual for a sitting first lady, or a sitting president for that matter, to campaign so enthusiastically for a presidential candidate. They usually take a lower profile approach. This is indicative of how important both Obamas think this election is," said Katherine Jellison, chair of the history department at Ohio University who studies the first ladies.

Anita McBride, a veteran of three Republican administrations, said Mrs. Obama's schedule is more flexible at this stage of the administration because she has held the final events for some of her biggest initiatives.

"It's sort of wrapping up time where's it's never wrapping up time for the president," said McBride, who was chief of staff to first lady Laura Bush. "He still has everything coming to his desk every day. Now it's all about preserving the legacy and giving everything she can to the person she thinks can best reflect their values."

So far this fall, Michelle Obama has campaigned in Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and New Hampshire. She has done radio and television ads, including a television spot targeting early voters in Iowa, Ohio and Nevada. Arizona is up next, with more appearances expected after that.

With three weeks until the Nov. 8 election, Clinton is leading in many national and battleground state polls as the race has been largely overwhelmed by Trump's inflammatory rhetoric and past sexual comments. Clinton is still contending with the slow release of hacked emails that have raised questions about her relationship to Wall Street and inner campaign workings, and will likely be asked about it when she and Trump debate one final time on Wednesday night, but Trump has taken up much of the spotlight.

Michelle Obama so far is one of the few to escape the wrath of Trump, who has spoken harshly about various voting groups, his own Republican leaders and, lately, the women who have accused him of sexual misconduct.

"I can't think of a bolder way for Donald Trump to lose even more standing than he already has by engaging the first lady of the United States," said White House spokesman Eric Schultz.

That pilot in the cockpit may someday be a robot

By JOAN LOWY, Associated Press

MANASSAS, Va. (AP) — From the outside, the single-engine Cessna Caravan that took off from a small airport here on Monday looked unremarkable. But inside the cockpit, in the right seat, a robot with spindly metal tubes and rods for arms and legs and a claw hand grasping the throttle, was doing the flying. In left seat, a human pilot tapped commands to his mute colleague using an electronic tablet.

The demonstration was part of a government and industry collaboration that is attempting to replace the second human pilot in two-person flight crews with robot co-pilots that never tire, get bored, feel stressed out or become distracted.

The program's leaders even envision a day when planes and helicopters, large and small, will fly people and cargo without any human pilot on board. Personal robot planes may become a common mode of travel. Consider it the aviation equivalent of the self-driving car.

The program, known as Aircrew Labor In-Cockpit Automation System or ALIAS, is funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and run by Aurora Flight Sciences, a private contractor. With both the military and airlines struggling with shortages of trained pilots, defense officials say they see an advantage to reducing the number of pilots required to fly large planes or helicopters while at the same time making operations safer and more efficient by having a robot step in to pick up the mundane tasks of flying.

The idea is to have the robot augment the human pilot by taking over a lot of the workload, thus freeing the human pilot — especially in emergencies and demanding situations — to think strategically.

"It's really about a spectrum of increasing autonomy and how humans and robots work together so that each can be doing the thing that its best at," said John Langford, Aurora's chairman and CEO.

Sophisticated computers flying planes aren't new. In today's airliners, the autopilot is on nearly the entire time the plane is in the air. Airline pilots do most of their flying for brief minutes during takeoffs and landings, and even those critical phases of flight could be handled by the autopilot.

But the ALIAS robot goes steps further. For example, an array of cameras allows the robot to see all the cockpit instruments and read the gauges. It can recognize whether switches are in the on or off position, and can flip them to the desired position. And it learns not only from its experience flying the plane, but also from the entire history of flight in that type of plane.

The robot "can do everything a human can do" except look out the window, Langford said. But give the program time and maybe the robot can be adapted to do that too, he said.

In other ways, the robot is better than the human pilot, reacting faster and with knowledge instantaneously available, able to call up every emergency checklist for a possible situation, officials said.

In some ways, it will be like flying with a "co-pilot genius," Langford said. "The robot carries in them the DNA of every flight hour in that (aircraft) system, every accident," he said. "It's like having a human pilot with 600,000 hours of experience."

The ALIAS robot is designed to be a "drop-in" technology, ready for use in any plane or helicopter, even 1950s vintage aircraft built before electronics.

But the robot faces a lot of hurdles before it's ready to start replacing human pilots, not the least of which is that it would require a massive rewrite of Federal Aviation Administration safety regulations. Even small changes to FAA regulations often take years to make.

Elements of the ALIAS technology could be adopted within the next five years, officials said, much the way automakers are gradually adding automated safety features that are the building blocks of self-driving technology to cars today. Dan Patt, DARPA's ALIAS program manager, said he thinks replacing human pilots with robots is still a couple of decades away, but Langford said he believes the transition will happen sooner than that.

Pilot unions, however, are skeptical that robots can replace humans in the cockpit. Keith Hagy, the Air Line Pilots Association's director of engineering and safety, pointed to instances of multiple system failures during flights where only through the heroic efforts of pilots able to improvise were lives saved. In 2010, for example, an engine on a jumbo-sized Qantas airliner with 450 people on board blew up, firing shrapnel that damaged multiple other critical aircraft systems and the plane's landing gear. The plane's overloaded flight management system responded with a cascading series of emergency messages for which there

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 25 of 51

was no time to respond. By chance, there were five experienced pilots on board — including three captains — who, working together, were able to land the plane. But it was a close call.

“Those are the kind of abnormal situations when you really need a pilot on board with that judgment and experience and to make decisions,” Hagy said. “A robot just isn’t going to have that kind of capability.”

David Strayer, a University of Utah professor of cognition and neural science who has studied the human-machine interface, agreed.

“Pilots are going to make mistakes, but a skilled human in that context, their expertise is quite amazing,” he said. “It’s a high bar for the robot to meet.”

Social Security recipients to get tiny increase in benefits

By **STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of Social Security recipients and federal retirees will get only tiny increases in benefits next year, the fifth year in a row that older Americans will have to settle for historically low raises.

There was no increase this year. Next year’s benefit hike will be small because inflation is low, driven in part by lower fuel prices. The COLA affects more than 70 million people — about one in five Americans.

The federal government is scheduled to announce the cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, Tuesday morning. By law, the COLA is based on a government measure of consumer prices. Preliminary numbers suggest a COLA of less than 1 percent, according to analyses by experts and The Associated Press.

The average monthly Social Security payment is \$1,238. That adds up to a monthly increase of maybe \$3 or \$4 a month.

More bad news: Medicare Part B premiums, which are usually deducted from Social Security payments, are expected to increase next year to the point in which they will probably wipe out the entire COLA.

By law, the dollar increase in Medicare’s Part B premium cannot exceed a beneficiary’s cost-of-living raise. That’s known as the “hold harmless” provision, and it protects the majority of Medicare recipients, who have their premiums deducted from their Social Security checks.

But another federal law says that the Part B premium must raise enough money to cover one-fourth of expected spending on doctors’ services. That means that a minority of beneficiaries, including new enrollees and higher-income people, have to shoulder the full increase. Their premiums would jump.

Millicent Graves, a retired veterinary technician, says Medicare and supplemental insurance premiums eat up nearly a third of her \$929 monthly Social Security payment. And don’t tell the 72-year-old from Williamsburg, Virginia, that consumer prices aren’t going up. She says her insurance premiums went up by \$46.50 this year, and her cable TV, Internet and phone bill went up, too.

“I just lose and lose and lose and lose,” Graves said.

More than 60 million retirees, disabled workers, spouses and children get Social Security benefits. The COLA also affects benefits for about 4 million disabled veterans, 2.5 million federal retirees and their survivors, and more than 8 million people who get Supplemental Security Income, the disability program for the poor. Many people who get SSI also receive Social Security.

Since 2008, the COLA has been above 2 percent only once, in 2011. It’s been zero three times.

“This loss of anticipated retirement income compounds every year, causing people to spend through retirement savings far more quickly than planned,” said Mary Johnson of the Senior Citizens League. “Over the course of a 25- or 30-year retirement, it reduces anticipated Social Security income by tens of thousands of dollars.”

By law, the cost-of-living adjustment is based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, or CPI-W, a broad measure of consumer prices generated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It measures price changes for food, housing, clothing, transportation, energy, medical care, recreation and education.

The COLA is calculated using the average CPI-W for July, August and September. If prices go up, benefits go up. If prices drop or stay flat, benefits stay the same.

The numbers for July and August suggest a COLA of just 0.3 percent. The numbers for September are

to be released Tuesday.

Associated Press writer Ricardo Alonzo-Zaldivar contributed to this report.

Follow Stephen Ohlemacher on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/stephenatap>

Online:

Social Security Interactive: <http://hosted.ap.org/interactives/2015/social-security/>

Broadway concert for Hillary Clinton draws huge stars

By MARK KENNEDY, AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stars of Hollywood and Broadway — including Julia Roberts, Jake Gyllenhaal, Sarah Jessica Parker, Matthew Broderick, Hugh Jackman, Emily Blunt, Neil Patrick Harris and Helen Mirren — put on a splashy fundraiser for Hillary Clinton.

The Democratic candidate could only address the group via a video message Monday evening. But daughter Chelsea and husband, Bill, were present at the sold-out event at the 1,300 seat St. James Theatre. Billy Crystal was host and Barbra Streisand lent her recorded voice to the show.

"What is at stake in this election is the future that we want our children to grow up in and whether or not we are going to have a country that we all can be proud of because all of us can be ourselves," Chelsea Clinton said.

Bill Clinton called his wife "the single-best changemaker I've ever known." He added: "It is not true that our best days are behind us. It is not true — unless we give it up. Don't give it up. Grab it."

The event alternated performances with readings or short speeches. Angela Bassett recited a Sojourner Truth speech, Mirren read one by Eleanor Roosevelt and Julia Roberts read a column by Molly Ivins.

Joel Grey and Sienna Miller sang "Wilkommen" from "Cabaret," Parker and Andrea McArdle belted out "Tomorrow" from "Annie," Anne Hathaway and Kelli O'Hara sang a tuneful medley of "Get Happy" and "Happy Days Are Here Again," and Sara Bareilles sang her hit "Brave."

Jon Hamm and Jake Gyllenhaal teamed up to perform a bit of Sinclair Lewis's play "It Can't Happen Here," Alan Cumming spoke about LGBT rights, Lena Dunham recited part of Hillary Clinton's concession speech in 2008 and new Tony Award-winner Cynthia Erivo closed the show with a gospel-tinged "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Crystal kicked off the night by cracking that it was the greatest collection of Broadway and Hollywood stars since liberal-leaning producer "Harvey Weinstein's daughter's bat mitzvah."

Crystal then launched into a version of "Comedy Tonight" from the musical "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" — renamed "Hillary Tonight" — with the lyrics: "No racist baiting/No Muslim hating/Pantsuits for everyone/It's Hillary tonight!"

Donald Trump was a constant target for Crystal, who at one point compared the Republican candidate to hurricane season: "Think about it: It starts with a lot of hot air spinning out of control. It hits America, causes a lot of damage and panic. But it's completely over by November."

Many of the songs were picked to tweak Trump, including one from "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," and "Children Will Listen" from Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods," sang by Bernadette Peters with a children's' choir.

Other performances included Josh Groban singing "Over the Rainbow," Stephen Schwartz and Kelli O'Hara dueting on "For Good" from "Wicked," Harris reprised his Tony-winning title turn in "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" with a powerful rendition of "Origin of Love."

Tickets ranged from \$45 in the rear balcony to \$2,700 premium orchestra seats, with bundles of top tickets plus access to a post-event party going for \$5,000. It was streamed live on Clinton's Facebook page.

A few protesters — one holding a "Clinton 4 Jail" sign — stood across the street under the marquee for "The Phantom of the Opera." Inside the Clinton event theater, which usually houses the musical "Some-

thing Rotten!,"many performers wore pro-Hillary T-shirts and at least one attendee wore a glittery "I'm With Her" top.

Toward the end of the 2½-hour show, Lin-Manuel Miranda and Renée Elise Goldsberry, the Tony-winning stars of the Broadway phenomenon "Hamilton," took the stage for a riotous rap based on the song "The World Was Wide Enough" — "I have only one overwhelming feeling," they asked. "Anybody here want to shatter a glass ceiling?"

Mark Kennedy can be reached at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>

Chief: California officers spared when gunman's weapon jams

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, Associated Press

VALLEJO, Calif. (AP) — A man wearing body armor pointed an assault rifle at two police officers in a California Starbucks, only to have the weapon malfunction before he fled and was shot by the officers nearby, police said Monday.

Vallejo Police Chief Andrew Bidou called it an "attempted assassination" of the two officers, who were on break when the confrontation occurred.

The officers were caught off-guard and "were ambushed by somebody who has superior firepower," the chief said.

It marked the latest attack on police across the country, including two incidents in California in recent weeks that left a total of three law enforcement officers dead.

Police in Vallejo said Adam Powell, 41, had passed by the Starbucks six minutes earlier, apparently planning the attack.

Video from a nearby security camera showed a man walking up to the coffee shop and then sprinting away seconds later, with at least one officer chasing him.

Police said Powell appeared to keep trying to clear his weapon as he ran. Officers shot him three times about 100 feet from the Starbucks.

Resident Jazmin Addison said she heard more than a dozen shots at the corner outside her home. Addison later looked out to see a man lying on the ground, surrounded by officers.

Powell was in critical condition but stable on Monday. Police Lt. Jeff Bassett said authorities expect to arraign him within the next few days.

Police said Powell's weapon never fired. A photo provided by police showed an assault rifle bearing wear marks and duct tape. Bassett said the gun was operable except for the jam.

The man also carried a loaded handgun, police said. They described his body armor as "police-style."

Six hours before that confrontation, police responding to a shooting in Suisun City, 20 miles away, found Powell's 2-year-old son critically wounded in a family home. Powell was not there when police arrived, and other relatives told police the child had accidentally shot himself.

Police want to question Powell about the boy's shooting and about the confrontation with police in Vallejo.

Police said they did not know if Powell, who had a felony record of robbery and drug offenses, had expressed any anger toward police.

Powell's step-daughter, Breana Bower, said he may have been trying to commit suicide after seeing his son hurt.

"He's a really good man. I don't know what would've went through this mind, but he's really good man," Bower told San Francisco television station KGO-TV (<http://bit.ly/2dnMh0K>).

"I assume he possibly thought his son was dead and was just distracted. And just wanted to commit suicide in a certain way. Who knows, who knows," Bower said. "He saw his son the way he did."

The Vallejo shooting came amid growing national attention to police shootings of suspects, and to attacks on police.

On Tuesday, a memorial service will honor two officers killed in Palm Springs, California, while responding to a domestic disturbance at the home of an ex-convict.

The Palm Springs shooting occurred just three days after a Los Angeles County sheriff's sergeant was

shot and killed in the high desert town of Lancaster while answering a burglary call.

"Officers I think around the country are at a heightened state of alert now," the Vallejo chief said.

Rocket launch reignites space station deliveries in Virginia

By **MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — One of NASA's main delivery companies made a triumphant comeback seen up and down the East Coast on Monday night, launching its first space station shipment from Virginia since a rocket explosion two years ago.

It was the first flight of Orbital ATK's unmanned Antares rocket since the Oct. 28, 2014, blast that wrecked the pad and destroyed everything on the space station supply run.

The launch provided a show for sky gazers along much of the East Coast. Reports poured in via Twitter from observers in Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and even Raleigh, North Carolina.

For Antares' long-awaited return, the pad underwent a \$15 million restoration, and the rocket got new Russian engines to replace the vintage ones from a half-century earlier.

As the Antares streaked through the night sky from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, it appeared as though all the work had paid off. Launch controllers applauded when the supply ship reached orbit and victory was declared.

"It is great to be back," said Frank Culbertson, president of Orbital ATK's space systems group.

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden described the launch as "magnificent" and personally thanked the Orbital ATK team.

"It's been a very difficult two years, and I can't imagine what those of you in the Orbital team went through. I can't imagine how long you were holding your breath tonight," Bolden told the launch control crowd. "But you know, we made it and that's what's all important."

Getting a lift from the Antares was Orbital ATK's Cygnus capsule, loaded with more than 5,000 pounds of food, equipment and research, including some experiments to study flames in space and the robotic toy ball Sphero, part of an educational effort.

The Cygnus — named after the swan constellation — will have to hang around in orbit until Sunday before delivering the goods. That's because three astronauts are awaiting launch from Kazakhstan on Wednesday, which would get them to the space station on Friday. NASA wants the new crew to settle in before the Cygnus pulls up.

This will be the sixth Cygnus to arrive at the orbiting outpost since 2013. While the Antares was being redesigned, Orbital ATK made good on two deliveries using another company's rockets flying from Cape Canaveral.

NASA's other commercial shipper, SpaceX, has made nine station deliveries since 2012, but is currently grounded, pending an investigation into last month's rocket explosion during prelaunch testing at Cape Canaveral.

Given the riskiness of space flight, Culbertson and other Orbital ATK officials expressed nervousness before the launch, but said they had full confidence in the rocket. Although it took longer to resume flights at Wallops than expected, he noted, "it was done right, and that was the most important thing."

NASA has been relying on Orbital ATK and SpaceX to keep the space station stocked ever since the shuttles retired in 2011.

Next up will be private flights for the station crews, as the space agency works on getting astronauts to Mars in the 2030s.

SpaceX and Boeing are building capsules to carry U.S. astronauts to the 250-mile-high station; those launches are expected in the next couple of years. Until then, NASA will keep flying its astronauts on Russia's Soyuz spacecraft.

The space station is currently home to an American, a Russian and a third astronaut from Japan. They will be joined by an American and two Russians.

Orbital ATK weathered brief hurricane delays over the past 1½ weeks, then a bad cable at the pad on

Sunday bumped the launch by a day.

Online:

Orbital ATK: <http://www.orbitalatk.com/>

NASA: http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/index.html

US policing leader apologizes for historical racial abuse

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The president of one of the largest police organizations in the United States on Monday apologized for historical mistreatment of minorities, calling it a “dark side of our shared history” that must be acknowledged and overcome.

The reaction from leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement was mixed, saying words needed to be backed by actions, while the head of an officers’ union in Minnesota said there was no need to apologize.

Terrence Cunningham, president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, said at the group’s annual conference that police have historically been a face of oppression, enforcing laws that ensured legalized discrimination and denial of basic rights. He was not more specific.

Cunningham said today’s officers are not to blame for past injustices. He did not speak in detail about modern policing, but said events over the past several years have undermined public trust.

His comments come as police shootings of black men have roiled communities in Ferguson, Missouri; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and suburban St. Paul, Minnesota; and as black shooters have targeted officers in Dallas, the St. Louis suburb of Ballwin and Baton Rouge.

“While we obviously cannot change the past, it is clear that we must change the future,” Cunningham said. “We must forge a path that allows us to move beyond our history and identify common solutions to better protect our communities.

“For our part, the first step in this process is for law enforcement and the (International Association of Chiefs of Police) to acknowledge and apologize for the actions of the past and the role that our profession has played in society’s historical mistreatment of communities of color,” he said.

Cunningham received a standing ovation for his remarks before he introduced U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, who largely avoided the topic.

He has been police chief since 1999 in his hometown of Wellesley, Massachusetts, an affluent, overwhelmingly white, low-crime suburb near Boston. He served three years as vice president of the police chiefs association before becoming president in 2015 for a one-year term.

David Alexander III, police chief in Pensacola, Florida, said recognizing historical injustices is key to addressing race relations, just as acknowledging domestic violence was a step forward.

“When you don’t know the history and you say, ‘Well, there is no problem,’ then you pretty much present yourself as insensitive to the issues,” said Alexander, who is black. “The issue of racial tension has been a part of American history since its settlement.”

Delrish Moss, who has been police chief of Ferguson, Missouri, since May and is black, said he had negative encounters with police when he was growing up, including being called racial epithets.

“There are communities that have long perceived us as oppressors, there are communities that have long perceived us as the jackbooted arm of government designed to keep people under control, and that’s one of the things we have to work hard to get past,” Moss said. “I’m glad it’s being addressed ... because the only way to get past it is to first acknowledge the existence of it.”

Leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement were less enthusiastic.

Campaign Zero co-founder DeRay Mckesson said he looked forward to Cunningham’s comments being backed up by deep, structural changes to policing and the criminal justice system.

Charlene Carruthers, national director for Chicago-based BYP100, said an apology didn’t go far enough. She said a major step would be taking financial resources away from law enforcement and redirecting them to community-based programs.

Lt. Bob Kroll, head of the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis, thought Cunningham’s statement

went too far. In his city, two white officers fatally shot a black man last November.

"Our profession is under attack right now and what we don't need is chiefs like him perpetuating that we are all bad guys in law enforcement," Kroll said. "I think it's an asinine statement. ... We've got officers dying on almost a daily basis now because of this environment, and statements like that don't help."

Garland Pruitt, president of the NAACP's Oklahoma City branch, said the apology was "way overdue." A 40-year-old unarmed black man was fatally shot by a Tulsa officer last month.

"It lets folks know there is a thing called compassion," Pruitt said.

Associated Press writers Errin Haines Whack in Philadelphia, Amy Forliti in Minneapolis and Justin Jozapavicius in Tulsa, Oklahoma, contributed to this report.

Confident Clinton expanding her campaign into 'red' states

By LISA LERER and KATHLEEN HENNESSEY, Associated Press

WHITE PLAINS, New York (AP) — Hillary Clinton is advancing into states the Democrats haven't won in decades, confidently expanding her offensive against Donald Trump and aiming to help her party win back control of Congress.

There's a new \$2 million push in Arizona, aides said Monday, including a campaign stop in Phoenix by first lady Michelle Obama, one of Clinton's most effective surrogates. An additional \$1 million is going into efforts in Missouri and Indiana, both states with competitive Senate races, a small amount of TV time is being bought in Texas and media appearances are scheduled in Utah.

At the same time Clinton is showing new signs of confidence, she faced fresh revelations about her use of a private server as secretary of state and hacked emails from a top campaign official's personal account. FBI records released Monday show that a senior State Department official unsuccessfully sought to lower the classification level of an email found on the server, a move Trump's campaign labeled collusion.

The new questions highlight a dual reality of the presidential race: Even as Clinton has a growing advantage, she's been unable to put the biggest controversy of her campaign behind her.

With her lead increasing, Clinton is unlikely to need any of the normally solid-red states to win the White House. But her team believes that a wide presidential margin of victory would help end Trump's political movement and undermine his intensifying claims that the election is rigged.

On the other side, Trump's campaign dramatically expanded its ad buys in seven battleground states and announced plans to launch a \$2 million advertising blitz in long-shot Virginia.

"Donald Trump is becoming more unhinged by the day, and that is increasing prospects for Democrats further down the ballot," said Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook, who cited early voting and registration numbers to predict record voter turnout.

Democrats aren't the only targets of Trump's rhetoric about the legitimacy of the election system.

In a Monday morning blitz of tweets, he lashed out at Republicans who have tried to tone him down, calling his own party's leaders "so naive" and claiming without evidence that major fraud is real.

"Of course there is large-scale voter fraud happening on and before election day. Why do Republican leaders deny what is going on? So naive!" he tweeted.

There is no evidence to back up Trump's claims. A study by a Loyola Law School professor found that out of 1 billion votes cast in all American elections between 2000 and 2014, there were only 31 known cases of impersonation fraud.

Trump's tweets show he is continuing to play a scattershot defense rather than make his case to voters, with just three weeks left and much ground to make up in opinion polls.

Rather than campaigning in the tightest battlegrounds, Trump was spending much of Monday out of sight before speaking in Green Bay, Wisconsin, a state where Clinton is viewed as having an edge. Clinton was spending the day with advisers near her home in New York, preparing for the final presidential

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 31 of 51

debate Wednesday night.

Clinton's email use is certain to return as an issue in that faceoff, and Trump was given new ammunition. According to FBI records released Monday, State Department Undersecretary for Management Patrick F. Kennedy, a close aide to Clinton during her time as secretary of state, contacted an FBI official seeking to change an email's classification. Notes on the conversation describe discussion about a "quid pro quo" in which the email's classification would be changed and "State would reciprocate by allowing the FBI to place more agents in countries where they are presently forbidden."

The records indicate that Kennedy made that suggestion, but both the FBI and State Department said Monday that it was the unidentified FBI official. Neither the declassification nor the increase in agents occurred.

In an online video, Trump called the records proof of collusion between the FBI, the Justice Department and the State Department "to try to make Hillary Clinton look like an innocent person."

Clinton campaign spokesman Brian Fallon said it is well known that there was disagreement among various government agencies "about the decisions to retroactively classify certain material in emails sent to Secretary Clinton. ... and we were not part of these disagreements that played out inside the government."

Clinton's campaign also continues to answer for hacked emails being released by the thousands by WikiLeaks.

On a brighter note for her, the Clinton campaign for months has been eyeing an expansion into Arizona, where Hispanic voters make up more than 15 percent of the electorate and Trump's sharp language about immigrants have left him vulnerable, said Republican pollster Whit Ayres, an adviser to Florida Sen. Marco Rubio's re-election campaign.

"Trump has run against Hispanics," Ayres said. "Consequently, Arizona is tailor made as an easily winnable red state where Trump could lose."

Trump also leads in Indiana and Missouri, but U.S. Senate races in both states have become very close. In Indiana, former Sen. Evan Bayh is in a dead heat with U.S. Rep. Todd Young. In Missouri, Republican Sen. Roy Blunt is locked in a tight race with Democrat Jason Kander, Missouri's secretary of state.

A former senator, Clinton and her team are clear-eyed about how closely her success as president would be tied to having her party in power on Capitol Hill. Senate Republicans already are casting themselves as a crucial check on her, signaling the fights to come.

"I promise you that we will be united against any Supreme Court nominee that Hillary Clinton, if she were president, would put up," Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz, said in a radio interview. An aide later said McCain would examine the record of anyone nominated and vote based on their qualifications.

Associated Press Writers Thomas Beaumont in Des Moines and Michael Biesecker and Eric Tucker in Washington contributed to this report. Hennessey reported from Washington.

This version of story corrects the last name of pollster Whit Ayres, not Ayers.

Russia sets brief cease-fire for Aleppo as strikes kill 36

By **BASSEM MROUE**, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Russian and Syrian forces will halt hostilities for eight hours in the eastern districts of Aleppo, Russia's military announced on Monday, a day on which opposition activists said their airstrikes killed at least 36 people, including several children, in and around the divided city.

The two militaries will observe a "humanitarian pause" between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Oct. 20 to allow civilians and militants safe passage out of the city, Lt. Gen. Sergei Rudskoi of Russia's general staff said in Moscow. Militants, the wounded and sick would be allowed to evacuate to the neighboring rebel-held province of Idlib.

U.N. humanitarian officials have pleaded with combatants to observe weekly 48-hour cease-fires to allow humanitarian relief into the city's besieged eastern districts, but Russian and Syrian forces have only

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 32 of 51

escalated their aerial and ground assault on the rebel-held areas in recent weeks. The airstrikes have claimed hundreds of lives, wounded many, flattened apartment buildings and laid waste to the already crippled medical sector.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin told reporters at U.N. headquarters in New York that the eight-hour pause was a unilateral halt to fighting. A 48-hour or 72-hour cease-fire "will require some sort of mutual arrangement," he said.

Russian and Syrian leaders are now capitalizing on a proposal made by the U.N.'s envoy earlier this month to allow al-Qaida-linked militants to leave in exchange for peace and local administration for the eastern districts.

Rebels in the east, along with many residents, spurned the proposition, citing their distrust of the government side. And Russia vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution mandating an immediate cease-fire.

Russia's Churkin said that at a meeting Saturday co-chaired by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar said they would work to separate moderate opposition groups from the former al-Qaida affiliate once known as the Nusra Front in rebel-held eastern Aleppo.

Military experts from all these countries were scheduled to meet Monday, he said.

If the separation succeeds — which is a key Russian and Syrian demand — there are two options, Churkin said. Nusra fighters must leave Aleppo or they will be defeated, he said.

Churkin said "the understanding" reached at Saturday's meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, is that once Nusra is gone the moderate opposition and the Syrian government will agree on a cease-fire to end the bloodshed.

U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner, speaking to reporters in Washington, noted that the people of Aleppo "have been subjected to near constant bombardment and air strikes" that have killed many civilians and leveled much of the city's infrastructure in an effort "to starve out and to drive out the opposition and civilians."

"If there is actually an eight-hour pause in the unremitting suffering of the people of Aleppo, that would be a good thing. But frankly, it's a bit too little, too late," Toner said.

Monday's Russian announcement did not include any promises of an extended cease-fire or local administration. It followed a bloody day of airstrikes on rebel-held districts in and around Aleppo.

At least 23 people were killed in airstrike that also wounded dozens in the village of Oweijel, just west of Aleppo, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Another monitoring group, the Local Coordination Committees, said the air raid was carried out by Russian warplanes and put the death toll at 30.

More than a dozen people were also killed in the Marjeh neighborhood in eastern Aleppo. The Aleppo Media Center, an activist collective, said those killed included 11 people with the same family name of Qabs ranging from a six-week-old baby girl to a 25-year-old man.

The Observatory said at least 50 civilians, including 18 children, were killed in airstrikes on the eastern part of the city in the 24 hours before the Russian announcement.

Monday's airstrikes coincided with the launch in neighboring Iraq of a major operation by Iraqi and Kurdish forces, backed by the U.S.-led coalition, to retake the northern city of Mosul from the Islamic State group. There have been concerns the government in Damascus could use the timing of the Mosul offensive to press its onslaught in Aleppo while world attention is diverted to developments in Iraq.

Also Monday, Syrian state media claimed 49 rebels were killed and wounded in fighting in the neighborhoods of Sheikh Saeed and Shurfa on the southern edges of Aleppo.

In the nearby province of Idlib, a U.S.-led coalition drone struck a car in the provincial capital that carries the same name, killing all inside, according to the Observatory and a jihadi official. It was not immediately clear who was in the vehicle, but such attacks have previously targeted officials with al-Qaida's affiliate in Syria, known as Fatah al-Sham Front.

The Observatory said the attack targeted a faction commander. An official with Fatah al-Sham Front, formerly known as Nusra Front, said all those in the car were "martyred." The man, who spoke on condi-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 33 of 51

tion of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said it was not clear if members of his group were targeted.

Earlier this month, a drone attack killed top al-Qaida official Ahmed Salama Mabrouk.

The United States and Britain on Sunday acknowledged the Western world's weak support for any military action against Syria's government as they seek ways to pressure Syrian President Bashar Assad and his chief backer, Russia, to halt the deadly Aleppo offensive.

After a meeting of 11 governments opposing Assad's rule, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson each insisted that all options were on the table. But their stark explanations about the danger of resorting to military force appeared to rule out such a move.

The government in Damascus, meanwhile, appears to be trying to improve relations with Egypt, the Arab world's most populous nation, following the first public meeting between Egyptian and Syrian security chiefs.

Maj. Gen. Ali Mamlouk, head of the National Security Bureau and one of Assad's top aides, visited Cairo Sunday at the head of a delegation to coordinate with Egypt in the fight against "terrorism" in the region, Syria's state-run news agency SANA said.

SANA said the Syrians met with top intelligence officials, including deputy chief of Egypt's intelligence agency. It said both sides agreed on "coordinating political standpoints" and strengthening the "cooperation in fighting terrorism." Egypt's pro-government Sada al-Balad and other news websites reported on Sunday that six Syrians arrived on a private jet from Damascus.

Earlier this month, Egypt voted for rival French and Russian draft resolutions on Syria at the U.N. Security Council, arguing that both called for a truce and for aid for besieged Syrians in the rebel-held areas of the northern city of Aleppo.

The move angered Egypt's major financier Saudi Arabia, which supports rebels fighting against Assad's Moscow-backed government.

Egypt and Syria are both fighting extremists, including members of the Islamic State group. Both countries also have poor relations with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Associated Press writers Albert Aji in Damascus, Syria, James Heintz in Moscow, Philip Issa in Beirut and Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this report.

Big 12 presidents decide to pass on expansion

By STEPHEN HAWKINS, AP Sports Writer

GRAPEVINE, Texas (AP) — The smallest Power Five conference is not getting any larger. The Big 12 is staying at 10 schools.

After three months of analyzing, vetting and interviewing possible new members, Big 12 leaders on Monday took expansion off their agenda.

"This was not a decision to not expand," Commissioner Bob Bowlsby said. "This was an endorsement and reinvestment in the 10 that we had."

Oklahoma President David Boren said the decision was unanimous and no specific schools were discussed or voted on during five hours or so of expansion talk while Big 12 presidents and chancellors met Sunday night and Monday.

Boren, the chairman of the Big 12 board of directors and the only president who has been in the league since its inception in 1996, insisted he has never seen "such a unified sense of purpose on the board."

Texas President Greg Fenves said 10 is the right number for the league.

"It promotes a competitive balance and allows for a round-robin schedule in the different sports, which is best for our student-athletes," Fenves said. "This is the right way to ensure a strong conference moving forward."

Conference officials held interviews in September with Air Force and Colorado State from the Mountain West; Central Florida, Cincinnati, Connecticut, Houston, South Florida, SMU and Tulane from the American Athletic Conference; Rice from Conference USA; and BYU, which is a football independent with its other

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 34 of 51

sports in the West Coast Conference.

Moving into a Power Five conference for those schools would mean tens of millions of dollars more revenue per year, along with greater exposure and prestige.

Houston athletic director Hunter Yurachek said the Big 12's decision "is not just about the University of Houston and the Big 12 Conference, it's about the evolving landscape of collegiate athletics. It does not, and will not, deter our mission of building champions for life."

UConn President Susan Herbst said going through the process was a positive experience and it gave her a better understanding of where UConn stands and what it has to offer.

"Most of the schools they were talking to were in our conference," she said. "I think that shows, without question, that our conference plays at their level and are athletically and academically appropriate to be a Power Five."

Boren once called the Big 12 "psychologically disadvantaged" as the smallest Power Five league and the only one without a football championship game.

"The circumstances have radically changed," Boren explained Monday when asked about the comment he first made in June 2015.

Boren said his interest in expansion was tied to his desire for the Big 12 to start a television network like the ones the Big Ten, Southeastern Conference and Pac-12 have and the one the Atlantic Coast Conference is on target to start with ESPN in 2019. Once it was determined that the market was not there for a network, his interest in expansion cooled.

And the Big 12 announced earlier this year it was bringing back its football championship game in 2017, no matter its composition.

Knowing now there will be 10 teams, Big 12 athletic directors can move forward with the process of determining if the league will split into divisions and how to determine which teams will play in the championship game.

Oklahoma athletic director Joe Castiglione, part of a subcommittee addressing those issues, said that decision could be made by November. As for the site of the title game, he said the league got bids from four potential hosts.

While never committing to expansion, the Big 12 has been tossing around the idea for almost two years as it tries to find ways to increase revenue and improve the conference's chances to make the College Football Playoff. The Big 12 was left out of the first playoff in 2014, but conference champion Oklahoma made it last season.

Boren and Bowsby both said that expansion could be re-addressed in the future, but said it no longer is an active agenda item.

In June, the conference announced record payouts to members of \$30 million each, and expansion talk seemed to fade.

A month later, at their last board meeting, school presidents were briefed by consultants who explained how the conference could bolster its playoff chances by adding schools and boost revenue.

Two new members would have meant an extra \$50 million in TV revenue per year for the Big 12 on contracts with ESPN and Fox that run through 2025.

The networks have not been keen on the idea of paying the Big 12 to add schools. When asked if the league would be getting more money from ESPN and FOX for not expanding, Bowsby wouldn't get into specifics about negotiations.

"We have a new piece of inventory with our championship game, so we're in the process of discussions with both FOX and ESPN on that," Bowsby said. "There are components of the contract that we also talk about in the context of those changes, and we're going to continue to talk about those."

AP College Football Writer Ralph D. Russo in New York and AP Sports Writer Jim Vertuno in Austin, Texas, contributed to this report.

Online: AP's college football website: www.collegefootball.ap.org

NBC News fires Billy Bush after lewd Donald Trump tape airs

By **DAVID BAUDER, AP Television Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — NBC News on Monday fired “Today” show host Billy Bush, who was caught on tape in a vulgar conversation about women with Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump before an “Access Hollywood” appearance.

Bush was suspended at the morning show two days after contents of the 2005 tape were reported on Oct. 7. Once it became clear he wouldn’t be back, NBC and Bush’s representatives had been negotiating terms of his exit.

On the tape, Bush is heard laughing as Trump talks about fame enabling him to grope and try to have sex with women not his wife. Trump has denied groping women, and Bush later said he was “embarrassed and ashamed” by what was caught on tape.

NBC made the announcement of his firing in a note from “Today” show top executive Noah Oppenheim to his staff. Oppenheim called Bush, who spent 15 years at “Access Hollywood,” “a valued colleague and longtime member of the broader NBC family. We wish him success as he goes forward.”

Bush, a 44-year-old father of three and nephew of former President George H.W. Bush, said that he was “deeply grateful for the conversations I’ve had with my daughters, and for all of the support from family, friends and colleagues. I look forward to what lies ahead.”

The settlement with NBC did not include a non-compete clause, meaning Bush “is a free agent,” said his lawyer, Marshall Grossman. Financial terms of the deal were kept confidential.

In an interview with CNN on Monday, Trump’s wife, Melania, said that her husband was “egged on” by Bush in the conversation.

“I wonder if they even knew the mic was on,” Melania Trump said, referring to her husband and Bush. She said they were involved in “boy talk, and he was led on — like egged on — from the host to say dirty and bad stuff.”

Asked to comment, Grossman said, “I thought that Donald Trump would claim that he was not on the bus.”

In the 2005 tape, which was first revealed by The Washington Post, Trump discusses unsuccessfully seeking an affair with another “Access Hollywood” employee, Nancy O’Dell. Trump said that when he was attracted to beautiful women “I just start kissing them. It’s like a magnet.” He said that when you’re a star, women let you.

“Grab them by the p----. You can do anything,” Trump added.

The two men discussed an actress who was waiting from at the end of the bus ride. When they got off, Bush urged the woman to hug Trump and added, “how about a little hug for the Bushy?”

Trump said in the second presidential debate that he never did any of the actions heard on the tape, which he described as locker room talk. But a number of women have since come forward and said that Trump had surprised them in the past by groping or unexpectedly kissing them on the lips.

Bush had only worked at “Today” for two months. Since women make up roughly two-thirds of the audience during the hour that he hosted, he faced an uphill battle gaining the trust of viewers.

NBC, which did not comment on the agreement beyond Oppenheim’s statement, had Harry Connick Jr. filling in for Bush on Monday and Tuesday.

Follow David Bauder at twitter.com/dbauder. His work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/david-bauder>

Why tomatoes lose flavor in fridge: their genes chill out

By **MALCOLM RITTER, AP Science Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — If you buy tomatoes from John Banschler at his farmstand in New Jersey, he’ll recommend keeping them out of the fridge or they’ll lose some of their taste.

Now scientists have figured out why: It’s because some of their genes chill out, says a study that may

help solve that problem.

Cooling tomatoes below 54 degrees stops them from making some of the substances that contribute to their taste, according to researchers who dug into the genetic roots of the problem.

That robs the fruit of flavor, whether it happens in a home refrigerator or in cold storage before the produce reaches the grocery shelf, they said.

With the new detailed knowledge of how that happens, "maybe we can breed tomatoes to change that," said researcher Denise Tieman of the University of Florida in Gainesville.

She and colleagues there, in China and at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, report their findings in a paper published Monday by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

They showed that after seven days of storage at 39 degrees, tomatoes lost some of their supply of substances that produce their characteristic aroma, which is a key part of their flavor. Three days of sitting at room temperature didn't remedy that, and a taste test by 76 people confirmed the chilled tomatoes weren't as good as fresh fruit.

Tomatoes stored for just one or three days didn't lose their aroma substances.

Further research showed that the prolonged chilling reduced the activity of certain genes that make those compounds, Tieman said.

Her lab is already looking into the possibility of breeding tomatoes that don't lose flavor in the cold, she said.

In the meantime, "Just leave them out on the counter, or leave them in a shaded area, something like that," said Banscher, whose farm is in Gloucester County. "A tomato has a decent shelf life."

Online:

Journal: <http://www.pnas.org>

Follow Malcolm Ritter at <http://twitter.com/malcolmritter> His recent work can be found at <http://bigstory.ap.org/content/malcolm-ritter>

'We hope it will be over': Retrial to begin in '79 Patz case

By JENNIFER PELTZ, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It took nearly four decades to find and try a suspect in the haunting disappearance of first-grader Etan Patz. The trial spanned three months of testimony and 18 days of deliberations before a jury finally deadlocked.

Now it's about to unfold all over again.

Opening statements are expected as soon as Wednesday in the retrial of a case that reshaped American parenting and the pursuit of missing children. Twelve jurors had been chosen by Monday evening, with the selection of six alternates set to start Tuesday.

Etan, who vanished while heading to his New York school bus stop in 1979, was among the first missing children whose face was put on milk cartons, and his case prompted many parents to stop letting their children roam their neighborhoods alone.

Prosecutors will have to reassemble a murder case that was already complicated by faded memories, the deaths of witnesses and the fact that no trace of Etan has ever been found. The defense goes in knowing the last jury voted 11-1 to convict.

And Etan's parents face revisiting their 6-year-old's disappearance and suspect Pedro Hernandez's account of choking him, given in recorded confessions that defense lawyers say were false. Still, Etan's father has said the first trial succeeded in providing long-sought answers for the Patzes, if not in resolving the case.

Now, finally, "we hope it will be over soon," Stanley Patz said by email last month.

Etan disappeared May 25, 1979, the first day he was allowed to walk the two blocks to his bus stop alone.

Hernandez was then a teenage stock clerk at a nearby corner store. But he wasn't a suspect until 2012, when his brother-in-law told police that Hernandez had told a summer 1979 prayer group he had killed a

child in New York. His ex-wife and a neighbor later said he'd also made similar statements to them.

Detectives then got a confession from Hernandez.

"I wanted to let go, but I just couldn't let go. I felt like something just took over me," Hernandez said on video, describing how he choked the boy after luring him to the convenience store basement with the promise of a soda.

Prosecutors suggest the motive was sexual.

Hernandez's defense says the Maple Shade, New Jersey, man has mental problems that made him imagine he attacked Etan. A defense psychiatrist diagnosed Hernandez, 55, with schizotypal personality disorder, whose symptoms can include delusions, which Hernandez's family says he has had.

"Pedro Hernandez is the only witness against himself," defense lawyer Harvey Fishbein told jurors last year. "Yet he is inconsistent and unreliable."

The defense also argued that a different, longtime suspect was the more likely killer.

After the first trial, many jurors said they felt Hernandez's confession was compellingly detailed and supported by his earlier admissions. Some jurors attributed his mental problems to a guilty conscience. But the lone holdout said he felt that Hernandez's mental health history was a big factor and there wasn't enough non-circumstantial evidence to convict him.

Prosecutors' and defense lawyers' central arguments and evidence haven't changed, but both sides are approaching the retrial mindful of the deadlock and the growing passage of time.

During jury selection this month, Fishbein asked prospective members to vouch that if they ended up becoming a lone holdout for or against conviction they wouldn't change their minds just because no one else agreed. And prosecutor Joan Illuzzi asked whether any potential jurors felt the 37-year-old case was "enough already" and shouldn't be pursued further. None said yes.

About 5 percent of felony trials end in hung juries, and roughly 33 percent of them are retried, rather than plea-bargained or dismissed, researchers have found.

Officials and court groups don't have statistics on the outcomes of those retrials. But anecdotally, most end in convictions, as do most trials in general, said James A. Cohen, a Fordham University School of Law professor who specializes in criminal defense.

Reach Jennifer Peltz on Twitter @jennpeltz.

Amid talk of 'rigged' election, experts say fraud is rare

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Donald Trump has repeatedly warned of a "rigged" election, saying large-scale voter fraud is happening in the U.S. and suggesting it will affect the outcome of this year's presidential race. There is no evidence that such widespread fraud exists.

Trump's comments have alarmed voting rights experts and civil rights groups, who say they threaten to undermine faith in the nation's elections. Meanwhile, House Speaker Paul Ryan and other Republicans are expressing confidence in the voting systems, while state election officials are saying they are committed to conducting fair and impartial elections.

It's worth noting, too, that 29 of the nation's secretaries of state are Republican.

Here's a look at what Trump has been saying, along with historical data about voter fraud and what this could mean for Election Day.

WHAT TRUMP HAS SAID

In recent weeks, Trump has repeatedly raised questions about the integrity of the nation's voting systems and called for his supporters to monitor polling places in "certain areas" to guard against voter fraud. He's made the comments during campaign stops in battleground states such as Michigan and Pennsylvania, singling out Philadelphia as a city to watch.

Recently, Trump sent a series of tweets in which he called Republican leaders "naive" for dismissing his

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 38 of 51

claims of widespread voter fraud and saying the election is being rigged "by the dishonest and distorted media" for Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Trump's supporters appear to share his concerns. A poll last month by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found half of all those with a favorable opinion of Trump said they have little to no confidence in the integrity of the vote count.

IS VOTER FRAUD A WIDESPREAD PROBLEM?

No. While there have been isolated cases of voter fraud in the U.S., there is no evidence of it being a widespread problem as Trump suggests.

The type of fraud that Trump appears to be talking about would involve people casting ballots who know they are not eligible to vote, as well as people impersonating others to cast ballots for their preferred candidate. Experts say this would be an inefficient way to rig an election, given the fraud would have to be conducted one voter at a time, and would only be effective in places where the race is close enough that the outcome could be swayed.

Studies have shown voter impersonation to be quite rare. In one study, a Loyola Law School professor found 31 instances involving allegations of voter impersonation out of 1 billion votes cast in U.S. elections between 2000 and 2014. Another study by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University Law School found many reports of people voting twice or ballots being cast on behalf of dead people were largely the result of clerical errors that suggested wrongdoing when none had occurred.

"Voter fraud is so incredibly rare that it has no impact on the integrity of our elections," said Wendy Weiser, head of the democracy program at the Brennan Center. "You are more likely to be struck by lightning, more likely to see a UFO, than to be a victim of voter fraud."

In Philadelphia on Monday, Republican election commissioner Al Schmidt dismissed the idea that election fraud could take place in the nation's fifth-largest city. "The real threat to the integrity of elections is irresponsible accusations that undermine confidence in the electoral process," he said.

VOTER FRAUD VS. ELECTION FRAUD

Other types of fraud are possible, such as voting machines being intentionally manipulated to report false results. So-called "ballot stuffing" would be considered election fraud, rather than voter fraud, because it would be orchestrated by someone involved in administering the election or someone who has gained access to the election administration system.

Experts say federal elections would be much more difficult to influence this way because of the broad, decentralized nature of the nation's voting systems. There are more than 9,000 election jurisdictions and hundreds of thousands of polling places.

That also holds true for any effort by hackers to influence this year's presidential election. Experts say it's unlikely a hacker could change votes, but one might be able to delete voters from registration files, triggering confusion and long lines at the polls.

WHAT MEASURES EXIST TO GUARD AGAINST FRAUD?

State election officials have several measures in place to protect the integrity of their voting systems, and both political parties have a vested interest in making sure the outcome is fair.

Voting machines are not connected to the internet, and the vast majority of ballots will be cast on systems that allow for a paper record to verify electronic results.

The process of counting the votes is not done on systems connected to the internet and tabulation systems are not connected to a single network, according to the National Association of Secretaries of State.

As in past presidential elections, individual campaigns, political parties and special interest and civil rights groups will have operations designed to assist voters and monitor for any problems at the polls.

DOES VOTER ID COMBAT VOTER FRAUD?

There have been efforts in recent years, largely in Republican-led states, to pass laws requiring voters to

show photo identification at the polls. Supporters say such laws are needed to combat voter fraud, while critics argue the laws disproportionately affect minorities and the poor who may face challenges obtaining a government-issued photo ID.

Courts have recently agreed. In striking down parts of a voter ID law in North Carolina this year, a federal appeals court judge wrote they “target African Americans with almost surgical precision.”

The courts have also largely found there is little documented evidence of voter fraud. In a decision finding Texas’ photo ID law was discriminatory, a federal appeals court noted there were two convictions related to in-person voter fraud out of 20 million votes cast in the decade before the law was enacted.

Experts note that fraud, when it occurs, usually involves absentee ballots or voter registration — problems that could not be solved by requiring an ID at the polls.

Follow Christina Almeida Cassidy on Twitter: http://twitter.com/AP_Christina

State battles are hot; election isn’t just about White House

By DAVID A. LIEB, Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Years of losses have left Democrats at historic lows in state legislatures. But now they’re seeking to wrest control of as many as a dozen chambers from Republicans, a key step in gaining more influence in redistricting.

The battle for statehouse control is playing out in more than half the states with tens of millions of dollars of planned political spending before the Nov. 8 general election. Democrats are hoping the turmoil surrounding Donald Trump’s presidential campaign can boost their fortunes in down-ballot races, although Hillary Clinton remains unpopular in many Republican-leaning regions.

“When you go district by district, when you look at where all these races are, we’re in a highly competitive environment,” said Matt Walter, president of the Republican State Leadership Committee.

“A volatile environment” is how it’s described by his counterpart Jessica Post, executive director of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee.

Money spent on TV advertising for state House and Senate races is up more than 50 percent compared with the same point in 2014, according to an analysis conducted for The Associated Press by the Center for Public Integrity of data from the media-tracking firm Kantar Media/CMAG.

With gridlock in Washington, states increasingly are where policies are adopted on major issues such as gun rights, marijuana use, minimum wages and the regulation of businesses in the new economy, such as ride-sharing services and online fantasy sports.

Also at stake is redistricting control. The party that controls legislatures and governorships during the 2020 Census will have the upper hand in redrawing congressional and state legislative districts in those states. Controlling those boundaries can ensure a political advantage for the next decade.

Republicans now control 69 of the 99 state legislative chambers — their most ever. (Nebraska is the only state with just a single legislative chamber.)

That GOP advantage also means more seats to defend.

National Democratic and Republican groups are particularly focused on 27 states where they hope either to flip control of a chamber or cut into the opposing party’s majority with an eye toward greater gains in the future.

The Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee says it expects to win control of between eight and 12 new chambers and has highlighted 52 “essential races,” including many in presidential battleground states.

The GOP’s Walter acknowledges Republicans may see a slight overall decline, but he says they still could win several new chambers, including the Kentucky House, the lone Democratic-led chamber in the Southeast. The Republican State Leadership Committee has been running TV ads portraying Democratic Kentucky House Speaker Greg Stumbo as a Clinton ally intent on putting coal miners out of work.

At the top of the target list for Democrats is the Michigan House, where dozens of Republicans elected in the wave of 2010 are now barred by term limits from seeking re-election. Adding to Democratic hopes:

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 40 of 51

Clinton is ahead in the polls there, and Republican Gov. Rick Snyder's popularity has tanked following his administration's handling of the lead-tainted water in Flint. Democrats must gain nine seats to reclaim the chamber, meaning they likely need victories in some blue-collar districts where Trump figures to fare better.

Several states with split-party control in their legislatures are being targeted by both parties, including Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, New Mexico and Washington.

Republicans currently hold a precarious single-seat advantage over Democrats in the Colorado Senate, while Democrats hold just a three-seat lead in the House. One of the most pivotal races is in Denver's western suburbs, where Republican Sen. Laura Woods faces a rematch against Democrat Rachel Zenzinger, who held the seat in 2014.

Woods says a Democratic-backed political group has targeted her in automated phone calls linking her to Trump. But Woods, a self-described Christian conservative, says she has forgiven Trump for his sexual comments and will not abandon him.

"I think if Donald Trump wins my district, I'm likely to," Wood said. "And if Hillary Clinton wins my district, my opponent is likely to win."

Former Attorney General Eric Holder was announced Monday as chairman of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, a newly created alliance of Democratic leaders, unions and progressive groups with a goal of boosting Democrats' chances in time for the 2021 redistricting.

Republicans made big gains in state capitols in 2010, just in time for the last round of redistricting. During the 2012 elections, Democratic candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives actually received about 1.4 million more votes than their Republican opponents, yet the GOP won a 33-seat House majority, partly because Republican-dominated state legislatures had drawn districts to their favor. Republicans made even more gains in 2014.

Follow David A. Lieb at: <http://twitter.com/DavidALieb>

Iraqis push toward IS-held Mosul in long-awaited offensive

By SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

KHAZER, Iraq (AP) — The long-awaited offensive to retake Mosul from the Islamic State group began Monday with a volley of U.S.-led coalition airstrikes and heavy artillery bombardments on a cluster of villages along the edge of Iraq's historic Nineveh plain east of the militant-held city.

Iraq's Kurdish peshmerga fighters led the initial assault, advancing slowly across open fields littered with booby-trapped explosives as plumes of black and orange smoke rose overhead — the opening phase of an unprecedented campaign expected to take weeks if not months, and involve more than 25,000 troops.

By the end of the day Kurdish forces had retaken some 200 square kilometers (80 square miles), according to the president of Iraq's Kurdistan region. Peshmerga commanders on the ground estimated the offensive retook nine villages and pushed the frontline with IS back eight kilometers (five miles).

But the forces' hold appeared fragile and the gains largely symbolic. Some of the villages were so small they comprised no more than a few dozen homes, and most were abandoned.

And though some troops were less than 30 kilometers (20 miles) from Mosul's edges, it was unclear how long it would take to reach the city itself, where more than 1 million people still live. Aid groups have warned of a mass exodus of civilians that could overwhelm refugee camps.

Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul fell to IS in the summer of 2014 as the militants swept over much of the country's north and central areas. Weeks later the head of the extremist group, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, announced the formation of a self-styled caliphate in Iraq and Syria from the pulpit of a Mosul mosque.

If successful, the liberation of the city would be the biggest blow yet to the Islamic State group. After a string of victories by Iraqi ground forces over the past year, IS now controls less than half the territory it once held, and Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi has pledged the fight for Mosul will lead to the liberation of all Iraqi territory from the militants this year.

Al-Abadi announced the start of the operation on state television before dawn Monday, launching the

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 41 of 51

country's toughest battle since American troops withdrew from Iraq nearly five years ago.

"These forces that are liberating you today, they have one goal in Mosul, which is to get rid of Daesh and to secure your dignity," al-Abadi said, addressing the city's residents and using the Arabic acronym for IS. "God willing, we shall win."

In Washington, Defense Secretary Ash Carter called the Mosul operation "a decisive moment in the campaign" to defeat IS. The U.S. is providing airstrikes, training and logistical support, but insists Iraqis are leading the campaign. On Monday, Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook said a small number of U.S. troops were serving as advisers to Iraqi and peshmerga forces on the outskirts of Mosul.

More than 25,000 Iraqi and Kurdish troops will be involved in the operation, launching assaults from five directions, according to Iraqi Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil. The troops include elite Iraqi special forces who are expected to lead the charge into the city, as well as the Kurdish forces, Sunni tribal fighters, federal police and state-sanctioned Shiite militias.

In a political deal between the country's Kurdish region and the central government, it was agreed that Kurdish forces would advance first, bringing the villages they retake under their regional control, according to Iraqi special forces Lt. Col. Ali Hussein.

Once the Kurdish forces advance far enough, the Iraqi special forces will move to the new front and pick up the fight.

Speaking at a news conference just a few kilometers (miles) from the frontline, the Kurdistan region's President Massoud Barzani called the Mosul operation a "turning point in the war against terrorism," but said there was not yet a plan for governing the region after the fight. Political and military officials in the Kurdistan region have previously said the peshmerga will not withdraw from any territory they retake.

Saud Masoud, a soldier with Iraq's special forces watched the frontline on the horizon Monday while waiting for orders to advance. Originally from the Christian village of Bartella, the outskirts of which were obscured by plumes of smoke, he said he personally didn't want his hometown to become part of the country's Kurdistan region, but he understood why Iraqi leaders struck the deal.

"People are tired of the situation, very tired honestly, so everyone including myself is willing to compromise," he said.

As airstrikes and heavy artillery pounded the squat, dusty buildings, the area — historically home to religious minorities brutally oppressed by IS — was almost completely empty of civilians, thus allowing air power to do much of the heavy lifting.

Lt. Col. Mohammad Darwish said the main roads and fields were littered with homemade bombs and that suicide car bomb attacks slowed progress.

Fighters entered the villages in Humvees but did not get out of their vehicles because it was too dangerous, a Peshmerga major said, speaking on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to brief the press.

The IS-run news agency, Aamaq, said the group carried out eight suicide attacks against Kurdish forces and destroyed two Humvees belonging to the Kurdish forces and Shiite militias east of the city.

Kurdish forces confirmed at least one such attack. Hisham Kazar, a Kurdish peshmerga fighter said one of his relatives died Monday as the Mosul operation got underway when a suicide car bomber rammed the Humvee he was riding in.

"This kind of sacrifice is worth it because we are fighting for Kurdish territory," he said, "I wouldn't say the same if we were fighting in Iraqi land."

The operation so far hasn't run into what is expected to be one of its most significant obstacles: Mosul's civilian population of more than a million people. The United Nations said Monday that the largest wave of displaced people is expected to begin next week as Iraqi forces enter territory where thousands are living.

The political and security crisis triggered by the fall of Mosul more than two years ago also contributed to the rise in power of armed groups that only loosely fall under the control of the central government. Some Iraqi politicians have warned that even after a victory in Mosul, violence could erupt between groups who once had a common enemy.

The role of Shiite militia forces in the Mosul operation has been particularly sensitive as the groups have

been accused of carrying out abuses against civilians in other mostly Sunni parts of Iraq where they have operated.

At a frontline some 30 kilometers southeast of Mosul, Kurdish peshmerga fighter Sarwat Faris, dressed in a black commando uniform, prepared to roll into a village held by IS. He said he believes pushing the militants out of Mosul will make Iraq's north safer, but he doesn't believe it will bring peace to the country as a whole.

"Next, the fight will be between us and the (Shiite) militias," he said. "They don't like us because we are Kurdish and Sunni, they hate our people, and we hate them."

"Maybe as soon as the New Year, we will be fighting each other."

Associated Press writers Adam Schreck in Irbil, Iraq; Ahmed Sami and Sinan Salaheddin in Baghdad; Qassim Abdul-Zahra in Khazer, Iraq; Maamoun Youssef in Cairo; Geir Moulson in Berlin; Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey, and Vivian Salama in Washington contributed to this report.

Charities thinking twice about galas at Trump's Mar-a-Lago

By **JEFF HORWITZ, BERNARD CONDON and MAE ANDERSON, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A staple of Palm Beach's high-end philanthropy circuit, the Mar-a-Lago Club boasts rich history, an 800-seat ballroom and ocean views. But some major charities and fundraisers are now concerned with a different feature: the property's owner, Donald Trump.

Following the leak of Trump boasting about grabbing women by their genitals and allegations that he inappropriately touched women — in two instances at Mar-a-Lago — the Susan G. Komen Foundation is leaning toward finding a new location for its Perfect Pink Party on Jan. 14, a million-dollar breast cancer fundraiser it booked a year ago.

The charity has no position on Trump, the GOP presidential nominee, but wants to keep its event separate from "controversies unrelated to our mission," said Andrea Rader, a spokeswoman for the organization. The group won't make a final decision about whether to abandon its deposit until after October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

But, Rader said, "those are things that have to be discussed."

Event planners who spoke with the AP forecast trouble ahead for the high-end party space.

"There's a cloud over Mar-a-Lago," said Lynne Goldberg of Boca Entertainment, Inc., a party planner who has overseen numerous weddings and fundraisers at the venue, including a 2014 gala for the March of Dimes. She stressed her opinion had nothing to do with politics.

"The sad part is that the venue is so beautiful — it's considered the ultimate to hold an event in. What we want to do as event planners is to make everyone happy. The last thing you want is for someone to say, oh my God, how could she hold an event there?" she said.

Margaret Holman, who runs the fundraising consulting firm Holman Consulting, said charities would have to focus on the fact that they had already signed contracts with Mar-a-Lago and put down deposits. But behind the scenes, she said: "People are going to take this to the full board and let them air their full concerns. Charities who have already engaged are between a rock and a hard place."

Those large, nonrefundable deposits may minimize any rush for the exits this year.

The Palm Beach Habilitation Center, which serves the disabled community, said it won't break its contract for a Feb. 20 fundraiser at Mar-a-Lago — but president Tina Philips said the party's organizers would be mindful of Trump's controversies going forward.

"I can assure you that will be a big consideration when we discuss it next year," Philips said.

The Cleveland Clinic and the Dana Farber Cancer Institute also said they are committed to this year's events.

The Palm Beach Zoo and Conservation Society has held its annual gala for about 500 people at the Mar-a-Lago for several years now, and it's holding its next one there in January.

"All this was set in stone for quite some time," said zoo spokeswoman Naki Carter, adding about the impending party, "It's crunch time."

Longer term, Holman said, charities that continue renting out Mar-a-Lago could rub donors the wrong way. "I can understand Susan G. Komen wanting to switch out," said Tracey Wiseman, a nonprofit management and fundraising consultant. "If I were the president or CEO, I'd be considering another location where I'd have neutrality. And there is not neutrality in Mar-a-Lago."

Since the beginning of the campaign, what effect Trump's bombastic political style will have on his brand-heavy business interests has been unclear. Macy's, Nascar and NBC cut ties with Trump early after his comments disparaging Mexican immigrants, but Trump has said his brand is hotter than ever.

The Trump Organization referred calls on the subject of Mar-a-Lago events bookings to an outside public relations agency, which declined to comment. Nonprofit skittishness poses a risk to Donald Trump's business interests: a single fundraiser can bring the club more than \$300,000. For large, high-end events in Palm Beach, there isn't much choice. Aside from the Trump resort, only the luxury hotel The Breakers can hold more than 500 people.

Not everyone who spoke to AP was concerned.

"This will be our 17th annual Women of Grace luncheon," said Lisa Kronhaus, spokeswoman for the nonprofit Bethesda Health, Inc., which operates hospitals in Florida. She said she had heard no concerns from members to date, and said the controversies around Trump would probably not affect her organization's choice of Mar-a-Lago in the future.

High school graduation rate hits record high of 83.2 percent

By KEVIN FREKING, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's high school graduation rate has reached a record 83.2 percent, continuing a steady increase that shows improvement across all racial and ethnic groups, according to federal data released Monday.

President Barack Obama welcomed the higher rate as good news, but the gains come against a backdrop of decreasing scores on national math and reading tests.

Education Secretary John B. King Jr. acknowledged worries about sagging achievement. "A higher graduation rate is meaningful progress, but certainly we share the concern that we have more work to do to make sure every student graduates ready for what's next," he said.

Obama visited Benjamin Banneker Academic High School, a magnet school in the District of Columbia, to tout the graduation rate for the 2014-2015 school year. "More African-American and Latino students are graduating than ever before," he said.

Gains also were seen for disabled students and those from low-income families.

The District of Columbia made the most progress in the U.S. in 2014-2015 compared to the previous year, improving its graduation rate by 7 percentage points.

Obama applauded the high school for graduating all its seniors. "It's been a while since I did math, but 100 percent is good. You can't do better than that," Obama told the audience, which included King, former Education Secretary Arne Duncan, Mayor Muriel Bowser and former Secretary of State Colin Powell.

At the same time, he also warned the students they would need more than a high school diploma to succeed in today's job market. He said that repetitive work done in factories or offices can now be done by machine. They would need critical thinking skills.

"We live in a global economy," Obama said. "And the best jobs are going to go to the people who are the best educated, whether in India or China, or anywhere in the world."

Before the president spoke, King said the graduation rate was more than just a number. "It represents real students in real cities, towns and rural communities who are better prepared for success in college and careers," King said during a conference call with reporters.

The administration said the graduation rate has increased by about 4 percentage points since the 2010-2011 school year. Obama frequently cites the increase when he talks to groups about progress made during his presidency.

Despite the increase in the graduation rate, test scores are declining.

Last year, math scores for fourth and eighth graders dropped for the first time in 25 years on the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress — also known as the Nation's Report Card. Reading scores were not much better: flat for fourth graders and lower for eighth graders compared with 2013. Average scores on SAT and ACT college entrance exams have also shown declines.

The growth in graduation rates has been steady since states adopted a uniform way of tracking students. In 2008, the George W. Bush administration ordered states to begin using a formula that is considered a more accurate count of how many students actually finish school.

Several groups campaigning for a 90 percent graduation rate by 2020 welcomed the progress, but said much work remains.

"Too many young people are still being left behind," said an array of education groups leading the Grad-Nation campaign.

The groups said that nearly 700,000 16-19 year olds are not in school and do not have a high school diploma, and they called for a redoubling of efforts to close graduation gaps among minority and poor students, English-language learners, homeless students and students with disabilities.

Obama also emphasized there was more work to do. He said too many states have cut education funding and many still aren't working seriously to raise learning standards.

"In too many school districts, we still have schools that despite the heroic efforts of a lot of great teachers are not fully preparing their kids for success because they don't have the resources to do it, or the structure to do it," Obama said.

The administration reported significant differences in graduation rates among groups. Asian Americans had a 90.2 percent graduation rate, while whites were at 87.6 percent, followed by Hispanics at 77.8 percent, African-Americans at 74.6 percent and Native Americans at 71.6 percent.

The White House said money invested through a grant program called Race to the Top has helped improve some of the nation's lowest-performing schools. The administration also said millions of students have gained access to high-speed broadband in their classrooms, and that state and federal governments have helped hundreds of thousands more children gain access to preschool programs.

Associated Press writers Jennifer C. Kerr and Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

As time runs out, dozens of judge nominees waiting on Senate

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal judges in New Jersey have struggled with a workload approaching 700 cases each, nearly double what's manageable, because of judicial vacancies. In Texas, close to a dozen district judgeships remain open, more than in any other state.

Senate confirmation of President Barack Obama's nominees slowed to a halt this election year, a common political occurrence for the final months of divided government with a Democratic president and a Republican-controlled Senate. The vacancy on the Supreme Court attracted the most attention as Republicans refused to even hold confirmation hearings for Merrick Garland, insisting that the choice to fill the vacancy created by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia in February rests with the next president.

But more than 90 vacancies in the federal judiciary are taking a toll on judges, the courts and Americans seeking recourse. Obama has nominated replacements for more than half of those spots, including 44 nominees for the district court and seven for the appeals court. Yet the Senate has confirmed only nine district and appeals court judges this year — and only four since Scalia died.

The U.S. court system has declared 35 of the vacancies "judicial emergencies," a designation based on how many filings are in the district and how long the seat has been open.

Senate Democrats, along with some Republicans who want to fill vacancies in their home states, are pushing Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to hold confirmation votes in the lame-duck session between the election and the end of the year. But McConnell has said repeatedly that Obama has already gotten more judges confirmed over his eight years in office than President George W. Bush did.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 45 of 51

"I think President Obama has been treated very fairly by any objective standard," McConnell, R-Ky., said last month.

The Senate has confirmed 329 of Obama's federal judicial nominees to lifetime appointments; 326 federal judges were confirmed under Bush. Obama prevailed in part because Democrats controlled the Senate for six of his eight years.

Both Obama and Bush have had fewer confirmations than previous two-term presidents Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan, who had 377 and 382 federal judges confirmed, respectively.

Democrats point out that they confirmed 68 judicial nominees after taking control of the Senate in the last two years of the Bush administration. Republicans have only confirmed 22 nominees since taking control of the Senate early last year.

"These vacancies make it harder for the federal courts to do their job," said Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the No. 2 Senate Democrat. He noted that 30 of the nominations have been approved in committee and are waiting for floor action.

"The Republican majority will not give them votes even though some of these nominees have been waiting for nearly a year and even though they would be easily confirmed," Durbin said.

In Texas, there are 11 district court seats open, including some along the case-heavy border with Mexico. Obama has nominated replacements for five of the open district seats in Texas, and the state's two Republican senators support them. But none has received a vote.

"There are judges that want to retire but they are holding onto their seats because they know they may not be replaced for four to five years," said Phillip Martin, deputy director of Progress Texas, a liberal advocacy group in Austin.

Those pushing McConnell to move on the nominations are hoping that he will do so if Democrat Hillary Clinton wins the presidency, since Clinton is likely to re-nominate many of the same judges.

That's less likely if Republican Donald Trump wins, though the nomination process is often bipartisan.

Home state senators typically work with the president, regardless of party, to choose judges for federal district courts. Tennessee's two Republican senators back Edward Stanton, a district court nominee for that state, and Republican Sen. Pat Toomey, who is in a tough re-election fight, has been pushing for confirmation of several Pennsylvania judges.

One of the nominees waiting the longest for a vote is Julian Neals, nominated in February 2015 to fill the seat in New Jersey's 3rd District. The state has another district court vacancy as well, but Obama hasn't nominated a replacement.

Judge Jerome Simandle, the chief federal judge in New Jersey, told the state's bar association in May that the vacancies have impaired their ability to promptly resolve cases. He said that the weighted caseload for judges in the state at that time was 700, compared to the court system's standard of 430 per judge.

"We desperately need a new judge in the federal courts in New Jersey, just based on the sheer numbers that statistics bear out," said Thomas Prol, president of the New Jersey State Bar Association.

Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., tried to move Neals' nomination, but McConnell blocked him, offering instead to move four other judges. Booker objected, since Neals and Tennessee nominee Stanton — who are both black — were next in line to be confirmed.

"Continued judicial vacancies means the American people must wait a year or two or longer to receive justice in a case," Booker said.

Associated Press writers Josh Cornfield in Trenton, New Jersey, and Will Weissert in Austin, Texas, contributed to this report.

DIVIDED AMERICA: Seeing options shrinking, white men ask why By **MATT SEDENSKY, AP National Writer**

DALLAS (AP) — The voices cascade into the studio, denouncing political hypocrisy and media bias and disappearing values. Hillary Clinton is a liar and a crook, they say; Donald Trump is presidential and

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 46 of 51

successful. By the time the 16th caller reaches the air, Rick Roberts' show has reached an impassioned crescendo of anger and lamentation.

What has happened to this once-great land? What has happened to the better lives our children were promised?

What has happened?

Roberts, WBAP's bearded, rodeo-roping, husky-voiced host, has heard enough.

"I want my country back," he begins.

EDITOR'S NOTE — This is part of Divided America, AP's ongoing exploration of the economic, social and political divisions in American society.

He repeats that sentence a half-dozen times in a 4½-minute rant that darts from fear of crime to out-sourced jobs to political correctness. He pans soulless politicians and has-been celebrities and psycho-babble hug-a-tree experts; he pines for a time when everyone spoke English and looked you in the eye and meant what they said. It's a fervent soliloquy that dismisses transgender people and calls for faith to regain public footing and for economic opportunity to return.

"I want America to be America," he says. "I want some semblance of what this country used to be. It's worth protecting. It's worth defending. I don't recognize this country anymore."

This is a white male voice preaching to a largely white male audience that has expressed many of the same sentiments, in dribs and drabs, in hushed watercooler conversations and boisterous barroom exchanges, around kitchen tables — and most of all, in the course of a presidential campaign in which Trump has become their champion and their hope.

Certainly, not all white males agree. But at this moment in American history, to be white and male means, for many, to question what happened to the opportunities once theirs for the taking, to see others getting ahead and wonder why, to feel centuries of privilege and values slipping away.

"They're taking everything from us," says one of the day's callers, Stephen Sanders. "I don't want my community changed."

The callers express resentment of immigrants who came here illegally, suspicion of Muslims, disdain for gays. They rail against a coarsening of culture, while backing a man who brags about making unwanted sexual advances. They voice bitterness toward a society they see as rallying to save an endangered animal or to lobby for the bathroom rights of transgender children, while seeming to ignore their own pain.

To many, the notion of white men being marginalized is ludicrous, their history a study in power and privilege, from the Founding Fathers to the "Mad Men" era and through their continued dominance in boardrooms and government. Yet they have suffered some real losses, even as they maintain advantages:

—Whites saw their household net worth fall from a median of \$192,500 before the Great Recession to \$141,900 in 2013, according to a Pew Research Center analysis. (The declines of blacks and Hispanics were far larger, and whites still have an average net worth about 13 times greater than blacks and 10 times greater than Hispanics.)

—Factoring in inflation, white men's salaries have barely budged in the past decade, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data. (Still, they cash paychecks, on average, far larger than those of women, blacks and Hispanics, and have a lower rate of unemployment.)

—The home ownership rate for whites, 71.5 percent in the second quarter of this year, is down from the same period a decade earlier, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. (Black and Hispanic home-ownership, already lower, dropped at a far sharper rate.)

—White women have overtaken men in earning college degrees, according to census data. (White men still hold a big educational advantage over blacks and Hispanics.)

—The number of incarcerated white men has ballooned, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. (Black and Hispanic men remain far more likely to be jailed.)

—Fueled by suicides, drug overdoses and alcohol-related illnesses, mortality rates for middle-age whites have increased even as they continue to fall among middle-age blacks and Hispanics, a shift recorded

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 47 of 51

in a landmark study last year in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. (Still, white men continue to have a longer life expectancy than black men, according to Centers for Disease Control data, though shorter than Hispanics.)

These are among the changes that have sent white men to Tea Party gatherings, to fractious town hall meetings and, more recently, to Trump's rallies. Some argue, though, that their rage has been misplaced.

"What's made their lives more difficult is not what they think," said Michael Kimmel, a Stony Brook University professor who studies masculinity and wrote the book "Angry White Men." "LGBT people didn't outsource their jobs. Minorities didn't cause climate change. Immigrants didn't issue predatory loans from which they now have lost their houses and everything they ever had. These guys are right to be angry, but they're delivering the mail to the wrong address."

The clock hits 2 p.m., and the top-of-the-hour headlines at WBAP advise of a hurricane swirling in the Pacific and a new poll on the Trump-Clinton race. Roberts' show begins every day with the sounds of the country duo Big & Rich.

"I ain't gonna shut my mouth," they sing. "Don't mind if I stand out in a crowd. Just wanna live out loud. Well I know there's got to be a few hundred million more like me."

The host is authoritative but genial. He doesn't yell, hears out the occasional liberal who dials in, sometimes corrects a caller's inaccuracies. He hands a huge swath of his airtime over to listeners.

Fifteen minutes into the broadcast, Roberts reminds his audience he's a registered independent, not a Republican, though he can't recall the last time he gave a Democrat his vote.

"Let's go to Bill in Garland," Roberts says.

The caller dismisses Hillary and Bill Clinton as "liars, cheats and thieves" and says he doesn't think he could vote for the Democrat even if his three grandchildren were held hostage.

Reached by phone three days later, he conceded to a reporter that he used an alias. His name is Jim Drahman and he's a 70-year-old computer technician.

"People are afraid to say anything in public," he says, for fear of offending. "They've got to worry about everything they say."

He just wants to be able to go to work and live freely, he says. He doesn't want the government telling him what he can drink or smoke or drive. He knows taxes are a necessity, but believes they should be lower. He views things through his grandchildren's eyes, and worries about terrorism and the economy, but most of all, about the U.S. maintaining its status in the world.

"I just want them to have a country that I can be proud of," he says.

Calls come in at a steady clip, and when Stephen Sanders dials in, he's enraged by a poll showing Clinton making gains in Texas. "Sir, stop yelling," the show's producer says, before typing in a summary of Sanders' tirade for the host: "Allowing illegals to vote is treason."

Sanders is no calmer a day later. He rages against illegal immigration. The media and most politicians have been co-opted into accepting open borders, he says. Those who came here illegally are "continuing to suck on the labors of people who are contributing."

Sanders' father worked in a warehouse but was able to give his family a life of abundance. Jobs were everywhere. You didn't need a college degree or the resulting load of debt. He misses the simplicity of those times, and laments today's pervasive sex, the tattoos and body piercings and bright blue hair. He is 49 and was once an X-ray technician. He says his skill and years of seniority were ignored when he applied for a supervisory job that ultimately went to a black candidate he said "walked right off the street." He later fell into depression and now receives a disability check.

"You're white, you're male, you're the least considered," he says. "As far as white privilege, I see it. I would think it was there if I went to Princeton or Yale or if my name was Hillary or Clinton. As far as me, no."

Despite Trump's privileged upbringing and Ivy League education, Sanders was pleased when the billionaire announced his candidacy; he was thrilled to hear someone give voice to his feelings about immigration and outsourcing and restoring opportunity for guys like him. It felt, he said, like seeing decades of painful history starting to be reversed. He wants to return to work. He wants to be productive. He wants to live

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 48 of 51

a better life than his father, but he doesn't.

"The theme about the American experience is to get better and to do more," he says. "I've never experienced it. I've always struggled."

Roberts' show breaks for the news again (a highway accident, a missing man with dementia, more hot weather). He plays a clip of Trump insisting he'll build a border wall and returns to the air calling Clinton "the Teflon mom" before going to a caller — "Jon in Cedar Hill" — who says the former secretary of state should be convicted.

Jon Hayes is deep into his daily radio routine, a listening marathon that starts with the midnight-to-5-a.m. "Red Eye Radio" and ends with Roberts' show, which wraps up at 5 p.m. For Hayes, sleep comes in spurts, including an extended nap during Rush Limbaugh's time slot.

He wonders where the tear-down-this-wall strength of the Reagan era went. He sees modern-day America as an internet-governed, me-me-me culture. Tired of political correctness, he sometimes wears a T-shirt that says, "Prepare To Be Offended."

Hayes once had his own construction business, but he said it folded and he lost his house when it became impossible to compete against the cheap labor of immigrants who came to the U.S. illegally. He fell back on his knowledge of auto mechanics. Though he is 55, he had hoped to retire this year; he has put it off. A grown son still lives at home, and for all the setbacks Hayes has had in his life, he believes he's still able to say something that he's not sure the 29-year-old will: He achieved a better life than his parents.

"I just don't think the opportunity is out there now that there used to be," he says.

He's far from alone in his pessimism. A Kaiser Family Foundation-CNN poll released in September compared white college graduates and the white, black and Hispanic working class. Working-class whites were least likely to say that they're satisfied with their influence in the political process, that the federal government represents their views, and that they believe their children will achieve a better standard of living than themselves. They were most likely to say it has become harder to get ahead financially and find good jobs in recent years, and most likely to blame economic problems on the federal government and immigrants working here illegally.

WBAP estimates Roberts' audience is about two-thirds male and overwhelmingly white, though women and minorities also call in on this day and you needn't look far, even in Roberts' own studio, to find a white man who doesn't subscribe to conservative orthodoxy.

On the other side of the glass from the host, monitoring a bank of four screens and a large audio board, is Randy Williams. Roberts says he's a "hair-on-fire liberal," but the 65-year-old Navy veteran calls himself a fiscal conservative and a social progressive, but mostly a disaffected American.

"Nobody represents my interests," he says. "There's the 5 percent on the far left and the 5 percent on the far right and 90 percent of us are stuck in the middle."

"Ken in Dallas. Ken, I appreciate your patience."

Ken from Dallas is Ken Hindman, a 57-year-old gas tanker driver. He tells Roberts that Clinton is like mobster John Gotti.

Later, he takes a break from driving his 18-wheeler toward Dallas Love Field, pulling over to a rest stop to expand on his views.

He says he doesn't "feel one iota of responsibility" for the wrongs committed against black Americans. When filling out a form asking his race, he checks "other." He's tired of labels; when he opposed Obama, he complains, he was branded a racist. Trump, he admits, was not his first choice. But he has earned Hindman's fervent support.

"He says the things that a lot of people that I know feel," he says.

There was a time when white men were the ones earning the paychecks and deciding who pulls the levers of power. Now, many of them say they're just looking to be heard. So when they amass in arenas to hear Trump, or call into Roberts' studio to share their thoughts, their voices carry more than anger.

Here, they say, is a wisp of the respect and validation they long to regain.

Roberts sees his "I want my country back" monologue as a tonic for that despair. When you're on the air three hours a day, five days a week, the listener angst can be overwhelming. It was about two years ago when he delivered the rant, impromptu, on a day when he reached a saturation point.

He feels that same anguish. Roberts says his parents were never in his life. He was raised by grandparents and, when they grew too old, he was emancipated at age 15 and landed at a boys' ranch. "I fell on my ass more than I can count," the 53-year-old says, dismissing any thought of privilege he may have inherited. "I didn't feel real privileged at the time."

He scraped his way up, earned an MBA and law degree, and made a career negotiating offshore oil contracts. He started in radio 22 years ago and now presides over a kingdom of white man's woe, listening to talk of disappearing jobs and ballooning debt and fading morals.

He can't remember precisely what prompted his unscripted oratory — maybe what Roberts calls Barack Obama's "apology tour," or perceived pushback against American exceptionalism. It resonated, though, and he keeps an MP3 of the audio on his computer and airs it every now and again.

He clicks the file and it begins to play:

"I want my country back, and the only way, the only way I'm ever going to be able to get this country back is if I reach out to the brothers and sisters that all feel the very same way and say, 'Hell, no, you can't have the country.'"

"Stop it! How many different ways do we say stop it!?"

Sedensky can be reached at mstedensky@ap.org or <https://twitter.com/sedensky> .

Asian stocks gain before China data, Europe rate meeting

By **YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stock markets rose Tuesday ahead of China's release of quarterly growth data and a policy meeting of the European Central Bank later in the week.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 added 0.1 percent to 16,920.86 while South Korea's Kospi gained 0.3 percent to 2,033.14. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index gained 0.9 percent to 23,239.97 and China's Shanghai Composite Index advanced 0.5 percent to 3,056.93. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.4 percent to 5,412.50. Stocks in Southeast Asia were mostly higher. But Thailand's main index dropped 0.6 percent.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "This week's China monthly data dump will certainly attract attention given last week's deplorable trade data," said Stephen Innes, a senior trader at OANDA. "After a shaky start to the year, China economy has stabilized thanks to easy money policy and massive infrastructure builds."

FOCUS ON EUROPE: Investors were waiting a news conference by the European Central Bank's slated for Thursday. The probability of another rate cut by the bank is low but analysts said surprises could send jitters through markets.

WALL STREET: Wall Street closed moderately lower on Monday. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 51.98 points, or 0.3 percent, to 18,086.40. The S&P 500 index slid 6.48 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,126.50. The Nasdaq composite index fell 14.34 points, or 0.3 percent, to 5,199.82.

OIL: U.S. benchmark crude oil added 29 cents to \$50.23 per barrel in New York. The contract fell 41 cents, or 0.8 percent, to close at \$49.94 a barrel on Monday. Brent crude, the international standard, gained 33 cents at \$51.85 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar weakened to 103.82 yen from 103.87 on Friday, while the euro strengthened to \$1.1023 from \$1.1002.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 50 of 51

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 18, the 292nd day of 2016. There are 74 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 18, 1962, James D. Watson, Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins were honored with the Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology for determining the double-helix molecular structure of DNA.

On this date:

In 1685, King Louis XIV signed the Edict of Fontainebleau, revoking the Edict of Nantes that had established legal toleration of France's Protestant population, the Huguenots.

In 1767, the Mason-Dixon line, the boundary between colonial Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware, was set as astronomers Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon completed their survey.

In 1867, the United States took formal possession of Alaska from Russia.

In 1892, the first long-distance telephone line between New York and Chicago was officially opened (it could only handle one call at a time).

In 1922, the British Broadcasting Co., Ltd. (later the British Broadcasting Corp.) was founded.

In 1931, inventor Thomas Alva Edison died in West Orange, New Jersey, at age 84.

In 1944, Soviet troops invaded Czechoslovakia during World War II.

In 1954, Texas Instruments unveiled the Regency TR-1, the first commercially produced transistor radio.

In 1969, the federal government banned artificial sweeteners known as cyclamates (SY'-kluh-maytz) because of evidence they caused cancer in laboratory rats.

In 1977, West German commandos stormed a hijacked Lufthansa jetliner on the ground in Mogadishu, Somalia, freeing all 86 hostages and killing three of the four hijackers.

In 1982, former first lady Bess Truman died at her home in Independence, Missouri, at age 97.

In 1997, a monument honoring American servicewomen, past and present, was dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery.

Ten years ago: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, visiting Tokyo, said the United States was willing to use its full military might to defend Japan in light of North Korea's nuclear test. The Dow Jones industrial average passed 12,000 for the first time before pulling back to close at 11,992.68.

Five years ago: Fifty wild animals were released by the owner of a Zanesville, Ohio, farm, Terry Thompson, who then committed suicide; authorities killed 48 of the creatures, while the remaining two were presumed eaten by other animals. The Republican presidential candidates laced into each other in their latest debate, held in Las Vegas; Mitt Romney emerged as still the person to beat, even as he was called out on the issues of illegal immigration, health care and jobs. Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit (gee-LAHD' shah-LEET') emerged from five years in captivity as Hamas militants handed him over to Egyptian mediators in an exchange for 1,000 Palestinian prisoners.

One year ago: Habtom Zerhom, an Eritrean migrant, died after he was shot by an Israeli security guard and then attacked by bystanders who'd mistaken him for a Palestinian assailant in a deadly bus station attack in the southern city of Beersheba. The Mets breezed past the Chicago Cubs 4-1 for a 2-0 lead in the NL Championship Series. Actor-comedian Eddie Murphy was honored with the Mark Twain Prize, the nation's top prize for humor, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Today's Birthdays: Rock-and-roll performer Chuck Berry is 90. Sportscaster Keith Jackson is 88. Actress Dawn Wells is 78. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Mike Ditka is 77. Singer-musician Russ Giguere is 73. Actor Joe Morton is 69. Actress Pam Dawber is 66. Author Terry McMillan is 65. Writer-producer Chuck Lorre is 64. Gospel singer Vickie Winans is 63. Director-screenwriter David Twohy (TOO'-ee) is 61. International Tennis Hall of Famer Martina Navratilova is 60. Boxer Thomas Hearns is 58. Actor Jean-Claude Van Damme is 56. Actress Erin Moran is 56. Jazz musician Wynton Marsalis is 55. Actor Vincent Spano is 54. Rock musician Tim Cross is 50. Tennis player Michael Stich (sh-teek) is 48. Singer Nonchalant is 43. Actress Joy Bryant is 42. Rock musician Peter Svenson (The Cardigans) is 42. Actor Wesley Jonathan is

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 108 ~ 51 of 51

38. Rhythm-and-blues singer-actor Ne-Yo is 37. Country singer Josh Gracin is 36. Country musician Jesse Littleton (Marshall Dyllon) is 35. Olympic gold medal skier Lindsey Vonn is 32. Jazz singer-musician Esperanza Spalding is 32. Actress-model Freida Pinto is 32. Actor Zac Efron is 29. Actress Joy Lauren is 27. TV personality Bristol Palin is 26. Actor Tyler Posey is 25. Actor Toby Regbo is 25.

Thought for Today: "Slow down and enjoy life. It's not only the scenery you miss by going too fast — you also miss the sense of where you are going and why." — Eddie Cantor, American comedian-singer (1892-1964).