

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 1 of 45

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- McKiver Collision Ad
- 2- Olde Bank Floral Open House
- 3- Dollar General is Hiring ad
- 4- Sweet 16 VB Brackets
- 5- Weekly Vikings Roundup
- 6- Governor Daugaard's Column
- 7- Senator Rounds' Column
- 8- Rep. Noem's Column
- 9- Senator Thune's Column
- 10- One Voice Ad
- 11- Legion Turkey Party Ad
- 12- Dairy Queen Free blizzard for Veterans
- 13- Today in Weather History
- 14- Local Weather Forecast
- 15- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 15- Today's Weather Climate
- 15- National Weather map
- 16- Golden Living Ad
- 16- Daily Devotional
- 17 - AP News

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**

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Monday, Nov. 7

School Breakfast: Cheese omelette, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Lasagna hotdish, corn, romaine salad, fruit, bread stick.
Senior Menu: Beef stroganoff noodles, mixed vegetables, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.
4 p.m.: Family Night at GHS Arena
7 p.m.: School Play
7 p.m.: City Council Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 8

Senior Menu: Tater tot hot dish, green beans, grape juice, sour cream apple pie square, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Chili, cornbread, carrots and dip, fruit.
Debate at Watertown
8 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

Wednesday, Nov. 9

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, green beans, romaine salad, fruit.
Senior Menu: Roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas, tomato spoon salad, carrot bar, whole wheat bread.
FBLA Blood Drive at the GHS Gym
3:45 p.m.: St. John's Lutheran Confirmation
6:30 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran League
7 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran confirmation

Thursday, Nov. 10

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk.
School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, smiley potatoes, carrots and dip, Fruit, muffin.
Senior Menu: Baked chicken breast, rice pilaf, cauliflower/pea salad, tapiocia pudding, whole wheat bread.

MCKIVER COLLISION
Lifetime Warranty on all Collision Work!
13556 400th Ave., Groton SD 57445
Allen McKiver, Owner ~ 605/397-4404

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 2 of 45

Holiday open house

November 10-12

Thursday 9am-5pm

Friday 9am - 5pm

Saturday 10am-4pm

Discounts through
out the store

Daily door prize
drawings

Wine Sampling each
day

Shop Local!



101 N Main St, Groton SD
605-397-8650

find us on facebook, instagram or at
www.oldebankfloralsd.com

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

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 4 of 45

Class A Volleyball Sweet 16

[Print Sweet 16](#)

The eight (8) winners of the Sweet 16 contests will be re-seeded for the State Tournament.

#1 Dakota Valley

Scores:

Date: 11/10/2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Site: Wagner Community School

Scores:

#16 Winner

STATE QUALIFIER

STATE QUALIFIER

#5 Mobridge-Pollock

Scores:

Date: 11/10/2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Site: Pierre Riggs Gym

Scores:

#12

Pine Ridge

#2 Custer

Scores:

Date: 11/10/2016

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Site: Stanley County Gym

Scores:

#15 Sioux Valley

STATE QUALIFIER

STATE QUALIFIER

#6 West Central

Scores:

Date: 11/10/2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Site: Madison Gym

Scores:

#11

Groton Area

Seed	School	Seed Pts.
1	Dakota Valley	45.50
2	Custer	45.31
3	SF Christian	45.14
4	Bon Homme	44.03
5	Mobridge-Pollock	43.73
6	West Central	43.65
7	St. Thomas More	43.55
8	Miller	43.43

Seed	School	Seed Pts.
9	Milbank Area	43.22
10	Madison	42.63
11	Groton Area	42.27
12	Pine Ridge	41.52
13	Elk Point-Jefferson	41.07
14	Redfield/Doland	41.00
15	Sioux Valley	40.96
16	Winner	38.85

#3 SF Christian

Scores:

Date: 11/10/2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Site: Parkston National Guard Armory

Scores:

#14 Redfield/Doland

STATE QUALIFIER

STATE QUALIFIER

#7 St. Thomas More

Scores:

Date: 11/10/2016

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Site: Chamberlain Armory

Scores:

#10

Madison

#4 Bon Homme

Scores:

Date: 11/10/2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Site: Beresford Gym

Scores:

#13 Elk Point-Jefferson

STATE QUALIFIER

STATE QUALIFIER

#8 Miller

Scores:

Date: 11/10/2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Site: Deubrook Area Gym

Scores:

#9 Milbank Area

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 5 of 45

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Another week, another agonizing loss for the Minnesota Vikings.

Even though Detroit played well, the Vikings still had a chance to win the game at the end. A late Rhett Ellison touchdown gave the Vikings a 3-point lead with only 23 seconds left on the clock, but Matthew Stafford drove the Lions into field goal range, sending the teams to overtime. Detroit got the ball first and proceeded to walk down the field and score the game-winning touchdown.

The Vikings' offense underwent another major shakeup this past week, when offensive coordinator Norv Turner abruptly resigned. Pat Shurmur will fill the vacant role for the rest of the season, and unless he fails miserably, he will likely keep the position next year. Shurmur has an excellent rapport with quarterback Sam Bradford, which should make the change moderately manageable.

The Vikings' offense seems to have taken a step forward in Shurmur's first game as OC. The Vikings will now throw the ball more, electing to go with the quick hitting passes instead of the slow developing routes that were common in Turner's old offense. Bradford threw the ball 40 times on Sunday, the most in any start since he's been in purple and gold. Another difference was in the running game, where the Vikings picked up a couple long runs which have been few and far between this year.

The Vikings' offense did their part on Sunday, but the Vikings' defense is another story. Through the first five game of the season, the Vikings had the best defense in football. After losing the past three games, that can no longer be said. The thing that worries me the most is that all three levels of the defense are playing poorly. The defensive line was unable to get any pressure and only sacked Stafford once. The linebackers were missing Eric Kendricks, while Anthony Barr has regressed this year and is no longer the feared player he became last year. In the secondary, Rhodes is very up and down, as he's just as likely to make a great play or have a flag thrown his way. Even safety Harrison Smith is missing tackles and failing to make the big play when it's needed. I have a feeling Mike Zimmer will lose his voice this week from yelling too much.

The player of the game is a tie this week, as both Stefon Diggs and Adam Thielen have earned some praise. Diggs caught 13 passes (a career high) for 80 yards while also adding a carry for 12 yards. Diggs appears to be Bradford's go-to target, and if you play in a points-per-reception fantasy football league you might want to play him going forward. Thielen only caught four passes against Detroit, but they went for 68 yards (17 yards per catch). Three of those catches and 52 yards came on the Vikings' final drive of the fourth quarter, as Thielen almost single-handedly carried the team down the field and into field goal range.

The player who needs the most improvement is (once again) Blair Walsh. He only missed one field goal, which was blocked and can't be blamed on him. However, Walsh missed an extra point that kept the Vikings down by one point. Had the kick been made, the Vikings would have gone up by four points with 23 seconds left and likely won the game. I don't know what else can be said, the kid simply isn't a reliable kicker.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will travel to Washington D.C. to take on the Redskins. This game will be a test for the Vikings' defense, as Washington is averaging over 420 yards per game. The Redskins will be coming off their bye-week, so they will be fully rested and ready to go. With the way the Vikings have been playing lately, they will have a hard time coming home with the win.



Planning for the Future: SD's Rest Area Revitalization Plan

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law the National Interstate and Defense Highways Act, creating the interstate highway system. Along with 41,000 miles of roadway came construction of interstate rest areas, which served a dual purpose: to provide basic services for motorists and give travelers a place to get out, stretch their legs and rest.

South Dakota currently has 21 rest areas, some of which were constructed as long ago as 1969. Due to age, several of these facilities are in dire need of major maintenance, renovation or complete reconstruction. Additionally, the availability of information over mobile devices is changing the way that visitors plan their travels and access information about our state. To address these challenges, I asked staff from the departments of Tourism and Transportation to develop a revitalization plan for our rest areas.

After nearly a year of review, analysis, research and discussion, this work group developed a plan which addresses the needs and expectations of today's motorists. Over the next few years, this plan will bring our rest areas into the modern era of travel and help us prepare for the future. Upon completion, South Dakota will offer five staffed welcome centers at our state's borders and at Chamberlain, along with 12 additional rest areas along interstates 29 and 90.

The plan includes construction of two new welcome centers near Vermillion and on the Minnesota border, as well as an expanded and remodeled welcome center at Wilmot. These centers will be staffed during the summer months and, in addition to providing a safe place for travelers to stop, serve as South Dakota's "front door" for vacationers seeking tourism information.

The welcome centers will be more extensive than our current rest areas. They will contain enhanced displays and exhibits as well as modern stations for travel-related information, such as road closures, weather conditions and construction. The welcome centers will provide a great first impression for our visitors, and I know South Dakotans will be proud of how well they represent our Great Faces and Great Places. For more information go to sd.gov and type "interstate" or "rest area" into the search engine.

Challenges very often lead to great opportunities. Through the changes outlined in the rest area revitalization plan, we will continue to meet the needs of our travelers and we will make South Dakota even more enticing to visitors. It's a plan that will benefit our state well into the future.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 7 of 45



Thanking our Veterans

Each year on November 11, we recognize the service made by our country's veterans. The date is meaningful, as November 11, 1918 is the day World War I finally came to an end and November 11 became a holiday called Armistice Day. In 1954, the 11th day of November became a legal holiday, reminding Americans to honor all veterans. This year, we commemorate the day by thanking the generations of South Dakotans who have answered the call to serve.

South Dakota has one of the highest rates of military membership per capita in the nation, and we are home to more than 72,000 veterans. It is a privilege for me to serve on two Senate committees tasked with improving service for current military members and veterans: the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

I have introduced and cosponsored a number of bills specifically designed to help veterans. The Veterans First Act, which I cosponsored, takes meaningful steps to hold the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) accountable and, in turn, improve care for our nation's veterans. This bill truly puts the needs of our veterans first by addressing the lack of accountability at the VA.

The Veterans First Act includes a number of provisions I offered to improve care for our veterans, including the Veterans Choice Equal Cost for Care Act, which amends the Choice Act by eliminating the "secondary payer clause" to make certain veterans do not pay more for private care under the Choice Act than they would if they were seen at a VA facility. It also includes my Veterans Health Administration Spending and Transparency Oversight Act. This legislation requires the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to produce an annual report to Congress detailing the cost of the health care it provides. Having accurate cost accounting by the VHA will help Congress identify legislative options aimed at better health care for our nation's veterans. I'm hopeful that Congress will pass the Veterans First Act before the end of the year.

We have four offices throughout South Dakota staffed with specially-trained individuals who can help veterans navigate the often confusing bureaucracy at the VA. We understand that it can be frustrating to have an issue with the VA and not know the best way to resolve it. That's why we are here to help in any way we can. My website, www.rounds.senate.gov, has a list of our office locations and phone numbers. Please let us know if we can help you with any problems you're having with the VA.

Making sure our veterans get the best possible care in the timeliest manner is one of my top priorities working as your senator. Earlier this year, I held a tele-town hall with South Dakota veterans and their families, representatives from the VA and the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. It was a great opportunity for veterans to get their questions answered by experts in the field. We hope to continue doing these tele-town halls in the future.

Our nation's veterans committed to selflessly defend our freedoms. Now they deserve a commitment from the country for which they so bravely fought. This Veterans Day, we say 'thank you' to our veterans and their families, we remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, and we continue doing what we can to improve the lives of the men and women who donned the uniform of the United States of America.



Honoring Veterans and the Caregivers Supporting Them

A woman reached out to our office recently. Her husband, a veteran now, was a medic in the Iraq War. While he's returned home, she told us "it really is like he never came back." He, like as many as one in five Iraq War veterans, suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD.

For thousands, the battle does not end when the deployment does. There are scars – both seen and unseen – that remain. For this South Dakota family, PTSD has shown itself through fits of rage and occasionally a disconnect between the veteran and his children. While the family knew he needed mental health support, it was admittedly difficult to recognize the slow-striking signs of PTSD right away.

Eventually, the family found Coaching into Care, a resource provided by the Veterans Administration (VA). Through this program, they were connected with others who could understand the burdens of war and the difficult-to-discuss challenge of being a caregiver. Additionally, veterans and their caregivers can be introduced to licensed therapists and social workers who could provide professional help.

Offering this support to both veterans and caregivers in this way is critical. Over five million people serve as caregivers for veteran family members, and in doing so, they answer their own call to service. It's a tough job, but there is support out there. In addition to the Coaching into Care program, the VA has set up a special Caregiver Support Line, which can be reached by calling 1-855-260-3274. There is also help offered through the VA Family Caregiver Program.

The woman we spoke to explained that her husband's treatment has helped him a great deal, and she continues to advocate for more mental health research for military personnel. But she emphasized that more than anything, she wants other veterans to recognize the signs of mental illness and know it is absolutely not a weakness or a fault. With her goals in mind, I wanted to share a few of those signs today.

The VA identifies four types of symptoms. First, a veteran may relive a traumatic event or series of events. This may show itself through nightmares, flashbacks, or after experiencing a sight, sound or smell that triggers them to feel the same fear or horror as when the event first occurred.

Second, an individual may avoid situations that remind them of the event, such as crowded areas or driving. Keeping busy or ducking help might also keep them from having to think or talk about the event.

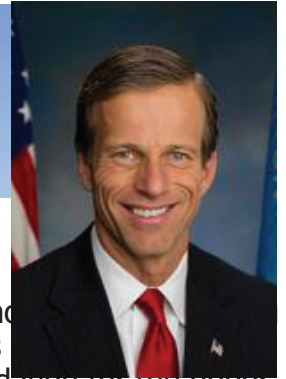
Third, you may see a change in the way a person thinks about themselves or others. Perhaps they avoid relationships or start seeing the world as completely dangerous.

Finally, a veteran may seem to be on the lookout for danger. This symptom may show up in the form of difficulty sleeping or concentrating, anger and irritability, or an unusual jitteriness. If you or a loved one is experiencing any of these symptoms, I encourage you to seek help. If you don't know where to turn, the VA has set up a crisis line. To access it, call 1-800-273-8255 or text 838255.

Our freedom comes at a cost. This month, as we observe both Veterans Day and Caregiver Appreciation Month, I encourage you to reach out to the families who have answered the call of duty. They deserve our respect, support, and gratitude.

To all of those who have fought and for the caregivers who support them today, I know I can never truly understand the depth of the experiences you have endured, but I pray for you always. May God bless and protect you.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



There's Always More Work to Do

Growing up in a small town has its advantages and disadvantages, depending on who you ask me, my siblings, or my dad who still lives in the house we all grew up in, there's no doubt. Growing up in small-town South Dakota helped shape who I am, and it laid the foundation for the opportunities I've had in my life. Sure, Murdo didn't have shopping malls, amusement parks, or movie theaters, but that was part of what made it such a great place to grow up. It would be an understatement to say we lived small, but we always dreamed big. And if I could do it all over again, I wouldn't have it any other way.

Thanks to my mom and dad, my siblings and I learned to love reading, music, sports, and the great outdoors – we still do today. Attending a small school in a small town meant I had no trouble being in band and choir or making the basketball, track, or football teams. I was often able to participate in more than one club or sport at a time, which was a luxury the “big city kids” didn't always have. Today, my three-point shot is still better than my singing voice, but I guess some things never change.

The Midwest values I grew up with in South Dakota helped take me to Washington, D.C., because I did more than just believe in what my parents taught us, I lived by the principles they instilled in us – like hard work, loyalty and dedication to family, and giving back to the community in which you live. Being your senator is more than a job title for me. That's why I take great pride in not only being the senator from South Dakota, but more importantly, the senator for South Dakota and the people who call it home.

We've accomplished a lot of big things for South Dakota in the Senate over the last two years. As chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, I led the way on critical rail reforms that will help address major backlogs like the one that squeezed South Dakota's economy in 2013 and 2014. I played an integral role in getting the first long-term highway bill in nearly a decade to the president's desk, which will help agriculture producers, shippers, and consumers. And as chairman, I wrote a comprehensive transportation security bill that will help protect air travelers in South Dakota and around the country. I could list more, but the only thing more important than what we've been able to accomplish in a relatively short period of time is the significant work that lies ahead of us.

As many South Dakotans can attest to, work never ends on the farm or on the ranch. It never ends in Washington either. The nation's economy is weak, and it's not growing fast or strong enough. The Obama administration's takeover of the nation's health care system is failing, and the tax code is complicated and outdated. There's always more work to do, and I'm up for the challenge. As your senator, I will always fight hard in Washington because I'm inspired by how you continue to fight here in South Dakota for the values in which we all believe and share. You're what makes South Dakota the greatest place to live, work, and raise a family. There's no way around it.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 10 of 45

★ **One Voice** ★ **for Free Enterprise, Gun Rights, and Life**

These candidates support protecting family values, the right to life,
and earned the endorsement of the National Rifle Association



**Brock
Greenfield**
State Senate



**Burt
TULSON**
State House
Thank You



**LANA
GREENFIELD**
DISTRICT 2
FOR HOUSE

You can early vote now at your county courthouse
Election day is November 8th at your regular polling place

SAMPLE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

A	B
<p>November 8, 2016</p> <hr/> <p>For State Representative District 02 you may vote for up to two or leave it blank</p> <hr/> <p><input type="radio"/> Lana Greenfield</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Burton "Burt" Tulson</p> <p><small>Paid for by Greenfield Campaign Committee and Tulson for House</small></p>	<p>SOUTH DAKOTA</p> <p>Instructions to the Voter: To vote for a person FILL IN the oval next to the name. To vote on a ballot question FILL IN the oval next to "yes" or "no". Use only a pencil or pen. If you make a mistake, give the ballot back and get a new one. DO NOT cast more votes than are allowed in each race.</p> <hr/> <p>For State Senator District 02 you may vote for one or leave it blank</p> <hr/> <p><input type="radio"/> Brock L. Greenfield</p>

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 11 of 45

Groton Post No. 39 American Legion



Annual



Turkey Party

Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016

Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Groton Legion Post Home, 10 N. Main.

Turkey, Ham and Bacon
to be given away

FREE ADMISSION

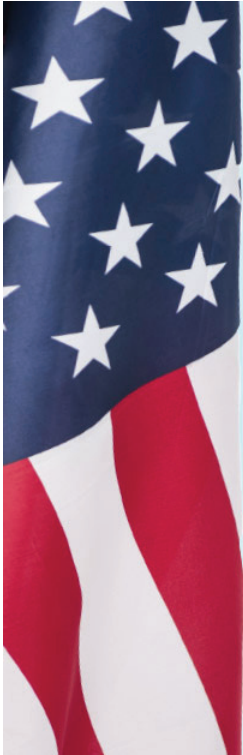
**DOOR
PRIZE!**

Lunch served
by Auxiliary



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 12 of 45



***Veterans & Active
Duty Military****

Enjoy a **FREE**
Medium **Blizzard**[®] Treat

on Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11th
at the **Groton Dairy Queen**

* Active duty and retired members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard or Reserves. This is a local store marketing offer and is only available at participating locations. Must either be in uniform or show valid proof of service (military ID, veterans designation on driver's license or DD214 paperwork).

Limit one per customer, per visit. Not valid with other offers, promotions, or discounts. No cash value. Plus tax if applicable.



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 13 of 45

Today in Weather History

November 7, 1986: A major winter storm dumped 10 to 25 inches of snow over most of North Dakota. The snow combined with strong winds of 30 to 50 mph, and gusts to 70 mph, creating blizzard conditions. Snow began over southern and eastern North Dakota on the morning of the 7th, and by late afternoon, had spread over the entire state. The snowfall was heavy at times, and continued through the night of the 7th. In the southeast quarter, the snow alternated with rain, freezing rain, and sleet. By daybreak on the 8th, snow and blowing snow were occurring statewide. By late morning, the storm had intensified into a blizzard over almost all of North Dakota. The blizzard ended over extreme western North Dakota by late afternoon of the 8th, and over the rest of the state that night. The heaviest snowfall occurred over south central and east central North Dakota. The highest wind gusts of the storm occurred in the north central and northeast sections of the state. Several wind gusts to 58 mph were recorded at Grand Forks, and a gust to 55 mph occurring at the Minot Air Force Base. Wind chills dipped to 40 below over some parts of the state. The storm occurred on the opening day of deer hunting season, and forced many hunters to cancel their trips. The storm stranded many motorists and delayed fire-fighting efforts which caused a few homes and buildings burn down. Snowplow activity had to be halted for many hours because of high winds and blowing snow.

November 6, 2000: Snowfall of 4 to 10 inches combined with northwest winds of 30 to 45 mph, with stronger gusts, to create blizzard conditions throughout much of the day. Numerous schools were cancelled or started late. Many events were also cancelled. Several accidents occurred due to the slick roads and low visibilities. Some storm total snowfall amounts include; 9.5 inches in Selby; 8 inches in Glenham and 12SSW of Harrold; 7.3 inches near Onaka; 7 inches at Faulkton; and 6 inches in Miller.

1940: The Tacoma Narrows Bridge, which opened on July 1, 1940, spanned the Puget Sound from Gig Harbor to Tacoma. At the time of the opening, the bridge was the third longest suspension bridge in the world, covering nearly 6,000 feet. Before the bridge opened, strong winds would cause the bridge to move vertically, giving the nickname Galloping Gertie. On this day in 1940, winds of 40 mph caused the bridge to collapse because of the physical phenomenon known as aeroelastic flutter.

1951: At 7 AM a blinding flash, a huge ball of fire, and a terrific roar occurred over parts of Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, caused by a disintegrating meteor. Windows were broken in and near Hinton Oklahoma by the concussion.

1986 - An early season blizzard struck the Northern Plains Region. North Dakota took the brunt of the storm with wind gusts to 70 mph, and snowfall totals ranged up to 25 inches at Devils Lake. (Storm Data)








1987 - Heavy snow fell across parts of eastern New York State overnight, with twelve inches reported at the town of Piseco, located in the Mohawk Valley. A storm in the southwestern U.S. left nine inches of snow at the Winter Park ski resort in Colorado. Smoke from forest fires reduced visibilities to less than a mile at some locations from North Carolina to Ohio and Pennsylvania. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Unseasonably warm weather continued across the state of Texas. Seven cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Waco and Del Rio with readings of 92 degrees. McAllen was the hot spot in the nation with a high of 96 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Shortly after daybreak strong thunderstorms developed over a narrow, but almost stationary, east-west band across New Orleans, in southeastern Louisiana. As a result, heavy rains persisted over the same area until mid afternoon before tapering off, and triggered flash flooding across a five county area. Eight to twelve inch rains deluged the area between 9 AM and 6 PM, and totals for the 48 hour period ending at 7 AM on the 8th ranged up to 19.78 inches, between Lake Lexy and Lake Borgne. Approximately 6000 homes in the area reported water damage. The rainfall total for November of 19.81 inches at New Orleans was their highest total for any given month of the year. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 14 of 45

Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Clear	Sunny
High: 63 °F	Low: 33 °F	High: 56 °F	Low: 33 °F	High: 68 °F	Low: 38 °F	High: 63 °F



Top 5 Warmest 1st Weeks Of November



Aberdeen:

1904 – 73.4°
 1975 – 69.4°
 1909 – 68.3°
 2016 – 68.1°*
 1978 – 64.3°

Watertown:

1909 – 66.3°
 1975 – 65.9°
 2016 – 65.7°*
 1904 – 64.7°
 1914 – 64.4°

Pierre:

2016 – 71.3°*
 1975 – 71.0°
 1978 – 67.3°
 2001 – 67.0°
 1999 – 65.3°

Mobridge:

2016 – 68.3°*
 1916 – 68.1°
 1975 – 67.0°
 1917 – 66.1°
 1980 – 63.1°

Sisseton:

2016 – 67.7°*
 1975 – 67.6°
 1978 – 66.7°
 1904 – 64.6°
 1981 – 64.1°

*Projection Based On Today's Forecast High



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 11/7/2016 5:58 AM Central

Published on: 11/07/2016 at 5:59AM

With temperatures once again topping out in the 60s - this will go down in history as one of the warmest starts to November on record. Listed above is the top 5 average high temperatures for the first week of November, so the numbers for 2016 may change slightly once we reach the high later today. While today's highs are somewhat cooler than the weather we've had recently, they are still 15 to 20 degrees above average. Possible record warmth will return to the area again Wednesday. Looking at history, these numbers have no bearing on how the rest of winter will turn out - sorry.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 15 of 45

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 69.3 F at 3:15 PM

Low Outside Temp: 51.2 F at 7:23 AM

High Gust: 33.0 Mph at 12:34 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 73° in 1931

Record Low: -9° in 1991

Average High: 45°F

Average Low: 23°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.21

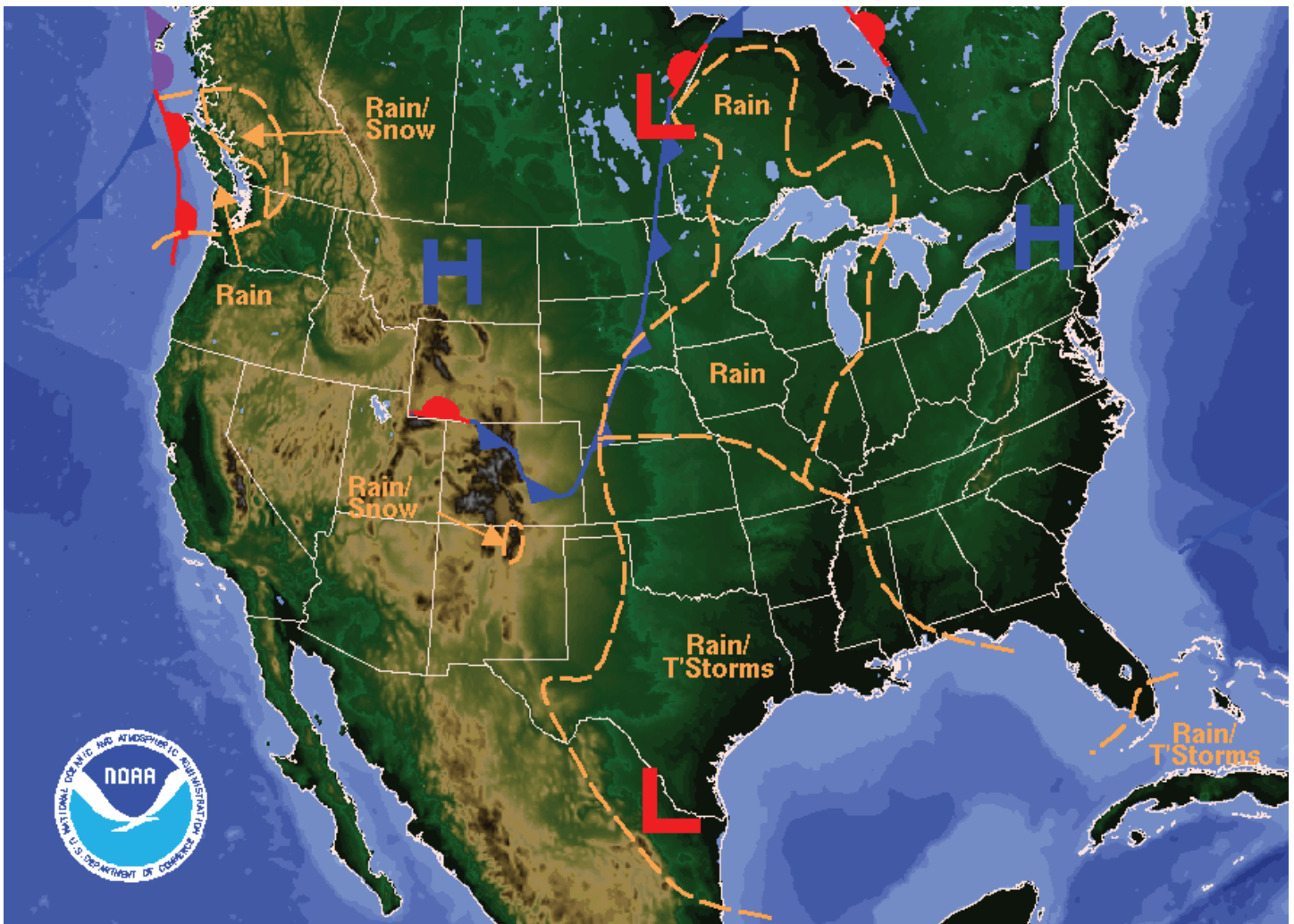
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.68

Precip Year to Date: 15.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:11 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:23 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Nov 07, 2016, issued 4:13 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 16 of 45



HOW MUCH GOOD SHOULD WE HAVE?

It was the first parent-teacher conference of the year. Mrs. Adams was a bit fearful as she entered her son's classroom. She did not know what to expect when she met his teacher.

"Mrs. Adams," she began, "it is a delight to have your son as a student in my class. He is so good!"

"My son?" gasped Mrs. Adams. She was shocked beyond belief.

"Yes. Charles is a model student," the teacher continued.

Then, turning to her son, Mrs. Adams said to Charles, "Your teacher said that you are a good student. Even a model student. Why can't you be good at home?"

"Well, Mom," he replied slowly, "I only got so much goodness in me and I decided to use it in school."

Goodness is an expression of "God-like-ness" that should reside inside of every believer and find its way outside of each of us in showing God's grace to others. God-like-ness should come easily, naturally and constantly in our relationships with others.

As we become more of who God wants us to be, we must allow Him to move freely in us and through us. As we sense His love flooding into our hearts, showing God-like-ness should not be something we force ourselves to do. Rather, it is something we do without even thinking about it because we are a child of God.

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to express Your goodness to others as You have expressed it to us. May our goodness to others reflect Your love for them. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

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Great Plains Zoo strives to conserve and protect animals

By Christopher Dexter, Argus Leader

GREAT PLAINS, S.D. (AP) — Take one step inside the Rare Rhinos of Africa exhibit at the Great Plains Zoo, and immediately you forget how old you are. Standing before you is a nearly 2,500-pound animal not indigenous to South Dakota, the United States or even North America.

It's not every day you get to see an Eastern black rhino, let alone twice in two weeks, all while working. Imara, as she's called, has been at the zoo since 1999. She's slowly munching on some hay as our group passes the sliding glass doors into the exhibit.

The zookeeper opens a side door that leads down to the pen. Imara forgets all about the hay and slowly heads toward the loose bars of the fence. She knows the zookeeper has something much better than hay: fresh vegetables.

While she plays a major part in this story, it's the quiet little guy next to her that was the catalyst for it all. In September, Imara gave birth to her third rhino calf. At the time, the calf was just one of 57 Eastern black rhinos in zoos across North America, a species that has only 740 left in the wild.

Over the course of our time at the exhibit, we were able to get an up-close look at the pair. The calf honestly reminds you of a clumsy puppy, constantly moving, darting around, all the curiosity in the world.

He has no idea that in the wild his species is being hunted to extinction because the horn he eventually will grow is worth nearly \$30,000. The horn is used for traditional medicinal purposes in Asia, but it has shown no medical value.

"Our fear is that if rhinos continue to be poached, be shot, three or four a day, all of the rhinos will be gone in the wild in our lifetime," said Elizabeth Whaley, president and CEO of the Great Plains Zoo.

It's tough to accept that as you watch him playfully rub his head back and forth on the bars, or be full of energy one minute and plop down on a bed of hay the next.

But it's also a good reminder that while the calf is fun to look at, there's also a complex conservation program at work behind the scenes of the zoo.

Imara and her male companion, Jubba, have produced two other offspring since they have been at the zoo, and they have in turn started their own families.

The first calf born to the pair, Kapuki, gave birth to a male rhino in 2013 at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago. It was the first rhino born at that zoo in 24 years.

Imara and Jubba's second calf, Kiano, just became a father Oct. 11 at the Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines.

If you are keeping track at home, that means the little calf at the Great Plains Zoo is already an uncle.

It's this kind of family tree that personifies the conservation efforts at the zoo. Of the 139 species there, 24 are endangered.

"For a zoo our size to do that kind of endangered species and management is really aggressive, and we're proud of that," Whaley said.

For the past 25 years, the zoo has been accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, or AZA. Of the more than 2,400 zoos in the United States, only 216 zoos are a part of the association, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2f2CWNT>) reported.

To become a part of the AZA is no easy process. Once the organization has decided to apply, they go through an eight-month application process.

"By being accredited, it means that we meet these very high, very stringent standards for care," Whaley said. "And it's everything from animal care and how we do our veterinary work through how we support our institution to how we engage the public. They look at every single thing."

If approved, the accreditation lasts for five years. However, to renew means the organization must through the entire process again.

It's something that Rob Vernon, senior vice president of the AZA, said sets them apart from other accrediting organizations.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 18 of 45

"The standards that they went through the first time are not going to be the same standards that they go through five years later," Vernon said. "Our standards are continuously evolving and changing and adapting to modern geological practices."

Because their standards are constantly evolving, the AZA has someone designated at each facility to keep up with the changes and the new standards that are implemented. By doing this it allows for a zoo to not only stay current with the standards, but also, so they aren't caught off guard when they re-apply for accreditation.

In the AZA, the zoo is in the middle in terms of size, but their conservation efforts have not gone unnoticed by their peers.

"I think for a zoo of their size, their conservation efforts are very aggressive and the successes that they have are significant," Vernon said.

The rhinos, along with the 23 other endangered animals in the zoo are part of Species Survival Plans. The plans are complex collaborations between the AZA network of facilities to maintain a healthy and genetically diverse animal populations across the Association.

Each plan is headed up by a coordinator who is an expert in the field. The coordinator works with a team of experts including trained population biologists and species experts from across the country.

For the rhinos, the program has been very successful, but they aren't alone.

The Red Wolf is another species benefiting from the conservation efforts of the zoo.

Once considered extinct in the wild, the Red Wolf has since been reintroduced, but their numbers are extremely low. There's an estimated 50 in the wild and 225 in zoos.

Those numbers grew in April when Ayasha, who was also born in the Great Plains Zoo, gave birth to a litter of three female pups.

Another family tree started because of the Great Plains Zoo and the AZA.

As you wind the paths of the zoo, going from exhibit to exhibit, past the towering giraffes, over the Big Sioux River to the penguins and stopping by the tigers and flamingos, it's easy to forget each and every one of those species is endangered in some form or another.

The zoo's hope is that while you and your family enjoy everything it has to offer, that you also get some knowledge out of the visit; to care and help protect them.

"If we want our kids to be able to see these amazing animals in person or hopefully even in the wild and rather than on an iPad or on the flat page of a book, we're going to work to save these animals," Whaley said.

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

Some Iowa landowners complain about oil pipeline work

ROCKWELL CITY, Iowa (AP) — Some Iowa landowners are raising concerns about construction of the Dakota Access oil pipeline, saying crews have left behind debris, released cattle from grazing areas and disrespected their land.

The Des Moines Register reports (<http://dmreg.co/2fRawKc>) that the complaints have been filed with local or state officials, including from several landowners who oppose the overall project and took part in demonstrations against it. Supporters of the \$3.8 billion, four-state pipeline say the complaints don't represent major problems with the project.

The Iowa Utilities Board had received 22 official complaints as of late October, including 10 involving landowners. The board is in various phases of investigating the grievances, said board spokesman Don Tormey. But three complaints filed in the spring have been fully investigated and dismissed.

The pipeline is designed to carry oil from North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois. The project has attracted protests and strong opposition from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and its supporters, who argue that the pipeline — slated to skirt the tribe's reservation near the North Dakota-South Dakota border — threatens drinking water and cultural sites.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 19 of 45

The company building the pipeline, Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners, insists that the pipeline is safe. Spokeswoman Vicki Granado said the company takes its construction commitments seriously. She noted that none of the complaints filed with the Iowa Utilities Board has been validated so far.

"It is our goal to maintain this record throughout the rest of construction," Granado said, adding that the pipeline was "nearing completion in Iowa."

Iowa farmer David Lowman said he's frustrated that workers burned a pile of walnut tree branches on his land. He said the company had promised to leave the pile so he could sell it for firewood.

"They burned up \$10,500 worth of firewood," Lowman said. "They didn't do what they said they were going to do."

Cyndy Coppola said workers left behind several 30-inch steel rings and other debris when they stalled a section of pipeline across her land in Calhoun County.

"I guess our biggest complaint is they show no respect," said Coppola, 68, who was arrested for trespassing while at a pipeline protest last month.

Inspectors said workers plan to return to Coppola's farm and clean up the site.

Most of the 18 Iowa counties in the pipeline's path have hired an outside firm to respond to complaints about the project and conduct inspections. Evan Del Val is a civil engineer with ISG, which was hired in 13 of those counties to respond to concerns.

Del Val said a lot of the complaints don't violate the construction agreements.

"A lot of complaints aren't violations," he said. "They're just that: They're complaints."

Lawrence County transfers ownership of airport to Spearfish

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Lawrence County has transferred ownership of the local airport over to the city of Spearfish.

The transfer of Black Hills Airport/Clyde Ice Field was approved by the FAA in September, the Black Hills Pioneer (<http://bit.ly/2fDjBqQ>) reported. Since then, the city and county have been tying up loose ends to expedite the ownership change, a process that has taken three years.

The process came to a close Tuesday as the Lawrence County Commission granted its chairman, Daryl Johnson, permission to sign the warranty deed.

"It's been a long time coming," said Johnson.

Johnson said the city is in a better position to make improvements and that the airport is a great tool for economic development in the county.

Details are still being worked out as to whether the county or city have jurisdiction of nearby roads.

As part of the closing, commissioners had also considered a certificate of real estate value and a bill of sale.

Also approved by commissioners was a surplus and transfer to the city of Spearfish of all the on-site airport tools and equipment.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

Aberdeen ambulance service to specialize in non-urgent calls

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A new ambulance service in Aberdeen plans to specialize in non-emergency calls. Midwest Medical offers inter-facility transfers for Aberdeen and the surrounding area, not a 911 service, the Aberdeen News (<http://bit.ly/2eMJQcv>) reported. Business development director Sean DeLancey said the company had a few transfers in its first two weeks.

DeLancey said Midwest Medical could respond to a catastrophe, natural disaster or accident if multiple services are needed.

According to DeLancey emergency responders would be allowed to stay local because the Midwest Medical would take on the responsibility of facility-to-facility transfers that require out-of-town travel.

Brown County Emergency Management director Scott Meints said having the service available in the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 20 of 45

event of a mass casualty incident should be helpful.

"For that, having more tools in the tool bag is a plus," he said.

But not everybody thinks the new business is necessary. Aberdeen Ambulance Service owner Dan Mielke said he understands the benefits of competition, but that he doesn't think the city has enough of a market to sustain three ambulance services.

The ambulance service has two ambulances thus far and within the next two months the service intends to have wheelchair vans. And another ambulance will arrive later this month, said Rob Senger, regional manager for Midwest Medical.

In the future Midwest Medical will offer community paramedicine, a service in which staff would visit former hospital patients in their homes in order to bring down the number of ambulance trips.

"A lot of these patients just need that general guidance to stay out of the ER," Senger said.

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

Philadelphia transit strike is over; tentative deal reached

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Philadelphia's weeklong transit strike is over.

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority and the union representing about 4,700 transit workers announced early Monday a tentative agreement had been reached.

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority Board Chairman Pasquale Deon said it is a fair deal that provides "wage increases, pension improvements, and maintains health care coverage levels while addressing rising costs."

The five-year deal is still subject to ratification by union members and must be approved by the SEPTA board.

Officials said subway service would likely be the first to return and that some bus service could be available in time for Monday's evening rush, but that it usually takes 24 hours for full service to return.

The workers with SEPTA walked out after midnight on Tuesday, Nov. 1, over issues including pension benefits and the amount of time off given to drivers between shifts.

The result has been traffic gridlock at morning and evening rush hours; jammed and delayed regional rail service and higher absenteeism at the city's high schools. The troubles continued Monday morning despite the new deal, as commuters faced crowded roads and up to 30 minute delays on all regional rails due to signal problems.

"We know that the strike has caused a significant hardship for thousands of our riders," Deon said. "We sincerely regret this disruption to transportation throughout the City of Philadelphia and the region. We thank riders for their patience under these extremely challenging circumstances."

Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney thanked the union and agency for reaching a settlement and cited the efforts of his staff, the governor, State Rep. Dwight Evans and Congressman Bob Brady during the difficult negotiations.

"I am thankful that the Transport Workers Union and SEPTA have reached a settlement, and I am very grateful to residents and commuters for their patience over the last six days," Kenney said.

Some officials were concerned that the strike could dampen voter turnout if it continued through Election Day. But Transport Workers Union local president Willie Brown said he was more concerned with getting an agreement.

"It really wasn't a factor with me," Williams said about the impending Election Day. "We were trying to get a contract, and that's what we did."

The city of Philadelphia had filed a motion in state court seeking an injunction to temporarily halt the strike for Election Day so residents can get to the polls to vote.

The court had been expected to hear the city's motion Monday morning.

Democratic city leaders had worried that if the strike continued through Election Day, some voters wouldn't have been able to get to the polls because they will be spending so much time getting to and from work.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 21 of 45

Pennsylvania is a battleground state, and the vote in overwhelmingly Democratic Philadelphia is critically important to Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton as she battles Republican Donald Trump.

Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf on Sunday said he intended to file a legal document in support of an injunction request filed by SEPTA. The transit agency argues the walkout endangers public health and safety as well as the right of residents to vote in Tuesday's general election. The union has accused SEPTA of relying on the courts to end the strike rather than bargaining.

"The strike has been devastating for so many individuals and their families and has created extreme hardships for the city and for businesses," Gov. Wolf said in a statement. "The time for it to end is now."

The walkout is the ninth since 1975 by the city transit union. The last one, in 2009, lasted six days, but some have lasted for weeks.

SEPTA provides rides for nearly 60,000 public, private and charter school students.

In rare step, China bars 2 Hong Kong lawmakers from office

By GERRY SHIH and KELVIN CHAN, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China's top legislature took the rare step Monday of intervening directly in a local Hong Kong political dispute by effectively barring two legally elected separatist lawmakers from taking office, setting the stage for further turmoil in the semiautonomous city.

Beijing moved to deny the two a second chance to take their oaths after being disqualified on their initial attempt last month for using anti-China insults and foul language. But the maneuver circumvented Hong Kong's courts, where the case is currently being heard, raising fears that the city's independent judiciary is being undermined.

The decision, while intended to nip the rise of budding separatism sentiment, has instead raised the specter of enduring political unrest in Hong Kong, two years after huge crowds of mostly young people occupied major streets for 11 weeks. Those demonstrations failed to win greater democracy but spawned an independence movement.

On Sunday, thousands took to the streets to rally against the anticipated announcement by the Chinese government. Police used pepper spray and batons against some umbrella-wielding demonstrators trying to reach Beijing's liaison office after the march ended. Four people were arrested and two officers were injured, police said.

The dispute centers on two newly elected pro-independence lawmakers, Sixtus Leung, 30, and Yau Wai-ching, 25, who altered their oaths to insert a disparaging Japanese expression for China. Displaying a flag reading "Hong Kong is not China," they vowed to defend the "Hong Kong nation." Their oaths were ruled invalid and subsequent attempts have resulted in mayhem in the Legislative Council's weekly sessions as the council's president refused to let them try again until the government's legal challenge is settled.

But Beijing decided to act more quickly. The National People's Congress Standing Committee, the country's top legislative panel, issued a ruling on a section of Hong Kong's Basic Law, or mini-constitution, covering oaths taken by officials.

It said talk of independence for Hong Kong is intended to "divide the country" and severely harms the country's unity, territorial sovereignty and national security. It also said those who advocate independence for Hong Kong are not only disqualified from election and from assuming posts as lawmakers but should also be investigated for their legal obligations.

It's the first time Beijing has stepped in to block democratically elected Hong Kong lawmakers from taking office. It's also the first time that Beijing has interpreted the Basic Law before a Hong Kong court has delivered a ruling on a case. In three of four previous interpretations, the NPC Standing Committee has delivered an opinion only after the Hong Kong government or the top court requested it.

"For the young people this is going to definitely create a backlash. This is going to further fuel the independence movement," said Samson Yuen, a politics lecturer at the Open University of Hong Kong. He added that Hong Kong's young people must be feeling helpless because every protest or collective action they've taken "has run into a dead end."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 22 of 45

"Rationally for young people the only way out is to fight more radically," he said.

At a briefing for reporters in Beijing, Li Fei, a deputy secretary general of the NPC Standing Committee, denied that the central government was escalating its interference in Hong Kong's affairs.

He said the Basic Law stipulates that Beijing holds the legal power to make interpretations, and it is the central government's duty to step in when there is a difference of legal opinion. He also warned that promoting independence was not a matter of freedom of speech.

"Breaking 'one-country two-systems' is violating the law, not voicing a political view," said Li, referring to a principle under which Beijing is supposed to let Hong Kong keep its capitalist economic and political system separate from mainland China's until 2047.

The central government's stance is absolute, he said, adding, "There will be no leniency."

Li also directed his comments to the independence movement's core supporters. "The young people, I believe after some time will recognize the true face of those stirring up trouble behind the scenes and learn their lesson," he said.

Ming Sing, a professor of social science at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, said Beijing was making a "disproportionate" response to the threat of a separatist movement, given that polls show an overwhelming majority of Hong Kong citizens do not support breaking away from China or believe it to be realistic. But the harsh rhetoric could backfire and harden frustrations among the mainstream that doesn't support independence but feel increasingly pulled toward anti-mainland positions, he said.

"After today, people feel one step closer toward an authoritarian society, they feel a greater degree of deprivation of a fundamental right to elect their own legislator," he said. "Beijing has indirectly paved the way for a more imaginative, sustainable pro-democracy movement."

Eddie Chu, an independent pro-democracy lawmaker, said Beijing was making a "needless intervention" with its interpretation because Hong Kong's courts could have handled the dispute.

"They are trying to create a rhetoric about the independence movement" to deter those who seek greater self-determination for the city, Chu said. "And Sixtus and Yau Wai-ching are the first victims in this new legal net."

Chu, Leung and Yau were among a group of pro-democracy candidates elected for the first time in September who advocate greater autonomy for Hong Kong. Leung and Yau are members of the radical Youngspiration party. They did not respond to media requests for comment Monday.

Hong Kong's Beijing-backed leader, Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, said the government will fully implement the standing committee's interpretation.

He told a packed news briefing that the Youngspiration duo had not only advocated independence for Hong Kong, but "even insulted the country and the Chinese people in their words and deeds."

"Their conduct has caused widespread indignation in Hong Kong and across the country," Leung said.

Beijing officials struck a similar note in the closing moments of their briefing, which took an unexpected turn as Li, the standing committee official, denounced the oath-takers for using an archaic Japanese term to smear the Chinese people.

Li decried the two as "traitors" and recounted Japanese World War II atrocities in Hong Kong in graphic detail, telling of nurses raped and bodies bayoneted and tossed into the Hong Kong harbor.

"I hope the people of Hong Kong won't forget the history of Japanese invaders," he said. "All the traitors who sell out the country never have good endings."

Chan reported from Hong Kong. Associated Press journalists Gillian Wong in Beijing and Josie Wong in Hong Kong contributed to this report.

Janet Reno, former US attorney general, has died

By CURT ANDERSON, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Janet Reno, the first woman to serve as U.S. attorney general and the epicenter of several political storms during the Clinton administration, including the seizure of Elian Gonzalez, died early Monday. She was 78.

Reno died from complications of Parkinson's disease, her goddaughter Gabrielle D'Alemberte said. D'Alemberte said Reno spent her final days at home in Miami surrounded by family and friends.

Reno, a former Miami prosecutor who famously told reporters "I don't do spin," served nearly eight years as attorney general under President Bill Clinton, the longest stint in a century.

One of the administration's most recognizable and polarizing figures, Reno faced criticism early in her tenure for the deadly raid on the Branch Davidian compound at Waco, Texas, where sect leader David Koresh and some 80 followers perished.

She was known for deliberating slowly, publicly and in a typically blunt manner. Reno frequently told the public "the buck stops with me," borrowing the mantra from President Harry S. Truman.

After Waco, Reno figured into some of the controversies and scandals that marked the Clinton administration, including Whitewater, Filegate, bungling at the FBI laboratory, Monica Lewinsky, alleged Chinese nuclear spying and questionable campaign financing in the 1996 Clinton-Gore re-election.

In the spring of 2000, Reno enraged her hometown's Cuban-American community when she authorized the armed seizure of 5-year-old Elian. The boy was taken from the Little Havana home of his Miami relatives so he could be returned to his father in Cuba.

After leaving Washington, Reno returned to Florida and made an unsuccessful run for Florida governor in 2002 but lost in a Democratic primary marred by voting problems.

The campaign ended a public career that started amid humble beginnings. Born July 21, 1938, Janet Wood Reno was the daughter of two newspaper reporters and the eldest of four siblings. She grew up on the edge of the Everglades in a cypress and brick homestead built by her mother and returned there after leaving Washington. Her late brother Robert Reno was a longtime columnist for Newsday on Long Island.

After graduating from Cornell University with a degree in chemistry, Reno became one of 16 women in Harvard Law School's Class of 1963. Reno, who stood over 6 feet tall, later said she wanted to become a lawyer "because I didn't want people to tell me what to do."

In 1993, Clinton tapped her to become the first woman to lead the Justice Department after his first two choices — also women — were withdrawn because both had hired illegal immigrants as nannies. Reno was 54.

"It's an extraordinary experience, and I hope I do the women of America proud," Reno said after she won confirmation.

Clinton said the vote might be "the only vote I carry 98-0 this year."

A little more than a month of taking office, however, Reno became embroiled in controversy with the raid on the Branch Davidian compound near Waco.

The standoff had started even before Reno was confirmed as attorney general. On Feb. 28, 1993, agents from the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms made a surprise raid on the compound, trying to execute a search warrant. But during the raid gunfire erupted, killing four agents and six members of the religious sect.

That led to a 51-day standoff, ending April 19, 1993, when the complex caught fire and burned to the ground. The government claimed the Davidians committed suicide, shooting themselves and setting the fire. Survivors said the blaze was started by tear gas rounds fired into the compound by government tanks, and that agents shot at some who tried to flee. Reno had authorized the use of the tear gas to end the standoff and later called the day the worst of her life.

"It was a dangerous situation," Reno said of the incident during a 2005 lecture at Duke University. "The tragedy is that we will never know what was the right thing to do."

Things got no easier after Waco. In 1995 Reno was diagnosed with Parkinson's after noticing a trembling in her left hand. She said from the beginning that the diagnosis, which she announced during a weekly

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 24 of 45

news conference, would not impair her job performance. And critics — both Republicans and Democrats — did not give her a pass because of it.

Republicans argued she should have sought appointment of an independent counsel to investigate allegations of Clinton-Gore fundraising violations. Democrats, meanwhile, grumbled that she failed to act as a team player.

In early 2000, Reno tried to negotiate the return to Cuba of 5-year-old Elian, who had been rescued after his mother and others drowned trying to boat from Cuba to Florida. He had been placed in the care of a Miami uncle, but his father, who lived in Cuba, wanted him returned to the island.

When Reno decided talks had broken down that April, she ordered an early morning raid by federal agents who seized the boy, provoking the ire of Miami's Cuban-American community. Reno insisted that Elian should be with his father — she even kept a snapshot of a smiling Elian in his father's arms near her home computer.

Reno said later that federal officials tried until the last minute to negotiate a voluntary handover and avoid the raid — where Elian was found hiding in a closet and confronted by an agent with a gun.

"We have been to great lengths to resolve this case in the least disruptive manner possible," she said at a news conference following the raid.

As attorney general, Reno was derided by late night talk show hosts for her homely appearance, short wash-and-wear haircut and simple black pumps. Comedian Will Ferrell memorialized her in a "Saturday Night Live" skit called "Janet Reno's Dance Party" and Reno visited the skit the night she left the Justice Department in January 2001.

Reno began her career in Miami in the mid-1960s and had her first encounter with the "glass ceiling," getting passed over for a job at a law firm because she was a woman. She later made partner. In 1972, she lost a race for a Miami-area legislative seat but learned the importance of sticking to her principles from mentor John Orr, a former state lawmaker.

"Don't equivocate, don't pussyfoot, don't talk out of both sides of your mouth and you'll wake up the next morning feeling good about yourself," he told Reno. It became one of her favorite sayings.

After losing that election, Reno was hired by the Dade State Attorney's office, where she established herself as an organized and competent lawyer. In 1978, when State Attorney Richard Gerstein decided to step down, Reno was named his successor.

As prosecutor, Reno built programs to help reform drug dealers and combat domestic violence. Another program strong-armed deadbeat dads into paying child support, inspiring a rap song named after her.

It included the line: "All the money you get, all the checks you make; Janet Reno will make sure and take."

She also weathered a 1980 riot after an all-white jury acquitted five police officers for the beating death of a black insurance salesman. Eighteen people were killed in the rioting and crowds chanted Reno's name, accusing her of being a racist and demanding her resignation. Reno refused.

"To resign was to give into anarchy," she said.

Reno eventually won the support of the city's black community, attending countless community meetings, church services and parades.

Her last foray into politics was the race for Florida governor. Known for being down-to-earth — her home number was listed in a city directory both before and after Washington — and even folksy, she crisscrossed the state to campaign in a red Ford Ranger pickup truck. But Reno lost the primary to Tampa lawyer Bill McBride despite her name recognition. Republican Gov. Jeb Bush defeated McBride to win a second term.

After retiring from politics, Reno served on the boards or as an adviser to several organizations. In 2004 she joined the board of the New York-based Innocence Project, which works to free prisoners who can be proven innocent through DNA testing.

She also spent more time with her family. Shy and admittedly awkward, Reno never married but remained extremely close to her tight-knit family.

Asked to describe her legacy after ending her gubernatorial campaign, Reno quoted George Washington: "If I were to write all that down I might be reduced to tears. I would prefer to drift on down the stream of life and let history make the judgment."

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 25 of 45

Associated Press writers Ken Thomas and Jessica Gresko contributed to this report.

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. CLOSING TIME: CLINTON FOCUSES ON HEALING, TRUMP ON EMAILS

With the cloud of an FBI investigation lifted, Clinton and Trump strike different tones as they move into the final hours of a volatile, lengthy campaign.

2. HOW CLINTON EMAIL SCANDAL EMBROILED FBI

It exposed internal tensions with the Justice Department and stirred concerns that the apolitical organization unnecessarily injected itself into the electoral process.

3. IRAQI KURDISH FIGHTERS EXCHANGE FIRE WITH IS MILITANTS

The early morning offensive to reclaim the eastern town of Bashiqa is part of the broader push to drive the extremists out of their Mosul stronghold.

4. SYRIAN MILITANTS MASS IN DISTANT PROVINCE AFTER TRUCE

Fighters forced into exile in Idlib see the move as an attempt to gather the rebels far from Damascus, at a location where they can later be eliminated.

5. JANET RENO DEAD AT 78

She was the first woman to serve as U.S. attorney general and was at the epicenter of several political storms during the Clinton administration.

6. WHO IS TAKING ON SAUDI'S RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENT

Souad al-Shammary is a liberal feminist who roots her arguments in an interpretation of Islam that gives women more equality.

7. SMOKING-RELATED DEATHS STILL RISING ACROSS GLOBE

And with that, countries are looking for new ways to discourage lighting up and tighten anti-tobacco laws beyond regulations set down in a 2003 global treaty.

8. SHARP QUAKE RATTLES OKLAHOMA OIL HUB

The magnitude 5.0 temblor may have damaged key infrastructure in addition to causing damage in the prairie town of Cushing.

9. NO TV, NO PROBLEM

News outlets are using Facebook Live, Snapchat, YouTube and other tools to offer live coverage of Election Day in ways not possible four years ago.

10. BELEAGUERED NFL RATINGS MAY GET A LIFT

From the Meadowlands to Miami, from Green Bay to the Bay Area and points in between, Week 9 brought a flood of standout performances.

Forget the TV: How to follow Election Day online

By BARBARA ORTUTAY, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — TVs are so last century. News outlets are using Facebook Live, Snapchat, YouTube and other tools to offer live coverage of Election Day in ways not possible four years ago.

It's a fitting close to an election season that has played out on Twitter and Facebook as much as it has on the nightly news, with debates live-streamed online and candidates barbing on social media.

Here's your online guide for Tuesday. All times are Eastern.

FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE AND MORE

Unless you're one of the millions of Americans who have already voted, it's a good idea to find out where to cast your ballot, preferably before Tuesday. Googling "how to vote" will take you to localized results that include the times the polls are open and any requirements such as an ID. You can also enter your

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 26 of 45

address to locate your polling place.

Facebook's elections tool will show you what's on your ballot and where various candidates stand on key issues. The information comes from the nonpartisan group Center for Technology and Civic Life, which also generates some of the data for Google searches such as "what's on my ballot." To get started, go to <https://www.facebook.com/elections/yourplan> (you'll need a Facebook account).

SNAP AWAY

Snapchat users will be able to see "live stories" on the app — showing people at the polls, election results, acceptance and concession speeches and election night celebrations. In the U.S., users will see overlays they can add to their snaps.

FACE-OFF ON FACEBOOK

NowThis, a news outlet aimed at millennials, will have video coverage on its Facebook channel. Comedian Jordan Carlos will host the stream, called "No Sleep til POTUS."

CNN will have live coverage with reporters in battleground states, as well as drone shots of voting locations and international reaction throughout the day. Each hour from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. will be streamed from a different location. After 6 p.m., the network will continue Facebook Live streams from various locations, including watch parties and, again, battleground states.

The Washington Post is planning live programming on its Facebook page beginning at 7 p.m. The show will include commentary and updates from Post reporters, including those at campaign headquarters for both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.

The New York Times will also stream election coverage on its Facebook page, beginning at 4:30 p.m., from locations such as polling stations, college campuses and election viewing parties.

Other news outlets with live streaming plans include Univision, PBS NewsHour, the Daily Caller, ABC News and Vox.

TWITCH ALONG WITH TWITTER

Twitter is partnering with BuzzFeed News for a live stream from BuzzFeed's New York headquarters. The stream will begin at 6 p.m. Twitter says segments will include critiques of traditional news outlets and how they are covering the election, as well as live reports from BuzzFeed journalists at various locations throughout the U.S. and elsewhere. Go to <http://election.twitter.com>. You don't need an account.

Clinton email case handling brings tumultuous time for FBI

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI's handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation has created more turmoil for the bureau than any other matter in recent history, exposing internal tensions with the Justice Department and stirring concerns the famously apolitical organization unnecessarily injected itself into the campaign.

The FBI for decades has prided itself on being both independent and silent about its work. It has survived other painful moments in its century-long existence. But rarely have its core duties become so awkwardly entangled with politics, thanks to an election-year criminal investigation involving Clinton's email practices — and whiplash-producing public statements in the final two weeks of the campaign.

Though FBI Director James Comey signaled a conclusion to the Clinton email matter with a letter to Congress on Sunday, the public isn't done discussing it: Lawmakers demand answers to questions left unresolved by two vague and ambiguous letters. Clinton and her aides feel wronged by a curiously timed disclosure. And ex-prosecutors of both parties are concerned the bureau's actions strayed from its mandate to remain above politics.

The controversy, coupled with a series of leaks laying bare internal squabbling, suggests a tough road ahead for FBI leadership regardless of who wins Sunday. "This has been a very difficult election process. Unfortunately, the FBI has been drawn into it," said Leo Taddeo, a retired FBI supervisor. He said he was

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 27 of 45

concerned that candidates seemed more eager than before to politicize national security issues and seek investigations into opponents.

"This is a new and developing trend in U.S. political discourse, so I think the FBI has to resist being drawn into it," he added.

That's easier said than done.

The FBI last year began investigating Clinton for the potential mishandling of classified information as secretary of state after a referral from the intelligence community inspector general. Comey has said the investigation was done without regard to politics, but he also never lost sight of its political sensitivities, receiving regular briefings from investigators and repeatedly refusing to discuss it in public.

When the FBI decided it wouldn't recommend charges, he broke from protocol and delivered an unusual public statement chastising Clinton and her aides as "extremely careless."

But the pushback to that announcement was nothing compared to what Comey has faced the last two weeks, starting with his Oct. 28 notification to Congress that the FBI would review newly discovered emails potentially connected to the Clinton email investigation.

The statement provoked outrage from Clinton and other Democrats who said it needlessly placed her under suspicion when the FBI didn't even know if the emails were important. The Justice Department opposed the idea, too.

Then came Sunday's statement, in which Comey effectively cleared the Democratic presidential nominee by saying the new review had done nothing to change the FBI's July recommendation that she not face charges. Though a relief to Democrats and Clinton, the news also infuriated some who wondered why the new emails — if apparently insignificant — were ever made public in the first place.

"Today's letter makes Director Comey's actions nine days ago even more troubling," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, the ranking Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee.

Comey says he felt obligated to alert Congress after having previously testified that the investigation had been closed. Supporters say had he kept silent until after the election, he would have faced partisan allegations of stifling a bombshell announcement and perhaps given fuel to allegations of a "rigged" election. He also would have risked the chance of the news leaking out anyway.

"Do I sit quietly and do nothing for 10 days and let the election quietly go by, pregnant with the knowledge that we have thousands of new emails?" said Ron Hosko, a retired FBI assistant director. "Or do I tell the same Congress that I've been committed to being transparent with?"

The bureau has been further roiled by leaks that hint at disagreement over the handling of a separate inquiry involving the Clinton Foundation. The Associated Press and other news organizations have reported that FBI agents seeking an investigation met earlier this year with public corruption prosecutors to present allegations they wanted to pursue, but that the lawyers did not see a basis for moving forward.

Hosko said there's no doubt former agents in particular were distressed by the FBI's decision not to recommend charges against Clinton. But he said there was no "revolution" inside the storied Hoover Building.

"There's a lot of fiction-writing going on," Hosko said. "It's being fanned up by people and repeated by people who pretend they know something when they know nothing."

The FBI has survived frayed relations between its leaders and the president before — Bill Clinton and his FBI director, Louis Freeh, were known to have strongly disliked each other. In the modern era, it's gone through major structural reorganizations, such as after the Sept. 11 attacks, and faced second-guessing after operations that haven't gone as planned.

But the latest turmoil poses a unique challenge for a revered law enforcement organization and for a director who talks often about his desire to be accountable to the American people — and transparent.

Depending on who wins Tuesday, Comey will have to co-exist with either a Republican president who has repeatedly challenged his agency's integrity or a Democrat whose email practices were the subject of a criminal investigation. He'll also probably have to explain his decision-making to Congress.

"Rest assured, Jim Comey's not afraid of creating controversy," Taddeo said. "He is determined to do the right thing."

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

Clinton focuses on healing, Trump on emails in final hours

By LISA LERER and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — With the cloud of an FBI investigation lifted, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump struck strikingly different tones as they moved into the final hours of a volatile, nearly two-year-long presidential campaign.

After days of full-throated attacks on Trump's qualifications and temperament, Clinton cast herself as the candidate of "healing and reconciliation" — perhaps a surprising position for a woman who's long been one of the most divisive figures in American politics.

She started her Sunday with a visit to an African-American church in Philadelphia, where she spoke of her candidacy in almost spiritual terms, as she tried to motivate black voters in the crucial swing state to support her. And she ended with an evening rally in Manchester, New Hampshire, featuring remarks from Khizr Khan, the Muslim-American lawyer whose Army captain son was killed in Iraq, and soft rock from folk singer James Taylor.

"This election is a moment of reckoning," she told voters on Sunday night. "It is a choice between division and unity, between strong, steady leadership and a loose cannon who could put everything at risk." Clinton said she was "hopeful and optimistic" about the future.

Trump, meanwhile, voiced new confidence as he brought his campaign — and his dark visions of a rigged American economic and political system— to longtime Democratic strongholds.

"This is a whole different ballgame," Trump said at a rally in an airport hangar in Minneapolis, predicting victory in a state that hasn't cast its electoral votes for a Republican since 1972. At a rally in Virginia that Trump called his "midnight special speech," the GOP standard-bearer called the race a "marathon."

"We are going to have one of the great victories of all time," he said, comparing the U.S. election to the "Brexit" vote by The UK to leave the European Union "times 50."

Overshadowing the flurry of last-minute campaigning was FBI Director James Comey's latest letter to Congress, informing lawmakers that the bureau had found no evidence in its hurried review of newly discovered emails to warrant criminal charges against Clinton.

Still, Trump continued to seize on the email issue, despite the FBI's finding.

"Hillary Clinton is guilty. She knows it, the FBI knows it, the people know," he said at a rally that drew thousands to an amphitheater in the Detroit suburbs. "And now it's up to the American people to deliver justice at the ballot box on Nov. 8."

Comey's move capped a stunning chapter in the bitter, deeply divisive contest. The director's initial decision to make a renewed inquiry into Clinton's emails public on Oct. 28 upended the campaign at a crucial moment, sapping a surging Clinton's momentum and giving Trump fresh ammunition to challenge her trustworthiness.

Clinton's campaign, furious at Comey's handling of the review, welcomed Sunday's announcement. Communications director Jennifer Palmieri told reporters, "We're glad this matter is resolved," though Clinton herself did not mention the issue at her campaign events.

The new review involved material found on a computer belonging to Anthony Weiner, the disgraced former congressman and estranged husband of Clinton aide Huma Abedin. While Comey was vague in his initial description of the inquiry, he said Sunday that the FBI reviewed communications "to or from Hillary Clinton while she was secretary of state."

Based on that review, Comey told lawmakers the FBI was not changing the conclusion it reached this summer. Then, Comey said, "no reasonable prosecutor" would recommend Clinton face criminal charges for using a private email system while at the State Department.

The FBI began investigating the handling of classified material on Clinton's private email server shortly

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 29 of 45

after she announced her bid in April 2015. The issue has dogged Clinton's campaign and contributed to the questions a majority of Americans have about her honesty and trustworthiness.

Clinton still appears to hold an edge over Trump in the campaign's final stretch. The Republican has a narrow path to victory that requires him to win nearly all of the roughly dozen battleground states up for grabs.

The candidates spent Sunday sprinting across swing states as they sought to lock up support ahead of Election Day. As the campaign's final weekend drew to a close, more than 41 million Americans had already cast their ballots in early voting.

Clinton's high-wattage allies also fanned out across the country, including President Barack Obama, who was joined by musical icon Stevie Wonder at a rally in Florida. He'll join Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton and first lady Michelle Obama along with rock stars Bruce Springsteen and Jon Bon Jovi at an evening rally in Philadelphia on Monday. She'll also campaign in Grand Rapids, Michigan; Pittsburgh and Raleigh, North Carolina.

Trump's campaign manager, Kellyanne Conway, told reporters Sunday that Trump planned to keep up the breakneck campaign pace through Election Day. On Monday, he'll go to Florida, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire. After voting in New York Tuesday morning, Trump was expected to return to Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina and New Hampshire later in the day, Conway said.

Associated Press writers Jonathan Lemire and Julie Pace in Washington contributed to this report.

Awards-season campaigning underway at Hollywood Film Awards

By **SANDY COHEN, AP Entertainment Writer**

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Much like the American presidential race, it's never too early to start campaigning for Hollywood's awards season, and stars got an early chance Sunday at the Hollywood Film Awards.

The show has been criticized for its nebulous selection process and odd tradition of recognizing films before they're released, but the untelevised ceremony at the Beverly Hilton Hotel still drew an A-list crowd of apparent awards-season hopefuls.

"Tonight is actually rigged," host James Corden told the audience. "Literally, none of this is real."

That didn't stop such actors as Tom Hanks, Leonardo DiCaprio, Nicole Kidman, Natalie Portman and Matthew McConaughey from showing up to accept trophies. There were no nominees and winners were announced in advance.

Other stars appearing Sunday included Julianne Moore, Kate Hudson, Justin Timberlake, Jonah Hill, Anna Kendrick, Andrew Garfield, Warren Beatty, Mel Gibson and Lenny Kravitz.

Founded by businessman Carlos de Abreu (whom Robert De Niro awkwardly name-dropped Sunday during a pre-written speech), the Hollywood Film Awards joined with Dick Clark Productions in 2014, when the show was broadcast on CBS.

The program is no longer televised, but it's still scripted, with most stars reading from a prompter.

"Even though I didn't write that, I absolutely agree with that," Susan Sarandon said after reading heartfelt words about Portman, who was honored for her portrayal of Jackie Kennedy in "Jackie" (opening Dec. 2).

Casey Affleck made fun of the stiff script he was given to introduce "Manchester By the Sea" screenwriter Kenneth Lonergan.

"I didn't write this," Affleck said.

Artists accepting awards, though, did do so sincerely.

Naomie Harris talked about having to drop her own judgments to play a drug-addicted mom in "Moonlight."

"I am forever changed as a result of this journey," she said.

Kidman received the supporting actress prize for "Lion" (in theaters Nov. 25), a film she says "will show people the inherent goodness in all of us."

Accepting an award for his documentary "Before the Flood," DiCaprio talked about climate change as

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 30 of 45

"an urgent threat to life on earth as we know it." Director Fisher Stevens said the film is available free through election day.

Corden and others also mentioned Tuesday's election, including De Niro, who openly urged support for Hillary Clinton. "We have the opportunity to prevent a comedy from turning into a tragedy," he said.

Eddie Murphy received the career achievement award. He was greeted with a standing ovation, which he said "warms the cockles of one's heart on a Sunday."

"This is a very, very, very chatty group. I've never heard such long speeches ever," Murphy said, noting that he wasn't using a prompter.

"I really wish I had a chatty, chatty, chatty speech for you," he said. "I know everybody's been sitting here for a while. But I'm very moved and very honored, so thank you very much."

Corden closed out the night by saying: "We're out of fake awards to give out."

As for the rest of Hollywood's awards season, nominations for the Golden Globe Awards will be announced Dec. 12. The Screen Actors Guild reveals its awards nominees Dec. 14 and Academy Awards nominees will be announced Jan. 24, 2017.

Winners of the Hollywood Film Awards:

Career achievement: Eddie Murphy.

Actor: Tom Hanks, "Sully."

Supporting actor: Hugh Grant, "Florence Foster Jenkins."

Actress: Natalie Portman, "Jackie."

Supporting actress: Nicole Kidman, "Lion."

Comedy: Robert De Niro, "The Comedian."

Breakout performance: Naomie Harris, "Collateral Beauty" and "Moonlight."

New Hollywood: Lily Collins, "Rules Don't Apply."

Spotlight: Janelle Monae, "Hidden Figures."

Ensemble: Matthew McConaughey, Edgar Ramirez, Bryce Dallas Howard, "Gold."

Song: "Can't Fight the Feeling," Justin Timberlake.

Blockbuster: "The Jungle Book."

Animation: "Zootopia."

Documentary: "Before the Flood," Leonardo DiCaprio, Fisher Stevens.

Director: Mel Gibson, "Hacksaw Ridge."

Breakthrough director: Tom Ford, "Nocturnal Animals."

Producer: Marc Platt, "La La Land," "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk," "The Girl on the Train."

Screenwriter: Kenneth Lonergan, "Manchester By the Sea."

Cinematography: Linus Sandgren, "La La Land."

Film composer: Mychael Danna, "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk" and "Storks."

Editor: John Gilbert, "Hacksaw Ridge."

Visual effects: Stephane Ceretti and Richard Bluff, "Doctor Strange."

Sound: Christopher Boyes and Frank Eulner, "The Jungle Book."

Costume design: Albert Wolsky, "Rules Don't Apply."

Makeup & hair styling: Shane Thomas, Angela Conte, Bec Taylor, Noriko Watanabe, "Hacksaw Ridge."

Production design: Wynn Thomas, "Hidden Figures."

AP Entertainment Writer Sandy Cohen is at www.twitter.com/APSandy .

Syrian militants mass in distant province after truce deals

By **BASSEM MROUE**, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The men receive a hero's welcome as they step off the green buses in Syria's Idlib province with guns slung over their shoulders, having been forced to leave besieged and bombarded towns and cities as part of local truce deals with the government in Damascus.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 31 of 45

For more than two years now as President Bashar Assad pursued a policy of local truces, thousands of rebels and opposition supporters have been deported to the northwestern province bordering Turkey — a forced exile that many see as a calculated attempt to gather the fighters far from the capital, at a location where they can later be eliminated.

Already a stronghold of Syria's al-Qaida affiliate, the province is now home to thousands of Islamic militants — with varying degrees of extremist ideology — who have converged along with their families from the central city of Homs and the suburbs of Damascus, after capitulating to government forces.

"The government wants to prepare people, psychologically, for the idea that Idlib is the Kandahar of Syria," said Ibrahim Hamidi, a journalist who covers Syrian affairs for the Saudi-owned newspaper Al Hayat.

He was referring to Kandahar province in Afghanistan, the base of the militant Taliban's 1996-2001 government. He said the presence of so many Islamic militants would make it easier for the government and its allies to later justify a massive assault on the province.

Idlib is one of the few regions in Syria where the Islamic State group and the government have no presence, save for two small government-controlled Shiite-majority villages. The province borders Turkey, a key sponsor of Syrian rebels, and the coastal province of Latakia, a government stronghold. Assad's loss of Idlib city in the summer of 2015 was what prompted Russia to intervene to shore up his forces.

Members of the opposition fear that government and Russian warplanes will eventually carpet bomb Idlib under the pretext that it is a stronghold of al-Qaida's Fatah al-Sham Front, whose leadership is based there, and other extremist groups.

Since July 2015, U.S. aircraft have killed some of al-Qaida's most senior figures in strikes on Idlib, including Kuwait-born Mohsen al-Fadli, Sanafi al-Nasr of Saudi Arabia and Ahmed Salama Mabrouk of Egypt, who was killed in early October. They belonged to what U.S. officials call the Khorasan group, which Washington describes as a branch of al-Qaida that plans attacks against Western interests.

The province is also an important stronghold for Syrian rebels battling to unseat Assad.

Malek al-Rifai, an opposition activist who recently moved to Idlib from Daraya, said he now has a "five star" life compared to his conditions in the besieged Damascus suburb, where people could barely feed themselves. Access to the Turkish border means virtually everything is available in Idlib — not only food, but also weapons and other supplies.

Al-Rifai said he shares an apartment with friends and has been surviving on some savings. Other people live in tents, some of which have evolved into concrete dwellings complete with secondhand furniture. He said people mostly make a living by working for aid organizations, as taxi or minibus drivers, joining rebel groups that pay salaries or running small businesses.

Although their primary target has recently been the divided northern city of Aleppo, hardly a day goes by without government or Russian warplanes bombing parts of Idlib.

"The regime wants Idlib to become another Raqqa," said Hassan al-Dughaim, a Turkey-based Syrian preacher and researcher from Idlib, who lived there for most of his life until last year. The Syrian city of Raqqa is the de facto capital of the IS group's self-styled caliphate. Idlib city serves a similar function for al-Qaida.

Al-Dughaim said the Syrian government hopes that the presence of so many militants from different groups will lead to infighting. But despite the steady flow of fighters such confrontations have been rare.

Idlib is also home to thousands of displaced civilians from across the country, who were brought there on the green buses along with armed fighters as part of the truce deals.

"The regime wants the people to be as far as possible from the areas they were displaced from," said Osama Abu Zeid, a lawyer who advises moderate rebel groups known as the Free Syrian Army, who also have a presence in Idlib. He said that because of al-Qaida's presence, the government will present any future attack as part of a war on terrorism.

Faysal Itani, a resident fellow at the Atlantic Council, agrees.

"By lumping the displaced hostile populations in with the extremists, you've basically confined the problem to one place," he said. "Once that is done, the regime will go after it hard and no one will be able to

make much of a fuss internationally.”

Nicaragua officials say president wins 3rd consecutive term

By **LUIS MANUEL GALEANO, Associated Press**

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega won re-election Sunday, electoral authorities said, setting the stage for his third consecutive term — this time accompanied by his wife as vice president.

The president of the Supreme Electoral Council, Roberto Rivas, said late Sunday that Ortega had more than 71 percent of the votes with about a fifth of the ballots counted.

Ortega, who ran with his wife, Rosario Murillo, as his vice presidential candidate, faced five other lesser-known candidates in an election that critics of the government had called unfairly tilted against the opposition.

Emerging with her husband after casting their ballots shortly before the polls closed, Murillo called the vote “an exemplary, historic election.”

There were no vote counts yet for 92 congressional seats that were also contested Sunday.

Rivas said 65 percent of Nicaragua’s 3.8 million registered voters participated in the election. The opposition, which had urged people to boycott the election, disputed that, contending turnout was low.

The main opposition movement, the Broad Front for Democracy, said its checks indicated that “more than 70 percent” of voters did not cast ballots.

Ortega and his leftist Sandinista National Liberation Front have benefited from the Central American country’s steady economic growth and low levels of violence compared to neighboring Honduras and El Salvador. Many Nicaraguans also cite the first lady’s social programs as a major reason for the governing party’s popularity.

But critics accused Ortega and his allies of manipulating the political system to guarantee he stayed in power for a new five-year term by dominating all branches of government, allowing indefinite presidential re-election and delegitimizing the only opposition force seen as capable of challenging him. They said he wants to form a political dynasty together with his wife.

“I don’t think it’s worth voting and wasting time, because it’s already fixed,” said Glenda Bendana, an appliance sales executive in a Managua shopping mall. “Here they have taken away not our right to vote, but to choose. Ortega wants to die in power and leave his wife to take his place.”

Eva Duarte Castillo, with a degree in marketing, was among those who went to the polls, though she didn’t say how she voted. “I came to vote because it is not only my right as a citizen, it is also my duty. It is a responsibility and I exercised it. I’m happy,” she said at a polling station in the capital’s Altamira Managua neighborhood.

In July, Nicaragua’s Supreme Electoral Council effectively decimated the opposition by ousting almost all its members from congress — 28 active and alternate legislators from the Liberal Independent Party and the allied Sandinista Renovation Movement — for refusing to recognize Pedro Reyes as their leader. Reyes was named head of the opposition by the Supreme Court but is seen by many as a tool of Ortega. The ousted legislators supported former opposition leader Eduardo Montealegre.

The most powerful opposition forces moved to the sidelines of the nation’s politics, urging Nicaraguans to boycott the election, which they called a “farce.”

Many Nicaraguans, including political analyst Carlos Tunnerman, believed the five other presidential candidates were not true opponents, but were placed on the ballot to make it seem that Ortega had legitimate competition.

“The only thing they are looking to do is play along with Ortega, permitting him to get additional small bits of power in the National Assembly, Tunnerman said.

Candidate Maximino Rodriguez of the Liberal Constitutional Party rejected that idea, saying, “I only collaborate with the Nicaraguan people.”

Ortega, who helped topple the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza as a Sandinista guerrilla leader, ruled

Nicaragua in 1979-1990. After losing power in a shock electoral defeat, he later returned to the presidency through the ballot box in 2007.

Re-election would leave Ortega in power but facing an increasingly difficult regional landscape.

Leftist ally Venezuela is overwhelmed by an economic crisis and Cuba is normalizing relations with the U.S.

The U.S. House of Representatives has moved to punish Nicaragua since the opposition was gutted, passing a bill to require the United States to oppose loans to Nicaragua from international lending institutions unless the country takes "effective steps to hold free, fair and transparent elections." A companion bill was introduced in the U.S. Senate.

"The lack of Venezuelan support, the international price of oil, the price of our exports and the possibility that (U.S. legislation passes) makes it a more complicated outlook for the Ortega in the next term," said Oscar Rene Vargas, a sociologist and economist at Central American University.

FBI chief: No charges for Clinton after new emails reviewed

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI Director James Comey told Congress in a letter sent Sunday that a review of newly discovered Hillary Clinton emails has "not changed our conclusions" from earlier this year that she should not face charges.

Sent just two days before Election Day, the letter appeared to resolve any lingering ambiguity over the prospect that the Democratic presidential nominee could yet face a criminal indictment over her use of a private email sever as secretary of state.

"Based on our review, we have not changed our conclusions that we expressed in July with respect to Secretary Clinton," Comey wrote to congressional leaders, less than two weeks after first telling them about a cache of newly found emails that investigators thought might be pertinent to their investigation.

But the letter left unresolved other questions, including the content and number of new emails, and how many of the messages investigators reviewed were duplicates of emails they had already seen.

"The growing number of unanswered questions demand explanations," Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa, the Republican chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said in a statement.

A senior law enforcement official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal decision-making, said the letter was intended to reflect a conclusion to the email review and not merely a status update.

The letter also drew fresh criticism from lawmakers who said the new email review, announced in a vague letter to Congress on Oct. 28, shouldn't have been made public so close to the election and created unnecessary suspicion.

"Today's letter makes Director Comey's actions nine days ago even more troubling. There's no doubt that it created a false impression about the nature of the agency's inquiry," Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said.

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump said Clinton was being protected by a "rigged system" and pronounced her "guilty," notwithstanding the FBI's conclusion.

The FBI had been under pressure to reveal additional details about its new email review following Comey's abrupt disclosure on Oct. 28 that the bureau had discovered emails that were potentially relevant to the Clinton investigation.

The emails were found on the computer of Anthony Weiner, the disgraced congressman and estranged husband of Clinton aide Huma Abedin. Weiner is under investigation by federal authorities for online communications he had with a 15-year-old girl.

Upon discovering emails thought to be potentially pertinent to the Clinton email investigation, Comey advised Congress that investigators would review the messages to see whether they were classified. The FBI subsequently obtained a warrant to begin the process of going through the emails.

That disclosure, made over the objections of the Justice Department, roiled the presidential race in its final days and revived an issue that the Clinton campaign thought had ended over the summer when the investigation closed without charges.

In July, the FBI chief chastised Clinton for her use of a private mail server but said the bureau would not recommend criminal charges against the Democratic presidential nominee or her aides. The Justice

Department accepted that recommendation.

In his letter to Congress on Sunday, Comey said the FBI had reviewed all new emails to and from Clinton and that nothing had changed its July conclusion. But the letter did not address how the messages wound up on Weiner's computer and what, if anything, the announcement means for Abedin.

Abedin's attorney, Karen Dunn, has said Abedin learned from media reports about the possibility that her emails had been found on a laptop belonging to Weiner.

Comey has already said that investigators found classified emails on Clinton's server, and that although Clinton and her aides had been "extremely careless" in their handling of classified information, there was no evidence that anyone had willfully broken the law.

The new email review did not automatically increase the chances that anyone was in renewed danger of criminal prosecution, even if additional classified messages were found.

"We were always confident nothing would cause the July decision to be revisited. Now Director Comey has confirmed it," Clinton campaign spokesman Brian Fallon said Sunday on Twitter.

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

Black pastors issue urgent plea to voters at Sunday services

By JEFF KAROUB AND RACHEL ZOLL, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — At Sunday services, in rallies and on social media, black pastors urged congregants to vote, hoping to inspire a late flood of African-American turnout that could help propel Democrat Hillary Clinton to victory in critical swing states on Tuesday.

In Detroit, a pastor spoke of voting and citizenship. In Philadelphia, the minister reminded congregants others had died for their chance to cast a ballot. The Rev. Jesse Jackson spoke to a few hundred people in front of City Hall in Tallahassee, Florida, before they marched a block over to the county courthouse to vote early.

Along with women and Hispanics, African-Americans are seen as critical to Clinton's chances against Republican Donald Trump. However, early voting data from key states indicate turnout will not be as high this year as it was four years ago, when Barack Obama, the nation's first African-American president, was on the ballot. Sunday's efforts were aimed at minimizing that decline.

Bishop T.D. Jakes, pastor of the Texas megachurch The Potter's House, tweeted on a red, white and blue backdrop, "Make sure your voice is heard. Vote on Nov. 8."

"Preachers are trying to strike a moral nerve and somehow penetrate the fog of indifference and try to remind people what's at stake this year," said the Rev. James Forbes, retired pastor of The Riverside Church, in New York, which hosted a national get-out-the-vote telecast Sunday night called "The Revival: Time for a Moral Revolution in Values."

"These are very crucial times to a nation with so much anger, so much anxiety about the future," Forbes said at the revival Sunday night. "We must be very careful not to fall prey to the siren call of those who are peddlers of false hope, illusions and lies."

Forbes has been traveling the country to mobilize voters. He and other pastors have taken pains to emphasize they were not endorsing a candidate, but it was hard to mistake some remarks Sunday that signaled a deep opposition to Trump.

"There are some folk in this country who think that to make this country great again, we've got to exclude folks," said the Rev. Mark Tyler, pastor of Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church, in Philadelphia, one of the first black churches in the U.S. "We've always been great because we've always been open to strangers. If it was not for the goodness of the first Americans, there would be no America today."

Trump has made his own efforts to build support among black voters, saying their loyalty to the Democratic Party has not improved the safety of their neighborhoods nor the quality of their schools. "What do you have to lose?" he has said. However, polls have consistently shown Trump's support among African-Americans to be in the low single digits.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 35 of 45

The number of African-American voters has increased steadily: 12.9 million in 2000, 14 million in 2004, 16 million in 2008 and 17.8 million in 2012. In the last presidential election year, blacks for the first time voted at a higher rate — 66.2 percent — than did whites (64.1 percent), or Asian-Americans or Hispanics, with rates of about 48 percent each.

Besides the absence of a black candidate on either major-party ticket, community leaders and others blame the lower turnout so far on voter suppression efforts, such as limits to early voting hours in some communities and challenges by individuals to voter registrations. A federal judge Friday ordered registrations to be restored in three North Carolina counties for what could be thousands of challenged voters.

Underscoring the importance of black voters to her campaign, Clinton started her day Sunday with the largely African-American congregation of Mount Airy Church of God in Christ, in Philadelphia. The Rev. Leah Daughtry, chief executive of the Democratic National Convention, spoke across town at Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church.

Worshippers clapped and cheered as Tyler, the Mother Bethel pastor, told them “don’t let there be any excuse” for not showing up at the polls, even with a lingering public transit strike. “Somebody died for you to have a right.”

In Tallahassee, at the event with the mayor and local pastors, Jackson referenced civil rights leaders and the chaotic 2000 presidential election he contended was “stolen” on behalf of George W. Bush by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Roz Booker, a black voter, said this election season has been a “mess,” but her ancestors had died for the right to vote and she had already cast her ballot. Booker described herself as “anti-Trump,” criticizing the Republican nominee for what she called “promoting hate” against minorities.

At New Destiny Christian Fellowship, a predominantly black church in Detroit, the pastor spoke of being a “good citizen” on Election Day. Congregant Tiffany Gunter, who is voting for Clinton, noted that enthusiasm in 2016 was lower among African-Americans than in the previous presidential race. “What Hillary Clinton has is experience. Is she perfect? Absolutely not. There are things about her that I wish were different, but I believe that she does listen and she can adapt,” Gunter said.

Zoll reported from Amherst, Massachusetts. Gary D. Robertson in Wilson, North Carolina; Errin Haines Whack in Philadelphia; Gary Fineout in Tallahassee; William Mathis in New York contributed to this report.

Syrian Kurds begin campaign to oust Islamic State from Raqqa

By ZEINA KARAM and PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Kurdish-led Syrian forces began an offensive Sunday to liberate the Islamic State group’s de facto capital of Raqqa, clashing with the extremists north of the Syrian city and warning neighboring Turkey not to interfere in the operation.

The United States, France and Britain said they would provide air support for the offensive, which was announced at a news conference in Ein Issa, north of Raqqa, by a coalition of Kurds and Arabs known as the Syria Democratic Forces. But it lacked details on how the group dominated by Kurds plans to oust the militants from the city, home to nearly 200,000 mostly Sunni Arabs and an estimated 5,000 IS fighters.

Unlike several successful military efforts to drive Islamic State militants out of cities in Iraq, the Raqqa offensive faces several political obstacles and is likely to be much more complex.

In Iraq, a U.S.-led coalition is working with the government in Baghdad, but Washington and its partners in Syria are relying on a hodgepodge of local Arab and Kurdish opposition groups, some of which are fierce rivals. The tensions are exacerbated by Russian and Syrian forces on one side and Turkish forces on another.

Still, the start of the Raqqa offensive, which aims initially at isolating and encircling the city, increases the pressure on the Islamic State group, making it harder for its fighters to move reinforcements between Syria and Iraq. The city, which has been under IS control since early 2014, is home to some of the group’s top leaders and is seen as the key to defeating the group militarily.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 36 of 45

Islamic State forces already are now under attack by U.S.-backed Iraqi forces on the eastern edges of the city of Mosul, which the militant group seized two years ago when it captured territory across Iraq and Syria for its self-proclaimed caliphate. The Iraqi forces began their operation Oct. 17 and are trying to push deeper into the city, which is the militants' last urban bastion in Iraq.

Iraq's Hezbollah Brigades, one of the main Shiite militias taking part in the government-led push to drive IS from Mosul, said Wednesday its men had taken control of a highway linking Mosul and Raqqa, severing a key supply route between the two militant strongholds.

Senior commanders and representatives of the SDF attended the news conference in Ein Issa, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) north of Raqqa. The Kurdish officials said the anti-IS campaigns in Mosul and Raqqa are not coordinated but simply a matter of "good timing."

"We call on our heroic steadfast people in Raqqa and surrounding areas to stay away from enemy gatherings which will be a target for the liberating forces and the coalition forces, and to head to areas that will be liberated," said Cihan Ehmed, an SDF fighter.

She said 30,000 fighters will take part in the offensive, dubbed "Euphrates Rage," and that a joint operations command had been set up to coordinate various factions.

"I welcome today's announcement by the SDF that the operation to free Raqqa from ISIL's barbaric grip has begun," U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said. "The effort to isolate and ultimately liberate Raqqa marks the next step in our coalition campaign plan.

"As in Mosul, the fight will not be easy and there is hard work ahead, but it is necessary to end the fiction of ISIL's caliphate and disrupt the group's ability to carry out terror attacks against the United States, our allies and our partners," he added.

Activists reported clashes Sunday between IS militants and SDF forces north of Raqqa.

SDF forces seized control of six villages and farms, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. It also reported strong activity by U.S.-led coalition warplanes and airstrikes that hit IS positions. The Observatory also said IS detonated two car bombs targeting the advancing forces.

The Raqqa-based Syrian activist group known as Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently also reported the clashes south of Ein Issa.

There was no immediate comment from the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad on the Kurdish announcement.

Brett McGurk, the White House envoy to the anti-IS coalition, said the U.S. will provide air support for the Raqqa offensive and is in "close, close contact" with its ally Turkey. "We want this to be as coordinated as possible, recognizing that there will be a mix of forces on the field," he told reporters in Jordan.

Britain also said it is providing aerial surveillance to help the offensive. The Royal Air Force "will support the Raqqa operation as it develops," Defense Secretary Michael Fallon said.

French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said his country will provide airstrikes to aid the offensive. He told French radio Europe 1 that "local territorial forces" should retake Raqqa with air support from the coalition but no foreign ground troops.

The SDF is dominated by the main Syrian Kurdish fighting force known as the People's Protection Units, or YPG. The U.S. considers the group to be the most effective force against IS, but Turkey views it as a terrorist organization linked to a Kurdish group outlawed by the government in Ankara. Turkish officials, including President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, have said they will not accept a role for the Kurds in the liberation of Raqqa.

Turkey's defense minister suggested last week that instead of the Kurds, Turkish-backed forces can present an "alternative."

In a speech Sunday, Erdogan did not comment on the SDF announcement but said allied Syrian opposition fighters were 9 miles (15 kilometers) from the Syrian town of al-Bab, the last stronghold of the IS group in Aleppo province. He added that Turkey's aim was to move on al-Bab and expel the militants toward the south.

"Our hope is that the Turkish state will not interfere in the internal affairs of Syria," Ehmed said at the

news conference, suggesting SDF forces would defend themselves if it did. "Raqqqa will be free by its own sons."

Kurdish officials acknowledged their announcement was prompted by Turkey's growing assertiveness in northern Syria. Since August, Ankara has backed Syrian fighters opposed to the Kurds with tanks and aircraft and has bombed Kurdish forces.

"Let's be clear: Turkey is an enemy of the Kurds," said Nawaf Khalil, the former spokesman for Syria's powerful Kurdish Democratic Union Party, known as the PYD. "When Turkey enters an area, it remains as an occupier."

The mutual distrust puts the U.S. in a difficult position as it tries to balance SDF against Turkish interests in northern Syria.

Political official Rezan Hiddo said the SDF had warned the international coalition it would halt its Raqqqa campaign if Turkish-backed forces advanced on Manbij or other Kurdish-held towns.

"We cannot extinguish the fire in our neighbor's house if our home is burning. We were very clear with our allies. If there is a plan to attack Daesh, there must be limits for Turkey," Hiddo said, using an Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

SDF spokesman Talal Sillo told The Associated Press the Raqqqa campaign will occur on several fronts.

"We want to liberate the surrounding countryside, then encircle the city, then we will assault and liberate it," he said.

Coalition leaders have been struggling with the timing of the Raqqqa campaign, not only because of the demands of the Iraqi-led Mosul operation but also because the political and military landscape in Syria is more complicated amid a civil war that has lasted more than five years and has devastated much of the country.

Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend, commander of anti-IS coalition forces, said last week more Syrian opposition fighters need to be recruited, trained and equipped for the Raqqqa battle. The YPG will necessarily be part of the offensive, he said, adding: "The only force that is capable on any near-term timeline is the Syrian Democratic Forces, of which the YPG are a significant portion."

Associated Press writers Zeynep Bilginsoy in Istanbul, Turkey, Karin Laub in Amman, Jordan, Philippe Sotto in Paris and Gregory Katz in London contributed.

Captive's rescue leads to break in grisly quadruple slaying

By MEG KINNARD and SEANNA ADCOX, Associated Press

CHESNEE, S.C. (AP) — For 13 years, the relatives came together periodically to grieve one of South Carolina's grisliest mass shootings and compare leads with stumped investigators.

On Sunday, they gathered again on the anniversary of the crime — this time in a Spartanburg courtroom after an unexpected break led to the man who, authorities say, confessed to the quadruple slayings.

The victims' relatives sat a few feet away from Todd Kohlhepp as he was denied bond on the murder charges. It was their first chance to face the man accused of killing their loved ones.

After the hearing, Magistrate Judge Jimmy Henson thanked the families for their civility and composure.

"I know there's a lot of hurt ... beyond what a lot of people understand," he said.

Authorities have charged Kohlhepp, 45, with four counts of murder in the 2003 deaths at the Superbike Motorsports motorcycle shop in Chesnee.

Kohlhepp's alleged role in those killings was uncovered, authorities said, after a woman was found last week chained in a locked metal container on Kohlhepp's property in rural Woodruff.

The murder charges against Kohlhepp represent welcome progress for investigators and families haunted by the slayings at the motorcycle shop. The killings shocked the state and left the victims' parents and spouses reeling with each new rumor about a possible motive.

"We got 'em today. We got 'em today," Sheriff Chuck Wright said late Saturday, referring to answers in the cold case. "I'm rejoicing that this community can know that four people who were brutally murdered,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 38 of 45

there's no wondering about it anymore," said Wright, who was first elected to the position about a year after the quadruple slayings.

A Spartanburg County Sheriff's investigative report from Saturday says Kohlhepp "confessed to investigators that he shot and killed" the owner, service manager, mechanic and bookkeeper of the motorcycle shop, giving details only the killer would know.

Kohlhepp is also charged with the woman's kidnapping, and prosecutors say more charges are expected. Officers are making more grisly discoveries as they unwind a hidden crime spree that unfolded over more than a decade.

The investigation has expanded to other properties that Kohlhepp, a real estate agent, either currently or used to own. Those properties are not limited to South Carolina, Wright said Sunday, declining to be more specific.

Both the FBI and Homeland Security are involved, he said.

Kohlhepp showed investigators Saturday where he says he buried two other victims on his 95-acre property near Woodruff. Human remains were uncovered Sunday at one of those sites, Wright said.

"We're not even close" on identifying the remains or cause of death, he said. "We can't tell anything."

Kohlhepp did not tell investigators who was buried there. Even if he did, investigators can't take that as identification, the sheriff said.

The excavation of that grave and search for others continues Monday.

The gravesites Kohlhepp pointed to are in addition to the body found Friday at the site. Authorities identified that victim as 32-year-old Charles Carver, the boyfriend of the woman found Thursday. Carver died of multiple gunshot wounds after he and the woman went missing at the end of August.

The Associated Press is not naming the woman because the suspect is a sex offender, though authorities have not said whether she was sexually assaulted.

In Spartanburg, Kohlhepp appeared in an orange jumpsuit for the brief bond hearing and declined to make a statement. He didn't have an attorney.

After Kohlhepp left the courtroom, Henson told the family members that they would have a chance later to address Kohlhepp in court.

"When it comes your time to speak to that defendant, speak from the heart," he said. "You have something to say. You've been waiting 13 years to say it."

The father of Brian Lucas, the 29-year-old slain service manager, thanked the judge.

"Your honor, I appreciate your words to us and your counsel," Tom Lucas said as two others put their hands on his shoulders. "We thank you."

Standing with his wife before the hearing, Lucas said he wanted to be in court to look Kohlhepp in the eye.

"I want to look at him, and I want to try to use that in healing," he said.

He and his wife, Lorraine, said there was a vigil Friday night to mark the anniversary of the killings, and gatherings were a regular occurrence over the years.

Before Kohlhepp emerged as a suspect, investigators have said all four victims were killed with the same pistol. They have theorized that the killer came in the back and killed mechanic Chris Sherbert, 26, as he worked. Bookkeeper Beverly Guy, 52, was found just outside the bathroom in the middle of the showroom.

Thirty-year-old shop owner Scott Ponder was found just outside the door in the parking lot. He was Guy's son. Brian Lucas was in the doorway of the shop.

Kohlhepp was released from prison in Arizona in 2001. As a teenager, he was convicted of raping a 14-year-old neighbor at gunpoint and threatening to kill her siblings if she called police.

Kohlhepp had to register as a sex offender. But that didn't stop him from getting a South Carolina real estate license in 2006, building a firm and maintaining the appearance of normalcy.

Melissa Ponder, who was married to Scott Ponder, said that detectives told her Kohlhepp was an angry customer who had been in the motorcycle shop several times.

She said that she had resigned herself to Scott Ponder's death remaining unsolved — until she got a phone call Saturday evening from detectives.

"It isn't closure, but it is an answer," Ponder said by phone. "And I am thankful for that."

Another grieving relative who came to the hearing, Terry Guy, was Scott Ponder's stepfather and Beverly Guy's husband. Guy said Kohlhepp's arrest means relatives of the victims can now finally be at peace.

"I'm just so relieved," Guy said.

The building that housed the shop is now shuttered and surrounded by a chain-link fence along a two-lane highway leading toward the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Two miles away in downtown Chesnee, Danny Lee said the killings rattled his quiet hometown of about 900 residents. The 52-year-old knew the victims and had a bike in the shop for repairs at the time.

"He said he did it. We've got to take his word for it," he said of the suspect. "What I still want to know is why."

Adcox reported from Woodruff.

Associated Press writers Jonathan Drew in Raleigh, North Carolina and Jeffrey Collins in Columbia contributed to this report.

Justin Bieber wins 3 MTV EMA Europe music awards

By MIKE CORDER, Associated Press

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Justin Bieber's "Beliebers" helped turn him into the biggest winner Sunday at the MTV EMA European music awards. Again.

Bieber, who carried away the most silverware at the MTV EMAs last year with five awards, won Best Song this time around for his smash "Sorry," and also took away the title of Best Canadian Act. His army of so-called Beliebers earned him his third crown of the night, Biggest Fans, in online voting via Twitter and Instagram that closed shortly before the show started.

Bieber was one of the many winners on the night who did not attend the show.

Just two days ahead of the U.S. presidential election, veteran punk rockers Green Day closed the raucous show with their anti-establishment anthem "American Idiot."

"It is nice to be out of America just for a second because of this horrendous election that is going on right now," lead singer Billie Joe Armstrong said.

The band was honored with the MTV Global Icon Award, but lost out to Twenty One Pilots in the Best Live category and to Coldplay in Best Rock. Twenty One Pilots also won the Best Alternative category.

Lady Gaga, also among the absentees, won Best Female and Best Look. The awards were colored purple this year to honor the late Prince.

"Prince, we will always miss you," presenter Bebe Rexha said early in the show as purple spotlights crisscrossed the Ahoy arena in Rotterdam.

Shawn Mendes gave his mom a shoutout after winning the Best Male category.

"My mom's birthday is today, so happy birthday mom, I love you," Mendes said.

Another Canadian took Best Video, with The Weeknd featuring Daft Punk winning for Starboy.

Dutch DJ Martin Garrix kept the home crowd happy by picking up two awards — Best Electronic and Best World Stage — and teamed up with Rexha to perform a duet of "In the Name of Love."

Rexha also provided one of the more surreal performances of the night by singing her single "I've Got U" while dancing on and around a giant faux-fur letter U, complete with eyes that followed her moves.

After a rainy day in Rotterdam, OneRepublic got soaked by a man-made shower on stage while performing their new song "Let's Hurt Tonight."

Beyonce was tied with Bieber for the most nominations — five — leading into the awards show, but was shut out. Queen Bey was in good company; Britain's Adele was up for four awards, including Best Song for her single "Hello," but also failed to pick up a single prize.

On Saturday, the Kings of Leon kicked off the MTV EMA weekend in Rotterdam with an intimate gig at the Dutch city's Old Luxor Theater.

Playing a mix of old favorites and tracks from their recently released album 'Walls', the U.S. musicians entertained a packed crowd that included "Game of Thrones" actress Sophie Turner who was dancing in the aisles with singer and actor Joe Jonas.

Kenya's Keitany, Eritrea's Ghebreslassie win NYC Marathon

By LARRY FLEISHER, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Quite a run at the New York City Marathon for Mary Keitany. Pretty swift debut for Ghirmay Ghebreslassie, too.

Keitany won the race for the third straight time Sunday, pulling away with more than 10 miles to go and breezing home to the finish line in Central Park.

"Alone in the streets," the 34-year-old Kenyan said.

Except for the cheering fans, of course, who packed the course to root on the record-setting 52,049 runners from 120 nations as they wound through all five of the city's boroughs.

At 20, Ghebreslassie became the youngest men's winner in this event. Alberto Salazar (1980) and Tom Fleming (1973) won as 22-year-olds.

Ghebreslassie was the first native of Eritrea to win the New York marathon. He finished his debut in 2:07:51.

"I'm really proud of it," he said.

Keitany defended her title in 2 hours, 24 minutes, 26 seconds, one second behind her time last year. She beat countrywoman Sally Kipyego by nearly four minutes, and became the first woman to win this race three times in a row since Grete Waitz took five straight from 1982-86.

Keitany made her move a lot earlier than last year, when she distanced herself from the field at the 21st mile.

This time, when she exited the Queensboro Bridge and entered Manhattan, the only people near Keitany were a police escort and the fans.

"I was not imagining of any time," she said. "I just went early."

Keitany pulled away after 15 miles and was the first woman to win by more than 3 1/2 minutes since Waitz finished 3:52 ahead of Patti Catalano in 1980.

"Those two last miles can be difficult," said Kipyego, who moved into second in the 24th mile.

"I just kept telling myself to look forward, don't worry about who's behind you, and keep your head down and try to stay in rhythm," she said.

Molly Huddle of the United States was third in 2:28:13 in her marathon debut.

Keitany was two seconds ahead through the 14th mile, then was 20 seconds in front through the 15-mile mark as the race crossed into Manhattan.

Keitany kept up her pace running on First Avenue and after 20 miles led by more than two minutes.

After heading down Fifth Avenue, she entered Central Park at Columbus Circle and coasted home, short of the women's record of 2:22:31 by Kenya's Margaret Okayo in 2003.

Keitany crossed the finish line and hugged her two children and her family.

"I was happy for them to be in New York," she said.

Huddle finished in the top three after setting an American record at the 10,000 meters in the Rio Olympics.

For most of the course, the men's field was a three-man race between Ghebreslassie, Kenya's Lucas Rotich and Ethiopia's Lelisa Desisa.

By mile 20, Ghebreslassie gradually began pulling away. He beat Rotich by 62 seconds and Abdi Abdirahman was third in 2:11:23.

Defending champion Stanley Biwott of Kenya withdrew at the 10-mile mark with a right calf injury. He also dropped out in the Rio Olympics after getting sick.

Desisa, who was the runner-up in New York in 2014 and a two-time Boston Marathon winner, dropped out at the 22nd mile.

Tatyana McFadden took the women's wheelchair race, keeping up her long winning streak. The 27-year-old finished in 1:47:43 and swept the London, Boston, Chicago and New York events for the fourth straight

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 41 of 45

year, giving her 17 straight victories overall in major marathons.

McFadden won six medals at the Rio Paralympic Games.

Marcel Hug of Switzerland won for the second year in a row in the men's wheelchair division. He edged Australia's Kurt Fearnley by sixth-tenths of a second, repeating their close finish at last month's Chicago marathon.

AP Top 25: Alabama, Michigan, Clemson, Washington at top

By **STEVE MEGARGEE, AP Sports Writer**

Texas A&M tumbled three spots to No. 10 while the top six teams remained intact in The Associated Press college football poll released Sunday.

Alabama, Michigan, Clemson, Washington, Louisville and Ohio State remained in front in the Top 25 rankings.

No new teams entered the poll this week.

Texas A&M had been ranked fourth in the first College Football Playoff rating released last week. The Aggies dropped from No. 7 after losing to Mississippi State 35-28.

Alabama won 10-0 at LSU on Saturday for its 13th straight victory over a Top 25 team, which represents the third-longest such streak in history. Southern California won 16 straight games over ranked opponents from 2002-05 and Oklahoma beat 15 straight Top 25 foes from 1973-76.

Alabama has won 21 straight games overall since falling 43-37 to No. 15 Mississippi on Sept. 19, 2015.

The Crimson Tide received 60 of a possible 61 first-place votes in the poll released Sunday. The other first-place vote went to No. 2 Michigan, a 59-3 winner over Maryland on Saturday. The rest of the top six includes No. 3 Clemson, No. 4 Washington, No. 5 Louisville and No. 6 Ohio State. Wisconsin moved up from eighth to seventh.

LSU fell from 15th to 19th following its loss to Alabama.

POLL POINTS

Ohio State's 62-3 blowout of No. 9 Nebraska matched the second-most lopsided loss ever by a top-10 team. No. 1 Army blasted No. 6 Penn 61-0 in 1945. A top-ranked Army team also trounced No. 2 Notre Dame 59-0 in 1944.

The 59-point setback was the worst loss ever for a team ranked ninth. Nebraska was on the other end of the previous record, as the second-ranked Cornhuskers whipped No. 9 Washington 55-7 in 1998.

Nebraska fell from No. 9 to No. 21 in this week's poll.

UP

— No. 8 Auburn rose three spots after edging Vanderbilt 23-16.

— No. 9 Oklahoma moved up three slots after a 34-24 triumph at Iowa State. The Big 12 had been left out of the Top 10 last week.

— No. 12 Penn State soared eight spots after its 41-14 rout of Iowa.

— No. 14 Western Michigan moved up three spots after a 52-20 win at Ball State. That's the highest ranking for any Mid-American Conference team since Ball State was 12th on Nov. 30, 2008.

— No. 16 Colorado moved up five spots after its 20-10 triumph over UCLA. This marks the Buffaloes' highest ranking since December 2002.

— No. 17 Oklahoma State rose five spots after winning 43-37 at Kansas State.

— No. 18 Virginia Tech moved up five spots after winning 24-21 at Duke.

DOWN

— No. 20 Florida State moved down a spot despite winning 24-20 at North Carolina State.

— No. 22 Florida slid 12 spots after its 31-10 loss at Arkansas.

— No. 25 Baylor fell 12 spots after losing 62-22 against TCU

IN AND OUT

— There were no new teams in this week's Top 25, as nobody fell out of last week's rankings.

CONFERENCE CALL

ACC — 5

Big Ten — 5

SEC — 5

Big 12 — 4

Pac-12 — 4

MAC — 1

Mountain West — 1

RANKED vs. RANKED

No. 9 Oklahoma hosts No. 25 Baylor. The Sooners try to remain unbeaten in Big 12 competition.

More AP college football at www.collegefootball.ap.org and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Mosul battle rages as IS bombings elsewhere in Iraq kill 20

By SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — Iraq's special forces worked Sunday to clear neighborhoods on the eastern edge of Islamic State-held Mosul as bombings launched by the extremist group elsewhere in the country killed at least 20 people.

The Mosul offensive has slowed in recent days as Iraqi forces have pushed into more densely populated areas, where they cannot rely as much on airstrikes and shelling because of the risk posed to civilians, who have been told to stay in their homes.

"There are a lot of civilians and we are trying to protect them," said Lt. Col. Muhanad al-Timimi. "This is one of the hardest battles that we've faced till now."

Some civilians are fleeing the combat zone, while IS militants are holding others back for use as human shields, making it harder for Iraqi commanders on the ground to get approval for requested U.S.-led coalition air strikes. Iraq's special forces are some of the country's best troops, but they still largely rely on air support to clear terrain.

Iraqi forces first entered the eastern edge of the city on Tuesday. On Friday, forces began pushing into Mosul proper, but so far have advanced just over a kilometer (mile) into the city.

They could receive a boost with Sunday's launch of a long-awaited offensive against the IS-held city of Raqqa in northern Syria, the de facto capital of the extremist group's self-styled caliphate. That operation, launched by U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led Syrian forces, could force the extremists to split their forces to defend the two largest cities still under their control.

On the southern front of the Mosul battle, Iraqi forces are still some 12 miles (20 kilometers) from the city center. The fighting is centered on the town of Hamam al-Alil, where Associated Press journalists could hear gunfire and saw attack helicopters firing on IS positions.

Kurdish peshmerga fighters launched mortar rounds and fired heavy artillery at the IS-held town of Bashiqa, about 8 miles (13 kilometers) northeast of Mosul. The town, which is believed to be largely empty except for IS militants, has been encircled by Kurdish forces.

The extremists captured Mosul and surrounding areas in 2014, and have had plenty of time to dig trenches, block off roads and mine approaches to the city.

"Daesh dug trenches that they filled with water and they have a lot of suicide attackers and car bombs," said al-Timimi, using the Arabic acronym for the IS group.

The extremists meanwhile struck far from the front lines with a series of bombings.

The deadliest attack took place in the city of Samarra, 60 miles (95 kilometers) north of Baghdad, which is home to a major Shiite shrine. Provincial spokesman Ali al-Hamdani said the attacker set off a bomb-packed ambulance in a parking lot near Shiite pilgrims before detonating his explosives vest.

The attack killed 11 people, including at least four Iranians, and wounded up to 100 other people.

Another suicide attacker rammed an explosives-laden car into a busy checkpoint outside the city of Tikrit, killing at least nine people. Al-Hamdani said five female students, a woman and three policemen

were killed in the attack, while 25 others were wounded.

IS had also captured Tikrit during its lightning blitz across Iraq in the summer of 2014. Iraqi forces drove the militants from the city, around 80 miles (130 kilometers) north of Baghdad, in April 2015.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Bahram Ghasemi, condemned the two attacks, which he said had killed 21 people, including 10 Iranian pilgrims, the semi-official Mehr news agency reported. It was not immediately possible to reconcile the conflicting tolls, which are common in the chaotic aftermath of attacks.

In an online statement, IS claimed all three bombings and said the ambulance bomb was set off by a second suicide attacker. The AP could not verify the authenticity of the statement, which was posted on a militant website commonly used by the extremists.

In the capital, Baghdad, a series of smaller bombings killed at least 10 people and wounded 21 others, according to police and medical officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters. No one immediately claimed the attacks, but they bore the hallmarks of IS.

Associated Press writers Sinan Salaheddin and Murtada Faraj in Baghdad, Cristiana Mesquita near Bashiqra, Iraq, Balint Szlanko near Hamam al-Alil, Iraq, and Maamoun Youssef in Cairo contributed to this report.

Deadly police response to medical alert focus of trial

By TOM HAYS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When Kenneth Chamberlain Sr.'s medical alert pendant accidentally went off five years ago, the 68-year-old told police who showed up that he was fine, barred them from entering his apartment and repeatedly asked them to go away.

They didn't. That set off a tense, 90-minute standoff that ended with the mentally ill, former Marine, shot dead.

What lived on is a dispute over whether the black victim was an armed threat when a white officer fired his gun — the question central to a federal civil case set to go to trial this week. Opening statements are scheduled for Wednesday.

The deadly 2011 encounter at Chamberlain's apartment in suburban White Plains — much of it captured on audiotape that will be played for jurors — was a precursor to the national debate over use of force by police in communities of color and in response to calls involving emotionally disturbed people.

Chamberlain's case combines both issues, said his son, Kenneth Chamberlain Jr., whose family filed a \$21 million wrongful death lawsuit that went forward after a grand jury declined to indict the shooter.

The son calls his father a victim of "systematic racism" by law enforcement.

If the officers had been confronted with the same situation in a more affluent neighborhood, "It would have been 'Sorry to disturb you,' and they would have been gone," he said.

To bolster that point, lawyers for the family unsuccessfully sought to introduce tape of an officer, later fired, using a racial slur during the confrontation. The officer, Steven Hart, died last year in an auto accident.

The plaintiffs have also accused White Plains' Department of Public Safety of failing to properly train officers in how to deal with emotionally disturbed people.

New York City was confronted with the same criticism last month after a white officer fatally shot a 66-year-old black woman diagnosed with schizophrenia. The woman, Deborah Danners, lunged at the officer with a baseball bat in a bedroom in her Bronx home, according to an initial police account. Mayor Bill de Blasio and police officials called the death avoidable.

In the Chamberlain case, the officers behaved "like a SWAT team," said one of the plaintiff lawyers, Randolph McLaughlin.

"They weren't trained to de-escalate, only to go forward," he said.

Lawyers for Anthony Carelli, the officer who fired the fatal shot, and the city of White Plains did not respond to requests for comment. In court papers, the defense has insisted the shooting was justified, saying Carelli "used deadly force only as a last resort."

The officers have also said they persisted in trying to coax Chamberlain into opening the door so they

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 44 of 45

could make sure he was safe, which the defense says was required by department policy before they could leave.

At the time of the shooting, Chamberlain was living alone and suffering from bipolar disorder, arthritis and respiratory illness, conditions that prompted his family to give him a LifeAid medical alert device in case he needed help.

On Nov. 19, 2011, Chamberlain accidentally set off the alert, prompting police to come to his door. In transcripts of recordings of the encounter captured by a LifeAid help center, he can be heard telling the officers he didn't want them there.

"Go home to your wives and children," he said.

As the officers persisted in trying to coax him into opening the door, Chamberlain sounded more agitated and disoriented, saying at one point that he was in touch with "the President and Vice President Biden."

Police say he poked a knife through a crack in the door, repeated, "honor, honor, honor" and then warned, "First one through the door, I'm gonna kill."

Backup officers, including Carelli, were called in to remove the door. Once inside, they sought to subdue Chamberlain with a stun gun and a bean bag weapon.

In a deposition, Carelli claimed it didn't work, and he watched as the victim came within feet of a sergeant with the knife raised before he fired two rounds.

"He wasn't standing straight up and gingerly walking to (the sergeant)," said the officer, who's expected to testify at trial. "He was charging."

The plaintiffs counter that Chamberlain's health was too fragile for him to put up that kind of fight. They also say ballistic and other evidence shows that Chamberlain was on the floor and helpless when he was shot.

Either way, the victim's son believes his father could see it coming.

"To listen to that audio, it brings tears to my eyes, because I hear the fear," he said. "He believes that they're going to do something to him and that's exactly what happens. They killed him."

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Nov. 7, the 312th day of 2016. There are 54 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 7, 1916, Republican Jeannette Rankin of Montana became the first woman elected to Congress, winning a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

On this date:

In 1861, former U.S. President John Tyler was elected to the Confederate House of Representatives (however, Tyler died before he could take his seat).

In 1917, Russia's Bolshevik Revolution took place as forces led by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin overthrew the provisional government of Alexander Kerensky.

In 1940, Washington state's original Tacoma Narrows Bridge, nicknamed "Galloping Gertie," collapsed into Puget Sound during a windstorm just four months after opening to traffic.

In 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt won an unprecedented fourth term in office, defeating Republican Thomas E. Dewey.

In 1954, the CBS News program "Face the Nation" premiered with Ted Koop as host; the guest was Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis.

In 1962, Republican Richard Nixon, having lost California's gubernatorial race, held what he called his "last press conference," telling reporters, "You won't have Nixon to kick around anymore." Former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, 78, died in New York City.

In 1966, John Lennon first met Yoko Ono at the Indica Gallery in London.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon was re-elected in a landslide over Democrat George McGovern.

In 1973, Congress overrode President Richard Nixon's veto of the War Powers Act, which limits a chief

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 7, 2016 ~ Vol. 23 - No. 127 ~ 45 of 45

executive's power to wage war without congressional approval.

In 1989, L. Douglas Wilder won the governor's race in Virginia, becoming the first elected black governor in U.S. history; David N. Dinkins was elected New York City's first black mayor.

In 1991, basketball star Magic Johnson announced that he had tested positive for the AIDS virus, and was retiring. (Despite his HIV status, Johnson has been able to sustain himself with medication.)

In 1996, the U.S. liquor industry voted to drop its decades-old voluntary ban on broadcast advertising. A Nigerian Boeing 727 jetliner crashed en route to Lagos, killing 144 people. NASA's Mars Global Surveyor blasted off on a mission to map the surface of the Red Planet. (It went into orbit around Mars the next year.)

Ten years ago: Democrats won control of the House and Senate, riding a wave of anger over the Iraq war and congressional scandals; Keith Ellison, a Democratic state lawmaker from Minnesota, became the first Muslim elected to Congress. Panama won a seat on the U.N. Security Council after Guatemala and Venezuela dropped out to end a deadlock. Dhiren Barot, an al-Qaida operative who'd planned to blow up the New York Stock Exchange, the World Bank and landmark London hotels, was sentenced in Britain to life in prison. Pop star Britney Spears filed for divorce from Kevin Federline.

Five years ago: A jury in Los Angeles convicted Michael Jackson's doctor, Conrad Murray, of involuntary manslaughter for supplying a powerful anesthetic implicated in the entertainer's 2009 death. (Murray was sentenced to four years in prison; he served two years, and was released in Oct. 2013.) Former heavy-weight champion boxer Joe Frazier died in Philadelphia at age 67.

One year ago: The leaders of China and Taiwan met for the first time since the formerly bitter Cold War foes split amid civil war 66 years earlier; Chinese President Xi Jinping (shee jihn-peeng) and Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou (mah yeeng-joh) hailed the meeting in Singapore as a sign of a new stability in relations. The license plates that were on the limousine carrying President John F. Kennedy when he was assassinated in Dallas in 1963 were sold at auction for \$100,000. Yitzhak Navon, 94, who was a top aide to Israel's founding father David Ben-Gurion and who served as Israel's president from 1978 to 1983, died in Jerusalem.

Today's Birthdays: Evangelist Billy Graham is 98. Former U.S. Sen. Rudy Boschwitz, R-Minn., is 86. Actor Barry Newman is 78. Singer Johnny Rivers is 74. Former supermodel Jean Shrimpton is 74. Singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell is 73. Former CIA Director David Petraeus is 64. Actor Christopher Knight (TV: "The Brady Bunch") is 59. Rock musician Tommy Thayer (KISS) is 56. Actress Julie Pinson is 49. Rock musician Greg Tribbett (Mudvayne) is 48. Actress Michelle Clunie is 47. Actor Christopher Daniel Barnes is 44. Actors Jason and Jeremy London are 44. Actress Yunjin Kim is 43. Actor Adam DeVine is 33. Rock musician Zach Myers (Shinedown) is 33. Actor Lucas Neff is 31. Rapper Tinie (TY'-nee) Tempah is 28. Rock singer Lorde is 20.

Thought for Today: "You take people as far as they will go, not as far as you would like them to go." — Jeannette Rankin (1880-1973).