

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 141 ~ 1 of 28

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Harr Motors Ad
- 2- Sippel to celebrate 95th birthday
- 2- Dog Licenses Available
- 2- Santa is coming to Groton
- 3- Doug Sippel Benefit
- 4- Obit: Beverly Kluess
- 5- 70th Annual Snow Queen
- 5- Sign up for Groton Bucks
- 6- City Council Story
- 6- Wuestewald is finalist for SD Big Idea Competition
- 7- Snow Queen Candidates
- 8- Today in Weather History
- 9 - Local Weather Forecast
- 10- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 10- Today's Weather Climate
- 10- National Weather map
- 11- Golden Living Ad
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12 - 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**

© 2016 Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 22

Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, rice pilaf, California Blend Veggies, peach crisp, whole wheat bread.

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

School Lunch: Mini cheese pizza, green beans, carrots and dip, fruit.

4 p.m.: JH GBB at Roncalli (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m. at the Roncalli Elementary School)

Wednesday, Nov. 23

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

Senior Menu: Chili, corn bread, coleslaw, Lime Pear Jell-O.

7 p.m.: St. John's Lutheran Thanksgiving Eve Service

Thursday, Nov. 24

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Friday, Nov. 25

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

Sunday, Nov. 27

9 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship (No Sunday School)

9 a.m.: St. John's Lutheran Worship

10 a.m.: St. John's Lutheran Sunday School

10 a.m.: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church

7 p.m.: Snow Queen Contest at GHS Gym

Monday, Nov. 28

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.



www.harrmotors.com

605-225-3078 ~ 1-800-658-3463



Sippel to celebrate 95th Birthday!

Emery Sippel of Groton will celebrate his 95th birthday on November 25. Greetings may be sent to 402 E. 15th Ave., Groton, SD 57445-2290.

2017 DOG LICENSES AVAILABLE NOW!!

Licenses due by Dec. 30, 2016

Fines start after Dec. 30, 2016

Dogs CAN NOT be licensed without providing updated rabies shot information, please bring records for each dog to City Hall

Please contact City Hall as soon as possible if you no longer have any dogs

Spayed or neutered dogs are \$5 per dog, otherwise \$10 per dog

Hey Kids! Come see Santa!



Saturday, Dec. 10, 9-11 a.m.
**Professional Management
Services**

Downtown Groton
Cookies & Juice for the kids
Photographer Available

GROTON

Chamber Of Commerce

Made it possible for Santa to come to Groton!

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 141 ~ 3 of 28

DOUG SIPPEL BENEFIT

Event sponsored by Friends and Family of Doug Sippel

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER

26

- > Consignment Auction 4:00 p.m.
- > Live Auction to follow
- > Silent Auction 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- > Split Pot
- > Raffles
- > Fresh Lefsa
- > Lunch Served - Free Will Donation

Partial List of Live Auction Items

- >Registered Angus Bull
- >1/4 Beef
- >Muzzle Loader
- >Weber Q Grill
- >Popcorn Popper
- >Piano
- >Computer Desk
- >Little Tikes KitchenSet

Partial List of Consignment Auction Items

- >1993 Dodge Dakota Pickup
 - >1994 Prowler 5th Wheel Camper
 - >Wood Chipper
- Benefit receives 10% of sale price on Consignment - consignee 90%. Please call Topper at 397-7337 with items.

DOUG HAS
ENCOUNTERED
HEALTH
ISSUES AND IS
UNABLE TO
WORK.
PLEASE COME
SHOW YOUR
SUPPORT!

Groton Legion at 4:00 P.M.
Saturday November 26th

Smaller donation items may be dropped off at the city office. For larger items, please call Topper at 397-7337 or Cheri at 380-2197.

Fund set up at First State Bank in Groton in the name of "Doug Sippel Benefit"

The Life of Beverly Kluess



Beverly J. "Bev" Kluess, age 87, Groton, formerly of Clark, the widow of Don "Blackie" Kluess, died peacefully with family at her side on Saturday afternoon, November 19, 2016.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, November 22, 2016 from 4-6 PM at the Furness Funeral Home at Clark and will continue after noon at the Church in Clark on Wednesday.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, November 23, 2016 at 2PM in the St. Paul Lutheran Church at Clark with The Reverend Mindy Ehrke officiating. Dorothy Fuller will be the organist. Honorary casketbearers will be all fellow teachers. Active casketbearers will be Wade Kluess, John Ferguson, Tom Shaw, and Colton Monson. Burial will follow in the Rose Hill Cemetery at Clark.

She was born Beverly Jean Stevens on January 18, 1929, at Clark, the daughter of Henry Cyril "HC" and Mary A. (Moren) Stevens. The family moved to a farmhouse 3 ½ miles northeast of Clark before Bev started school at the Concord "Bull" Country School. Bev continued her education

in the Clark School from 4th grade and continued in Clark until graduation from Clark High School in 1947. Following her high school graduation, she attended Northern State Teacher College at Aberdeen obtaining her teacher's certificate. She began that fall teaching at the South Elrod School.

Around that same time as teaching at South Elrod, she met Don Kluess at the Clark Ballroom. They dated for about a year and were married on September 28, 1948 at Montevideo, MN. The trip was also their honeymoon. They returned to Clark, Bev worked in the Red Owl Store and a few years later she returned to teaching. Over a course of years, she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree. She continued teaching for the next 38 years and even after her retirement, she was a substitute for 17 years. Don died on May 30, 2015.

In the community Bev was an active member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, the WELCA serving as President of that group, taught Sunday school and Bible school and always did the updates on the bulletin board in the basement. She served as the secretary of the American Legion Auxiliary in Clark as well in that capacity for the Clark County Historical Society where she also served on the board of directors.

Hobbies were many including painting with oils and watercolors, doing many crafts, attending craft shows, collecting plates, bells and other antique items, second to none though was her love of reading. She and her husband also enjoyed traveling including to tropical destinations and she made several trips to Europe with her daughter.

Preceding her in death was her husband, Don, a sister, Darlene (Alvin) Wika, brother, Dale Stevens, and brother-in-law, Norm Wika.

Grateful for having shared in her life are her children, Meredith Kluess of Chaska, MN, Rod (Arlys) Kluess of Groton, and Carmen Kluess Ferguson of Maple Grove, MN, 5 grandchildren, Cassie, Wade, Laura, John, Jessica, and 8 great-grandchildren, Colton, Clayton, Becca, Joey, Aubrey, Lola, Mya, Ella. She also leaves a sister Marbeth Wika and a sister-in-law, Wilma Stevens both of Clark.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 141 ~ 5 of 28

70th Annual Kiwanis Snow Queen Contest Sunday, Nov. 27, 7 p.m., GHS Gym

Sr./Jr. Snow Queens
Prince/Princesses
Junior Talent
Senior Talent
Guess Frosty



Ice Cream
Social will be
held during
the
intermission



GROTON

Chamber Of Commerce

Sign Up for Groton Chamber
Bucks at the Holiday Boxes
Located This week at the
Groton Dairy Queen
and S & S Lumber

Week of Nov. 28: Groton Vet Clinic & Ken's Food Fair

Council says no to fire pit ordinance, grants up to \$500 in matching medflex for employees to offset premium and deductible increases

The Groton City Council talked about a fire pit ordinance. Councilman Jay Peterson said he had a fireman ask if the city had one. The council discussed the pros and cons and decided that an ordinance is not needed at this time.

The city was awarded a grant for the baseball complex playground equipment. It was \$24,000. The match will be from the Olson Memorial money as well as other funds raised.

The city will be able to accept credit card payments and e-checks for payments. There will be no charge to the city; however, there will be a fee assessed to the cardholder. For in-office transactions, there will be a \$1 fee for payments under \$33, 3 percent for credit/debit over \$33 and \$1.50 for e-checks over the phone. For on-line payments at www.city.grotonsd.gov, the credit/debit over \$33 goes to 4 percent. The on-line option will launch December 1, 2016.

City employees will receive \$50 in Groton Bucks for a Christmas bonus.

The council then grappled with the health insurance for the employees. The city and employees were faces with over budget and higher premium expenses. If the city would have renewed as is, some employees would see an increase of up to 63 percent. The council mulled over three options which included the plan as is, or have deductibles of \$2,000 or \$2,500, up from the current \$1,000. The council went with the \$2,500 deductible and then will match up to \$500 in a medflex plan for each employee. "I think this is the fairest for all," said Councilman Jay Peterson. "We're doing the most we can with the amount of money we have," added Councilman Burt Glover.

After an executive session, the council passed first reading on the 2017 salary ordinance:

- ◆ Gave all employees a 75¢ an hour raise.
- ◆ The mayor wage increased from \$400 to \$625 a month.
- ◆ The councilmen annual wages increased from \$1,200 to \$3,000.
- ◆ Councilmen will be paid \$125 for special meetings instead of \$30.
- ◆ When the council meets as the Board of Equalization, the board will get \$200 instead of \$100.
- ◆ Planning and Zoning Commissioners will remain at \$25 per meeting with special meetings increasing to \$50.
- ◆ When an elected official attends a meeting other than council meetings, the full day rate will be \$300 per day instead of \$100 per day and the evening meetings will increase from \$25 to \$100.

Wuestewald is finalist for SD Big Idea Competition

Franklin Wuestewald is one of eight high school finalists to advance in the 10th BIG Idea Final Competition set for Thursday, December 8th, at Northern State University. The eight finalists were selected from the 303 applications submitted from 40 different schools. First round judges included 112 volunteers along with 144 college entrepreneurship and business students. During the BIG Idea Final Competition, finalists will have six minutes to present their idea to a panel of judges and compete for nearly \$5,000 in cash prizes and scholarships.

Wuestewald's business is ACE's Tattoo Shop. His advisor is Brooke Lingbeck.

Prizes for the eight finalists include \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second place and \$250 for third place. Scholarships to both Northern State University and Presentation College will also be awarded.

The competition encourages students to consider new ideas and opportunities for creating a business in their own region. All students who have participated in the competition are invited to the Awards Ceremony which will feature keynote speaker Jake Joraanstad, CEO of Myriad Mobile, as well as a panel discussion with local business owners. For more information about the competition, see www.BIGIdeaSD.com.



Senior Snow Queen Candidates

The senior snow queen candidates are pictured above, left to right: Keri Pappas, Erin Smith, Jessica Adler, Lexie Harder and Heather Lone. (Courtesy Photo)



Junior Snow Queen Candidates

The junior snow queen candidates are pictured above, left to right: Nicole Marzahn, Caitlynn Barse, Kaycie Hawkins, Kaylin Kucker and Payton Colestock. (Courtesy Photo)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 141 ~ 8 of 28

Today in Weather History

November 22, 1979: Snow began falling during the morning hours on the 21st and continued until the evening hours on the 22nd. Snowfall totals were in the 6 to 13-inch range with thirteen inches at Sioux Falls being the largest amount reported. Moderate winds of 20 to 35 mph made travel tough. Approximately 50 percent of the corn remained in the fields. The snow did not harm the corn, so most of it was still harvested.

November 22, 1985: Extreme cold temperatures occurred over South Dakota from November 22nd through the 28th, with low temperatures dropping well below zero. Record low temperatures were set in most areas, and Aberdeen set a record low for five of the seven days. Three of those five record lows still stand today: -17 on the 23rd, -18 on the 27th, and -21 on the 28th. The other records set at the time (-16 on both the 24th and 26th), were both broken in November 1996.

November 22, 2003: Heavy snow of 6 to 10 inches fell across Big Stone and Traverse counties in Minnesota, as well as northeastern South Dakota, from the evening of the 22nd to the afternoon of the 23rd. Dumont received 6 inches of snow, with 10 inches reported in Ortonville. Six inches of snow was also reported in Wilmot, White Rock, Estelline, and near Stone Bridge; 7 inches was reported Toronto; 8 inches in Big Stone City; and 9 inches at Clear Lake. Heavy snow of 6 to 9 inches also fell in Corson and Lyman counties in South Dakota. Some other snowfall amounts included 8 inches northwest of Presho, Kennebec, and near Iona; and 9 inches southwest of Keldron.

1926 - A hurricane came inland near Daytona Beach, FL. The hurricane caused 2.5 million dollars damage in eastern Florida, including the Jacksonville area. (David Ludlum)

1939 - The temperature at Lewiston, ID, hit 117 degrees to establish an all-time record high for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1943 - On a whim, and flying a single engine AT-6, Lieutenant Ralph O'Hair and Colonel Duckworth were the first to fly into a hurricane. It started regular Air Force flights into hurricanes. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Minnesota spawned a tornado which moved in a southwesterly direction for a distance of thirty miles across Rice County and Goodhue County. Trees were uprooted and tossed about like toys, and a horse lifted by the tornado was observed sailing horizontally through the air. Thunderstorms drenched La Crosse, WI, with 5.26 inches of rain, their second highest 24 hour total of record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1992: 45 tornadoes touched down in the Tennessee and Ohio Valleys. Georgia was hard hit with two F4, one F3 and three F2 tornadoes that killed six people and injured 144. Indiana had a total of 15 tornadoes on this day to set a record for an outbreak in November and for the month of November. One, an F4 multiple-vortex type, cut a 22-mile path through extreme southeastern Indiana and northern Kentucky. This tornado debunked the myth that twisters don't cross rivers, as this devastating tornado crossed the Ohio River twice. Indiana had a total of 15 tornadoes on this day to set two state records, the largest November tornado outbreak, and the most tornadoes in November. This tornado outbreak made a significant contribution to what was to become the biggest November ever for the U.S. concerning the number of tornadoes.

2010: A rare November ice storm prompts Fairbanks officials to advised residents to stay off the roads. Ice storm advisories are hoisted across a 950 mile stretch of the state that extends from Anchorage to Nome. The 0.39 inches of rain which fall at Fairbanks rates as that city's greatest November rainfall since November 1936.

2010: A strong cold front sweeping through the Midwest brought severe storms, including tornadoes to northern Illinois and southwest Wisconsin. Caledonia, Illinois was hit hard by an EF2 tornado.

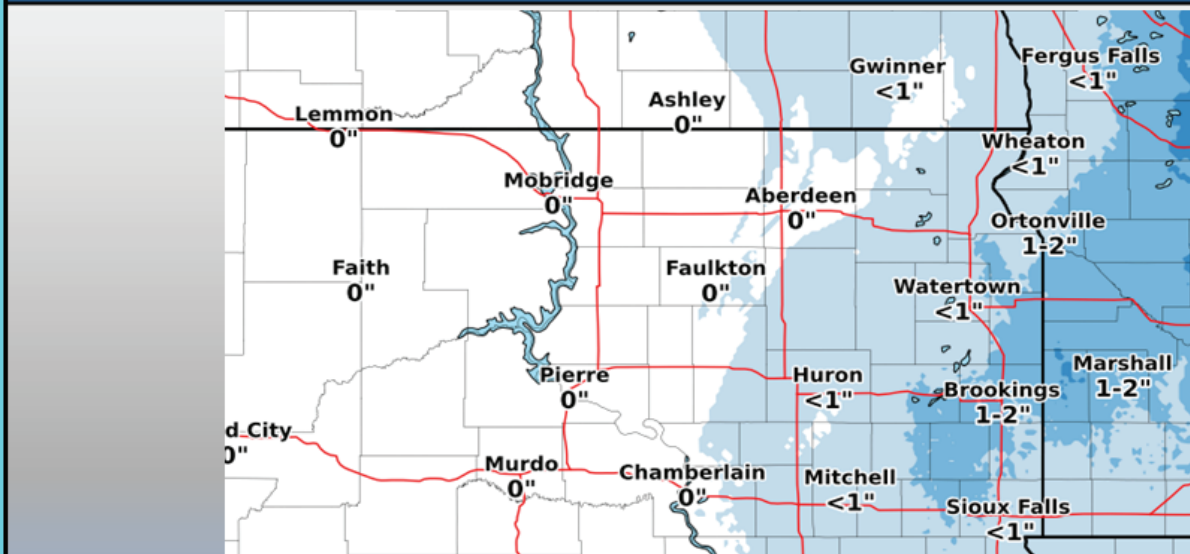
Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 141 ~ 9 of 28

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thanksgiving Day	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Areas Fog then Cloudy	Slight Chance Snow then Cloudy 20%	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Chance Snow then Chance Rain/Snow 40% 40%	Mostly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 38 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 38 °F	Low: 27 °F	High: 36 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 39 °F

Wintry Weather Today - Tonight

Snowfall Forecast



- **Mixed precipitation for the morning commute**
- **Light snow tonight through Wednesday morning**
- **Eastern SD and west central MN most affected**

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 11/22/2016 5:10 AM Central

Published on: 11/22/2016 at 5:16AM

A wintry mix of precipitation will continue over northeastern South Dakota and western Minnesota through the mid-morning hours. Temperatures will remain close to freezing over these areas with freezing rain and slick road possible. For tonight, rain and snow are expected, mainly east of Interstate 29. Minor snow accumulations are possible.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 141 ~ 10 of 28

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 41.6 F at 1:10 PM

Low Outside Temp: 23.6 F at 1:55 AM

High Gust: 25.0 Mph at 5:16 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 65° in 2006

Record Low: -14° in 1895

Average High: 35°F

Average Low: 16°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.57

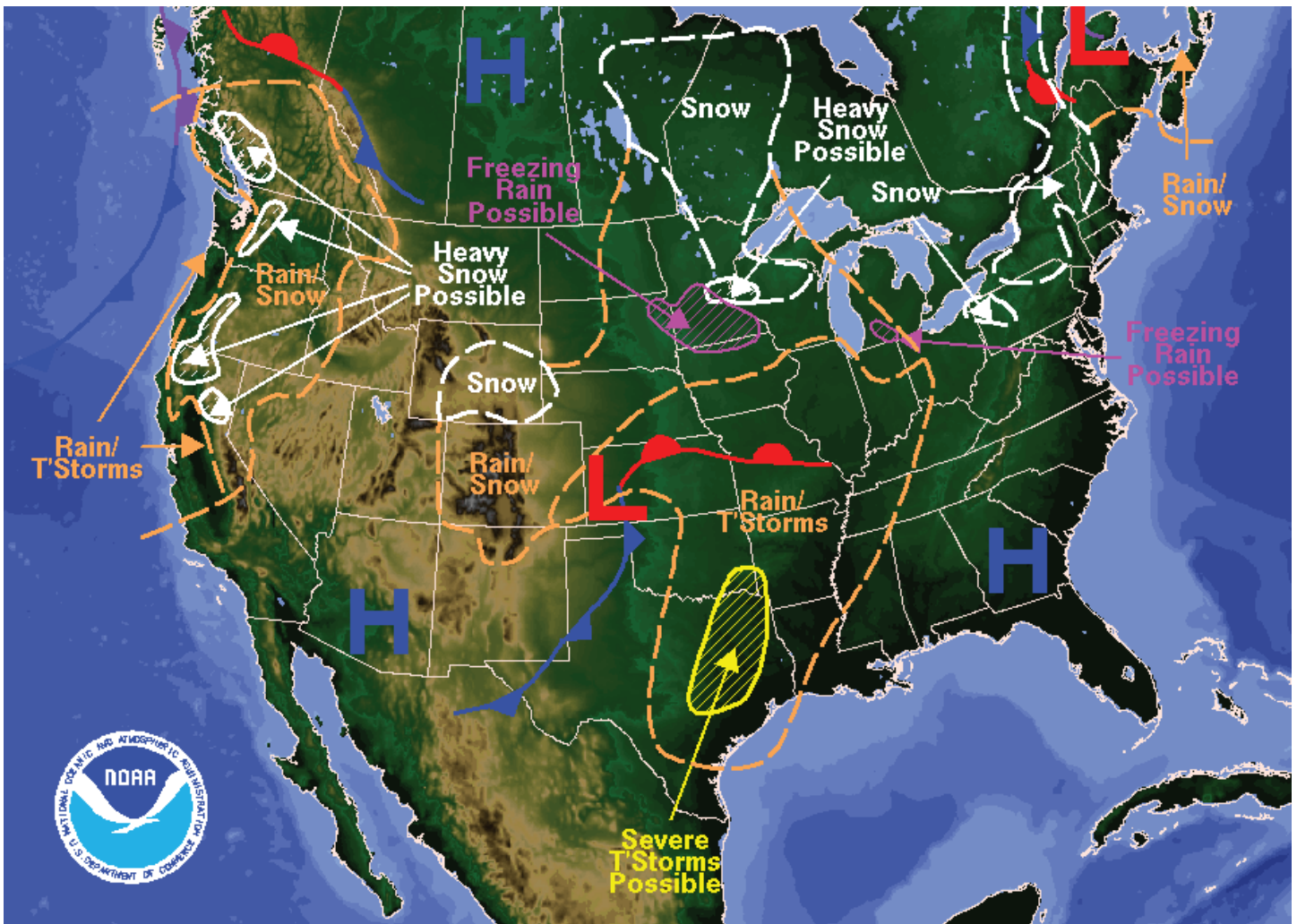
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.04

Precip Year to Date: 15.00

Sunset Tonight: 4:56 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:43 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Nov 22, 2016, issued 4:46 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 141 ~ 11 of 28



WHAT DO YOU WANT?

A young man, aspiring to become a great philosopher, went to Socrates and said, "I want knowledge. What must I do to get it?"

Socrates asked the young man to accompany him to a beach. After staring at the water for a few moments he asked the young man to join him and walk with him into the water. They waded slowly into the water until they were neck deep. After pausing for a moment he pushed him under the water and held him there. The young man struggled and finally, after becoming exhausted, Socrates allowed him to surface and take some deep breaths.

After releasing him, Socrates asked, "While you were struggling underneath the water, what did you want more than anything in the world?"

"Air," came the quick reply.

"When you want knowledge as much as you wanted air," said the philosopher, "then you will get it."

Whatever our hearts truly desire is what motivates us. And what motivates us is what we "get." Throughout the Bible we are reminded constantly of this irony. If we focus our attention on the things of this world, we will no doubt acquire many "things." If, on the other hand we "Delight ourselves in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our hearts" and good things will come to us as by-products of His grace and goodness. We have His promise and that's all we need!

Prayer: Lord, we ask for Your Spirit to move in our hearts and create a deep desire within us that will encourage us to take delight in honoring You always. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 37:4 Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.



We now accept



for out patient therapy.

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

Sanders scores 29, Idaho outlasts South Dakota St in OT

MOSCOW, Idaho (AP) — Victor Sanders scored 29 points on 9-of-16 shooting and Idaho held off South Dakota State 96-89 in overtime on Monday night.

Patrick Ingram hit five 3-pointers and added 23 points for the Vandals (3-1), who hit 14 total from behind the arc and shot 52.2 percent.

Idaho held a 78-75 lead with 12 seconds left in regulation. On the final possession, South Dakota State's Tevin King missed a game-tying 3, but Mike Daum corralled the offensive rebound and found A.J. Hess who drilled the equalizer at the buzzer.

The Vandals responded quickly in overtime, starting the period on a 7-0 run capped by a Sanders layup for an 86-79 lead. The Jackrabbits (1-4) cut it back to 86-83, but a Chad Sherwood 3 pushed it back to six with 1:13 left.

Hess hit seven 3s and led all scorers with 31. Daum added 23 for the Jackrabbits.

Prosecutors: South Dakota man strangled his mother, boy

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Prosecutors say a 24-year-old South Dakota man strangled his mother and a 7-year-old boy in a mobile home.

Heath Otto, of Sioux Falls, appeared in Minnehaha County court Monday on two counts of first-degree murder. Bond was set at \$5 million dollars cash only, although Otto's public defender reserved the right to argue bail later.

Otto is accused of killing his mother, 48-year-old Carol Simon, and the boy. Authorities say Otto set off an alarm just before 1 p.m. Sunday and was standing outside the home where he also lives when deputies arrived.

Deputies found the bodies of the woman and boy inside. The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2fWxXia>) reports prosecutors say Otto slit the victims' throats to make sure they were dead.

Authorities have not disclosed the relationship of the boy to the others.

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

Flack, Mooney lead South Dakota past Kent State, 80-77

ESTERO, Fla. (AP) — Matt Mooney scored 17 points, Tyler Flack had a late offensive rebound and putback and South Dakota slipped past Kent State 80-77 on Monday night in the Gulf Coast Showcase.

Flack finished with 12 points and seven rebounds, Carlton Hurst scored 11 with 10 boards and Trey Burch-Manning scored 10 for South Dakota.

Flack made two free throws that gave South Dakota (5-0) a 78-77 lead with 1:17 to go. After a missed 3-pointer on the other end, Burch-Manning missed a driving jumper and Flack pulled down the offensive rebound and the Coyotes reset their offense. Mooney missed a 3 from the right wing but Flack was there for the putback with 11 seconds left.

Jaylin Walker scored six during a 17-5 run that put Kent State (3-1) up by one with 5:21 to play. There were five lead changes and two ties from that point.

Walker and Deon Edwin scored 19 apiece for Kent State.

South Dakota will face the winner of Houston-George Mason, and Kent State the loser, on Tuesday.

Kansas man's homemade gun silencers clash with federal law

By ROXANA HEGEMAN, Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — When Shane Cox began selling his homemade firearms and silencers out of his military surplus store, he stamped "Made in Kansas" on them to assure buyers that a Kansas law would prevent federal prosecution of anyone owning firearms made, sold and kept in the state.

The 45-year-old Chanute resident also handed out copies to customers of the Second Amendment Protection Act passed in 2013 by the Kansas Legislature and signed by Gov. Sam Brownback, and even collected sales taxes. His biggest selling item was unregistered gun silencers that were flying out of the shop as fast as Cox could make them, prosecutors said later. One of those customers — 28-year-old Jeremy Kettler of Chanute — was so enthusiastic about the silencer that he posted a video on Facebook.

But last week a jury found Cox guilty of violating federal law for the manufacture, sale and possession of unregistered firearms and silencers. Kettler was found guilty on one count for possessing the unregistered silencer.

The case could reverberate across the country because it cites the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, pitting the federal government's right to regulate firearms against the rights of states. The judge overseeing the case expects it ultimately to end up before the U.S. Supreme Court.

At trial, defense attorneys contended their clients believed the Kansas law made their activities legal, arguing they are "caught in the crossfire" of the struggle between the state and the federal government over gun control.

Cox and Kettler were convicted under the National Firearms Act, which is a part of the Internal Revenue code enacted under Congress' power to levy taxes. The case raises the question of whether that taxing authority can be used to regulate firearms that stay within state borders. Advocates for state's rights also contend such guns do not fall under Congress' power to regulate interstate commerce.

Kettler told jurors he bought the unregistered silencer "because of a piece of paper signed by the governor saying it was legal." Before trial, he criticized Kansas for "setting up its citizens to be prosecuted" by the federal government.

Jim Howell, a former Republican state representative, said he physically carried the bill around the Capitol and got 55 legislators to co-sponsor the legislation, which won bipartisan support. Lawmakers knew when they passed the law that there was going to be disagreement on who has authority to regulate firearms if they stay inside the state of Kansas, he said.

"I think these gentlemen understood that when they made a choice to do what they did," Howell said.

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt has intervened to defend the state law's constitutionality in the first criminal case that has used the Kansas law as a defense. Schmidt said in a statement that buyers' reliance on the state law as a defense is "reasonable, and it is consistent with the State's interest in ensuring the Second Amendment Protection Act itself is defended."

That state law says firearms, accessories and ammunition manufactured and kept in Kansas are exempt from federal gun control laws. It also made it a felony for the federal government to enforce them.

A day after it took effect, then-U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder advised Brownback that the state law criminalizing federal enforcement of gun laws was unconstitutional.

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence challenged its legality in a 2014 civil lawsuit that was thrown out because a judge deemed the group did not have standing to sue.

Kansas modeled its law on the Montana Firearms Freedom Act, which the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has found to be invalid, according to court filings.

State firearm nullification laws, or firearms freedom acts as they are sometimes called, have been signed into law in nine states. In addition to Montana and Kansas, other states with them include Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah and Wyoming, according to Everytown For Gun Safety, which advocates common-sense gun control laws.

The legal maneuvering comes against the backdrop of President-elect Donald Trump's election following a campaign that made gun rights a rallying cry for his supporters. A new U.S. attorney general will also be in place at the Justice Department.

And in another twist, the man who helped write the state's gun law — Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach — is now a potential pick for a job in the Trump administration. Kobach has called this case "a perfect example of a prosecution that should never occur."

Sentencing is set for Feb. 6.

Officers douse pipeline protesters in subfreezing weather

By **JAMES MacPHERSON** and **BLAKE NICHOLSON**, Associated Press

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — Authorities on Monday defended their decision to douse protesters with water during a skirmish in subfreezing weather near the Dakota Access oil pipeline, and organizers said at least 17 protesters were taken to the hospital — including some who were treated for hypothermia.

The clash occurred late Sunday and early Monday as protesters trying to push past a long-blocked bridge on a state highway were turned back by authorities using tear gas, rubber bullets and water hoses. One officer was injured when struck in the head with a rock. One protester was arrested.

Protesters and officers massed at the bridge again late Monday morning, but protesters dispersed a few hours later at the request of tribal elders after police warned the crowd that they'd identified firearms and that anyone with a weapon should leave.

The Standing Rock Sioux and others oppose the 1,200-mile, four-state pipeline being built to carry oil from western North Dakota to a shipping point in Illinois because they say it threatens drinking water on their nearby reservation and cultural sites. Pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners has said no sites have been disturbed and that the \$3.8 billion pipeline will be safe.

The pipeline is largely complete except for the section under a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota, and ETP Chief Executive Kelcy Warren said Friday the company is unwilling to reroute the project.

What's known as the Backwater Bridge on state Highway 1806 has been shut down for weeks because authorities say it might be unsafe due to earlier fires set by protesters. Protesters say the closed bridge near their main camp blocks emergency services, and they accuse authorities of keeping it shut down to block their access to pipeline construction sites.

Authorities dispute that. Additional testing is needed to make sure the bridge is safe, and that can't be done until the area is deemed safe for inspectors, said state Transportation Department spokeswoman Jamie Olson.

At least 17 protesters were injured severely enough to be taken to hospitals during the overnight skirmish at the bridge, said Dallas Goldtooth, an organizer with the Indigenous Environmental Network.

"Hypothermia, a number of head injuries from being shot with rubber bullets, one individual had a heart attack," he said.

Daniel Kanahale, 64, a native Hawaiian, said he was hit with tear gas, water spray and a rubber bullet in a leg, and "it took me off my feet." He was treated at the scene.

Although Goldtooth said a water cannon was used to douse the protesters, Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier said only fire hoses were used. Sheriff's spokesman Rob Keller said a tactical vehicle spraying tear gas has been mistaken by some people as a water cannon.

Kirchmeier defended the use of water hoses, saying protesters were using aggressive tactics themselves. "We're just not going to let people or protesters in large groups come in and threaten officers. That's not happening," the sheriff said.

Mandan Police Chief Jason Ziegler said authorities won't rule out using water again if it's deemed necessary "to maintain control and order."

Margaret Huang, executive director of the human rights organization Amnesty International, sent a letter to Kirchmeier on Monday saying the water tactic "risks potential injury and hypothermia." Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued a statement calling the use of water an "act of brutality" and "inhumane." Greenpeace spokeswoman Mary Sweeters called it "nothing short of horrific."

U.S. Sen. Al Franken, a Minnesota Democrat, sent a letter Monday to Attorney General Loretta Lynch, calling the use of water "excessive and unnecessary" and urging the Justice Department to "prevent further escalation of violence."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 141 ~ 15 of 28

Protesters also were active Monday in Bismarck, about 50 miles to the north. A group briefly blocked streets in the downtown area, and protesters later locked arms outside the police station and refused to leave. There was one arrest in the first incident and 16 arrests in the second.

Doors at the state Capitol, where protesters have previously demonstrated, were locked due to the protest activity in the city. Access to the building was granted only to workers with security key cards and members of the public with legitimate business, according to Highway Patrol Lt. Tom Iverson. The patrol provides security at the Capitol.

Associated Press writer Blake Nicholson reported from Bismarck. Follow him on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

Bill would allow carrying concealed pistol without permit

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Republican state lawmaker plans to sponsor a bill in the upcoming legislative session that would allow people who can legally carry a concealed handgun in South Dakota to do so without a permit.

Right now, it's a misdemeanor under state law for someone to carry a concealed pistol or to have one concealed in a vehicle without a permit. Rep. Lynne DiSanto said Monday that her bill is about personal protection.

"I just hope this opens the door to people considering being gun owners and having the opportunity to protect themselves and their families as it was intended by the Constitution when it was written," she said.

On Oct. 31, there were more than 95,000 active concealed pistol permits, according to the secretary of state's office.

Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard doesn't generally comment on bills until he can see them or in many cases until the measure has worked through the Legislature, Chief of Staff Tony Venhuizen said in an email.

Daugaard in 2012 vetoed a measure that would have allowed people over 18 with a valid South Dakota drivers' license to carry a concealed pistol without a permit.

A similar proposal passed through the House in 2015, but died in a Senate committee.

There are currently 11 states that have what's known as constitutional carry, according to spokeswoman for the NRA Institute for Legislative Action.

Sunoco Logistics acquiring Energy Transfer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sunoco Logistics Partners L.P. is buying rival Energy Transfer Partners in a stock deal worth about \$20 billion that the energy companies' hope will boost their operations.

But shares for both companies fell in afternoon trading.

The deal comes as Energy Transfer Partners remains at the center of controversy over the Dakota Access oil pipeline that will transfer oil from North Dakota to Illinois. Construction of the \$3.8 billion pipeline has been the object of protests for months by the Standing Rock Sioux, whose reservation lies near the pipeline route, and the tribe's allies, who fear a leak could contaminate their drinking water.

Energy Transfer shareholders will receive 1.5 common units of Sunoco stock for each Energy transfer share they own. Based on Sunoco's closing price Friday, the deal was worth about \$21.31 billion.

The deal is expected to close in the first quarter. The companies said they expect the deal to produce more than \$200 million in commercial benefits and savings annually by 2019.

Kelcy Warren, current chairman of Energy Transfer, will be CEO of the new company. Michael J. Hennigan is currently CEO of Sunoco Logistics and is expected to have a management role with other executives after the deals.

Shares of Newtown Square, Pennsylvania-based Sunoco Logistics fell \$2.05, or 7.9 percent, to \$24.14 in afternoon trading. Shares of Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners fell 3.50 percent, or 8.9 percent, to \$35.86.

Car-deer collisions most likely in South Dakota in November

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The odds of encountering a deer while driving in South Dakota rises dramatically in late November when mating season is in full force, according to state wildlife officials.

State department of highway safety director Lee Axdahl tells the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2gCjVqc>) the state averages about 4,600 reported wild animal hits each year, with an average of two fatalities and 82 injuries each year.

As of Nov. 3 of this year, 3,172 hits have been recorded, killing three and injuring 56.

"A lot of these semitrucks with the big bumpers will blow through a deer and just keep driving," Axdahl said.

State Farm Insurance data show South Dakota ranks fifth among states for car-deer collisions, with motorists facing a 1-in-70 chance of hitting a deer anytime they're on the road.

"This is probably one of the worst times of the year, and it's due in part to deer starting to move around, as we're getting real close to the breeding season," said John Kanta, regional wildlife manager with the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Department.

Kanta said bucks are aggressively seeking mating partners in the fall and are looking for a place to have their fawns in the spring. Hunting season also causes deer to be on the move.

Axdahl said keeping eyes on the road is the best defense against any highway accident.

"Any of these things can happen in an instant, and nobody wakes up thinking that today is my day," Axdahl said.

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

School bus driver charged in deadly Chattanooga crash

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) — The driver of a school bus that was filled with elementary students when it crashed in Chattanooga, killing at least five children, has been arrested and faces charges including vehicular homicide.

Calling the Monday afternoon crash "every public safety professional's worst nightmare," Chattanooga Police Chief Fred Fletcher told an overnight news conference that 24-year-old bus driver Johnthony Walker was charged with five counts of vehicular homicide. Walker was also charged with reckless driving and reckless endangerment.

Investigators were looking at speed "very, very strongly" as a factor in the crash, Fletcher said earlier.

Police said overnight that five children were killed in the crash. Earlier in the day, Hamilton County District Attorney Neal Pinkston told news outlets the crash killed six. The Associated Press was not immediately able to reach officials early Tuesday to clarify the discrepancy.

Thirty-five students from kindergarten through fifth grade were on board when the bus flipped onto its side and wrapped around a tree. The bus was the only vehicle involved in the crash, but Fletcher said the scene was complicated and covered a significant area. He also said a warrant had been issued to remove the bus' black box, which contains data about the vehicle's movement.

Bloodied Woodmore Elementary School students lay on stretchers, while others walked away dazed with their parents after the crash, local news outlets reported. More than 20 children went to hospitals for their injuries, according to Fletcher.

Emergency responders needed almost two hours to get all the children off the bus.

Television cameras showed emergency vehicles still there late into the night, and the National Transportation Safety Board tweeted that a team would be heading to Chattanooga on Tuesday morning to investigate.

Craig Harris, a parent of two children who were on the bus, told ABC's "Good Morning America" Tuesday morning he thought the bus driver sometimes drove too fast.

"There has been times where I've seen him going a little faster than he probably should be going," Harris said.

Harris said his daughter and stepson were in shock and pain after the crash but were doing better

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 141 ~ 17 of 28

Tuesday morning.

Television stations reported that people lined up to donate blood and some donors were asked to make appointments for Tuesday.

Kirk Kelly, interim superintendent for Hamilton County schools, said classes would be held Tuesday with counselors available for students and staff.

Fletcher said the families of the children who died had been notified but police would not release their names because they were juveniles.

"Our hearts go out, as well as the hearts of all these people behind me, to the families, the neighborhood, the school, for all the people involved in this, we assure you we are doing everything we can," Fletcher said.

At the state Capitol in Nashville, Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam called the crash "a tragic event" and offered assistance.

"We're going to do everything we can to assist in any way," Haslam said. "It's a sad situation anytime there's a school bus with children involved, which there is in this case."

Trump tweets that he canceled meeting with New York Times

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump says he's canceled a meeting with representatives of The New York Times.

Trump tweeted early Tuesday that he backed out "when the terms and conditions of the meeting were changed at the last moment. Not nice."

Trump has been criticizing The Times throughout his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination and since his election. He's also made many broad-brush criticisms of the "dishonest" news media.

In another tweet, he said, "Perhaps a new meeting will be set up with the @nytimes. In the meantime they continue to cover me inaccurately and with a nasty tone!"

Trump met Monday with representatives of the television networks.

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. HOW TRUMP'S PICK FOR AG COULD INFLUENCE BORDERS

Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions has been Congress' leading advocate for cracking down on illegal immigration.

2. WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING NEAR MEXICAN BORDER

In the Rio Grande valley they say Trump's promise to build a border wall is not realistic and that an electronically fortified "virtual wall" makes a lot more sense to them.

3. TPP SEVERELY IN DOUBT

Trump's announcement that he plans to quit the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal may spell the end of the dozen-nation trade pact.

4. VEILED AMBITION: THE CHANGING FACE OF PROVIDERS

The AP finds that about one-third of the 240,000 Syrian refugee households in Lebanon are headed by women whose husbands are dead, missing or chose to stay behind.

5. SCARE, THEN RELIEF AFTER POWERFUL JAPAN QUAKE AND TSUNAMI

Coastal residents return home from higher ground, and fishing boats to port, after tsunami warnings are lifted after the magnitude-7.4 temblor.

6. TENNESSEE SCHOOL BUS DRIVER CHARGED

Johnthony Walker, 24, has been charged with vehicular homicide, reckless endangerment and reckless driving after the crash in Chattanooga killed at least five children.

7. 'LASHED OUT AT SOMEBODY WHO DIDN'T DESERVE IT'

Otis Tyrone McKane, 31, the suspect arrested in the ambush shooting of a San Antonio police detective, says he was angry about a child-custody battle.

8. WHY THAT RIDE HOME COSTS MORE

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 141 ~ 18 of 28

Airports across the country add surcharges of up to \$5 a ride — typically passed directly on to travelers — for trips originating at their curbs.

9. KANYE WEST CANCELS TOUR, HOSPITALIZED

Reports say the hip-hop superstar was taken to a medical facility in Los Angeles because of stress and exhaustion.

10. 'FUTBOL AMERICANO' RETURNS TO MEXICO

Derek Carr throws three touchdown passes and Oakland benefits from some officiating calls in a 27-20 win over Houston in Mexico City.

Asia laments Trump rejection of Pacific trade pact

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump says he wants to pull out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership but other Pacific Rim leaders are vowing to push market-opening efforts they say are vital for growth.

The possible decline of the 12-nation TPP could give a boost to alternative initiatives including one promoted by China in which the United States is not taking part.

Trump's message, in a brief video, was issued after President Barack Obama and other leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group, meeting in Peru, called Sunday for fighting the backlash against trade highlighted by Trump's victory and Britain's vote to leave the European Union.

Promoters of the TPP say it is a step toward building a wider, pan-Pacific free trade zone, though critics object it would shift too much control over regulation to companies from governments and the public.

"There is very strong support among the other 11 parties to the TPP to ratify it and to seek to bring it into force," said Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

Trump described the 12-nation pact as a "potential disaster for our country." He has also said he wants to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico.

Obama has said he would give up seeking congressional approval for the TPP. He had championed it as a way for the United States to lead the creation of "gold standard" rules for 21st century trade.

"I think not moving forward would undermine our position across the region," Obama told reporters in Lima.

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key said Washington will need to think about what role it wants to play in Asia and its fast-growing markets.

"The United States isn't an island. It can't just sit there and say it's not going to trade with the rest of the world," said Key after returning home. "At some point they're going to have to give some consideration to that. But naturally, we're a bit disappointed."

The TPP, signed this year in New Zealand, would take effect after it is ratified by six countries that account for 85 percent of the combined gross domestic product of its member nations.

The United States is 60 percent of the combined GDP of that group and Japan less than 20 percent, so those conditions cannot be met without U.S. participation.

"TPP is meaningless without the United States," said Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Last week, he became the first foreign leader to meet Trump since his Nov. 8 election victory.

As Japan's most powerful leader in a decade, Abe invested political capital in overcoming opposition to the TPP from farmers and the medical lobby. His ruling Liberal Democratic Party pushed TPP ratification through the lower house of parliament and had been set to seek final approval in the upper house.

Renegotiating the agreement would "disturb the fundamental balance of benefits," said Abe, who was in Argentina following APEC.

Other TPP members include Chile, Mexico, Canada, Peru, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and Australia.

China hopes for progress on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, or RCEP, it is promoting with the 10 governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a Chinese foreign ministry

spokesman said.

The RCEP would require fewer market-opening concessions than TPP. Critics say that would let China shield its huge but inefficient state-owned companies from competition. The agreement would include China, India, Indonesia and South Korea but no countries from the Americas have joined.

"We would like to push the negotiation process to make headway at an early date," said the spokesman, Geng Shuang, at a regular briefing.

China also called at APEC for progress on a separate arrangement, the Free Trade Agreement of the Asia Pacific.

"We hope these free trade agreements can reinforce rather than thwart each other," said Geng. "We should prevent fragmentation of economic and trade arrangements or politicizing such agreements."

Associated Press writers Liu Zheng in Beijing; Rod McGuirk in Canberra, Australia; Nick Perry in Wellington, New Zealand, and Almudena Calatrava and Luis Andres Henao in Buenos Aires, Argentina, contributed to this report.

Luis Andres Henao on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LuisAndresHenao>

A scare, then relief after powerful Japan quake and tsunami

By KEN MORITSUGU, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — At first, it was 2011 all over again.

"It really came back. And it was so awful. The sways to the side were huge," Kazuhiro Onuki said after northeastern Japan was jolted Tuesday by a magnitude-7.4 earthquake, the strongest since a devastating quake and tsunami five years ago.

"But nothing fell from the shelves," Onuki, 68, said in a phone interview, his voice calm and quiet.

Coastal residents returned home from higher ground, and fishing boats to port, after tsunami warnings were lifted along Japan's Pacific coast. The earthquake gave Tokyo — 240 kilometers (150 miles) away — a good shake, but was much less powerful than the magnitude-9.0 quake in 2011, and only moderate tsunami waves reached shore.

The Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, which leaked radiation for kilometers (miles) after the 2011 tsunami, reported no abnormalities. Decommissioning work on the destroyed reactors was suspended and the site inspected.

At least 14 people were reported injured, three with broken bones, and Japanese TV showed items scattered on the floor in a store and books fallen from shelves in a library.

On the coast, lines of cars snaked away in the pre-dawn darkness after authorities urged residents to seek higher ground immediately.

The first tsunami waves hit about an hour later. The highest one, at 1.4 meters (4.6 feet), reached Sendai Bay about two hours after the quake. By comparison, the waves in 2011 were 10 to 20 meters (30 to 60 feet) high.

The evacuation appeared to proceed calmly. Katuhiro Abe, a 47-year-old tourism official in Ishinomaki, a city hit hard by the 2011 tsunami, was on the early shift and already in the office, but his wife and teenage daughter fled their home.

He said his family jumped in a car and drove to the foot of a nearby hill and rushed up.

Tsunami alerts have been issued at least two times since 2011, he said, so his family was prepared and wasn't that alarmed. "We stayed in touch by email," he said.

It was the largest earthquake in northeastern Japan since the one in 2011 and some large aftershocks the same day. The U.S. Geological Survey measured Tuesday's quake at a lower magnitude 6.9.

The Japan Meteorological Agency described it as an aftershock of the 2011 quake, which triggered a tsunami that killed about 18,000 people and wiped out entire neighborhoods.

"Aftershocks could continue not only for five years but as long as 100 years," Yasuhiro Umeda, a Kyoto University seismologist, said on Japanese broadcaster NTV.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 141 ~ 20 of 28

In some areas, water could be seen moving up rivers, which funnel the waves to even greater heights, but remained well within flood embankments. It was eerily reminiscent of the 2011 disaster, when much larger waves rushed up rivers and overflowed, sweeping away houses and automobiles.

Captains took their boats out to sea to avoid any damage as the waves rolled in.

"When I evacuated offshore, I experienced unusual waves," crew leader Hideo Ohira said after returning to Onahama port. "But they were not that big."

TEPCO, the utility that operates the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, said a swelling of the tide of up to 1 meter (3 feet) was detected offshore.

The plant is being decommissioned after the 2011 tsunami sent three of its reactors into meltdown, but the site remains at risk as the utility figures out how to remove still-radioactive fuel rods and debris and what to do with the melted reactor cores.

At the nearby Fukushima Dai-ni plant, TEPCO said a pump that supplies cooling water to a spent fuel pool stopped working, but a backup pump was employed after about 90 minutes, and the temperature rose less than one degree.

Naohiro Masuda, head of TEPCO's decommissioning unit, said he believes a safety system shut off the pump automatically as the water in the pool shook.

Onuki, the man who recalled the 2011 quake, has not been able to return to his home in Tomioka since then. The town remains a no-go zone because of radioactive contamination. He was staying at what he calls one of his temporary homes on Tuesday.

"I felt again that we should not have nuclear power," he said.

Associated Press writers Yuri Kageyama and Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo and Koji Ueda in Onahama, Japan, contributed to this story.

Education Secretary King calls for end to paddling students

By CAROLYN THOMPSON, Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Education Secretary John B. King Jr. is urging governors and school leaders in states that allow student paddling to end a practice he said would be considered "criminal assault or battery" against an adult.

King released a letter Tuesday asking leaders to replace corporal punishment with less punitive, more supportive disciplinary practices that he said work better against bad behavior.

More than 110,000 students, including disproportionate numbers of black and disabled students, were subjected to paddling or a similar punishment in the 2013-14 school year, said King, citing the Education Department's Civil Rights Data Collection.

Corporal punishment is legal in 22 states.

"The practice has been clearly and repeatedly linked to negative health and academic outcomes for students," King said during a conference call with reporters. "It is opposed by parent organizations, teachers unions, medical and mental health professionals and civil rights advocates as a wholly inappropriate means of school discipline."

Coming toward the end of President Barack Obama's term, the push to end corporal punishment builds on the administration's "Rethink Discipline" campaign to create safe and supportive school climates, King said. It also lines up with Obama's "My Brother's Keeper" initiative, meant to address persistent opportunity gaps facing boys and young men of color, he said.

Eighty organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, NAACP, Association of University Centers on Disabilities and American Federation of Teachers, signed an open letter released by the National Women's Law Center supporting an end to the practice. Students are regularly paddled for minor or subjective infractions like dress code violations, cellphone use or disrespecting staff, the letter said.

"Corporal punishment of adults has been banned in prisons and in military training facilities, and it's time

we do the same for our nation's schoolchildren," said Fatima Goss Graves of the Women's Law Center.

Although its use has been diminishing, there are corners of the country where corporal punishment remains deeply woven into culture and tradition. School administrators say it has broad support from parents and preserves learning time that would be lost to a suspension.

Fifteen states expressly permit corporal punishment: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wyoming. In seven states, there is no state law prohibiting it. They are: Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, New Hampshire and South Dakota.

"There are better, smarter ways to achieve safe and supportive school environment," King said, adding that the education law passed late last year supports using funding for positive intervention and supports.

President-elect Donald Trump has not yet announced his choice for education secretary. He met last week with Michelle Rhee, a former chancellor of the District of Columbia schools.

"It doesn't actually matter who the secretary of education is or what people's view is about the election," AFT President Randi Weingarten said on the call with King. "This is a moral matter ... We must all be about safe and welcoming places for all students."

Trump's pick for Justice Dept could influence immigration

By EILEEN SULLIVAN and ALICIA A. CALDWELL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As a senator, Jeff Sessions became Congress' leading advocate not only for a cracking down on illegal immigration, but also for slowing all immigration, increasing mass deportations and scrutinizing more strictly those entering the U.S. As attorney general, he'd be well positioned to turn those ideas into reality.

Immigration laws are enforced by other agencies, but the Justice Department plays a crucial role in setting the policies and legal underpinnings that shape the system. And if Donald Trump sticks with his campaign promises, immigration will be a top priority for his administration.

As the nation's top law enforcement official, Sessions could execute maneuvers to limit which nationalities the U.S. would accept as refugees and to reverse a federal policy that protects young people from deportation.

"The president has the clear power to suspend immigration to protect America," Sessions said during the Republican convention when he was discussing the threat of terrorism and the need to scrutinize refugees more closely.

The fourth-term Republican from Alabama was the first senator to support Trump's candidacy, and he helped shape Trump's positions on immigration. Sessions favors limiting the number of refugees coming into the U.S. and turning away children who arrive at the border alone who are attempting to reunite with families living in the U.S.

The attorney general can direct federal prosecutors to boost the number of criminal cases brought against immigrants caught crossing the border; guide legal opinions to defend executive actions; prioritize hiring more judges for federal immigration courts; overturn key decisions made by a federal immigration appeals panel and challenge the legality of state immigration policies.

"The attorney general has a lot of power when it comes to immigration," said Stephen Yale-Loehr, a professor at Cornell law school. "He has a seat at the table when important decisions are being made."

One of the most important legal opinions on immigration that came out of the Justice Department in the past eight years defended the Obama administration's policy of formally shielding immigrants who arrive in the U.S. as children from being deported. This policy also gives those immigrants permission to work in the U.S.

Sessions and other GOP lawmakers have called this "backdoor amnesty." The Trump White House can rescind the policy that protects these young immigrants, and as attorney general, Sessions could provide legal guidance to defend Trump's actions, which would put more than 700,000 people at risk of being deported.

"Tweaks of the pen over there can have large implications across the country," said Victor Cerda, a former

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 141 ~ 22 of 28

Justice Department immigration attorney who led the Immigration and Naturalization Service after the 9/11 attacks. The agency has since become part of the newly created Homeland Security Department.

The Justice Department's Office of Immigration Litigation, housed in the civil division, is the force behind fighting state immigration actions like Arizona's landmark immigration crackdown that required immigrants to carry identification and invited discrimination against Latinos. The Justice Department sued the state, along with immigration advocacy groups, and won.

Given Sessions' and Trump's positions on immigration, it's unlikely they'd use the department to fight such state laws.

"The courts have always paid much greater attention when the United States is a party," said Bill Hing, a professor at the University of San Francisco law school and director of its immigration and deportation defense clinic.

Immigration advocates are preparing to go it alone.

"Private organizations are going to have to rely on their own resources to pursue these kinds of cases," said Thomas Saenz, president and general counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

The Justice Department also houses the immigration court system, which for years has been woefully understaffed and amassed a backlog of more than 500,000 pending cases. The parties in the case can wait years for a final ruling. The attorney general could ask Congress for a significant increase in funds to staff the courts and blast through the backlog.

The Board of Immigration Appeals, which is the last stop in the immigration court system to challenge a judge's ruling, is part of the Justice Department as well. The attorney general is responsible for appointing that 17-member board and can overturn a decision, which can then be challenged in federal court. The board's decisions have widespread ramifications and are applied by judges across the country, Cerda said.

And the attorney general can influence the grants the department issues annually for a range of state and local law enforcement programs. Sessions has criticized the government for not cutting funds to cities and jurisdictions that have refused to cooperate on enforcing immigration laws. As attorney general, Sessions could push such cuts.

"For 40 years, no president and no attorney general has given a high priority to enforcing our immigration laws," Sessions said in 2007. If confirmed by his peers in the Senate, he could change that.

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

Americans who live near border say Trump's wall is unwelcome

By FRANK BAJAK, Associated Press

LOS EBANOS, Texas (AP) — All along the winding Rio Grande, the people who live in this bustling, fertile region where the U.S. border meets the Gulf of Mexico never quite understood how Donald Trump's great wall could ever be much more than campaign rhetoric.

Erecting a concrete barrier across the entire 1,954-mile frontier with Mexico, they know, collides head-on with multiple realities: the geology of the river valley, fierce local resistance and the immense cost.

An electronically fortified "virtual wall" with surveillance technology that includes night-and-day video cameras, tethered observation balloons and high-flying drones makes a lot more sense to people here. It's already in wide use and expanding.

If a 30- to 40-foot concrete wall is a panacea for illegal immigration, as Trump insisted during the campaign, the locals are not convinced. And few were surprised when the president-elect seemed to soften his position five days after the election, saying that the wall could include some fencing.

"The wall is not going to stop anyone," said Jorge Garcia, who expected to lose access to most of his 30-acre riverside ranch after the U.S. Border Fence Act was enacted a decade ago.

Under the law, 652 miles of border barrier were built, mostly in Arizona. The 110 miles of fences and fortified levees that went up in Texas are not contiguous but broken lines, some as much as a mile and

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 141 ~ 23 of 28

a half from the river.

Eight years after government surveyors marked Garcia's land, he and his wife, Aleida, are still waiting to see if the Border Patrol will splice their property.

"This lets me know that whenever they want to build the wall, they can," said Aleida, holding up a tax bill that shows the nominally expropriated sliver of property.

If a fence or wall goes up, the couple will be paid \$8,300. So far, the Garcias and the rest of the village of Los Ebanos have been spared because the erosion-prone clay soil is simply too unstable, she believes.

Geology conspires against wall-building up and down the Rio Grande Valley. So does a boundary water treaty with Mexico and endangered-species laws. Catwalks and tunnels had to be built into existing fences to accommodate endangered ocelots and jaguarundi, two species of wild cat.

The gaps in the border barrier include an entire flank of the River Bend golf club and resort in Brownsville. University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley political scientist Terence Garrett calls them "gaps of privilege" because many landowners were politically connected.

Other landowners fought the Border Patrol in court.

"The wall might make mid-America feel safer, but for those of us that live on the border, it's not making us feel any safer when we know that people can go over it, around it, under it and through it," said Monica Weisberg-Stewart, security expert for the Texas Border Coalition, a consortium of regional leaders.

The coalition wants federal dollars to go instead to bolstering security at border crossings, where heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine are smuggled in. A poll conducted in Southwest border cities in May found 72 percent of residents opposed to building a wall. The Cronkite News-Univision-Dallas Morning News poll had a 2.6 percent error margin.

The wall is popular in distant cities "because you can see, feel and touch it. But politically it just doesn't make sense," said J.D. Salinas, the coalition's chairman.

As commissioner of the border county of Hidalgo from 2007 to 2009, Salinas won public backing for 20 miles of border barrier by reinforcing an existing levee with concrete and topping it with a fence. In 2010, the project paid off. The levee held back flooding from Hurricane Alex. The cost was about \$10 million a mile, though.

In the Nov. 8 election, only three Texas border counties — all sparsely populated — went for Trump. The rest are solidly Democratic, at odds with the Republicans who control most state capitals and have been demanding more border barriers.

Rural ranchers worried about drug traffickers and other criminals are less likely to benefit from border walls and fences than city-dwellers, said Adam Isacson, a security expert with the nonprofit advocacy group Washington Office on Latin America.

"What a wall ultimately does is slow a border crosser for 10 to 15 minutes," Isacson said. "In an urban area, that 15 minutes is crucial." Border patrol agents can arrive quickly. In rural areas, they may be an hour or more away.

The U.S. side of the border is quite safe, said Weisberg-Stewart. "We are not in a war zone."

In fact, cross-border trade has been booming. In 2014, more than \$246 billion worth of goods and 3.7 million trucks crossed the Texas-Mexico border, according to coalition figures.

Trump needs to remember that Mexico is the second-largest U.S. export market, said Rep. Filemon Vela, a Texas Democrat whose district includes most of the valley. Only Canada buys more American goods.

"There's no way in hell he's going to see his great wall," Vela said.

The region bears the usual hallmarks of American prosperity: strip malls, well-maintained interstates, prosperous gated communities with hacienda-style McMansions. Cold-storage warehouses proliferate for northbound Mexican okra, avocados and tomatoes while other warehouses brim with southbound used clothing. Cotton, grapefruit and corn fields abound.

Much of the Mexican side of the border has been afflicted by drug cartel-related violence, but crime in the Rio Grande Valley, which is home to 1.3 million people, has been consistently lower than other Texas cities.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 141 ~ 24 of 28

If lots of “bad hombres” are crossing the border, as Trump has claimed, they are mostly taking their lawbreaking elsewhere. Further, there’s no record of anyone sneaking across the border to commit acts of terrorism.

The Border Patrol’s buildup after 9-11 is one reason, argues David Aguilar, who was named to the agency’s top job in 2004 by a fellow Texan, then-President George W. Bush, and is now a private consultant. Since then, the number of agents has climbed from 9,500 on the southwest border to 17,500 in 2015.

Meanwhile, the number of apprehensions along the border is down from a peak of 1.6 million in 2000 — when Aguilar said at least as many got away — to 409,000 in the year ended in September. Nearly half were caught in the Rio Grande Valley.

Many analysts believe the Great Recession was a bigger factor than Border Patrol enforcement in making the U.S. less attractive to Mexican migrants in particular.

Since tower-mounted video surveillance cameras began going up in 1999 in the Brownsville area, illegal cross-border traffic in the area “dried up by 85 to 90 percent,” said Johnny Meadors, the sector’s assistant chief for technology. He said the traffic moved west, where there were no cameras.

Seventy-two more of the towers, which are 80 to 120 feet tall, are to be installed in the valley by 2021, and could include motion sensors and laser pointers, Meadors said.

Since 2013, the Border Patrol has also had five blimp-like aerostats that float from 1,000 to 5,000 feet above the valley on tethers. High-flying Predator drones have patrolled vast areas of southwest borderlands since 2011. The agency also has underground sensors along the border. How many, Meadors wouldn’t say.

All the gadgetry has been a bonanza for defense contractors. The government spent \$450 million last fiscal year on border security fencing, infrastructure and technology.

“If you had a sensible immigration policy, there would be no need for all this,” said Garrett, the political scientist.

What Trump’s policy will be remains a mystery.

During the campaign, he said he would deport all the estimated 11 million immigrants living illegally in the United States. Days after the election, he appeared to back down somewhat, saying he would expel the criminals among them.

Whether fear of a Trump victory has anything to do with a recent spike in arrivals from violence-wracked Central America isn’t clear. They account for more than half of Border Patrol apprehensions in the Rio Grande Valley, where many migrants turn themselves in at frontier bridges.

After processing, released migrants are given court dates in destination cities where relatives typically await. Others are sent to detention centers.

An average of 350 migrants, some adults wearing ankle monitors, now arrive daily at the Sacred Heart parish community center in the border city of McAllen, up from 100 a day in August, said Gaby Lopez, a volunteer at the makeshift shelter that opened in June 2014.

New arrivals get a shower, a hot meal and can pick through donated clothing.

Ingrid Guerra, 21, a Guatemalan who is eight months’ pregnant and bound for Kansas, said she was fleeing an abusive relationship and didn’t tell the father. The father of her other child, a 2-year-old who stayed behind with Guerra’s mother, was killed in a drunken brawl, she said.

Sitting with her is Erika Machuca, a 19-year-old Salvadoran.

Machuca, also eight months’ pregnant, is bound for Dallas, where her husband lives. She says two of her brothers and three uncles were killed in El Salvador in violence she did not understand.

Both women said they merely want to earn a living and raise families in peace.

“Back there,” Guerra said of Guatemala, “they kill at the drop of a hat.”

Follow Frank Bajak on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/fbajak>.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 141 ~ 25 of 28

Big plays, disputed calls, lasers highlight return to Mexico

By JOSH DUBOW, AP Sports Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Derek Carr made more big plays for Oakland, questionable calls by the officials peeved the Texans and an unexpected laser show from the stands took both teams off guard.

The NFL's second regular season game in Mexico City featured a little bit of everything.

Carr threw two of his three touchdown passes in the fourth quarter and the Raiders capitalized on two disputed spots that thwarted a potential scoring drive for Houston to beat the Texans 27-20 on Monday night.

"It wasn't maybe one of our cleaner games in terms of execution but we showed tremendous grit," coach Jack Del Rio said. "We got an opportunity late in the game to seize control and we did."

The Raiders (8-2) got a little help as well on the way to their first four-game winning streak since their last playoff season in 2002. The most notable breaks came midway through the fourth quarter when the Texans (6-4) were driving for a potential go-ahead score after Oakland had tied the game on Carr's 75-yard pass to Jamize Olawale .

On a third-and-2 from the Oakland 16, Lamar Miller ran wide and appeared to get the first down before being tackled by Malcolm Smith. But the officials spotted it short of the marker and coach Bill O'Brien opted not to challenge.

O'Brien then went for it on fourth-and-inches instead of kicking the go-ahead field goal. Akeem Hunt ran up the middle and the Texans thought he got the first down, only to have it marked about an inch short . O'Brien challenged this time but with no clear angle, the play was not overturned.

"I felt like we needed a touchdown there and obviously we did," O'Brien said. "And so we went for it. Thought we had it, looked like it was clear that we had it, so I challenged it and they said we didn't have it. They said the call on the field stands, so I don't know."

Five plays later, Carr connected on a 35-yard touchdown pass to Amari Cooper that gave the Raiders (8-2) a 27-20 lead and sent them to their fourth straight win.

The most memorable image of the NFL's first game in Mexico City since 2005 might have been the green laser that frequently shined in Houston quarterback Brock Osweiler's direction as a potential distraction used more commonly in soccer games here.

"I never want to say one thing's a difference maker, but certainly having a laser zoomed in your eyeball definitely affects how you play a game," Osweiler said.

Here are some other things to take away from the Raiders win:

CARR'S NIGHT: Carr turned a lackluster night into a special one with his big fourth quarter. He finished 21 of 31 for 295 yards with three touchdowns and one interception. Just like he did in comeback wins over New Orleans, Baltimore and Tampa Bay, he was at his best in the fourth quarter.

"Having that trigger man who can make those kinds of plays is everything," Del Rio said. "He did a great job tonight staying poised. To me that's one of the keys, the poise he's playing with is kind of unflappable."

CLOSE CALL: The Texans nearly scored a touchdown on their opening drive when DeAndre Hopkins took a short pass from Osweiler and ran into the end zone. But officials ruled he stepped out at the Oakland 36 after a gain of 24. The Texans were unable to challenge the play because it was blown dead.

FAVORITE TARGET: There's something about facing Osweiler that brings out the best in Mack. After sacking Osweiler five times last year in Denver, Mack brought him down again on the final play of the first half. That gives Mack sacks in five straight games.

TOUCHDOWN FIRSTS: The teams traded touchdowns in the first half with a pair of rookies getting their first scoring receptions in their career. Oakland's Jalen Richard struck first when he took a third-down slant from Carr and ran over two defenders for a 17-yard score . Houston's Braxton Miller answered when he juke David Amerson with a nifty move for a 12-yard score that tied the game at 10.

WHAT'S NEXT: Both teams have a short week coming up with the Texans hosting San Diego and the Raiders hosting Carolina on Sunday. Both teams hold a one-game lead in the division race and have little margin for error.

Texas, Missouri, Florida officers shot in attacks; 1 killed

By JIM SALTER and DAVID WARREN, Associated Press

A manhunt for a suspect in the fatal shooting of a veteran Texas police detective ended Monday with an arrest in the killing that was one of several weekend attacks against law enforcement in multiple states, authorities said.

The San Antonio detective and officers shot in Missouri and Florida were conducting routine tasks Sunday when they became the targets of violence. The detective was writing a traffic ticket when he was shot to death in his squad car Sunday morning outside police headquarters.

"I think the uniform was the target and the first person that happened along was the first person that (the suspect) targeted," San Antonio Police Chief William McManus said Monday.

The 31-year-old man charged in the ambush shooting of Detective Benjamin Marconi said later Monday that he was angry with the court system for not letting him see his son and took it out on the officer.

"I've been through several custody battles, and I was upset at the situation I was in, and I lashed out at someone who didn't deserve it," Otis Tyrone McKane told reporters as he was being led by police to the Bexar County Jail. He said he wished to apologize to the family of the slain officer.

In Missouri, a St. Louis police sergeant was shot twice in the face Sunday evening while he sat in traffic in a marked police vehicle. He was released from a hospital Monday.

Law enforcement officials say there's been an alarming spike in ambush-style attacks. Sixty officers, including the San Antonio detective, were shot to death on the job this year, compared to 41 in all of 2015, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. Of the 60 killed, 20 were purposely targeted by their assailant compared to eight last year, the group said.

Police officers also were shot and injured during traffic stops in Sanibel, Florida, and Gladstone, Missouri, on Sunday night, but authorities have not suggested these were targeted attacks. All the shootings come less than five months after a black military veteran killed five white officers at a protest in Dallas — the deadliest day for American law enforcement since Sept. 11, 2001.

Race was a factor in the Dallas attack, but police have not said if race played a part in any of the attacks on Sunday. In San Antonio, police say the suspect is black and the officer was white. In St. Louis, the suspect was black, but police have not released the officer's race. Most killings of police officers are carried out by white men, and most people shot and killed by police are white, said Craig W. Floyd, president of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

Chief McManus said McKane was arrested on a capital murder warrant without incident after the car he was riding in was stopped Monday afternoon on an interstate.

McManus said earlier that he doesn't believe the suspect has any relationship to the motorist who was pulled over initially.

Surveillance video shows the suspect at San Antonio police headquarters about four hours before the 50-year-old Marconi, A 20-year veteran of the force, was shot. The suspect asked a desk clerk a question but left before receiving an answer, said McManus, who declined to say what the man asked.

"I don't know why he was in headquarters. We have some ideas," he said.

St. Louis Police Chief Sam Dotson declined to name the 46-year-old officer who was shot and wounded there. He said the officer is a married father of three and has been with the department for about 20 years.

"This officer was driving down the road and was ambushed by an individual who pointed a gun at him from inside of his car and shot out the police officer's window," Dotson said.

The suspect, 19-year-old George P. Bush III, was wanted for questioning in recent violent crimes that included several robberies, a carjacking and perhaps a killing, Dotson said without elaborating.

"We believe he knew he was good for those crimes and that we were looking for him," Dotson said. "That's why he aggressively attacked a police officer."

Police said Bush was later killed in a shootout with officers.

At least two other police officers were wounded in shootings in other cities Sunday, but it wasn't clear whether they were targeted attacks.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 141 ~ 27 of 28

An officer with the Gladstone, Missouri, police department near Kansas City was shot, and the suspect was shot and killed. The officer, whose name has not been released, is expected to recover.

Sanibel, Florida, officer Jarred Ciccone was shot in the shoulder during a traffic stop and released after being treated for his injuries. Authorities said they arrested Jon Webster Hay, 49, about 90 minutes after the shooting. They said he was booked into jail on an attempted murder charge Monday once he was released from a hospital, where he was treated after being wounded during a standoff and shootout with officers.

On July 7, Micah Johnson shot and killed five law enforcement officers who had been working to keep the peace at a protest in downtown Dallas over the fatal police shootings of black men in Minnesota and Louisiana. Ten days after that attack, a man wearing a ski mask and armed with two rifles and a pistol killed three officers near a gas station and convenience store in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. And earlier this month, two Des Moines, Iowa-area police officers were fatally shot in separate ambush-style attacks while sitting in their patrol cars.

"It's always difficult, especially in this day and age, where police are being targeted across the country," McManus said.

This story has been corrected to show that the suspect was arrested in a car that he was riding in, not a car that he was driving, and to show that the suspect's last name is 'McKane' and not 'McCain.'

Salter reported from St. Louis and Warren from Dallas. Jamie Stengle and Terry Wallace in Dallas and Tammy Webber in Chicago also contributed.

Video online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nd2Ussa81nU>

Today in History **By The Associated Press**

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 22, the 327th day of 2016. There are 39 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Nov. 22, 1963, John F. Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States, was shot to death during a motorcade in Dallas; Texas Gov. John B. Connally, riding in the same car as Kennedy, was seriously wounded; suspected gunman Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested. The same day, authors Aldous Huxley and C.S. Lewis also died.

On this date:

In 1515, Mary of Guise, the second wife of King James V and the mother of Mary, Queen of Scots, was born in Lorraine, France.

In 1718, English pirate Edward Teach — better known as "Blackbeard" — was killed during a battle off present-day North Carolina.

In 1890, French president Charles de Gaulle was born in Lille, France.

In 1914, the First Battle of Ypres (EE'-pruh) during World War I ended with an Allied victory against Germany.

In 1928, "Bolero" by Maurice Ravel (rah-VEL') had its premiere at the Paris Opera.

In 1935, a flying boat, the China Clipper, took off from Alameda, California, carrying more than 100,000 pieces of mail on the first trans-Pacific airmail flight.

In 1944, the MGM movie musical "Meet Me in St. Louis," starring Judy Garland, had its world premiere in St. Louis.

In 1955, comic Shemp Howard of "Three Stooges" fame died in Hollywood at age 60.

In 1965, the musical "Man of La Mancha" opened on Broadway. Singer-songwriter Bob Dylan married Sara Lownds (the marriage lasted 12 years).

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 141 ~ 28 of 28

In 1975, Juan Carlos was proclaimed King of Spain.

In 1989, Rene Mouawad was killed by a bomb after serving 17 days as president of Lebanon.

In 1990, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, having failed to win re-election of the Conservative Party leadership on the first ballot, announced she would resign.

Ten years ago: A chemical factory explosion in Danvers, Massachusetts, destroyed the surrounding neighborhood but caused no deaths or serious injuries.

Five years ago: Baseball players and owners signed an agreement for a new labor contract, a deal making baseball the first North American professional major league to start blood testing on human growth hormone and expanding the playoffs to 10 teams by 2013. Ryan Braun was voted the NL MVP after helping the Milwaukee Brewers win their first division title in nearly 30 years. Death claimed France's former first lady Danielle Mitterrand at age 87 and Svetlana Alliluyeva (ah-lee-loo-YAY'-vah), daughter of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, at age 85. Soldier-turned-soap opera star J.R. Martinez and his professional partner, Karina Smirnoff, were named champions of season 13 of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

One year ago: Trying to reassure a nation on edge, President Barack Obama said in Malaysia that the Islamic State group "cannot strike a mortal blow" against the U.S., and he warned that overreacting to the Paris attacks would play into extremists' hands. Opposition candidate Mauricio Macri won Argentina's presidential election, marking an end to the left-leaning era of President Cristina Fernandez. Former South Korean President Kim Young-sam, 87, who led the country's transition to democracy, died in Seoul. Actress and artist Adele Morales Mailer, 90, died in New York. Novak Djokovic (NOH'-vak JOH'-kuh-vich) won his fourth straight title at the season-ending ATP finals by beating six-time champion Roger Federer 6-3, 6-4. Kyle Busch won his first career Sprint Cup title claiming the season finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway. One Direction won artist of the year at the American Music Awards.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Michael Callan is 81. Actor Allen Garfield is 77. Animator and movie director Terry Gilliam is 76. Actor Tom Conti is 75. Singer Jesse Colin Young is 75. Astronaut Guion Bluford is 74. International Tennis Hall of Famer Billie Jean King is 73. Rock musician-actor Steve Van Zandt (a.k.a. Little Steven) is 66. Rock musician Tina Weymouth (The Heads; Talking Heads; The Tom Tom Club) is 66. Retired MLB All-Star Greg Luzinski is 66. Actress Lin Tucci is 65. Rock musician Lawrence Gowan is 60. Actor Richard Kind is 60. Actress Jamie Lee Curtis is 58. Alt-country singer Jason Ringenberg (Jason & the Scorchers) is 58. Actress Mariel Hemingway is 55. Actor Winsor Harmon is 53. Actor-turned-producer Brian Robbins is 53. Actor Stephen Geoffreys is 52. Rock musician Charlie Colin is 50. Actor Nicholas Rowe is 50. Actor Michael K. Williams is 50. Actor Mark Ruffalo is 49. International Tennis Hall of Famer Boris Becker is 49. Actress Sidse (SIH'-sa) Babett Knudsen (TV: "Westworld") is 48. Country musician Chris Fryar (Zac Brown Band) is 46. Actor Josh Cooke is 37. Actor-singer Tyler Hilton is 33. Actress Scarlett Johansson is 32. Actor Jamie Campbell Bower is 28. Singer Candice Glover (TV: "American Idol") is 27. Actor Alden Ehrenreich is 27. Actress Mackenzie Lintz (TV: "Under the Dome") is 20.

Thought for Today: "Experience is not what happens to a man; it is what a man does with what happens to him." — Aldous Huxley (1894-1963).