

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 1 of 47

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Johnson Agency Ad
- 2- Chicken Soup of the Day
- 3- School Board Story
- 3- Pre-School Screening
- 4- National volunteer e-forums offered
- 5- Erickson to receive Governor's Award
- 5- Help Wanted
- 5- Farmers Union PSA
- 6- Social Security Column
- 6- Tonight on GDILIVE.COM
- 7- Weekly Vikings Roundup
- 8- City Council Story
- 8- Wait to treat ash trees fro Emerald Ash Borer
- 8- St. John's Luncheon Ad
- 9- Weekly Gas Prices
- 10- Today in Weather History
- 11- Today's Forecast
- 12- Yesterday's Weather
- 12- Today's Weather Info
- 12- National Weather Map
- 13- Daily Devotional
- 14- News from the Associated Press

Official Notices

- Brown County (updated 8-31)**
- Frederick Area School (updated 8-29)**
- Groton City (updated 8-29)**
- Groton Area School (updated 8-29)**
- Westport Town (updated 8-21-17)**
- Other Notices (updated 8-21)**
- Frederick Town (Updated 8-15)**
- Groton Area School (updated 8-7)**
- Claremont Town Official Notices Book**

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**

© 2017 Groton Daily Independent

12

Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, 3-bean salad, blueberry cobbler, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Cheese omelette, fruit, milk and juice.

School Lunch: Lasagna hot dish, corn, broccoli and dip, fruit.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Church Council, 7 p.m.

Boys Golf: at Redfield, 10 a.m.

JH Football: host Redfield-Doland; 7th grade at 4 p.m., 8th grade at 5 p.m.

Volleyball: hosts Mobridge-Pollock, C/JV at 5 p.m. followed by varsity match.

United Methodist: Bible Study at 10 a.m.; Girl Scouts, 3:30 p.m.

Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance: Ladies Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Olive Grove: Bridge Party at noon.

Soccer: Boys match with Mitchell Christian in Groton has been CANCELLED.

13

Senior Menu: Hearty vegetable beef soup, chicken salad sandwich, mandarin oranges, oatmeal raisin cookie.

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, milk and juice.

School Lunch: Sub sandwiches, baked chips, fruit.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 7 p.m.

United Methodist: Coffee fellowship, 9 a.m.; Finance Meeting, 6 p.m.

Lions Bar Bingo: 6:30 p.m. at the Groton Legion.

Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance: 7 p.m.: Program for children up to sixth grade, youth group for 7th-12th grade, adult Bible Study.

JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

www.johnsonagencygroton.com

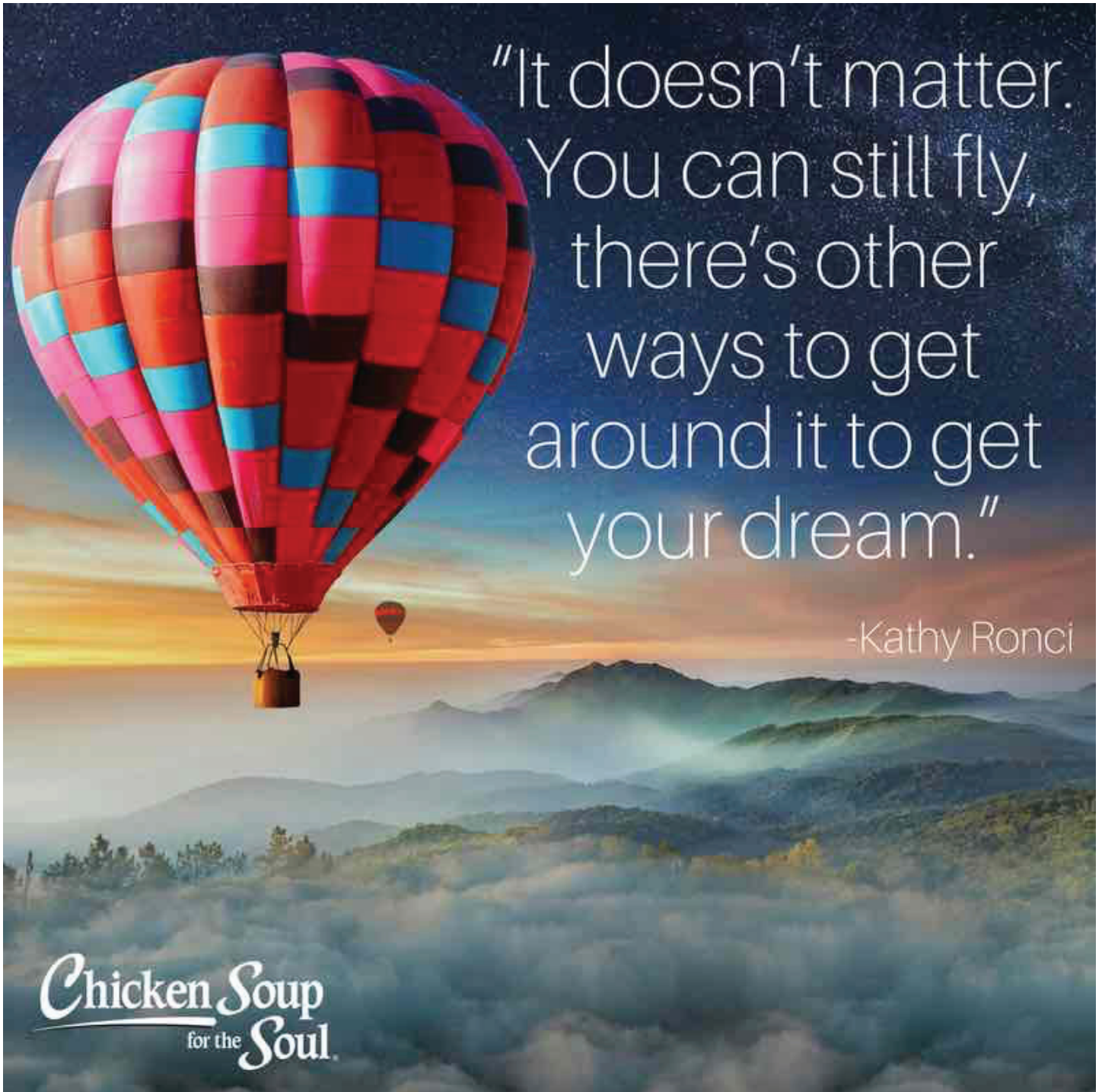
102 N Main St.
Groton, SD 57445

Office: 605/397-2424
Home: 605/397-8565



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 2 of 47



"It doesn't matter.
You can still fly,
there's other
ways to get
around it to get
your dream."

-Kathy Ronci

Chicken Soup
for the Soul

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 3 of 47

No more paper plates

The dishwasher at the Groton Area Elementary School has not been working. The replacement part is scheduled to arrive today (Tuesday) and to get installed. The students have been eating off of paper plates in the meantime.

Superintendent Joe Schwan projects that the district will have between \$700,000 to \$1 million left over from the loan that could be transferred to the Capital Outlay fund. The elementary school project is coming in well under budget.

There was discussion to resurface the rest of the elementary playground asphalt at a cost of \$39,828. There was question if it would be a good time to do it right before winter. A motion to table the motion failed on a 3-3 vote. A motion to approve the project failed on the 3-3 vote. Those in favor of the project were Marty Weismantel, Merle Harder and Grant Rix. Those voting against it, mainly because they wanted some answers, were Steve Smith, Deb Gengerke and Clint Fjelstad. Board member Kelly Kjelden was not at the meeting.

The school's JK-12 enrollment is currently at 575, down about 14 from last year. The enrollment of Friday, Sept. 29, will determine the district's calculated need for state aid purposes.

Elementary Principal Brett Schwan reported that fifth grade band has started already. He said that he was excited to get it started earlier this year.

Loren Bahr gave the bus route report.

Route 1 - Chuck Padfield - 75 miles

Route 2 - Adam Franken in the morning and Butch Radke in the afternoon- 75 miles

Route 3 - Joel Guthmiller Bus - 76 miles

Route 4 - Randy Hjermstad -76 miles - up by 11 miles from last year.

Route 5 - Lena Cox - 70 miles - Columbia.

Route 6 - Deb Tietz - Bristol - 79 miles this year.

Route 7 - Don Donley - 74 miles

The board approved the resignation of Ryan Dix as a special education paraprofessional effective immediately and the resignation/retirement from Kathryn Bury as the assistant business manager effective December 31, 2017. Bury was the business manager of the Bristol School and started there 23 years ago.

The board approved the educational lane change for Desiree Yeigh from BS to BS+15.

Open enrollment request from the Aberdeen School District was approved for students in grades 3, 5, 7 and 9.

A family living in the Bath area had a change of employment and are now working in Aberdeen so they withdrew their open enrollment from the Groton Area School District.

2017 Groton Area Elementary

Preschool Developmental Screening for 3 year olds

September 20 and 21

Parents of children age 3 in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to either confirm their screening time or set up a time. Letters will be send out the week of September 10. If your child is already receiving services or enrolled at Groton Elementary School they will not need to be screened. If your child has already been screened but you have concerns please contact the elementary school. If you are new to the district and have a child under the age of 5, we also ask you to contact the elementary school.

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



National Volunteer E-forums offered at 9 DDN Locations Across South Dakota

BROOKINGS, S.D. -SDSU Extension will host the National Volunteer e-forum on October 5, 2017 November 2, 2017 and December 7, 2017 from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Digital Data Network (DDN) centers throughout South Dakota.

"Join us and get energized as you network with volunteers, county-based staff and SDSU Extension staff from across the country," said Audrey Rider, SDSU Extension Volunteer Development Field Specialist.

Session details

October 5, 2017

Topic: Cultivating an Environment for Growing True Leaders

Time: 6 -7:30 p.m. (CT)

Focus: Creating an environment where 4-H members feel safe as they grow and develop leadership skills means having volunteers who understand the basics of positive youth development.

This session will feature ideas and activities that help foster life skill development by focusing on strategies for more effective club interactions. Participants will learn about the Essential Elements of 4-H and the 5 C's of positive youth development.

November 2, 2017

Topic: STEMming into Animal Science, Growing True Leaders

Time: 6-7:30 p.m. (CT)

Focus: Build on the roots of 4-H as we STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) our way into agriculture and animal science for experienced and new 4-H'ers.

Gain resources to incorporate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) leaders through traditional animal sciences project areas in communities. Volunteers will gain ideas for planning and organizing fun, educational sessions for youth.

December 7, 2017

Topic: Helping 4-H'ers Grow in Life & Work

Time: 6-7:30 p.m. (CT)

Focus: In 4-H, all youth can explore their future. Club meetings, events, camps and after-school programs are places to develop life skills and expand their interests through 4-H.

During this session volunteers will share ideas, receive resources, and see a variety of successful programs that help youth focus on life-long learning, workforce readiness, and career exploration. Caring adults can help all young people make decisions and create their own positive future.

To register:

Online registration is free and open until the dates listed for each event. To register, visit iGrow.org/events. At least five people must be registered at a location for the e-forum to be hosted at that site. Contact Audrey Rider, SDSU Extension Volunteer Development Field Specialist, for more information, Audrey.rider@sdstate.edu.

Locations for all sessions:

- * SDSU Campus, Pugsley DDN room: 1057 8th St., Brookings, SD 57006
- * SDSU Extension Aberdeen Regional Center: 13 Second Ave. SE, Aberdeen, SD 57401
- * SDSU Extension Lemmon Regional Center: 408 Eighth St. W., Lemmon, SD 57638
- * SDSU Extension Mitchell Regional Center: 1800 E. Spruce St., Mitchell, SD 57301
- * SDSU Extension Pierre Regional Center: 412 W. Missouri Ave., Pierre, SD 57501
- * SDSU Extension Sioux Falls Regional Center: 2001 E. Eighth St., Sioux Falls, SD 57103
- * SDSU Extension Watertown Regional Center: 1910 W. Kemp Ave., Watertown, SD 57201
- * SDSU Extension Winner Regional Center: 325 S. Monroe St., P.O. Box 270, Winner, SD 57580
- * SDSU West River Ag Center: 1905 Plaza Blvd., Rapid City, SD 57702



All auto owners!
Save \$2-\$4 /tank
& grow your local economy
by choosing low carbon
Super Premium E30's
94 octane, more power,
same mileage, fewer
carbon deposits, lower
maintenance costs,
slashed benzene & related
genotoxic, carcinogenic
tailpipe emissions;
*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for
info, E30 prices/locations.

***Farmers Union's
PSA: Courtesy Merle
Anderson (Merle is 94
year old founder of Ace
and legendary ethanol
supporter... "because it is
the right thing to do")**

Erickson to receive Governor's Award

PIERRE, S.D. - Gov. Dennis Daugaard will recognize individuals and employers for their contributions to the rehabilitation and employment of South Dakotans with disabilities at the 2017 Governor's Awards ceremony on Oct. 3.

The event will be held the Ramkota Hotel ballroom located at 920 W. Sioux Ave. in Pierre starting at 12:30p.m. CDT.

Gov. Daugaard will present awards to the following 2017 recipients:

- Koni Sims of Sioux Falls - Outstanding Citizen with a Disability
- Tami Francis of Sioux Falls - Outstanding Employee with a Disability
- Pizza Ranch of Spearfish - Outstanding Private Employer (Small Employer)
- Country Fair Food Store of Mitchell - Outstanding Private Employer (Large Employer)
- Meri Erickson of Groton - Outstanding Transition Services Award
- Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc. of Yankton - Distinguished Service Award

The Governor's Awards ceremony is co-sponsored by the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Statewide Independent Living Council, and DHS.



Help Wanted

Full- or part-time for the following positions: Healthcare workers for Nurse's-RN or LPN, and Nursing Assistants, Dietary Cook and assistant, and Housekeeper. (12 hour shifts/rotating weekends for nurses and C.N.A.s)

Contact Jessica Lindskov or Nellie Peterson at 605-397-2365 or apply in person.

EOE/AA/M/F/V/D-Drug Free Workplace



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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 6 of 47

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Tyler Bowling

Public Affairs Specialist

2200 N Maple Ave Suite 301 Rapid City, SD 57701

Email: tyler.bowling@ssa.gov

Website: www.socialsecurity.gov

A CALCULATED RETIREMENT

Calculating when you should retire requires evaluating all sources of your retirement income. There are many factors to consider, including your personal retirement goals. With multiple factors affecting your decision, sometimes it's difficult to see the big retirement picture.

Social Security secures your today and tomorrow by offering a webpage of calculators to help you plan your Social Security retirement benefits. You can access our online calculators at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/benefitcalculators.html to get started planning.

Visit our calculator page and fine-tune your benefit estimate by using the Retirement Estimator if you have the required 40 work credits. Changes in your personal circumstances may cause changes in the number of years you work before you retire. Suppose you had planned to work an additional ten years before retiring, but now you are considering moving that up to the end of this year. How can you determine how much the difference in dollars in the monthly benefits will be? You can create one estimate with your projected earnings through this year and another including the next ten years. These are estimates, but they will give you an approximation for each retirement age to help you make your decision.

You can also use our Online Calculator if you don't have 40 work credits. You need to enter all of your earnings manually, but you can project future earnings through your potential retirement date. Again, this is an estimate based on your future estimated earnings, but it provides you with planning numbers.

These three calculators will meet almost everyone's pre-retirement planning needs. But, wait, there's more. Use the Life Expectancy Calculator for a rough estimate of how long you might live. The Retirement Age Calculator determines your full retirement age and shows the differences when benefits are taken early. The Early or Late Retirement Calculator can show the differences in benefit amount if you file early or wait until later to start benefits. You can use the Benefits for Spouse Calculator to find out how your spouse's benefit changes if taken early. You can access all of these at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/benefitcalculators.html.

Another great planning tool is the Social Security Statement. Get yours today with a my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

With our calculators doing all the number crunching, we make the big picture easier to see. The road to retirement is in the viewfinder and you have your resources ready. Now that you know which calculator to use, you can start figuring your best retirement option for a calculated retirement.

It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



Groton Area Tigers

VS



Mobridge-Pollock Tigers

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017, 6 p.m.
at the Groton Area Arena

[Click here for the program](#)

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

Oh boy does it feel great to get a win on opening weekend! On Monday night, the Minnesota Vikings defeated the New Orleans Saints 29-19. Going against Drew Brees, one of the best quarterbacks in NFL history, was a tall task - but the Vikings defense was up for the challenge. Not to be outdone, the Vikings offense looked more than capable of putting up points, which was lacking last season.

The Vikings offense was rolling, and it started up front with the offensive line. Last year Sam Bradford was under constant pressure, but against the Saints, Bradford was only sacked once. As he showed Monday night, when Bradford has time to throw the ball he has amazing arm strength and accuracy. He ended the night with 346 yards and three touchdowns. The offensive line also opened running lanes for rookie running back Dalvin Cook, who ran for 127 yards on 22 carries (5.8 yards per carry).

Defensively, the Vikings put constant pressure on Drew Brees, forcing him to get rid of the ball in a hurry. He had 291 yards and a touchdown, but 147 yards and the touchdown came in the last five minutes of the game, when the Saints were down by three scores. This game was made out to be Adrian Peterson's revenge game, but the Vikings were prepared for him, only allowing him 18 yards on six carries (3.0 yards per carry). As a team, the Saints were limited to only 60 yards on the ground, which was great to see after the Vikings defense was constantly gashed by running backs in the preseason.

Three big questions after the Vikings victory on Monday night

How was Adrian Peterson received by the crowd? Most fans, myself included, were curious to see how the crowd at US Bank Stadium would welcome Adrian Peterson. AP was one of the greatest players in Vikings history, but the end of his career in purple and gold was a roller coaster. Based on reports of people who were at the game, there were some boos for #28, but most fans cheered his name when he was announced before the game started.

Is the Vikings offense really this good, or was it simply because they were playing the Saints defense? There is no doubt the Vikings offense looked great on Monday, but the performance has to come with an asterisk because the New Orleans Saints have one of the worst defenses in the NFL.

The Vikings offense has shown signs of improvement from last season, however.

The offensive line looks to be much improved, and Sam Bradford finally looks comfortable in the offense. Stefon Diggs and Adam Thielen have established themselves as premier receivers in the NFL, and Dalvin Cook has shown why the Vikings felt compelled to move up in the draft to get him. At the end of the day, the Vikings did what they were expected to do – take advantage of a porous defense. The same couldn't be said last season, so it's clear the team took a step forward. Hopefully they can gain some confidence from this performance and carry it over to the rest of the year.

What's next for the Vikings? The team will travel to Pittsburgh to battle the Steelers on Sunday, September 17 (12 p.m. Central). The Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns in week one, 21-18. The Steelers will pose another significant test to the Vikings defense, as Antonio Brown and Le'Veon Bell are elite players at their positions. The two teams have playoff aspirations, so this will give both a chance to see how good they really are.

SKOL!

Have any questions or comments? Reach out to me on Facebook ([facebook.com/SkolJWright](https://www.facebook.com/SkolJWright)) or on Twitter (@SkolJWright).

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 8 of 47

Veteran's Circle to be revamped

Doug Hamilton came before the Groton City Council to discuss repair options for the Veteran's Circle at the cemetery. The Groton Post #39 is looking at a \$15,000 project, but in order to move forward, two trees need to be removed. The council gave the approval for the trees to be removed and for the Legion to proceed with the project. A sidewalk will be installed and more room will be made for future Veterans.

City Supervisor Terry Herron proposed changing the ordinance to allow pex pipe to be used from the water main to customer curbside. The ordinance stated only copper could be used. The new pex pipe is only \$1.89 per ft. compared to copper at nearly \$6 a foot. First reading of the ordinance was approved.

The second meeting for the city council will be held Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Groton Community Center.

The council approved for Tom and Barb Paepke to use the community center for the annual community Thanksgiving dinner.

The second reading of the utility revisions was approved. What this will do is change the metering read date from the 15th of the month to the 1st of the month, and for the bills to be paid from the 10th to the 25th of the month starting in October.

The proposed street project for Lincoln Street north of Fifth Avenue, Meadowbrook Lane and for three blocks on State Street was kicked out of the budget this year, but Councilman David Blackmun said it needs to be done in 2019. Electrical and waste water will be given priority in 2018. Dropping the \$300,000 out the budget allowed the budget to be balanced and approved.

Wait to Treat Ash Trees for Emerald Ash Borer

BROOKINGS, S.D. - It's too early for South Dakotans to begin treating their ash trees for emerald ash borer said John Ball, Professor & SDSU Extension Forestry Specialist.

"Our recommendation, consistent with other states, is not to begin treatments until the insect has been confirmed within 15 miles of your trees" Ball said. "There are companies already going around communities in eastern South Dakota telling people to start treatments now, but this is premature."

The reason? Ball explained that emerald ash borer was recently confirmed near Welcome, Minnesota and this confirmation, along with the confirmation in Alta, Iowa earlier this summer, mean the insect is still 100 miles from South Dakota.

The emerald ash borer was accidentally introduced from Asia into Michigan in the late 1990s. It is responsible for the loss of more than 50 million ash trees in this country. None of our native ash species; black, blue, green or white; have shown resistance to this insect.

"Treatments are now so effective that you can even save trees that have been infested for a few years so there is no need start pesticide treatments now," Ball said.

Ball recommends waiting until emerald ash borer is found in your area and then decide based on cost which ash to treat.

The average cost of treatment is around \$80 to \$120 a tree. Treatments are done every other year.

"These treatments do work," Ball said. "Today, the only ash trees left in more eastern communities impacted by emerald ash borer epidemics are those that have been treated."



**Soup, Pie,
& Sandwich
\$2.00 per item**

St. John's Lutheran Church
Groton, SD
Thursday, September 14th

11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Craft Items - Baked Goodies -
Garden Produce

Soups available:
Chili, Wild Rice,
Potato, Ham & Bean

**For take-out orders, please call
397-2386 at 10:30 a.m. or after.**

Irma Packs a Punch in the Southeast

Currently, National Gas Price Average Levels Out

Sept. 11, 2017 - For the first time in more than 15 days, the national gas price average appears to be leveling out despite Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irma making landfall in the southeast. Holding steady for five days at \$2.67, today's national gas price average is just three cents more expensive on the week.

Gas prices in South Dakota are five cents higher on the week at \$2.56; however, prices over the weekend have started leveling off. Prices are expected to go back down once Gulf Coast refineries go back online.

Current Price Averages per Gallon of Regular Gasoline

Sioux Falls – \$2.56, up 27 cents from one month ago ... up 43 cents from 9/11/16

Rapid City – \$2.44, up 5 cents from one month ago ... up 7 cents from 9/11/16

South Dakota – \$2.56, up 20 cents from one month ago ... up 27 cents from 9/11/16

U.S. – \$2.67, up 31 cents from one month ago ... up 49 cents from 9/11/16

"There is not a gasoline shortage in the U.S., but instead challenges in those states impacted by the recent hurricanes," said AAA South Dakota spokesperson, Marilyn Buskohl. "Total U.S. gasoline stocks still sit above the five-year average."

Hurricane Harvey Impacted Refineries & Pipelines

As Floridians wait out the storm, Americans along the Gulf Coast continue to recover from Hurricane Harvey. According to the Department of Energy, at least five refineries in the Gulf Coast are operating at reduced rates. Six refineries are in the process of restarting, and five refineries remain shutdown. The restarting process can take several days or weeks, depending on damage.

Today, 69 percent of gas stations in the U.S. are selling gas at \$2.50 or more. Only seven percent list gas at \$3 or more.

Quick Stats

The nation's largest weekly increases: Florida (+7 cents), Indiana (+7 cents), Georgia (+7 cents), Arizona (+6 cents), Michigan (+6 cents), New Hampshire (+6 cents), Montana (+6 cents), New York (+5 cents), Nevada (+5 cents) and Rhode Island (+5 cents).

The nation's top ten least expensive markets are: Oklahoma (\$2.36), Louisiana (\$2.40), Arkansas (\$2.41), Arizona (\$2.42), Missouri (\$2.42), Kansas (\$2.45), Mississippi (\$2.47), Ohio (\$2.48), Minnesota (\$2.50) and New Mexico (\$2.51).

Our Midwest Region

The Great Lakes and Central States region is seeing both increases and decreases at the pump. As Indiana (+7 cents) and Michigan (+6 cents) pay more for gas on the week, four states are selling cheaper gas: Ohio (-6 cents), Kentucky (-4 cents), Kansas (-3 cents) and Missouri (-3 cents). The volatility stems mostly from Hurricane Harvey's impact on gasoline supply distribution and a 1 million bbl drop in the region's gasoline supply. The EIA's latest report shows Midwest gasoline inventories remain steady at 51 million bbl.

Oil market dynamics

At the end of last week, the price per barrel of West Texas Intermediate settled at \$47.48. On Monday morning, prices are still below \$50/bbl.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad, and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel, and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile.

AAA provides automotive, travel, and insurance services to 57 million members nationwide and nearly 97,000 members in South Dakota. AAA advocates for the safety and mobility of its members and has been committed to outstanding road service for more than 100 years. AAA is a not-for-profit, fully tax-paying member organization works on behalf of motorists, who can now map a route, find local gas prices, discover discounts, book a hotel, and track their roadside assistance service with the AAA Mobile app (AAA.com/mobile) for iPhone, iPad and Android. For more information, visit www.AAA.com.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 10 of 47

Today in Weather History

September 12, 1931: On this day in 1931, near record or record heat came to an end across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. From September 9th through the 12th, many record highs were set at Aberdeen, Kennebec, Mobridge, Timber Lake, Watertown, and Wheaton. High temperatures during this four-day period ranged from 95 degrees to 109 degrees. Aberdeen rose to 107 degrees on the 10th, Kennebec rose to 109 on the 9th, Mobridge rose to 105 on the 9th, Timber Lake's high was 106 on the 9th, Watertown rose to 104 on the 10th, and Wheaton rose to 108 degrees on the 10th.

1882 - Hot and dry winds caused tree foliage in eastern Kansas to wither and crumble. (David Ludlum)

1950: A hailstorm struck southern parts of Oklahoma City on this day. The storm damaged about 4,000 homes, 300 businesses, and 750 cars, resulting in a loss estimated at \$987,000.

1961: Super Typhoon Nancy was an incredibly powerful tropical cyclone of the 1961 Pacific typhoon season. The system had possibly the strongest winds ever measured in a tropical cyclone and caused extensive damage and at least 173 deaths and thousands of injuries in Japan and elsewhere. A reconnaissance aircraft flying into the typhoon near its peak intensity on September 12 determined Nancy's one-minute sustained winds to be 215 mph. If these values are reliable, they would be the highest wind speeds ever measured in a tropical cyclone. However, it was later determined that measurements and estimations of wind speeds from the 1940s to 1960s were excessive. Thus, Nancy's winds may be lower than its official best-track value.

1977 - Thunderstorms deluged the Kansas City area with torrential rains in the early morning hours, and then again that evening. Some places were deluged with more than six inches of rain twice that day, with up to 18 inches of rain reported at Independence MO. Flooding claimed the lives of 25 persons. The Country Club Plaza area was hardest hit. 2000 vehicles had to be towed following the storm, 150 of which had to be pulled out of Brush Creek, which runs through the Plaza area. (The Kansas City Weather Almanac)

1979 - Hurricane Frederick smashed into the Mobile Bay area of Alabama packing 132 mph winds. Winds gusts to 145 mph were reported as the eye of the hurricane moved over Dauphin Island AL, just west of Mobile. Frederick produced a fifteen foot storm surge near the mouth of Mobile Bay. The hurricane was the costliest in U.S. history causing 2.3 billion dollars damage. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Showers and thunderstorms produced heavy rain which caused flooding in North Carolina, West Virginia, Virginia and Pennsylvania. Parts of Virginia received 3 to 4 inches of rain in just two hours early in the day. Later in the day, three to five inch rains deluged Cumberland County of south central Pennsylvania. Evening thunderstorms produced seven inches of rain at Marysville PA, most of which fell in three hours time. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)







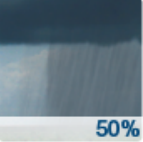
1988 - An afternoon tornado spawned a tornado which skipped across northern sections of Indianapolis IN damaging roofs and automobiles. It was the first tornado in central Indiana in September in nearly forty years of records. Hurricane Gilbert plowed across the island of Jamaica, and by the end of the day was headed for the Cayman Islands, packing winds of 125 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

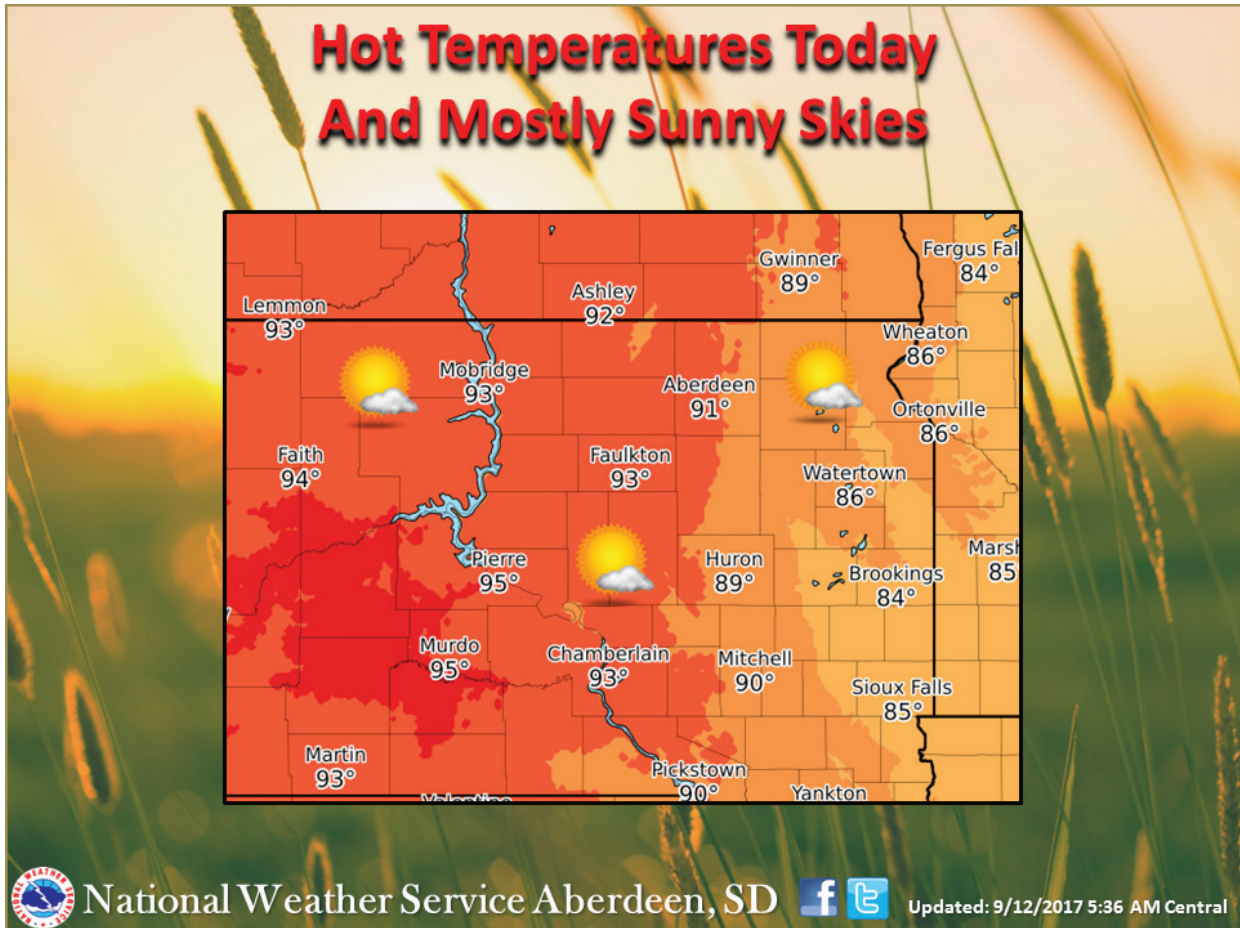
1989 - Snow whitened the mountains and foothills of northeastern Colorado, with eight inches reported at Buckhorn Mountain, west of Fort Collins. Two to three inches fell around Denver, causing great havoc during the evening rush hour. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Southern Plains Region between mid afternoon and early the next morning. Thunderstorms produced hail three inches in diameter at Roswell NM, and wind gusts greater than 98 mph at Henryetta OK. Thunderstorms also produced torrential rains, with more than seven inches at Scotland TX, and more than six inches at Yukon OK. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1999: Hurricane Floyd, a Category 4 storm with top winds of 145 mph, was making residents along the U.S. East Coast very nervous as it steamed steadily westward. Floyd was once forecast to strike Florida but turned away. Instead, Floyd hit the Bahamas at peak strength, causing heavy damage. It then paralleled the East Coast of the United States, causing massive evacuations and costly preparations from Florida through the Mid-Atlantic States.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 11 of 47

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Areas Fog then Sunny	Mostly Clear then Slight Chance T-storms	Sunny	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms	Chance Showers
High: 91 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 89 °F	Low: 63 °F	High: 82 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 75 °F



Published on: 09/12/2017 at 5:40AM

Skies will be mostly sunny today after some patchy early morning fog. Hot temperatures will move into the area today with south to southwest winds. Highs will be above normal with readings in the 80s and 90s. The warmest temps will be felt over central South Dakota.

Groton Daily Independent

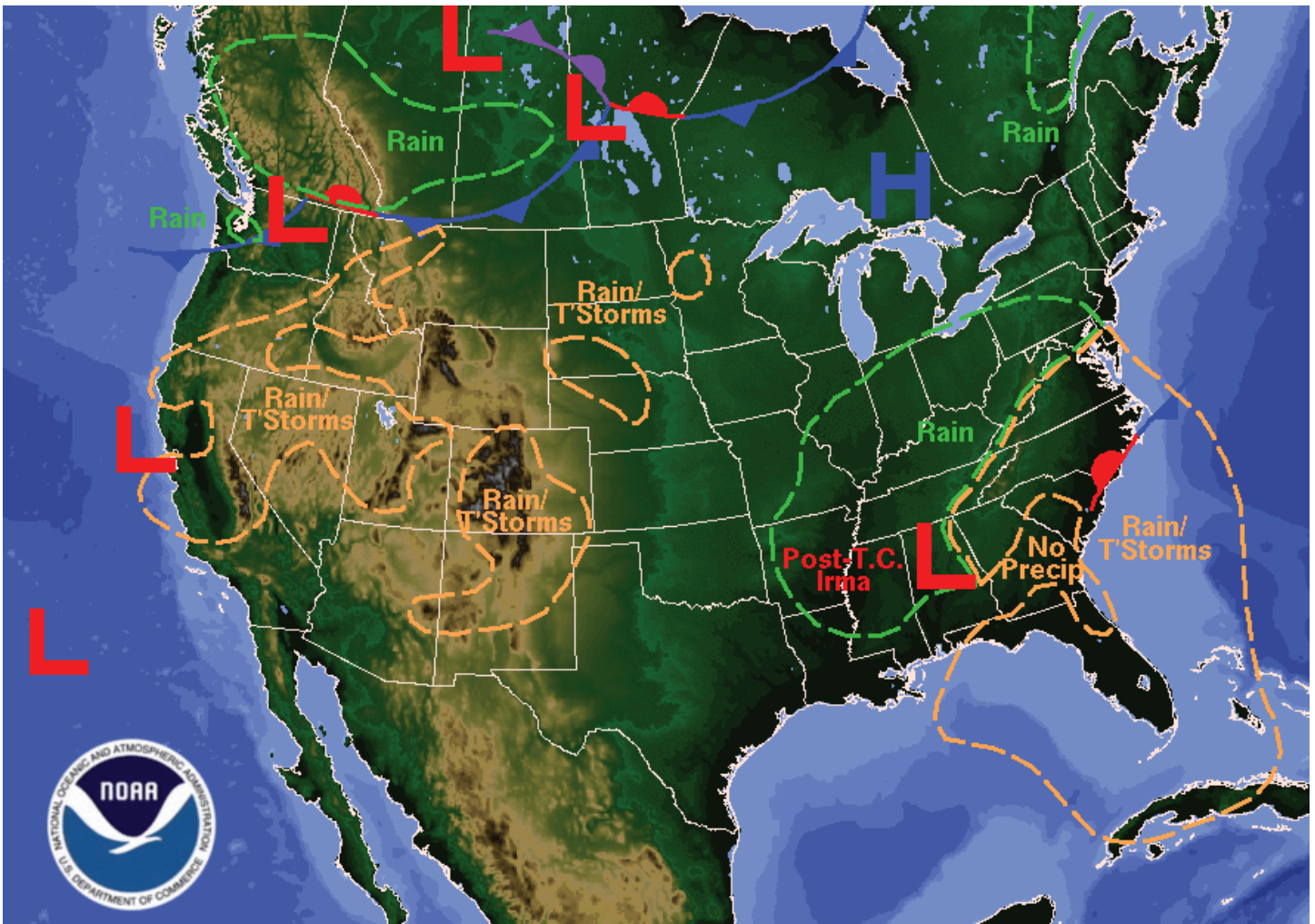
Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 12 of 47

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 83.6 at 5:13 PM
Low Outside Temp: 61.1 at 6:16 AM
High Gust: 17 at 12:31 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 97° in 1931
Record Low: 24° in 1902
Average High: 74°F
Average Low: 47°F
Average Precip in Sept: 0.91
Precip to date in Sept: 0.11
Average Precip to date: 17.20
Precip Year to Date: 9.63
Sunset Tonight: 7:49 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:10 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Sep 12, 2017, issued 4:45 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 13 of 47



RECOGNIZING REALITY

"People do not learn from mistakes," said the professor. The class was confused. Most of them had been taught all of their lives that the best way to learn was from one's mistakes.

As he looked into their puzzled faces, he continued his lecture by asking a question, "How many of you have made the same mistake twice?" Hands went up all over the classroom. "That is precisely my point. If we learned from our mistakes, we would never make the same mistake twice. We seem to learn best when someone provides us feedback. We are not honest enough with ourselves to point out our own mistakes or failures. We do not want to admit them – especially to ourselves even if we recognize them."

The author of this Psalm recalled two important facts: When the Israelites acknowledged God as their leader and followed Him, they were victorious. "Our fathers advised us," they said, "that it was not our swords or plans that brought victory." God spoke to them and they realized what brought about their defeat: they trusted in their own strength! It was their defeat that caused them to be open to God's "feedback."

When "we pushed back our enemies in Your name," he continued, "we trampled on our foes!" What a testimony to the power and victory that is available to us through our God!

Like Israel, we must come to the same conclusion and make the same confession with the same amount of conviction: "In Your name, Heavenly Father, we can trample on our foes." When we read God's Word and use it as a standard for our lives He will give us His "feedback" and provide a path for us to renew our relationship with Him. If we allow His Word to do its work, we will discover our failings and can call on Him for His grace and forgiveness and restoration.

Prayer: We pray, Almighty Lord, for a willingness to realize that apart from You there is nor will ever be any victory over our foes. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 44:5 Through you we push back our enemies; through your name we trample our foes.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 14 of 47

News from the Associated Press

Arrest scuffle at South Dakota State University investigated

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota State University and a state agency say they're investigating an allegation of excessive force used by a campus police officer making an arrest.

Melissa Mentele says her two daughters were stopped by an officer while walking through campus with friends late Saturday. Mentele says the officer dislocated the wrist of her younger daughter as he wrestled her to the ground.

The Argus Leader says she was arrested on a charge of resisting arrest. The older daughter tried to intervene and was charged with obstruction.

Police or the university won't say why the girls were stopped by the officer. University spokesman Mike Lockrem says the school began looking into the complaint immediately. South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation is also reviewing the case.

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

Survey shows corporations souring on Delaware legal climate

By RANDALL CHASE, Associated Press

DOVER, Del. (AP) — Delaware appears to be losing its favored legal climate status among corporate attorneys and executives.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Legal Reform says that after ranking first in all 10 previous surveys, Delaware's overall legal climate ranks 11th in this year's survey, released Tuesday.

South Dakota is number one, followed by Vermont, Idaho, Minnesota and New Hampshire. Vermont edged Delaware for the top spot for trial judge competence.

Institute President Lisa Rickard says Delaware is losing ground as states compete to enact legal reforms.

Corporations seem particularly upset about a Delaware law passed in 2015 that prohibits companies from forcing investors who bring and lose certain lawsuits to pay a company's legal costs.

Companies are also unhappy with the aggressive way Delaware has enforced its unclaimed property laws.

Monday's Scores

By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Platte-Geddes, 25-21, 25-15, 25-23

Colome def. Marty Indian, 25-18, 25-19, 25-8

Freeman def. Scotland, 25-22, 25-22, 25-11

James Valley Christian def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-22, 25-21, 25-5

Menno def. Howard, 23-25, 20-25, 25-23, 25-22, 15-11

Waverly-South Shore def. Castlewood, 25-11, 25-22, 25-21

South Dakota manufacturers reach out to middle schools

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The owner of a manufacturer in the southwest part of South Dakota is trying to close the gap between a worker shortage and a skilled workforce by showing middle school students what it's like to work in his industry.

Chad Ulvestad, owner of Specialized Machine in the city of Tea, participated in a video contest last year that sends young teenagers to a nearby manufacturer to interview staff, learn about the business and

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 15 of 47

make a video about the work being done, the Argus Leader reported .

The South Dakota "Dream It Do It" contest is part of the Manufacturing Institute's nationwide effort to introduce children to manufacturing careers before they reach high school. South Dakota Manufacturing and Technology Solutions, a federally- and state-funded group established to support the industry, organizes the state's contest.

Students at 20 middle schools will participate this fall and winter in the contest. Each school is matched with a host company, which invites the students to film with a GoPro and to answer the question, "What's so cool about manufacturing?"

Working with middle schools allows companies to address some of the misperceptions at a younger age, said Sara Byre, project coordinator for the contest.

"People still have visions of the automotive factories, with sparks flying everywhere and poorly lit," Ulvestad said. "That's not what manufacturing is anymore."

Ulvestad said he often needs welders and precision machinists, both of which usually require a two-year tech degree. Ulvestad said he wonders if some of the problem is a general lack of awareness that some of the jobs he needs are available.

"By the time you get to high school, it's too late, you've already got a career path kind of set," Ulvestad said.

He hosted students from the Tea Area School District last year and allowed them to check out his facility.

Surveys from last year's pilot show the program is working. Before the contest, 25 percent of students said they'd consider a career in manufacturing. After the program, 75 percent of participants said they'd think about the industry.

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

Biologists: Pheasant numbers drop due to prolonged drought

By JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Pheasant numbers in the Dakotas are down to some of the lowest levels on record, a drop biologists blame largely on the worst drought to hit the states in decades.

North Dakota's roadside pheasant survey, released Monday, shows the number of birds is down 61 percent from last year. A similar survey in South Dakota shows a 45 percent drop statewide in the number of pheasants per mile compared to 2016. The South Dakota survey also shows that 2017 is the second-lowest pheasants-per-mile index since 1979.

R.J. Gross, upland game management biologist for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, said the count in North Dakota is the lowest in at least 20 years.

"It's alarming," Gross said. "Drought is about the worst thing that can happen to an upland bird."

Drought reduces the amount of insects available for pheasant chicks to eat and also decreases habitat, leaving young birds more susceptible to predators, biologists said.

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor map shows 66 percent of North Dakota in some stage of drought, and 86 percent of South Dakota in the abnormally dry category.

Gross said drought is only part of what he called a "three-headed monster" affecting the pheasant population in North Dakota. Cold, wet weather in the spring of 2016 and harsh winter weather this year also hurt pheasant numbers.

Travis Runia, senior upland game biologist for the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department, said pheasant numbers this year are comparable to 2013, which had the fewest birds in about 20 years.

Though there were fewer pheasants, hunters who did take to the field in 2013 had decent success in South Dakota.

"It was a pretty good year because there was a lot less hunting pressure," Runia said.

Drought not only impacts the harvest but also the economy. Pheasant hunting is big business in North Dakota, with each hunter spending about \$100 daily, according to state Tourism Division data.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 16 of 47

North Dakota averages about 25,000 out-of-state hunters annually, or only about one-third of the number who come to South Dakota to hunt pheasants.

Gross said hunters typically kill 500,000 pheasants or more in North Dakota in a good year. Gross said he expects fewer than 300,000 birds to be harvested in North Dakota this year.

South Dakota hunters killed 1.1 million roosters last year, down from 1.2 million in 2015.

The season starts next month in both states and runs through early January.

South Dakota Prep Polls By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - The South Dakota Prep Media football poll for the week of Sept. 11 is listed below, ranking the top-five teams and listing the team's record, points received and ranking in the previous poll. First-place votes received are indicated in parentheses.<

Class 11AAA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Sioux Falls Washington;(35);3-0;175;1
2. Sioux Falls O'Gorman;-;2-1;132;2
3. Sioux Falls Roosevelt;-;2-1;108;3
4. Brandon Valley;-;2-1;74;4
5. RC Stevens;-;2-1;17;NR

Others receiving votes: Watertown 6, SF Lincoln 4, Aberdeen Central 2, RC Central 1.<

Class 11AA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Harrisburg;(32);1-1;172;1
2. Mitchell;(3);3-0;141;2
3. Pierre;-;2-0;107;3
4. Brookings;-;2-1;70;4
5. Huron;-;1-2;27;5

Others receiving votes: Yankton 6, Sturgis 2.<

Class 11A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Madison;(33);3-0;173;1
2. Tea Area;(1);3-0;140;2
3. Dakota Valley;(1);3-0;99;3
4. Tri-Valley;-;3-0;76;5
5. Milbank;-;2-1;26;RV

Others receiving votes: West Central 5, Dell Rapids 5, St. Thomas More 1.<

Class 11B

Rank-School FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. SF Christian (26);3-0;163;2
2. Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan (9);2-1;124;1
3. Sioux Valley -;3-0;114;3
4. Winner -;2-1;72;4
5. McCook Cent.-Montrose -;3-0;28;T5

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 17 of 47

Others receiving votes: Canton 11, Aberdeen Roncalli 11, Woonsocket-Wessington Springs-Sanborn Central 2.<

Class 9AA

Rank-School FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Gregory (32);3-0;167;1
2. Bon Homme (2);4-0;141;2
3. Hamlin (1);3-0;99;3
4. Miller-Highmore-Harrold -;2-1;43;4
5. North Border -;3-0;40;5

Others receiving votes: Baltic 13, Irene-Wakonda 10, Arlington-Lake Preston 9, Webster Area 3.<

Class 9A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Warner;(30);4-0;162;1
2. Howard;(5);4-0;139;2
3. Corsica-Stickney;-;3-0;110;3
4. Canistota Freeman;-;2-1;61;4
5. Clark-Willow Lake;-;4-0;46;5

Others receiving votes: Britton-Hecla 6, Alcester-Hudson 1.<

Class 9B

Rank-School FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Colman-Egan (27);3-0;167;1
2. Colome (8);3-0;141;2
3. Sully Buttes -;2-0;97;3
4. Castlewood -;3-0;60;4
5. Harding County -;3-0;41;5

Others receiving votes: Wall 13, Faulkton Area 6.<

South Dakota Volleyball Polls **By The Associated Press**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - Here is the South Dakota Media Prep Volleyball Poll for the week of Sept. 11, 2017. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking.<

Class AA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Harrisburg;(14);6-0;86;1
2. Mitchell;(4);9-0;76;2
3. Huron;-;6-3;36;RV
4. Aberdeen Central;-;5-2;31;3
5. R.C. Stevens;-;8-3;23;5

Others receiving votes: S.F. O'Gorman 6-2.<

Class A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Dakota Valley;(14);9-1;86;1
2. S.F. Christian;(4);7-2;76;2

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 18 of 47

3. Miller;-;4-1;40;4
4. Madison;-;3-2;28;3
5. West Central;-;5-1;18;5

Others receiving votes: Lead-Deadwood 9-0, Parker 4-2, Redfield-Doland 9-0, Wagner 6-2.<

Class B

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Northwestern;(18);9-0;90;1
2. Warner;-;12-1;66;2
3. Chester Area;-;6-0;60;3
4. Hanson;-;7-0;34;4
5. Ethan;-;8-2;10;RV

Others receiving votes: Philip 8-0, Sully Buttes 6-3.<

Man arrested in casino robbery is suspect in 2 others

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police say the man arrested in a casino robbery may also be responsible for two other similar casino robberies.

The 27-year-old man was arrested last Friday as a suspect in the Crown Casino robbery Sept. 6. Police spokesman Sam Clemens says investigators believe the man also robbed Duece's Casino and Rice Lake Casino on Sept. 1 and 2.

He was arrested along with two others who were in a car in the Walmart parking lot. Police say they found marijuana, methamphetamine and a handgun.

Appalachian poor, left out of health debate, seek free care

By DYLAN LOVAN, Associated Press

WISE, Va. (AP) — They arrived at a fairground in a deep corner of Appalachia before daybreak, hundreds of people with throbbing teeth, failing eyes, wheezing lungs. They took a number, sat in the bleachers and waited in the summer heat for their name to be called so they could receive the medical help they can't get anywhere else.

Among the visitors at the free, once-a-year medical clinic was Lisa Kantsos, whose first stop was the dental tent, a sprawl of tables and chairs where volunteer dentists and students performed cleanings, filled cavities and pulled teeth. After getting a cleaning, she made a stop at a mammography van. Last year, it was free glasses.

"It's a blessing. It really is," said Kantsos, a 52-year-old diabetic, "because I don't have to worry about these things."

Kantsos and many of the estimated 2,000 others who turned out at the Wise County Fairgrounds in late July are the health care debate's forgotten.

Even with the passage of "Obamacare" in 2010, they have no insurance because they exist in a desperate in-between zone, unable to afford coverage but ineligible for Medicaid. And because they haven't benefited from the Affordable Care Act, the debate on Capitol Hill over repealing it has been all but irrelevant to them.

"Whether there was an Affordable Care Act or not, it really hasn't made any difference for these people," said Stan Brock, who founded the free traveling Remote Area Medical Clinic in the 1980s.

The need for better, more affordable care around here is undeniable.

The central Appalachian area that includes eastern Kentucky, southern West Virginia and western Virginia has long been one of the sickest and poorest regions in the country. More recently, it has been ravaged by the decline of coal mining.

"Everything revolved around coal," said Matt Sutherland, a frequent visitor to the clinic from Castlewood, Virginia. "Now there's not a lot of work, not a lot for people to do."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 19 of 47

People in central Appalachia are 41 percent more likely to get diabetes and 42 percent more likely to die of heart disease than the rest of the nation, according to a study released in August by the Appalachian Regional Commission and other groups. The study also found that the region's supply of specialty doctors per 100,000 people is 65 percent lower than in the rest of the nation.

And people from southwestern Virginia die on average 10 years sooner than those from wealthier counties close to Washington, said August Wallmeyer, an author who lobbies the Virginia legislature on health issues.

Opioids are also taking their toll in Appalachia. In Virginia in 2014, drug overdoses became the No. 1 cause of accidental death, according to Wallmeyer's 2016 book, "The Extremes of Virginia."

But Virginia was among 19 states that chose not to expand Medicaid as part of the Affordable Care Act. Many states cited the cost, even though Washington pledged to pick up nearly the entire expense. An expansion in Virginia would have covered an additional 400,000 people.

"A lot of people, when the Affordable Care Act was first enacted and went into effect, had the mistaken belief that it was going to help the very poor people, particularly in Appalachia and other parts of Virginia," Wallmeyer said. "And it's just not true."

Wallmeyer said the clinic in Wise County doesn't see as many patients as it once did from Kentucky, a state that expanded Medicaid under the ACA.

Teresa Gardner Tyson, executive director of Virginia's Health Wagon, a free clinic that takes part in the Wise event, lamented that the politicians "forget at the end of the day that they're our servants."

"They can't get away from the partisan politics, but here we're faced with people dying on a daily basis," she said.

Among the patients at the free clinic was Joey Johnson, who shot himself in the head while playing with a gun when he was a teenager and has been in a wheelchair for 25 years.

No longer receiving health benefits from his stepfather's union miner's insurance, he came to the clinic to get a dental filling and have his eyes checked. His Medicaid doesn't pay for dental check-ups, and he gets just \$735 a month in federal disability payments and \$20 in food stamps.

"If it wasn't for this (clinic), my teeth would rot out of my head and I would be in bad shape," he said before his checkup, sitting shirtless in the heat. Johnson's assessment of lawmakers' work on health care is more succinct than any tweet: "They don't care about us."

Kantsos voted for Donald Trump last fall in the hope that he could shake up Washington. She said the president needs to concentrate more on his job and less on Twitter.

Sutherland supported Trump, too, and said he thinks the president deserves more time. But Sutherland, who comes to the clinic for dental work and medicine, wishes lawmakers understood how hard life can be in Appalachia. Last year, he said, he walked 30 miles (50 kilometers) to the Wise clinic because he had no car; it took more than seven hours. Others have it bad, too.

"I'm not the only one," he said, sitting in a tent where people were getting teeth pulled a few feet away. "I'm really not the only one."

Follow Dylan Lovan on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/dylanlovan>

Hurricane-hit Florida makes slow moves toward recovery

By JENNIFER KAY and DOUG FERGUSON, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Aid rushed in to hurricane-scarred Florida early Tuesday as officials pieced together the scope of Irma's destructive path and displaced residents awaited word on hard-hit areas including the Florida Keys.

It was difficult to get detailed information on the condition of island chain where Irma first came ashore over the weekend because communication and access were all but cut off by the storm's arrival as a Category 4 hurricane.

But after flying over the Keys Monday, Florida Gov. Rick Scott gave this assessment: "It's devastating."

Authorities were letting residents and business owners to return to Upper Keys islands close to the

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 20 of 47

mainland Tuesday morning, but people from the Lower Keys faced a longer wait.

Elsewhere, areas such as Tampa Bay had braced for the worst but emerged with what appeared to be only modest damage. Early Tuesday, the remnants of Irma were blowing through Alabama and Mississippi after drenching Georgia.

A Navy aircraft carrier was due to anchor off Key West to help in search-and-rescue efforts. Drinking water supplies in the Keys were cut off, fuel was running low and all three hospitals in the island chain were shuttered. The governor described overturned mobile homes, washed-ashore boats and rampant flood damage.

Key West resident Laura Keeney waited in a Miami hotel until it was safe to return home, and she was anxious to hear more about her apartment complex. Her building manager told her there was flooding there, but further updates were hard to come by because power and cell phone service have been down on the island.

"They told me there is definitely water in the downstairs apartment, which is me," said Keeney, who works as a concierge at the Hyatt in Key West.

A stunning 13 million Florida residents were without electricity — two-thirds of the third-largest state's residents — as tropical heat returned across the peninsula following the storm. In a parting blow to the state, the storm caused record flooding in the Jacksonville area that forced dozens of rescues. It also caused flooding and outages in Georgia and South Carolina as it moved inland Monday.

Six deaths in Florida have been blamed on Irma, along with three in Georgia and one in South Carolina. At least 35 people were killed in the Caribbean.

A tornado spun off by Irma was reported on the Georgia coast Monday, and firefighters inland had to rescue several people after trees fell on their homes. A tropical storm warning was issued for the first time ever in Atlanta, and school was canceled in communities around the state. More than 1.5 million customers were without power Monday night in Georgia.

More than 180,000 people huddled in shelters in the Sunshine State and officials warned it could take weeks for electricity to be restored to everyone.

The governor said it was way too early to put a dollar estimate on the damage.

During its march up Florida's west coast, Irma swamped homes, uprooted trees and flooded streets.

Around the Tampa-St. Petersburg area, where Irma rolled through early Monday, damage appeared modest. And the governor said damage on the southwest coast, including in Naples and Fort Myers, was not as bad as feared.

Still, Scott predicted that recovery could take a long time in many areas.

"I know for our entire state, especially the Keys, it's going to be a long road," he said.

He said the Navy dispatched the USS Iwo Jima, USS New York and the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln to help with relief efforts.

The Keys are linked by 42 bridges that have to be checked for safety before motorists can be allowed in, officials said. The governor said the route also needs to be cleared of debris and sand, but should be usable fairly quickly.

In the Jacksonville area, close to the Georgia line, storm surge brought some of the worst flooding ever seen there, with at least 46 people pulled from swamped homes.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office warned residents along the St. Johns River to "Get out NOW" on Monday as floodwaters rose.

Paul Johnson and Shonda Brecheen spent Sunday night in a house they're remodeling in the San Marco neighborhood of Jacksonville after working late on a remodeling project. Johnson woke up Monday morning, looked out the window and saw boats passing by where cars used to drive in the neighborhood near the river.

He managed to push his truck through standing water to a nearby parking lot to dry out, but he's worried about damage to the swamped vehicle.

"I'm 32, I've lived here most of my life, and I've never seen anything like that," he said.

Ferguson reported from Jacksonville. Associated Press writers Seth Borenstein in Washington; Terry Spencer in Palm Beach County; Gary Fineout and Joe Reedy in Tallahassee; Jay Reeves in Immokalee; Terrance Harris and Claire Galofaro in Orlando; and Jason Dearen, Freida Frisaro, Curt Anderson and David Fischer in Miami contributed to this report.

HURRICANE NEWSLETTER — Get the best of the AP's all-formats reporting on Irma and Harvey in your inbox: <http://apne.ws/ahYQGtb>

St. Martin's residents struggle with desperate conditions

By DANICA COTO, Associated Press

PHILIPSBURG, St. Martin (AP) — Dominga Tejera picked her way around fallen palm trees rotting in mud as she returned home after a nine-hour workday as a hospital janitor on a Caribbean island that until recently seemed like paradise.

She collapsed into a small plastic chair that has served as a makeshift bed since Hurricane Irma ripped the roof from her home as it pummeled St. Martin as a Category 5 storm.

"It's sad when you come home to this," she said as she began to cry. "You try to stay strong in public, but once inside, you break."

Hundreds of people across an island shared by Dutch St. Martin and French St. Martin are trying to rebuild the lives they had before the hurricane hit, celebrating little things like a rare evening breeze that clears the stifling air amid a widespread power outage and laughing as a radio announcer cheerfully announces, "The dentist is open!"

But many like Tejera are struggling to maintain a semblance of the life they had before Irma as they fight off hunger and thirst.

"There's no food here. There's no water here," said 70-year-old Germania Perez.

Help was making it to the island, from the Dutch and French governments, other nations and private organizations. A French military ship with supplies was due to arrive Tuesday, coinciding with a visit by French President Emmanuel Macron, who arrived Tuesday in Guadeloupe, the first step of his visit to French Caribbean islands.

Dutch King Willem-Alexander, who arrived on Monday, said the scenes of devastation he witnessed on St. Martin in the hurricane's aftermath were the worst he had ever seen.

In images broadcast by Dutch national network NOS, Willem-Alexander said: "I've never experienced anything like this before and I've seen a lot of natural disasters in my life. I've seen a lot of war zones in my life, but I've never seen anything like this."

Willem-Alexander said he was encouraged to see residents already working together to rebuild the shattered capital, Philipsburg. He was scheduled to fly Tuesday to the nearby Dutch islands of Saba and St. Eustatius, which also were hit by Irma, but suffered less damage than St. Martin.

Hundreds of tourists are still trying to leave the island, with dozens lining up outside the Princess Juliana Airport, where only five large letters of its name remains.

One unidentified passenger abandoned a Yorkshire terrier named Oliver, tied to a barricade with airport security tape, as some people were told they could not bring pets. The tiny dog was later rescued by a local resident who took pity on him.

As foreigners rushed to leave the island, some of those staying behind are still seeking meals and something to drink.

"We need water and food. It's not a 'maybe.' It's a 'for sure,'" said Phillip King, a 53-year-old tour bus driver. "My job is done right now. It's gone for a long time."

Shelter also is a growing concern for many residents.

Dalaney Kertzious, a 44-year-old port security officer, spent the hurricane at a hotel that evacuated its guests after the storm blew out windows. She found another hotel but has to leave with her 17-year-old

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 22 of 47

daughter by Tuesday and does not want to stay in their home because it has no roof.

"I will try my best, but I have nowhere to spend the night," she said, adding that the homes of her family and friends are already full.

As night falls, residents hurry inside, fearful of robbers roaming the streets and of the handful of men walking around with sunglasses and yanking chains tied to aggressive dogs.

"We can't sleep in peace because of the thieves," said Yovanny Roque, a 48-year-old mover.

Across the island, cars lie tossed upside down, at 90-degree angles and on top of other cars. Large boats lean sideways on dry land.

"The destruction is on a biblical scale," said 51-year-old Raju Budhrani. "It's how you see it in the movies. It's actually worse than that."

"Once you have life, hope is there," said 64-year-old retiree Albertus Williams.

At least 35 people have been killed by Irma in the Caribbean, 10 of which were in Cuba. That is Cuba's worst hurricane death toll since 16 died in Hurricane Dennis in 2005.

Havana was in recovery mode Monday, with crews cleaning away thousands of fallen trees and electric restored to a handful of neighborhoods. Schools were closed until further notice. President Raul Castro issued a message to the nation that didn't mention the deaths, but described damage to "housing, the electrical system and agriculture."

He also acknowledged destruction in the northern keys where Cuba and foreign hotel management firms have built dozens of all-inclusive beach resorts in recent years. The Jardines del Rey airport serving the northern keys was destroyed, the Communist Party newspaper Granma reported, tweeting photos of a shattered terminal hall littered with debris.

"The storm hit some of our principal tourist destinations but the damage will be repaired before the high season," starting in November, Castro wrote.

To the east, in the Leeward Islands known as the playground for the rich and famous, governments came under criticism for failing to respond quickly to the hurricane, which flattened many towns and turned lush, green hills to a brown stubble.

Residents have reported food, water and medicine shortages, as well as looting.

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson defended his government's response to what he called an "unprecedented catastrophe" and promised to increase funding for the relief effort. Britain sent a navy ship and almost 500 troops to the British Virgin Islands, Anguilla and the Turks and Caicos islands.

HURRICANE NEWSLETTER — Get the best of the AP's all-formats reporting on Irma and Harvey in your inbox: <http://apne.ws/ahYQGtb>

Russia says Syria government seized most territory from IS

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA, Associated Press

HEMEIMEEM AIR BASE, Syria (AP) — Russia's military said Tuesday that Syrian troops have liberated about 85 percent of the war-torn country's territory from militants, a major turn-around two years after Moscow intervened to lend a hand to its embattled long-time ally.

Russia has been providing air cover for President Bashar Assad's troops since 2015, changing the tide of the war and giving Syrian and allied troops an advantage over opposition fighters and Islamic State group militants.

Speaking to reporters at the Hemeimeem air base in Syria's province of Latakia, Lt. Gen. Alexander Lapin said Syrian government still must clear the militants who hold approximately 27,000 square kilometers (10,425 square miles), the remaining 15 percent.

Syrian troops, along with strong support from Iranian-backed ground fighters, have in recent weeks pushed IS militants out of central Homs province, near the border with Lebanon, and are now fighting them in the oil-rich Deir el-Zour province in the east.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 23 of 47

Deir el-Zour is the last major IS holdout in Syria and the Syrian campaign, backed by Russian air power, broke a nearly three-year-old siege on the provincial capital where troops had been encircled by IS militants.

But activists said civilians are bearing the brunt of the offensive amid intensive airstrikes and IS taking them as human shields. An overnight airstrike hit recently displaced Syrians from Deir el-Zour on the western side of the Euphrates River, killing at least eight civilians.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Omar Abu Laila, who runs a group that monitors developments in Deir el-Zour, said the airstrikes were suspected to be from Russian aircraft.

At the height of its strength, IS controlled nearly half of Syria, seizing mostly territories in the east and north of Syria.

Around Syria, there are still pockets of other insurgents, some backed by Turkey and others by the U.S., in the northwest and north as well as in the south and near the capital. Militants affiliated with al-Qaida control Idlib province, near the border with Turkey.

Russian air power has been instrumental in recent Syrian military successes. With Damascus facing major battlefield defeats, Moscow signed a deal with the Syrian government in August 2015 to deploy an air force contingent and other military assets at the Hemeimeem base, in the heartland of Assad's Alawite religious minority.

In a matter of weeks, Russia's military built up the base so it could host dozens of Russian jets. It delivered thousands of tons of military equipment and supplies by sea and heavy-lift cargo planes in an operation dubbed the "Syrian Express." A month later, Moscow declared the launch of its air campaign in Syria — Russia's first military action outside the former Soviet Union since the federation's collapse.

In April 2016, Assad's forces, relying on Russian air support, scored a major symbolic victory by taking the ancient town of Palmyra from the Islamic State group. The IS militants carried out a counteroffensive but were finally driven out of the city in March 2017.

Assad's greatest victory in the war, now in its seventh year, came in December last year when his troops and allied militia, with Russian air support, gained full control of the city of Aleppo.

Russia then deployed hundreds of military police to patrol the city's former rebel-held eastern part. Senior Russian military officers as well as special forces were deployed alongside Syrian government troops, providing training, planning offensives and coordinating air strikes. Russia has also deployed its latest weapons to the Syrian conflict, including state-of-the-art Kalibr cruise missiles launched by Russian strategic bombers, navy surface warships and submarines, most recently in Deir el-Zour province last week.

Russia's Defense Ministry never said how many troops it has in Syria, but turnout figures in voting from abroad in the September 2016 parliamentary elections indicated Russian military personnel in the Arab nation at the time likely exceeded 4,300.

Russia has also co-sponsored talks with opposition fighters and the government to negotiate local cease-fires, and set up "de-escalation zones" in Syria, which were credited with reducing fighting around the country.

A new round starts later this week in the Kazakh capital of Astana, on local cease-fires and de-escalation zones.

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. BATTERED FLORIDA BEGINS TO DIG OUT AFTER HURRICANE DESTRUCTION

Even as glimmers of hope have emerged from parts of the state, the fate of the Florida Keys, where Irma rumbled through with Category 4 muscle, remains largely a question mark.

2. 'IT'S SAD WHEN YOU COME HOME TO THIS'

Hundreds of people across St. Martin, an island shared by the Dutch and French, are trying to rebuild the lives they had before Hurricane Irma hit.

3. WHY SANCTIONS COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 24 of 47

Pyongyang might be relieved that the U.N. Security Council decided to ease off the biggest target of all — North Korea's access to the oil it needs to stay alive.

4. SENATE GOP LOOKING FOR BUDGET DEAL TO OPEN WAY TO TAX REDO

Lack of a budget plan for the 2018 fiscal year is a roadblock to the legislation overhauling the tax system that Republicans and Trump have made a priority.

5. APPALACHIAN POOR, LEFT OUT OF HEALTH DEBATE, SEEK FREE CARE

They can't afford to buy coverage under "Obamacare," and they don't qualify for Medicaid because Virginia chose not to expand the state's program.

6. MEXICO'S TOP DIPLOMAT TO TACKLE DACA

Luis Videgary's trip to California comes amid uncertainty over the future of a program that protects some 800,000 young immigrants who are living in the U.S. from deportation.

7. BANGLADESH LEADER VISITS ROHINGYA REFUGEES

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina demands that Myanmar "take their nationals back," and assures aid for the hundreds of thousands of the displaced until that happens.

8. HOW NISSAN IS HOPING TO GET AN EDGE ON COMPETITION

The Japanese automaker says it's attempting to produce manufacturing innovations in leaps and bounds instead of steady incremental improvement.

9. WHAT NEW IPHONE MAY LOOK LIKE

Various leaks indicate the new smartphone will feature a sharper display, facial recognition technology, wireless charging and a better camera.

10. AMERICAN CITIES LOOK AT POSSIBLE WINTER GAMES

It's a longshot, but there's talk in Salt Lake City, and even some in Denver, of a bid for the 2026 Winter Games, which take place two years before the Summer Olympics return to Los Angeles.

With LA bid sealed, US cities look at possible Winter Games

By EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer

LIMA, Peru (AP) — There's an outside shot the United States won't have to wait 11 years to host its next Olympics.

It's a longshot, but there's talk in Salt Lake City, and even some in Denver, of a bid for the 2026 Winter Games, which take place two years before the Summer Olympics return to Los Angeles.

The same country hosting back-to-back Olympics hasn't happened since before World War II, but as this round of bidding has shown, rules are made to be changed.

Five people familiar with internal discussions in both cities told The Associated Press that preliminary talks have taken place about what it would take to bring the Winter Games back to the United States for the first time since Salt Lake hosted in 2002. None of the people wanted their names used because the discussions are preliminary, and because the U.S. Olympic Committee wants to stay focused on the Los Angeles bid for the 2028 Olympics.

"Salt Lake City would enjoy hosting the Games again," said Fraser Bullock, a key player in Salt Lake City's 2002 Olympics. "The focus at this point is on LA, as it should be."

On Wednesday, the International Olympic Committee will award the 2024 Summer Games to Paris and 2028 to Los Angeles.

Both were in the running for 2024. But realizing he had two top-tier candidates, IOC president Thomas Bach spearheaded a rules change to approve the awarding of the 2028 Games, as well. It helped prevent a potentially embarrassing bid process for those games. At the same time, Bach led a streamlining of the bid process for the 2026 Winter Games, in part to avoid an unwanted repeat of the 2022 bidding when the only bidders were from China and Kazakhstan.

"The sooner the Winter Olympics can come back to the U.S., the better," said Max Cobb, the president of U.S. Biathlon. "We've got a fantastic set of venues in Utah that are still in use and more or less at world-class standard."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 25 of 47

The Salt Lake City Games were marred by a bidding scandal that resulted in several IOC members losing their positions for taking bribes.

But with help of Mitt Romney and others, the Olympics were saved, while Salt Lake and Park City have stood as prime examples of the sort of legacy that modern Olympics are supposed to leave in a region. There's an eight-lane interstate running from the Salt Lake airport, which was upgraded for the Olympics, to Park City, which is the home of U.S. Ski and Snowboard. Park City is the host of key U.S. training centers for freestyle skiing, speedskating and cross country skiing.

Overall, the area has hosted about 75 World Cup and world-championship events in winter sports since the Olympic cauldron was extinguished more than 15 years ago.

Denver would have a steeper hill to climb. Although it's bigger than Salt Lake City, the mountains are farther away, and more infrastructure would be needed.

"We would welcome an invitation to discuss, in depth, what it would take for Denver to become a Winter Olympic host city," said Matthew Payne, executive director of the Denver Sports Commission.

Denver also stands as the only city to once be awarded the Olympics — the 1976 Winter Games — only to turn them back after public opinion turned against hosting the event.

The public support piece is as crucial as ever, especially in the wake of a number of cities pulling out of the running for 2022 and 2024 because of poor response from citizens and failed referendums.

One of the few declared candidates for 2026 — Innsbruck, Austria, which has hosted two previous Winter Olympics — has a referendum scheduled for Oct. 15 that has the potential to scuttle the bid.

Calgary and Sion, Switzerland, have also shown interest in hosting. Salt Lake City and Denver are officially on the sideline, though after Wednesday, things could heat up. The 2026 Games are next on the docket — and the only Olympics through 2028 still in search of a host.

After Irma, Florida's mass exodus contemplates return trip

By **BILL BARROW**, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Thanks to reconnaissance by a neighbor who stayed behind, Pam Szymanski knows Hurricane Irma blew out the living room window of her southwest Florida home, but she isn't sure when she'll get to see the damage for herself.

"All I know is we have to check out of here tomorrow, because they're booked," she said Monday, sitting in the lobby of a downtown Atlanta hotel where she arrived with her mother, two children and two dogs. A hotel reservation in Valdosta, Georgia, is next, Szymanski said, but that's still 350 miles from their home in Fort Myers.

"I don't want to run into closed roads," she said, "but I want to get home and start cleaning up."

Szymanski's family helped make up one of the largest storm evacuation efforts in U.S. history, after Florida Gov. Rick Scott urged more than 6.5 million residents, one out of four of his constituents, to leave.

Now, with Irma advancing inland, a potential reverse migration from across the Southeast raises new worries of jammed roadways amid uncertain gasoline supplies, empty grocery store shelves, standing water and widespread power outages that in heavily damaged areas could last for weeks.

Scott cautioned evacuees not to rush back home.

"Storm impacts can continue well after the center passes," the governor said from his official Twitter account, asking residents to follow local officials' advice on when to return. He later retweeted FEMA's warning that Irma involves "disruptions to daily activities" long after it passes.

That's not necessarily a message Floridians want to hear, even as they contemplate reliving the day-long and overnight drives they endured just days ago.

Carin and David Atkins of Pinecrest, Florida, were waiting out Irma on Monday, planning to leave their Atlanta hotel Tuesday morning to head back down the Florida peninsula with their children, Molly and Thomas. The Atkins said they have hotel reservations near Cape Canaveral, more than halfway back to their home outside Miami.

"I've called to confirm they have power," David Atkins said, adding that some businesses near their

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 26 of 47

home have power as well.

Carin Atkins said they can live without power at home for several days, recalling that they went 47 days without power after Hurricane Wilma in 2005. They evacuated, she said, only because of the threat of rising water from a storm surge that didn't reach to their home.

Other evacuees still aren't as sure of their return.

Stephanie Clegg Troxell was near Nashville, Tennessee, where her family caravan includes three cars and a trailer, five adults, five children, 13 dogs, three mini-horses and a pet pig. The trek from New Port Richey, Florida, north of Tampa Bay, took more than 17 hours, beginning last Wednesday.

Troxell said her husband stayed behind and now is working with friends to remove a tree that fell on the roof of their house. They also had no power.

"We don't know when we're leaving and now there's another hurricane coming," Troxell said, referring to Jose, which was offshore. "I'm trying to sneak out when it's not 30 miles per hour-plus winds."

In Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Rea Argonza was worried about money as she mapped out her return plans.

"Staying here, it's been like a financial strain," said Argonza, who traveled with her husband and five children from St. Augustine, Florida, to two hotel rooms 500 miles away near the Wake Forest University campus. "We're up to almost a thousand dollars now. I do believe this whole expedition is going to be almost \$3,000."

In some cramped quarters, there were parties.

Argonza celebrated her 32nd birthday in North Carolina. Troxell's daughter celebrated her 13th birthday Monday in Tennessee on a trip that's featured visits to the state fair, some nearby waterfalls and the Opryland complex.

But the joys of an unplanned excursion may not extend to 70-pound swine. Tank, the Troxell family pig, appeared homesick because he can't lounge by the pool like he does at home. "He's missing his tropical scenery," Troxell said.

Associated Press writers Skip Foreman in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and Jonathan Mattise in Nashville, Tennessee, contributed to this report.

Follow Barrow in Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/BillBarrowAP> .

HURRICANE NEWSLETTER — Get the best of the AP's all-formats reporting on Irma and Harvey in your inbox: <http://apne.ws/ahYQGtb>

Senate GOP looking for budget deal to open way to tax redo

By **MARCY GORDON, AP Business Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pushing toward the Republicans' prime goal of tax legislation, the GOP Senate leader and members of the Budget Committee are scrambling to come up with a budget deal to clear the way for the first tax overhaul in three decades.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and GOP members of the Budget Committee are meeting Tuesday with two top Trump administration officials to plot breaking the budget stalemate.

Lack of a budget plan for the 2018 fiscal year starting Oct. 1 is a roadblock to the must-do legislation overhauling the tax system that Republicans and President Donald Trump have made their highest priority. Trump's top economic adviser, Gary Cohn, and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin are meeting with McConnell and budget panel members.

Under Washington's complicated ways, passing a congressional budget blueprint is the only way to set in motion a special process for rewriting the tax code. If Congress can pass a budget, Republicans controlling the Senate don't need to worry about a Democratic filibuster blocking any tax bill.

House action has been held up by a battle between moderates and conservatives over whether to pair

spending cuts with the filibuster-proof tax measure. Senate action has been on hold while the House struggles.

An impasse could doom the tax overhaul effort.

On the budget panel, Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., is hoping to limit the deficit cost of the tax effort, while Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., is on the other end of the spectrum favoring more robust deficit-financed tax cuts. GOP leaders have asked them to try to craft an agreement among the 12 budget panel Republicans. Any Republican defection on the budget plan would deadlock the narrowly divided committee.

"I'm a fiscal hawk, OK? I believe in pro-growth tax reform and I believe that's a mechanism toward lowering deficits," Corker said Monday. "But I'm also someone who wants to be realistic about all of this, and not let this just be party time that takes us no place but massive deficits down the road."

Revamping the nation's tax system and providing relief for the middle class is a Republican mission in the wake of the collapse of efforts to repeal and replace former President Barack Obama's health care law. Trump has made it a pillar of his push for economic growth.

Associated Press writer Andrew Taylor contributed to this report.

UN approves watered-down new sanctions against North Korea

By EDITH M. LEDERER, Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council on Monday unanimously approved new sanctions on North Korea but not the toughest-ever measures sought by the Trump administration to ban all oil imports and freeze international assets of the government and its leader, Kim Jong Un.

The resolution, responding to Pyongyang's sixth and strongest nuclear test explosion on Sept. 3, does ban North Korea from importing all natural gas liquids and condensates. It also bans all textile exports and prohibits any country from authorizing new work permits for North Korean workers — two key sources of hard currency for the northeast Asian nation.

As for energy, it caps Pyongyang's imports of crude oil at the level of the last 12 months, and it limits the import of refined petroleum products to 2 million barrels a year.

The watered-down resolution does not include sanctions that the U.S. wanted on North Korea's national airline and the army.

Nonetheless, U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley told the council after the vote that "these are by far the strongest measures ever imposed on North Korea." But she stressed that "these steps only work if all nations implement them completely and aggressively."

Haley noted that the council was meeting on the 16th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack. In a clear message to North Korean threats to attack the U.S., she said: "We will never forget the lesson that those who have evil intentions must be confronted."

"Today we are saying the world will never accept a nuclear armed North Korea," she said. "We are done trying to prod the regime to do the right thing" and instead are taking steps to prevent it "from doing the wrong thing."

Haley said the U.S. doesn't take pleasure in strengthening sanctions and reiterated that the U.S. does not want war.

"The North Korean regime has not yet passed the point of no return," she said. "If it agrees to stop its nuclear program it can reclaim its future. If it proves it can live in peace, the world will live in peace with it. ... If North Korea continues its dangerous path, we will continue with further pressure."

The final agreement was reached after negotiations between the U.S. and China, the North's ally and major trading partner. Haley said the resolution never would have happened without the "strong relationship" between President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

But its provisions are a significant climb-down from the very tough sanctions the Trump administration proposed last Tuesday, especially on oil, where a complete ban could have crippled North Korea's economy.

The cap on the import of petroleum products could have an impact, but North Korea will still be able to

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 28 of 47

import the same amount of crude oil that it has this year.

The textile ban is significant. Textiles are North Korea's main source of export revenue after coal, iron, seafood and other minerals that have already been severely restricted by previous U.N. resolutions. North Korean textile exports in 2016 totaled \$752.5 million, accounting for about one-fourth of its total \$3 billion in merchandise exports, according to South Korean government figures.

Haley said the Trump administration believes the new sanctions combined with previous measures would ban over 90 percent of North Korea's exports reported in 2016.

As for North Koreans working overseas, the U.S. mission said a cutoff on new work permits will eventually cost North Korea about \$500 million a year once current work permits expire. The U.S. estimates about 93,000 North Koreans are working abroad, the U.S. official said.

The original U.S. draft would have ordered all countries to impose an asset freeze and travel ban on Kim Jong Un and four other top party and government officials. The resolution adopted Monday adds only one person to the sanctions list — Pak Yong Sik, a member of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Military Commission, which controls the country's military and helps direct its military industries.

The original U.S. draft would also have frozen the assets of North Korea's state-owned airline Air Koryo, the Korean People's Army and five other powerful military and party entities. The resolution adds only the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea and the party's powerful Organization and Guidance Department and its Propaganda and Agitation Department to the sanctions blacklist.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry issued a statement early Monday saying it was watching the United States' moves closely and warned that it was "ready and willing" to respond with measures of its own. It said the U.S. would pay a heavy price if the sanctions proposed by Washington are adopted.

Britain's U.N. ambassador, Matthew Rycroft, told reporters who questioned the watering down of the initial U.S. text that "there is a significant prize in keeping the whole of the Security Council united."

Rycroft called the resolution "a very significant set of additional sanctions," declaring that "we are tightening the screw, and we stand prepared to tighten it further."

French Ambassador Francois Delattre said, "We are facing not a regional but a global threat, not a virtual but an immediate threat, not a serious but an existential threat."

"Make no mistake about it," he said, "our firmness today is our best antidote to the risk of war, to the risk of confrontation, and our firmness today is our best tool for a political solution tomorrow."

China and Russia had called for a resolution focused on a political solution to the escalating crisis over North Korea's nuclear program. They have proposed a freeze-for-freeze that would halt North Korean nuclear and missile tests in exchange for the U.S. and South Korea stopping their joint military exercises — but the Trump administration has rejected that.

China's U.N. ambassador, Liu Jieyi, said Beijing has been making "unremitting efforts" to denuclearize and maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

Liu again urged the council to adopt the freeze-for-freeze proposal and said talks with North Korea are needed "sooner rather than later." He expressed hope that the United States will pledge not to seek regime change or North Korea's collapse.

Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia went further, making clear that while Russia supported the resolution, it wasn't entirely satisfied with the council's approach.

He said the "unwillingness" of the U.S. to reaffirm pledges not to seek regime change or war in North Korea or to include the idea of having U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres use his good offices to try to resolve the dispute "gives rise to very serious questions in our minds."

"We're convinced that diverting the gathering menace from the Korean Peninsula could be done not through further and further sanctions, but by political means," he said.

The resolution does add new language urging "further work to reduce tensions so as to advance the prospects for a comprehensive settlement." It retains language reaffirming support for long-stalled six-party talks with that goal involving North Korea, the U.S., Russia, China, Japan and South Korea.

South Korea and Japan welcomed the new sanctions, with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe praising

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 29 of 47

"a remarkably tough sanctions resolution." A presidential spokesman in South Korea said he thinks it's significant that China and Russia agreed on the measure.

Guterres welcomed the council's "firm action" to send a clear message to North Korea that it must comply with its international obligations, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

Guterres also reaffirmed his commitment to work with all parties to reduce tensions and promote a peaceful political solution "and to strengthening communications channels," Dujarric said.

Associated Press writers Christopher Bodeen in Beijing, Matthew Pennington in Washington and Jennifer Peltz in New York contributed to this report.

Cuba's decrepit buildings no match for Hurricane Irma

By ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — The historic but often decrepit buildings of Havana and other colonial Cuban cities couldn't stand up to Hurricane Irma's winds and rainfall, collapsing and killing seven people in one of the highest death tolls from the storm's passage through the Caribbean.

Authorities said Monday that three more people were killed by falling objects or drowning, pushing the death toll to 10 in Cuba and at least 24 others in the Caribbean. It was Cuba's worst hurricane death toll since 16 died in Hurricane Dennis in 2005.

Most of Cuba's grand old buildings were confiscated from the wealthy and distributed to the poor and middle classes after a 1959 revolution that promised housing, health care and education as universal rights. But with state salaries of about \$25 a month and government agencies strapped for cash, most buildings have seen little maintenance in decades.

Tropical rain and sea spray have chewed into unpainted facades and seeped through unpatched roofs. Trees have sprouted from balconies. Iron rebar has rusted, sloughing off chunks of powdery concrete.

Damage wasn't limited to Havana. More than 100 houses in a small town on Cuba's coastline were destroyed in Matanzas Province when Irma swept through the area, leaving hundreds of people homeless.

In every neighborhood, residents talk warily about the buildings that are one hurricane away from total collapse.

That hurricane came Saturday and Sunday as Irma ground up the northern coast, sending chest-high seawater six blocks into Central Havana and blasting the city with 60 mph winds.

On Galeano Street in Central Havana, a fourth-floor balcony dropped onto a bus carrying Maria del Carmen Arregoitia Cardona and Yolendis Castillo Martínez, both 27. In the cities of Matanzas, Ciego de Avila and Camaguey, three men in their 50s and 60s died in building collapses. The government noted in a sternly worded press release that each "did not observe the behavior recommended by Civil Defense."

On Animas Street in Central Havana, 51-year-old Walfrido Antonio Valdes Perez was caring for his older brother, Roydis, who worked as a florist until he was diagnosed with HIV. They lived on the second floor of building divided into 11 apartments, many of them divided by crude intermediate floors known as "barbeques."

After midnight, as wind whipped the neighborhood, a wall collapsed onto the roof of their building, crushing the two brothers to death.

No one noticed until the next morning, when neighbors saw a foot sticking out of the rubble.

"We felt something, but no one imagined the roof and barbeque had collapsed," said homemaker Yudisleidis Mederos, 34. "These building are in really bad shape. Their room was the best one."

She and her neighbors remembered Roydis, 54, as a kind and helpful man who had become a virtual family member, helping care for their children, feed them and put them down for naps.

Neighbors said they were ready to evacuate Saturday but emergency officials never asked them to leave.

On Monday, they showed the cracks running through the walls of their building, water leaking through the halls and living spaces, naked metal beams and loose gas pipes and electric cables.

"We've been trying to fix things for years. It's a shame that maybe they'll come now, only after two

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 30 of 47

people have died," said homemaker Laritza Penalver, 49.

Havana was in recovery mode Monday, with crews cleaning away thousands of fallen trees and electric restored to a handful of neighborhoods. Schools were closed until further notice. President Raul Castro issued a message to the nation that didn't mention the deaths, but described damage to "housing, the electrical system and agriculture."

He also acknowledged destruction in the northern keys where Cuba and foreign hotel management firms have built dozens of all-inclusive beach resorts in recent years. The Jardines del Rey airport serving the northern keys was destroyed, the Communist Party newspaper Granma reported, tweeting photos of a shattered terminal hall littered with debris.

"The storm hit some of our principal tourist destinations but the damage will be repaired before the high season," starting in November, Castro wrote.

To the east, in the Leeward Islands known as the playground for the rich and famous, governments came under criticism for failing to respond quickly to the hurricane, which flattened many towns and turned lush, green hills to a brown stubble.

Residents have reported food, water and medicine shortages, as well as looting.

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson defended his government's response to what he called an "unprecedented catastrophe" and promised to increase funding for the relief effort. Britain sent a navy ship and almost 500 troops to the British Virgin Islands, Anguilla and the Turks and Caicos islands.

The U.S. government said it was sending a flight Monday to evacuate its citizens from St. Martin, one of the hardest-hit islands where 10 people were killed. Evacuees were warned to expect long lines and no running water at the airport.

A Royal Caribbean Cruise Line ship was expected to dock near St. Martin to help in the aftermath, and a boat was bringing a 5-ton crane capable of unloading large shipping containers of aid. A French military ship was scheduled to arrive Tuesday with materials for temporary housing.

About 70 percent of the beds at the main hospital in the French portion of St. Martin were severely damaged, and more than 100 people needing urgent medical care were evacuated. Eight of the territory's 11 pharmacies were destroyed, and Guadeloupe was sending medication.

French President Emmanuel Macron was scheduled to arrive in St. Martin on Tuesday to bring aid and fend off criticism that he didn't do enough to respond to the storm.

The "whole government is mobilized" to help, said Interior Minister Gerard Collomb.

Michael Weissenstein on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mweissenstein>

HURRICANE NEWSLETTER - Get the best of the AP's all-formats reporting on Irma and Harvey in your inbox: <http://apne.ws/ahYQGtb>

Aircraft carrier is rushed to the hurricane-battered Keys

By JENNIFER KAY and DOUG FERGUSON, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Authorities sent an aircraft carrier and other Navy ships to help with search-and-rescue operations in Florida on Monday as a flyover of the hurricane-battered Keys yielded what the governor said were scenes of devastation.

"I just hope everyone survived," Gov. Rick Scott said.

He said boats were cast ashore, water, sewers and electricity were knocked out, and "I don't think I saw one trailer park where almost everything wasn't overturned." Authorities also struggled to clear the single highway connecting the string of islands to the mainland.

The Keys felt Irma's full fury when the storm blew ashore as a Category 4 hurricane Sunday morning with 130 mph (209 kph) winds. How many people in the dangerously exposed, low-lying islands defied evacuation orders and stayed behind was unclear.

As Irma weakened into a tropical storm and finally left Florida on Monday after a run up the entire 400-mile length of the state, the full scale of its destruction was still unknown, in part because of cutoff

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 31 of 47

communications and blocked roads. Monday night, the storm had weakened to a tropical depression near Columbus, Georgia.

Six deaths in Florida have been blamed on Irma, along with three in Georgia and one in South Carolina. At least 35 people were killed in the Caribbean.

Statewide, an estimated 13 million people, or two-thirds of Florida's population, remained without power. That's more than the population of New York and Los Angeles combined. Officials warned it could take weeks for electricity to be restored to everyone.

More than 180,000 people huddled in shelters in the Sunshine State.

"How are we going to survive from here?" asked Gwen Bush, who waded through thigh-deep floodwaters outside her central Florida home to reach National Guard rescuers and get a ride to a shelter. "What's going to happen now? I just don't know."

The governor said it was way too early to put a dollar estimate on the damage.

During its march up Florida's west coast, Irma swamped homes, uprooted trees, flooded streets, snapped miles of power lines and toppled construction cranes.

In a parting shot, it triggered severe flooding around Jacksonville in the state's northeastern corner. It also spread misery into Georgia and South Carolina as it moved inland with winds at 50 mph, causing flooding and power outages.

Around the Tampa-St. Petersburg area, where Irma rolled through early Monday, damage appeared modest. And the governor said damage on the southwest coast, including in Naples and Fort Myers, was not as bad as feared. In the Keys, though, he said "there is devastation."

"It's horrible, what we saw," Scott said. "I know for our entire state, especially the Keys, it's going to be a long road."

He said the Navy dispatched the USS Iwo Jima, USS New York and the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln to help with search and rescue and other relief efforts.

Emergency managers in the islands declared on Monday "the Keys are not open for business" and warned that there was no fuel, electricity, running water or cell service and that supplies were low and anxiety high.

"HELP IS ON THE WAY," they promised on Facebook.

The Keys are linked by 42 bridges that have to be checked for safety before motorists can be allowed in, officials said. The governor said the route also needs to be cleared of debris and sand, but should be usable fairly quickly.

In the Jacksonville area, close to the Georgia line, storm surge brought some of the worst flooding ever seen there, with at least 46 people pulled from swamped homes.

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office warned residents along the St. Johns River to "Get out NOW."

"If you need to get out, put a white flag in front of your house. A t-shirt, anything white," the office said on its Facebook page. "Search and rescue teams are ready to deploy."

A tornado spun off by Irma was reported on the Georgia coast, and firefighters inland had to rescue several people after trees fell on their homes.

A tropical storm warning was issued for the first time ever in Atlanta, and school was canceled in communities around the state. More than 1.5 million customers were without power Monday night in Georgia.

Over the next two days, Irma is expected to push to the northwest, into Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee.

People in the heavily populated Tampa-St. Petersburg area had braced for the first direct hit from a major hurricane since 1921. But by the time Irma arrived in the middle of the night Monday, its winds were down to 100 mph (161 kph) or less.

"When that sun came out this morning and the damage was minimal, it became a good day," said Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn.

Ferguson reported from Jacksonville. Associated Press writers Seth Borenstein in Washington; Terry Spencer in Palm Beach County; Gary Fineout and Joe Reedy in Tallahassee; Jay Reeves in Immokalee; Terrance Harris and Claire Galofaro in Orlando; and Jason Dearen, Freida Frisaro, Curt Anderson and David

Fischer in Miami contributed to this report.

HURRICANE NEWSLETTER — Get the best of the AP's all-formats reporting on Irma and Harvey in your inbox: <http://apne.ws/ahYQGtb>

US marks 9/11 anniversary with resolve, tears and hope

By JENNIFER PELTZ and KAREN MATTHEWS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans commemorated 9/11 on Monday with tear-streaked tributes, a presidential warning to terrorists and appeals from victims' relatives for unity and hope 16 years after the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

Looking out at the solemn crowd at ground zero, Debra Epps said she views every day as time to do something to ensure that her brother, Christopher Epps, and thousands of others didn't die in vain.

"What I can say today is that I don't live my life in complacency," she said. "I stand in solidarity that this world will make a change for the better."

Thousands of family members, survivors, rescuers and others gathered for the hourslong reading of victims' names at the World Trade Center, while President Donald Trump spoke at the Pentagon and Vice President Mike Pence addressed an observance at the Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Elsewhere, thousands of Americans marked the anniversary with service projects. Volunteer Hillary O'Neill, 16, had her own connection to 9/11: It's her birthdate.

"I always feel a sense of responsibility to give back on the day," O'Neill, of Norwalk, Connecticut, said as she packed up meals in New York City for needy local people and hurricane victims in Texas and Florida.

Nearly 3,000 people were killed when planes hijacked by terrorists hit the trade center, the Pentagon and a field near Shanksville on Sept. 11, 2001, hurling America into a new consciousness of the threat of global terrorism.

Reflecting on a tragedy that still feels immediate to them, victims' relatives thanked first responders and the military, worried for people affected by Hurricane Irma as it continued its destructive path as a tropical storm and pleaded for a return to the sense of cohesiveness that followed the attacks.

"Our country came together that day. And it did not matter what color you were or where you were from," said a tearful Magaly Lemagne, who lost her brother, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey police officer David Lemagne. She implored people to "stop for a moment and remember all the people who gave their lives that day.

"Maybe then we can put away our disagreements and become one country again," she said.

Trump, a native New Yorker observing the anniversary for the first time as the country's leader, assured victims' families that "our entire nation grieves with you" and issued stern words to extremists.

"America cannot be intimidated, and those who try will join a long list of vanquished enemies who dared test our mettle," the Republican president said as he spoke at the Pentagon after observing a moment of silence at the White House.

When America is united, "no force on earth can break us apart," he said.

At the Flight 93 National Memorial, Pence said the passengers who revolted against hijackers might well have saved his own life.

The Republican vice president was a member of Congress on 9/11, and the Capitol was a possible target of the terrorist piloting Flight 93. Instead, it crashed near Shanksville after the passengers took action. Thirty-three passengers and seven crew members were killed.

At the United Nations, some ambassadors noted the anniversary as the Security Council unanimously approved new sanctions against North Korea in response to its Sept. 3 test of what Pyongyang said was a hydrogen bomb

"We will never forget the victims of Sept. 11, and we will never forget the lesson that those who have evil intentions must be confronted," U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley said.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 33 of 47

At dusk, the annual "Tribute in Light" art installation beamed two giant towers of light into the lower Manhattan skyline as a visual memorial to those who perished in the terror attack.

The ceremony on the National September 11 Memorial & Museum plaza in New York strives to be apolitical, allowing politicians to attend but not to speak. Yet last year's 15th anniversary ceremony became entangled in the presidential campaign when Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton left abruptly, stumbled into a van and ultimately revealed she'd been diagnosed days earlier with pneumonia.

This year, the focus remained on the names read out beneath the waterfall pools and lines of trees.

While many Americans may no longer interrupt their days to observe the 9/11 anniversary, the ceremony remains a touchstone for many victims' families and friends.

"I'll come every year for the rest of my life," said Rob Fazio, who lost his father, Ronald Fazio. "It's where I get my strength."

After 15 years of anniversaries, the reading of names, moments of silence and tolling bells have become rituals, but each ceremony takes on personal touches. Name-readers Monday gave updates on family graduations and marriages and remembered loved ones' flair for surfing or drawing on coffee-shop napkins.

A few never even got to know the relatives they lost on Sept. 11, 2001.

"I wish more than anything that I could have met you," Ruth Daly said after reading names in remembrance of her slain grandmother and namesake, Ruth Lapin.

Delaney Colaio read names in honor of the three relatives she lost: her father, Mark Joseph Colaio, and her uncles, Stephen Colaio and Thomas Pedicini. Just a toddler on 9/11, she is now making a documentary about the children who lost parents in the attacks.

"I stand here as a reminder to the other families of 9/11 and to the world," she said, "that no matter how dark moments of life can get, there is light ahead if you just choose hope."

Associated Press writers Colleen Long, Rebecca Gibian and Deepti Hajela in New York and Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

Cuba's decrepit buildings no match for Hurricane Irma

By ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — The historic but often decrepit buildings of Havana and other colonial Cuban cities couldn't stand up to Hurricane Irma's winds and rainfall, collapsing and killing seven people in one of the highest death tolls from the storm's passage through the Caribbean.

Authorities said Monday that three more people were killed by falling objects or drowning, pushing the death toll to 10 in Cuba and at least 24 others in the Caribbean. It was Cuba's worst hurricane death toll since 16 died in Hurricane Dennis in 2005.

Most of Cuba's grand old buildings were confiscated from the wealthy and distributed to the poor and middle classes after a 1959 revolution that promised housing, health care and education as universal rights. But with state salaries of about \$25 a month and government agencies strapped for cash, most buildings have seen little maintenance in decades.

Tropical rain and sea spray have chewed into unpainted facades and seeped through unpatched roofs. Trees have sprouted from balconies. Iron rebar has rusted, sloughing off chunks of powdery concrete.

Damage wasn't limited to Havana. More than 100 houses in a small town on Cuba's coastline were destroyed in Matanzas Province when Irma swept through the area, leaving hundreds of people homeless.

In every neighborhood, residents talk warily about the buildings that are one hurricane away from total collapse.

That hurricane came Saturday and Sunday as Irma ground up the northern coast, sending chest-high seawater six blocks into Central Havana and blasting the city with 60 mph winds.

On Galeano Street in Central Havana, a fourth-floor balcony dropped onto a bus carrying Maria del Carmen Arregoitia Cardona and Yolendis Castillo Martínez, both 27. In the cities of Matanzas, Ciego de

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 34 of 47

Avila and Camaguey, three men in their 50s and 60s died in building collapses. The government noted in a sternly worded press release that each "did not observe the behavior recommended by Civil Defense."

On Animas Street in Central Havana, 51-year-old Walfrido Antonio Valdes Perez was caring for his older brother, Roydis, who worked as a florist until he was diagnosed with HIV. They lived on the second floor of building divided into 11 apartments, many of them divided by crude intermediate floors known as "barbeques."

After midnight, as wind whipped the neighborhood, a wall collapsed onto the roof of their building, crushing the two brothers to death.

No one noticed until the next morning, when neighbors saw a foot sticking out of the rubble.

"We felt something, but no one imagined the roof and barbeque had collapsed," said homemaker Yudisleidis Mederos, 34. "These building are in really bad shape. Their room was the best one."

She and her neighbors remembered Roydis, 54, as a kind and helpful man who had become a virtual family member, helping care for their children, feed them and put them down for naps.

Neighbors said they were ready to evacuate Saturday but emergency officials never asked them to leave.

On Monday, they showed the cracks running through the walls of their building, water leaking through the halls and living spaces, naked metal beams and loose gas pipes and electric cables.

"We've been trying to fix things for years. It's a shame that maybe they'll come now, only after two people have died," said homemaker Laritza Penalver, 49.

Havana was in recovery mode Monday, with crews cleaning away thousands of fallen trees and electric restored to a handful of neighborhoods. Schools were closed until further notice. President Raul Castro issued a message to the nation that didn't mention the deaths, but described damage to "housing, the electrical system and agriculture."

He also acknowledged destruction in the northern keys where Cuba and foreign hotel management firms have built dozens of all-inclusive beach resorts in recent years. The Jardines del Rey airport serving the northern keys was destroyed, the Communist Party newspaper Granma reported, tweeting photos of a shattered terminal hall littered with debris.

"The storm hit some of our principal tourist destinations but the damage will be repaired before the high season," starting in November, Castro wrote.

To the east, in the Leeward Islands known as the playground for the rich and famous, governments came under criticism for failing to respond quickly to the hurricane, which flattened many towns and turned lush, green hills to a brown stubble.

Residents have reported food, water and medicine shortages, as well as looting.

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson defended his government's response to what he called an "unprecedented catastrophe" and promised to increase funding for the relief effort. Britain sent a navy ship and almost 500 troops to the British Virgin Islands, Anguilla and the Turks and Caicos islands.

The U.S. government said it was sending a flight Monday to evacuate its citizens from St. Martin, one of the hardest-hit islands where 10 people were killed. Evacuees were warned to expect long lines and no running water at the airport.

A Royal Caribbean Cruise Line ship was expected to dock near St. Martin to help in the aftermath, and a boat was bringing a 5-ton crane capable of unloading large shipping containers of aid. A French military ship was scheduled to arrive Tuesday with materials for temporary housing.

About 70 percent of the beds at the main hospital in the French portion of St. Martin were severely damaged, and more than 100 people needing urgent medical care were evacuated. Eight of the territory's 11 pharmacies were destroyed, and Guadeloupe was sending medication.

French President Emmanuel Macron was scheduled to arrive in St. Martin on Tuesday to bring aid and fend off criticism that he didn't do enough to respond to the storm.

The "whole government is mobilized" to help, said Interior Minister Gerard Collomb.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 35 of 47

HURRICANE NEWSLETTER - Get the best of the AP's all-formats reporting on Irma and Harvey in your inbox: <http://apne.ws/ahYQGtb>

Evolving Trump: From business celeb on 9/11 to stern leader

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the 16 years since the Sept. 11 terror attacks, Donald Trump has evolved from a celebrity developer whose first public thoughts were about Manhattan's suddenly altered skyline to the combative commander in chief who warned "savage killers" on Monday "there is no dark corner beyond our reach."

Trump was in his Fifth Avenue penthouse that clear fall day in 2001, four miles from the World Trade Center and, seemingly, in a previous life from the one he now leads.

When the towers fell, he spoke with measured words about the attackers and about the wounds inflicted on his hometown, a sharp contrast to his more recent incendiary rhetoric about terrorists and his unproven claims about celebrating Muslims.

On Monday, his first 9/11 anniversary as president, Trump carried out a sadly familiar ritual for U.S. leaders.

He stood, head bowed and hands clasped, for a moment of silence at the White House to mark the instant that a hijacked airplane had slammed into the World Trade Center. Later, at the Pentagon, where another plane had crashed, he promised American resolve.

"The terrorists who attacked us thought they could incite fear and weaken our spirit," Trump said. "But America cannot be intimidated, and those who try will join a long list of vanquished enemies who dared test our mettle."

"American forces are relentlessly pursuing and destroying the enemies of all civilized people," he declared. "We are making plain to these savage killers that there is no dark corner beyond our reach, no sanctuary beyond our grasp, and nowhere to hide anywhere on this very large Earth."

Trump's initial response in the hours after terror attacks was more restrained. He had flirted with a presidential run before, but he had yet to embrace some of the hardline ideas that later emerged in his campaign. Nor had he yet had his rebirth as a national celebrity thanks to "The Apprentice."

In a local radio interview, Trump said that if he were president he'd be taking "a very, very tough line" but he drew no conclusions about who perpetrated the assault on American soil.

"Most people feel they know at least approximately the group of people that did this and where they are," Trump told WWOR. "But, boy, would you have to take a hard line on this. This just can't be tolerated."

Trump vowed that his home city's spirit would not be broken. Nor his. He could not resist noting that with the destruction of the 110-story twin towers, his building at 40 Wall Street now stood above all others in Lower Manhattan.

"When they built the World Trade Center it became known as the second tallest," Trump said of his building. "And now it's the tallest."

In the years that followed, Trump's views on terrorism hardened and his claims about 9/11 grew more outlandish and untrue. As a candidate, he often pledged to "bomb the hell out of ISIS" and vowed to enact a Muslim ban.

In 2013, he posted a tweet saying, "I would like to extend my best wishes to all, even the haters and losers, on this special date, September 11th." And when his presidential campaign ramped up, he singled out Muslims in saying that "thousands of people were cheering" in Jersey City, New Jersey, across the Hudson River from lower Manhattan, as the towers collapsed. There is no such evidence in news archives.

Trump also said he lost "hundreds of friends" in the attack and helped clear rubble afterward. He has not provided the names of those he knew who perished in the attack, but has mentioned knowing a Roman Catholic priest who died while serving as a chaplain to the city's fire department.

He also criticized President George W. Bush, accusing him of failing in his duty to keep Americans safe. He repeatedly suggested President Barack Obama had not done enough to stamp out the threat posed by Islamic terror groups — in part by not clearly calling out the danger as "radical Islamic terror."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 36 of 47

On Monday, neither Trump nor his top aides used that phrase, though Trump has said it since taking office. The president has shown some signs of being affected by the gravity of his office. When he announced his war strategy for Afghanistan last month, he acknowledged that "decisions are much different when you sit behind the desk in the Oval Office." And on Monday, he took part in what has become a sobering annual tradition: Like Presidents Bush and Obama before him, he received a briefing on current terror concerns on the anniversary itself.

"The purpose of that is to give the president a sense of the terrorist threat globally and to the homeland," said Tom Bossert, Trump's homeland security adviser. Bossert said on this 9/11, there were no known active threats.

The briefing could mark another step in Trump's evolution, offering a fresh reminder that he now is the one most responsible for keeping the nation safe, according to James Clapper, who participated in the sessions as Obama's director of national intelligence.

"The focus in every one of our briefings, no matter the day, was to assess current threats and keep the nation safe," said Clapper. "But around Sept. 11 there was a sense of solemn obligation to those Americans who tragically died that day."

Associated Press writers Darlene Superville and Ken Thomas contributed to this report.

Follow Lemire on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/@JonLemire>

Chicago asks for national halt to Trump immigration rules

By **DON BABWIN, Associated Press**

CHICAGO (AP) — Attorneys for Chicago on Monday asked a federal judge for a nationwide halt to Trump administration requirements that cities enforce tough immigration laws in order to receive some federal grants, staking out a leadership role for the nation's third largest city in the fight over so-called sanctuary cities.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel has proclaimed the city a sanctuary for immigrants in the country illegally and has refused to allow immigration police access to city jails without a warrant. Last month Chicago sued the Trump administration over the new rules.

During a court hearing Monday, attorneys argued over whether Attorney General Jeff Sessions has the authority to bar Chicago from receiving federal grants to buy police equipment if it refuses to share information about people in custody who may be in the country illegally.

U.S. District Judge Harry Leinenweber did not rule Monday on the city's request for a "nationwide injunction" and did not say when he might decide. At stake is Chicago's request for \$2.2 million in federal funds — \$1.5 million for the city and the rest for Cook County and 10 other suburbs.

Chicago is leading the charge for cities and counties across the country. More than 30 jurisdictions filed court briefs supporting Chicago's suit, and have up to \$35 million in grants at stake. At least seven cities and counties, including Seattle and San Francisco, as well as the state of California, are refusing to cooperate with the new federal rules.

Sessions wants local authorities to give "where practicable" 48 hours-notice before releasing from custody anyone federal agents suspect of being in the United States illegally, and require the agents access to local jails.

The court arguments boiled down to whether Sessions has the authority to withhold the grant money/ "Congress mandated that the Attorney General SHALL allocate (the funds); It does not give him the authority not to do this," attorney for Chicago Ronald Safer said.

Safer argued that tying the grant money to an agreement to comply would damage the relationship between the immigrant community and a police department that relies on the public to solve crimes.

He also told the judge that if he rules in favor of the Trump administration, it would set a dangerous precedent that could ultimately give the administration the power to tie funds to the city's willingness to

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 37 of 47

send police officers to the Mexican border to help build the wall Trump wants to build.

But Chad Readler, acting assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's civil division, said Sessions is well within his rights to place special conditions on such grant money, adding that cities already had to meet more than 50 special conditions, including compliance with civil rights laws to receive grants in 2016.

"The attorney general has final authority on all grants issued by the department," he said. When Chicago agreed, for example, to take federal funds for body armor for police officers it accepted the condition that officers wear the body armor, Readler said.

Readler said Chicago has the option to refuse to comply with the new immigration regulations and fund the initiatives itself.

Chicago has received the public safety grants since 2005, using the \$33 million to purchase police vehicles and equipment. The city received \$2.3 million last year. The city hasn't been denied the money in the past.

City law department spokesman Bill McCaffrey said the new rules do not apply to grants already received. He also said it is unclear when the city might receive the grant money that Sessions has threatened to withhold. Typically, the city applies for the money by early June and receives the money by the end of September. But this year, the city applied Aug. 31 after the deadline was pushed back to Sept. 5.

In April, a federal judge dealt the Trump administration a partial setback, suspended the rules only for San Francisco and Santa Clara County, California.

Catholic leaders decry Dems' questioning of judicial pick

By KEVIN FREKING, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Roman Catholic leaders are objecting to Democratic senators' line of questioning for one of President Donald Trump's judicial nominees, arguing the focus on her faith is misplaced and runs counter to the Constitution's prohibition on religious tests for political office.

The outcry stems from the questioning last week of Amy Coney Barrett, a Notre Dame law professor tapped to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Democrats focused on whether her personal views would override her legal judgment, especially with respect to the landmark 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., told Barrett that dogma and law are two different things and she was concerned "that the dogma lives loudly within you."

Feinstein's comments upset Notre Dame's president, the Rev. John I. Jenkins, who wrote a letter this past weekend to the senator and the Judiciary Committee, calling the questioning "chilling." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said the challenge to Barrett was a painful reminder of a time when "anti-Catholic bigotry did distort our laws and civil order."

The uproar underscored the volatile mix of religion, politics and the law, with Democrats worried Trump judicial nominees, once seated on the courts, will reverse abortion rights. Democrats changed the Senate rules in 2013 to a simple majority to ensure confirmation of the president's nominees, which now leaves Democrats with little recourse to stop Trump's picks. Beyond the Senate political fight, the dispute carries echoes of the 1960 campaign when some voters feared that Catholic candidate John F. Kennedy would take orders from the pope if elected president.

"People of faith, whatever faith they may hold, should not be disqualified because of that faith from serving the public good," said Archbishop William E. Lori, chairman of the Catholic Bishops' committee on religious liberty.

Jenkins implored the senators to "respect those in whom 'dogma lives loudly' — which is a condition we call faith. For the attempt to live such faith while one respects the legal system should command respect, not evoke concern."

Jenkins said that Barrett made it clear that she would "follow unflinchingly" all court precedent and, in rare cases in which her conscience would not allow her to do so, she would recuse herself.

The Alliance for Justice counters that federal judges don't get to pick and choose which cases they will hear or which issues they address. Laurie Kinney, a spokeswoman for the group, said that a judge recus-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 38 of 47

ing themselves from a case because they disagree with the law on religious grounds is "the definition of putting faith ahead of the law, in our view."

Feinstein said Monday she would never apply a religious litmus test to nominees, but "senators must inquire about these issues when considering lifetime appointments because ensuring impartiality and fidelity to precedent are critical for the rule of law."

A key focus of the hearing was a 1998 law review article titled "Catholic Judges in Capital Cases." In the article, Barrett and John H. Garvey said Catholic judges are obliged to adhere to their church's teaching on moral matters and the legal system has a solution for this dilemma by allowing judges to recuse themselves when beliefs keep them from doing their job.

"This is a good solution. But it is harder than you think to determine when a judge must recuse himself and when he may stay on the job. Catholic judges will not want to shirk their judicial obligations," they wrote.

In the article, Garvey and Barrett cited comments from Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., who was asked during his confirmation hearings in 1957 whether he could abide by his oath of office in cases where "matters of faith and morals" mixed with "matters of law and justice." Brennan replied that in the cases that come before him "it is that oath and that alone which governs."

"We do not defend this position as the proper response for a Catholic judge to take with respect to abortion or the death penalty," Barrett and Garvey wrote.

In questioning from Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, Barrett emphasized that the article in question was written during her third year in law school and she was "very much the junior partner in our collaboration."

Barrett said that while her views have broadened since then, she stands behind the core proposition of the article that it is never permissible for a judge to "follow their personal convictions in the decision of a case, rather than what the law requires. That article emphasized that point repeatedly."

Barrett also said, "Sitting here today, I can't think of any cases or category of cases in which I would feel obliged to recuse on grounds of conscience."

Democratic Sens. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii and Dick Durbin of Illinois also pressed Barrett, with Hirono asking a hypothetical: If she had been nominated to serve as a district court judge, would she recuse herself as a "Catholic judge from death penalty cases"?

"I would recuse myself and not actually enter the order of execution. That was the only conclusion the article reached. And I would stand by that today," Barrett said.

Princeton University President Christopher L. Eisgruber said that Barrett's qualifications, in his view, become stronger because of her willingness to write candidly and intelligently about difficult ethical questions.

"Our universities, our judiciary, and our country will be the poorer if the Senate prefers nominees who remain silent on such topics," Eisgruber wrote.

Before joining the Notre Dame faculty, Barrett clerked for Judge Laurence H. Silberman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and for Associate Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who died in February 2016.

Police: 9 dead, including suspect, at suburban Dallas home

PLANO, Texas (AP) — Nine people, including a suspect who was fatally shot by an officer, have died after a man opened fire during a gathering to watch football at a suburban Dallas home, police said Monday.

Plano police Chief Gregory W. Rushin said at a Monday afternoon news conference that one of two people hospitalized after the Sunday night shooting had died.

An officer responding to a report of shots fired at about 8 p.m. confronted the suspected shooter and opened fire, killing the suspect. Police then found the nine gunshot victims — seven were dead and two were taken to the hospital.

"The first responding officer actually heard gunshots taking place inside the residence," police spokesman David Tilley said.

Rushin said the officer approached the house from the back and saw bodies in the backyard before

confronting the suspect inside.

Police have not yet confirmed the identities of those killed or the suspect. Rushin did say that the suspect "was known by people in the residence," adding the suspect had a "relationship with that house."

Debbie Lane told WFAA television station that her daughter, Meredith Lane, was among those killed in the shooting. She said her daughter owned the home and had recently divorced her husband of six years. She said her daughter, a native of Georgia, was hosting a party to watch football games, starting with the Atlanta Falcons vs. the Chicago Bears and continuing with the Dallas Cowboys vs. the New York Giants.

"She was a cook, and a quite fine one, and she loved hosting friends and families," Debbie Lane said.

All of those killed and injured were believed to be adults.

Neighbor Stacey Glover told The Dallas Morning News that the party had started early in the afternoon and that she had seen people laughing and grilling outside. She says she then heard the shots around 8 p.m. She opened her door and smelled gunpowder. She heard police who arrived yell "hands up" before more shots rang out.

Rushin said he did not know how many people had attended the gathering. Rushin said multiple firearms of different types were found at the scene.

Tilley said that a shooting of this magnitude was unusual for Plano, especially in such a quiet neighborhood. He could not say whether police had been called to the home before Sunday.

Tilley said the Texas Rangers are investigating the officer-involved shooting and are helping Plano police with the homicide investigation as well.

Security clearance backlog leads to risky interim passes

By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A government backlog of 700,000 security clearance reviews has led agencies like the Defense Department to inadvertently issue interim passes to criminals — even rapists and killers — fueling calls for better and faster vetting of people with access to the nation's secrets.

The pileup, which is government-wide, is causing work delays for both federal and private intelligence efforts. It takes about four months to acquire a clearance to gain access to "secret" information on a need-to-know basis, and nine to 10 months for "top-secret" clearance.

Efforts to reduce the backlog coincide with pressure to tighten the reins on classified material. In recent years, intelligence agencies have suffered some of the worst leaks of classified information in U.S. history. Still, calls for a faster clearance process are getting louder.

"If we don't do interim clearances, nothing gets done," Dan Payne, director of the U.S. Defense Security Service, said last week at an intelligence conference.

Yet Payne described handing out interim clearances as risky business. On the basis of partial background checks, people are being given access to secret and top-secret information sometimes for long periods of time, he said.

"I've got murderers who have access to classified information," he said. "I have rapists. I have pedophiles. I have people involved in child porn. I have all these things at the interim clearance level and I'm pulling their clearances on a weekly basis."

"We are giving those people access to classified information with only the minimum amount of investigation. This is why we have to fix this process. This is why we have to drive these timelines down."

Payne didn't say how many criminals his agency has discovered, if their offenses were new or old, or if any of them had mishandled classified material. Efforts to reach him for this story were unsuccessful.

People being investigated for interim clearances are subject to background checks, too, but quick access to state and local records can be challenging, said a former Defense Department official, who was not authorized to speak about the issue and commented only on condition of anonymity.

More than 4.3 million people hold security clearances of various levels, according to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. They include nearly 3 million at the "confidential" or "secret" level and more than 1 million at the "top secret" level.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 40 of 47

Checking federal employees and private contractors is a laborious process that requires an extensive background check and an effort to judge a person's trustworthiness.

Ninety-five percent of all background investigations are conducted by the National Background Investigations Bureau, which does some of the work itself and contracts the rest to private firms.

The backlog grew significantly after the government stopped doing business with a contractor that suffered a data breach in 2014. That depleted the government's capacity to do investigations by 60 percent, said Charles Phalen, director of the investigations bureau.

Hundreds of new investigators have been hired since, Phalen said, but the backlog is "still way high."

He and other officials think the process needs to be updated to ensure the government can spot possible problems in real time.

Is a clearance holder dealing with money woes or personal problems, such as alcohol or drug addiction? Is there unexplained foreign travel, questionable use of computer networks, or other issues that might point to possible leaks?

Right now, clearance holders are reinvestigated about every five years, adding to the background checks for first-time applicants. Intelligence officials, industry leaders and lawmakers say continuous monitoring and evaluation are preferable.

In today's fast-paced world, they argue, it doesn't make sense to wait years to find out someone is experiencing financial problems, making him susceptible to selling classified information.

Many U.S. intelligence agencies already are onboard. The Defense Department also has begun more regular vetting. It has 500,000 people — contractors and military personnel among them — enrolled in what it calls "continuous evaluation," which involves regular checks through law enforcement and other databases. Up to 1 million will be enrolled by the end of the year, Payne said.

The improved vetting has led to 48 people losing their clearances based on information uncovered years before they would have been up for their next scheduled review. Several hundred additional cases have been flagged for additional investigation.

Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, the Senate intelligence committee's top Democrat, said an overhaul of the clearance system is long overdue, particularly if the government hopes to continue to attract top-notch workers and recent graduates.

And Vice Adm. Jan Tighe, deputy chief of naval operations for information warfare and director of naval intelligence, said the backlog is threatening the civilian workforce's readiness.

"We are losing talent to other places," Tighe said.

The backlog also is complicating transitions of mid-career intelligence professionals from agency to agency and in and out of private industry. It takes time to process clearances for these transfers, too.

Over the years, various executive orders and legislation have called for change — none successfully.

"This is one of these processes that have been unchanged for decades," said Maj. Gen. Michael Groen, the Marine Corp's director of intelligence. "It's screaming for a different way to do business."

Intelligence professionals say serious changes are needed in the entire system, which dates to the late 1940s. That was long before the internet, social media, cyberattacks and massive classified disclosures like the National Security Agency leak perpetrated by Edward Snowden.

"I do not think this is one of lacing up our shoes tighter and putting more people against it," said Sue Gordon, principal deputy national intelligence director. "We have to reimagine how this is done."

Harvey and Irma to slow US economy but rebound should follow

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — With businesses disrupted, fuel and chemical refineries out of commission and consumers struggling to restore their lives, Hurricanes Harvey and Irma will likely pack a tough double-whammy for the U.S. economy.

Nearly one-fifth of the nation's oil refining capacity has been shut down because of Harvey, and fuel production has dropped sharply as a result, according to Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Consumers will

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 41 of 47

also spend less in the immediate aftermath of the storms. Even those ready to make purchases will face closed storefronts and dark restaurants.

Irma will cause tourists to delay — and in many cases never take — trips to Florida's beaches or Disney World. Chemical refineries have also been closed, reducing the production of plastics.

Damage estimates from the two storms are still early, particularly for Irma. Hurricane Harvey will likely cost up to \$108 billion, according to Bank of America Merrill Lynch, which would make it the second-most-expensive hurricane after Katrina.

Mark Zandi, chief economist for Moody's Analytics, estimates that Irma will cause \$64 billion to \$92 billion in damage.

While the economic toll pales beside the human costs, analysts estimate that the nation's annualized growth rate will be one-half to one full percentage point slower in the July-September quarter than it would otherwise have been.

But repair work, reconstruction and purchases of replacement cars and other goods should provide an offsetting boost later this year and in early 2018.

"Construction activity will rocket in the affected areas," predicted Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics. "Households' spending on building materials, furniture, appliances, and vehicles will all be much higher than otherwise would have been the case."

Catastrophic natural disasters often don't depress the U.S. economy in the long run. The destruction of property reduces the nation's total wealth. But all the rebuilding and restoration work tends to stimulate economic growth in the following months.

The rebuilding can take time. After Hurricane Katrina bashed New Orleans in 2005, it took seven months for home building permits in the city to return to their pre-hurricane levels, according to Goldman Sachs.

Economists at Goldman estimate that Harvey and Irma will slice growth in the July-September quarter by 0.8 percentage point to an annual rate of 2 percent. But they forecast a healthy rebound, with annualized economic activity 0.4 percentage point higher in the October-December quarter, 0.2 percentage point higher in the January-March quarter next year, and 0.4 percentage point higher in the April-June period.

Irma has so far wreaked much less damage than initially feared, with Citi analyst James Naklicki estimating total costs could reach \$50 billion, down from earlier estimate of as much as \$150 billion.

Still, more than 7 million people have lost power because of Irma, with most of them living in Florida. The state makes up about 5 percent of the U.S. economy. Flooding from Irma could affect about \$1.2 billion of the state's crops, Bank of America Merrill Lynch estimates, and elevate food prices.

With oil refineries along the Gulf Coast shut down, gas prices have jumped about 30 cents a gallon nationwide, on average, since Harvey made landfall in late August. That will temporarily reduce Americans' spending power because they will have less money to spend on other items.

The impact of Harvey has been particularly harsh in Houston, the nation's fourth-largest city. The entire metro area accounts for about 3.2 percent of the nation's economy.

Higher gas costs will likely increase measures of inflation in the coming months, economists say, but the rise will likely be small and temporary.

Housing costs could rise, too. The cost of lumber has already been rising because of the wildfires in the western United States, said John Mothersole, an economist at IHS Markit. Hurricane-related repairs and rebuilding could push prices higher.

Nearly 90 percent of U.S. chemical refinery capacity has been closed down, Mothersole said. That could make all sorts of plastics more expensive, including PVC pipes and other building materials.

The Federal Reserve, which adjusts interest rates to keep inflation in check, will likely discount any increase in prices.

"The Fed is going to view this, correctly, as a transitory event," Mothersole said.

Still, Fed policymakers may have a difficult time analyzing the broader underlying health of the economy because of the hurricane distortions.

For example, the number of jobs added in September could be 20,000 to 100,000 lower because of

storm disruptions, Goldman Sachs estimates.

Contact Chris Rugaber on Twitter at <http://Twitter.com/ChrisRugaber>

HURRICANE NEWSLETTER - Get the best of the AP's all-formats reporting on Irma and Harvey in your inbox: <http://apne.ws/ahYQGtb>

Hurricane Irma exposes racial tensions on smashed St. Martin

By THOMAS ADAMSON and DANICA M. COTO, Associated Press

MARIGOT, St. Martin (AP) — In the chaotic days after Hurricane Irma smashed St. Martin, the storm also exposed simmering racial tensions on the island's French territory, with some black and mixed-race residents complaining that white tourists were given priority during the evacuation.

It was the type of anger that has long plagued France's far-flung former colonies — especially its Caribbean territories, where most of the population identifies as black and is poorer than the white minority.

Johana Soudiagom was disturbed to find herself among a tiny handful of non-whites evacuated by boat to nearby Guadeloupe after Irma devastated the island.

"It's selective. Excuse me, but we saw only mainlanders," she told Guadeloupe 1ere television, visibly shaken. "That's a way of saying, 'I'm sorry, only whites. There are only whites on the boat.'"

It's common practice for tourists to be evacuated first from disaster zones for practical reasons, as they are staying in hotels and not in their homes and tend to have fewer resources such as food and vehicles. The French prime minister insisted Monday that the only people being prioritized were the most vulnerable.

Government spokesman Christophe Castaner said he understood islanders' frustration with the government response but blamed part of the controversy on their "emotional shock, an impact that's extremely hard psychologically."

Soudiagom and other witnesses told Guadeloupe 1ere that the boat they took Friday carried tourists, including Americans, to safety but left many St. Martin residents behind, including needy mothers and children.

On Monday, France's Representative Council of Black Associations asked the government for a parliamentary inquiry, citing concerns that those who were evacuated were not "necessarily the most in distress."

"In my eyes, Irma is for the French Antilles what Hurricane Katrina was for Louisiana in the U.S. — an exposé of racial and social inequalities," the group's spokesman, Louis-Georges Tin, told The Associated Press.

The terror of facing down a Category 5 hurricane has combined with a long-held sense of isolation among local residents of St. Martin, some 6,700 kilometers (4,200 miles) from the French mainland and popular with European tourists.

"The natural catastrophe occurred in a place that's very vulnerable socially, where there is a population of many different skin colors and a history of slavery," said Michel Giraud, a French researcher who writes on race. "Of course there will be a perception of racism."

The island of St. Martin — divided in the 17th century into the French territory of Saint-Martin and the Dutch territory of Sint Maarten — measures just 87 square kilometers (34 square miles). Its 80,000 residents are a vibrant ethnic mix descended mainly from Africa, Europe and Asia. The two sides of the island share a creole language that draws heavily on English vocabulary.

The French part of St. Martin is similar to other French holdings in the Caribbean in that its white minority is generally wealthier than its black majority. Because France bans the collection of data on race, there are no statistics to show how much wealthier.

It began as a colony whose economy was fueled by African slaves. But after slavery was abolished in 1848, Tin said, "there were no reparations for the slaves, only for the slave owners," so the former slaves won freedom but remained destitute. "The economy is now based on tourism but it is still poor. The wages are significantly lower than the mainland France."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 43 of 47

The government is not the only one being accused of racial bias in the wake of the storm. Giraud said French television reports on the devastation focused disproportionately on white people.

"When I saw the pictures, I was shocked," Giraud said. "In the coverage I saw, the victims were mostly white tourists, or white French mainlanders. But the poorest are always the first victims."

Irma hit St. Martin on Wednesday, killing at least nine people on the French part of the island and damaging a majority of its buildings.

The following day, looters were seen hauling food, water and televisions from shops, and videos featuring predominantly black people raiding shops circulated online. Some took to social media to blame the thieving on non-whites and characterized the white evacuees as innocents escaping the chaos.

Tin said the island's poorer residents were doing what they had to after an ineffective government response.

"What some call theft, others call survival," he said. "When the state doesn't do its job, it's normal that the poorest do what's necessary to survive."

"In Florida, there were more than 1 million evacuated, and France says that with four days' notice they couldn't evacuate a much smaller number," Tin said. "The question must be asked: Does it have to do with racism?"

The government argues that it is more difficult to transport tens of thousands of people off small islands in stormy weather than it is to tell people to drive to safety.

French President Emmanuel Macron planned to fly to St. Martin on Tuesday to inspect the damage and relief operations and to reassure the local population.

Adamson reported from Paris.

Catalan celebration focuses on right to break from Spain

By JOSEPH WILSON, Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of people packed the sunny streets of downtown Barcelona on Monday to celebrate Catalonia's national day, an anniversary that provided a stage for the many Catalans who hope to vote within weeks for the region's independence from Spain.

The Spanish city's broad, tree-lined boulevards were a sea of yellow T-shirts that evoked the yellow-and-red striped Catalan flag. Many participants carried the pro-independence flag, known as the "estelada," which also contains a blue triangle and a white star. The crowd passed a giant banner calling for a secession referendum overhead.

This year's annual celebration came amid growing excitement and tension over the independence vote planned for Oct. 1. Spain's constitutional court has suspended the referendum while it considers its legality, but Catalan leaders say they will go ahead with it anyway.

Spain's national government, based in Madrid, is doing all it can to stop the ballot, which it says is illegal. Catalan independence parties said Monday's huge turnout in the regional capital — estimated by Barcelona's municipal police at 1 million — was a show of strength that would add momentum to their cause.

"Today we have said loud and clear that no orders from any court will stop us," Jordi Sanchez, head of the grassroots movement Assemblea Nacional Catalana, said in a speech to the crowd.

While the standoff between Barcelona and Madrid is creating divisions, the good-humored celebration attended by families produced no signs of conflict.

Participants sang and clapped along to recordings of the Catalan anthem "Els Segadors" (The Reapers). At one point, the crowd shouted in unison: "Independencia!" — Independence! The symbolic moment came after organizers counted down over a public address system to 5.14 p.m., which on a 24-hour clock is 1714.

That's the year independence supporters regard as the point when Catalonia lost much of the self-governing power it enjoyed for centuries.

Among the comparatively wealthy region's grievances is that because it accounts for a fifth of Spain's economic output, it pays more into the central government's coffers than it receives.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 44 of 47

Nuria Bou, who wore a pro-independence flag tied around her neck like a cape, said she hoped she would get a chance to vote.

"We don't have anything against Spaniards," Bou said. "But for many years the Spanish government has been making cuts to the funds we receive, and what we want is to govern ourselves."

Miquel Puig, 41, a pro-independence Barcelona resident who runs a language school, wore a T-shirt reading "Ara es l'hora," which translates to "Now is the moment." Puig said he was motivated by "a mix of cultural, social and economic issues."

He noted that Catalonia, with a population of 7.5 million, has its own language and culture, that Catalans feel ignored by authorities in Madrid, and that the region can stand alone financially.

In a proof of their commitment to holding the vote, Catalan officials on Monday said mail-in voting by Catalan expatriates had already started.

Most Catalans support a vote on whether the prosperous region's future lies within or outside of Spain, but polls show that a referendum approved by the central government is preferred over a vote Madrid opposes.

Citizens also are divided over the independence issue. According to a June survey by the Catalan government's own polling agency, 41 percent supported independence while 49 percent were for staying in Spain. Outside of Catalonia, most Spaniards reject the idea.

Castillo Cancho, 69 and retired, did not go to the city center to join in the traditional march. He complained that what was once a day to celebrate Catalan culture has been usurped by the separatist cause.

Cancho is not in favor of independence and embraces his dual identity of Spanish and Catalan, but even so, he hopes that the Oct. 1 vote is held.

"If they don't let them vote, I will be annoyed, and I would almost be pushed to go vote if I could," he said. "Repression make you rebel."

His wife Rosa Maria Descalzo, 60, was wary of the vote because of the lack of legal guarantees such as an official voter roll.

"I am not convinced by the reasons they are giving for independence," she said. "When everyone is opening frontiers, why should we be closing them?"

Associated Press reporter Aritz Parra contributed to this story from Madrid. Barry Hatton contributed from Lisbon, Portugal.

This story has been corrected to note that the pro-independence T-shirts were yellow, not red and yellow.

Trump administration appeals to Supreme Court on refugee ban

By MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is back at the Supreme Court, asking the justices to continue to allow strict enforcement of a temporary ban on refugees from around the world.

The Justice Department's high court filing Monday follows an appeals court ruling last week that would allow refugees to enter the United States if a resettlement agency in the U.S. had agreed to take them in. The appellate ruling could take effect as soon as Tuesday and could apply to up to 24,000 refugees.

Justice Anthony Kennedy issued a brief order Monday that will keep the ruling on hold for the time being, at least until the ban's challengers submit written arguments by midday Tuesday and the full court has a chance to act.

The administration is not challenging the part of the ruling that applies to a temporary ban on visitors from six mostly Muslim countries. The appeals court ruled that grandparents and cousins of people already in the U.S. can't be excluded from the country under the travel ban.

The Supreme Court already has weighed in twice on lower court rulings striking down or limiting the travel and refugee bans, though it has to rule on their validity.

In June, the high court said the administration could not enforce the bans against people who have a

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 45 of 47

"bona fide" relationship with people or entities in the United States. The justices declined to define the required relationships more precisely.

In July, the justices issued an order that temporarily allowed strict enforcement of the exclusion of refugees. But the Supreme Court refused to go along with the administration's view that it could keep out grandparents, cousins and some other family members.

The 90-day travel ban affects visitors from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

The high court is scheduled to hear arguments about the legality of the travel and refugee bans in October. By that point, the original 90-day travel ban will have lapsed and the 120-day refugee ban will have just a few weeks to run. The administration has yet to say whether it plans to renew the exclusions, expand them or make them permanent.

The administration told the court Monday said that changing the way it enforces the policy on refugees would allow "admission of refugees who have no connection to the United States independent of the refugee-admission process itself."

Pope blasts climate change doubters: cites moral duty to act

By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE (AP) — Pope Francis has sharply criticized climate change doubters, saying history will judge those who failed to take the necessary decisions to curb heat-trapping emissions blamed for the warming of the Earth.

Francis was asked about climate change and the spate of hurricanes that have pummeled the U.S., Mexico and the Caribbean recently as his charter plane left Colombia on Sunday and flew over some of the devastated areas.

"Those who deny this must go to the scientists and ask them. They speak very clearly," he said, referring to experts who blame global warming on man-made activities.

Francis said scientists have also clearly charted what needed to be done to reverse course on global warming and said individuals and politicians had a "moral responsibility" to do their part.

"These aren't opinions pulled out of thin air. They are very clear," he said. "Then they (leaders) decide and history will judge those decisions."

Francis has made caring for the environment a hallmark of his papacy, writing an entire encyclical about how the poor in particular are most harmed when multinationals move into exploit natural resources. During his visit to Colombia, Francis spoke out frequently about the need to preserve the country's rich biodiversity from overdevelopment and exploitation.

For those who have denied climate change, or delayed actions to counter it, he responded with an Old Testament saying: "Man is stupid."

"When you don't want to see, you don't see," he said.

Complaints about festival's cold pizza prompt state inquiry

NEW YORK (AP) — Some New York City foodies say a neighborhood pizza festival has left them with a bad taste in their mouths.

Prosecutors are looking into the New York City Pizza Festival after attendees fumed they paid \$75 each to eat cold slivers of pizza in a parking lot in Brooklyn on Saturday.

The festival was promoted as a celebration of pizza. Attendees say on Facebook they instead got cold slices of pizza "smaller than a sample size," served with glasses of warm wine.

WNBC-TV reports Democratic state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman (SHNEYE'-dur-muhn) is urging attendees to file complaints on his website. A spokesman says prosecutors opened an investigation Monday.

Festival organizer Ishmael Osekre says event producer Hangry Garden delayed the event. The event producer contends it was misled by the organizer and wasn't paid.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 46 of 47

Asia stocks mostly rise as Irma and North Korea worries fade

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mostly higher Tuesday, encouraged by optimism on Wall Street as Hurricane Irma weakened and made way for recovery efforts and a North Korean holiday passed without new missile launches.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 gained 1.0 percent to 19,741.42, as a weaker yen also helped boosted sentiments. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was up nearly 0.9 percent at 5,763.20 in early trading, while South Korea's Kospi inched up but was little changed at 2,359.45. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.2 percent to 27,893.97, while the Shanghai Composite gained 0.1 percent to 3,379.91.

IRMA FEARS: Irma wreaked havoc along the entire Florida peninsula and was still dropping rain and causing power outages and some damage around the Southeast. But the storm had weakened considerably from its peak, relieving investors' worries. Insurers and travel companies did well in U.S. markets Monday, while home improvement stocks declined on expectations of less business from storm repairs.

NORTH KOREA: Tensions between the U.S. and North Korea have been on investors' minds recently, but North Koreans observed the 69th anniversary of the country's founding, but did not test another intercontinental ballistic missile, as South Korea's government had warned it might.

THE QUOTE: "This morning's announcement that the UN has agreed on more economic sanctions against North Korea has not phased markets," said Ric Spooner, chief market analyst for CMC Markets in Sydney.

WALL STREET: The Standard & Poor's 500 index made its biggest gain since late April as it rose 26.68 points, or 1.1 percent, to finish at a record high of 2,488.11. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 259.58 points, or 1.2 percent, to 22,057.37. That wiped out a month of losses linked to international tensions as well as worries about the lingering effects of recent hurricanes.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude slipped 3 cents to \$48.04 a barrel. It added 59 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$48.07 a barrel in New York Monday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, lost 1 cent to \$53.83 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 109.37 yen from 108.48 yen late Monday. The euro slid to \$1.1958 from \$1.2016.

AP Business Writer Yuri Kageyama can be reached at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>
Her work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/yuri%20kageyama>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 12, the 255th day of 2017. There are 110 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 12, 1942, during World War II, a German U-boat off West Africa torpedoed the RMS Laconia, which was carrying Italian prisoners of war, British soldiers and civilians; it's estimated more than 1,600 people died while some 1,100 survived after the ship sank. The German crew, joined by other U-boats, began rescue operations. (On September 16, the rescue effort came to an abrupt halt when the Germans were attacked by a U.S. Army bomber; as a result, U-boat commanders were ordered to no longer rescue civilian survivors of submarine attacks.)

On this date:

In 1814, the Battle of North Point took place in Maryland during the War of 1812 as American forces slowed British troops advancing on Baltimore.

In 1846, Elizabeth Barrett secretly married Robert Browning at St. Marylebone Church in London.

In 1914, during World War I, the First Battle of the Marne ended in an Allied victory against Germany.

In 1938, Adolf Hitler demanded the right of self-determination for the Sudeten (soo-DAYT'-un) Germans in Czechoslovakia.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 074 ~ 47 of 47

In 1944, the Second Quebec Conference opened with President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in attendance.

In 1953, Massachusetts Sen. John F. Kennedy married Jacqueline Lee Bouvier (boo-vee-AY') in Newport, Rhode Island.

In 1960, Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy addressed questions about his Roman Catholic faith, telling the Greater Houston Ministerial Association, "I do not speak for my church on public matters, and the church does not speak for me."

In 1974, Emperor Haile Selassie (HY'-lee sehl-AH'-see) was deposed by Ethiopia's military after ruling for 58 years.

In 1977, South African black student leader and anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko (BEE'-koh), 30, died while in police custody, triggering an international outcry.

In 1986, Joseph Cicippio (sih-SIHP'-ee-oh), the acting comptroller at the American University in Beirut, was kidnapped (he was released in December 1991).

In 1987, reports surfaced that Democratic presidential candidate Joseph Biden had borrowed, without attribution, passages of a speech by British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock (KIHN'-ik) for one of his own campaign speeches. (The Kinnock report, along with other damaging revelations, prompted Biden to drop his White House bid.)

In 1992, the space shuttle Endeavour blasted off, carrying with it Mark Lee and Jan Davis, the first married couple in space; Mae Jemison, the first black woman in space; and Mamoru Mohri, the first Japanese national to fly on a U.S. spaceship. Police in Peru captured Shining Path founder Abimael Guzman. Actor Anthony Perkins died in Hollywood at age 60.

Ten years ago: Russian President Vladimir Putin replaced long-serving Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov with an obscure Cabinet official, Viktor Zubkov. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (shin-zoh ah-bay) announced his resignation.

Five years ago: The U.S. dispatched an elite group of Marines to Tripoli, Libya, after the mob attack in Benghazi that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans. President Barack Obama strongly condemned the violence, and vowed to bring the killers to justice; Republican challenger Mitt Romney accused the administration of showing weakness in the face of tumultuous events in the Middle East.

One year ago: Striking a conciliatory tone after an Oval Office sitdown, President Barack Obama and the top Senate Republican declared themselves hopeful that an agreement could be reached to keep the government running and to provide money to take care of the worsening Zika (ZEE'-kuh) crisis. Two men disrupted a live broadcast of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" by rushing onto the stage to protest Olympic swimmer Ryan Lochte's presence on the show. (Lochte and his swimming teammates faced criticism since they were involved in an early-morning drunken encounter at a gas station in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Freddie Jones is 90. Composer Harvey Schmidt ("The Fantasticks") is 88. Actor Ian Holm is 86. Former U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., is 78. Actress Linda Gray is 77. Singer Maria Muldaur is 75. Actor Joe Pantoliano is 66. Singer-musician Gerry Beckley (America) is 65. Original MTV VJ Nina Blackwood is 65. Rock musician Neil Peart (Rush) is 65. Actor Peter Scolaris is 62. Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback is 61. Actress Rachel Ward is 60. Actress Amy Yasbeck is 55. Rock musician Norwood Fisher (Fishbone) is 52. Actor Darren E. Burrows is 51. Rock singer-musician Ben Folds (Ben Folds Five) is 51. Actor-comedian Louis (loo-ee) C.K. is 50. Rock musician Larry LaLonde (Primus) is 49. Golfer Angel Cabrera is 48. Actor-singer Will Chase is 47. Actor Josh Hopkins is 47. Country singer Jennifer Nettles is 43. Actress Lauren Stamile (stuh'-MEE'-lay) is 41. Rapper 2 Chainz is 40. Actor Ben McKenzie is 39. Singer Ruben Studdard is 39. Basketball Hall of Fame player Yao Ming is 37. Singer-actress Jennifer Hudson is 36. Actor Alfie Allen is 31. Actress Emmy Rossum is 31. Country singer Kelsea Ballerini is 24. Actor Colin Ford is 21.

Thought for Today: "Find the good. It's all around you. Find it, showcase it and you'll start believing it." — Jesse Owens, Olympic gold medal track and field athlete (born this date in 1913, died in 1980).