

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 1 of 58

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Kristi Peterson Bookkeeping Ad
- 2- Chicken Soup of the Day
- 3- Today on GDILIVE.COM
- 3- Statement from Division of Banking on Dollar Loan Center
- 3- Pre-School Screening
- 4- MS/HS Dress-up days
- 4- JH Football
- 5- Groton Kiwanis Club
- 5- Help Wanted
- 5- Farmers Union PSA
- 6-West Nile Update
- 7- City Mosquito Control last night
- 8- St. John's Luncheon Ad
- 9- Living History Fall Festival
- 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**

## 14

**Senior Menu:** Roast pork, baked potato with sour cream, squash, Molasses cookie, whole wheat bread.

**School Breakfast:** Cereal, yogurt, fruit, milk and juice.

**School Lunch:** Cheese sticks, sweet tots, romaine salad, fruit.

**Cross Country:** at Lee Park, Aberdeen, 4 p.m.

**7th Football:** at Aberdeen Central, 4 p.m.

**Volleyball:** hosts Hamlin, C and JV at 6 p.m. followed by varsity match.

**St. John's Lutheran:** Soup, Pie and Sandwich, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the church.

**Olive Grove:** Gun Club Golfing

## 15

**Senior Menu:** Hot turkey combo, mashed potatoes and gravy, 7 layer salad, peach sauce.

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

**School Lunch:** Mini corn dogs, baked beans, celery with dip, fruit.

**Football:** hosts Chamberlain, 7 p.m.

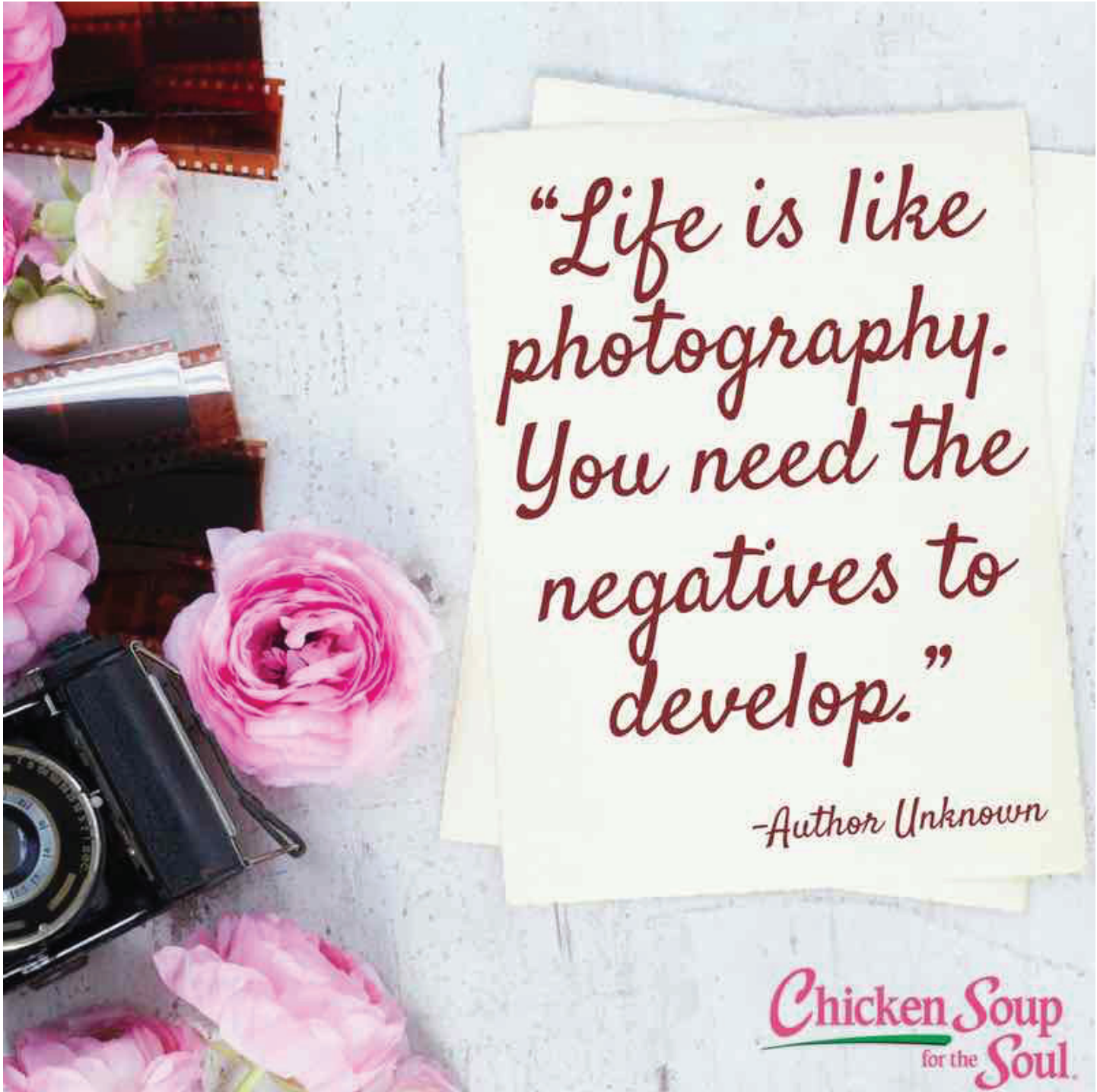
**Dance Practice:** Groton Community Center (Sugar Babes 3:50 to 4:35, Sweet Sensations 4:40 to 5:25, Spice Girls 5:30 to 6:30)

**Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance:** Men's Bible Study at the Groton Dairy Queen, 6:30 a.m.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 2 of 58



*“Life is like  
photography.  
You need the  
negatives to  
develop.”*

*-Author Unknown*

*Chicken Soup  
for the Soul.*

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 3 of 58

## Coming up today on GDILIVE.COM

**Webster Scale Weekly Meeting  
with the S.D. D.O.T.  
Thurs., Sept. 14, 2017, 1 p.m.  
Groton Community Center**

It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Groton Area Tigers**

**VS**

**Hamlin Chargers**



Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017, 7:15 p.m.  
at the Groton Area Arena

[Click here for the program](#)

### **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.**



### **Statement from Division of Banking on Dollar Loan Center**

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Division of Banking issued the following statement regarding its examination of Dollar Loan Center in Rapid City and Sioux Falls. The company was offering short-term loans at 36 percent APR and charging late fees if not repaid in one week.

Director Bret Afdahl said, "Based upon a recent examination of Dollar Loan Center, the Division of Banking issued a cease and desist order and order to revoke all money lending licenses held by Dollar Loan Center due to lending practices in violation of South Dakota money lending laws."

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 4 of 58

## Homecoming Week Theme: "Superheroes" Week of September 18

### MS/HS Homecoming Dress-up Days

Monday- "Nerd Day"

Tuesday- "Toga Day"

Wednesday- "Hawaiian/Tacky Tourist Day"

Thursday- Color Day

Seniors- Black

Juniors- White

Sophomores- Red

Freshman- Blue

8th- Purple

7th- Grey

6th- Gold/Yellow

Friday- Black and Gold Day/ Groton Tiger Spirit Day

### 7th and 8th grade Junior High Football

The 7th and 8th graders both won games against Sisseton last week, but then both lost games vs. Redfield this week.

In the Sisseton games, the 7th graders won by the score of 8 to 0. Ethan Gengerke scored both the touchdown and the conversion on runs from his quarterback position.

In the 8th grade game, the Tigers won by the score of 22 to 0. Kaden Kurtz had two rushing touchdowns plus a hand in the third score by him throwing a pass from his halfback position to Jackson Cogley who scored the touchdown. The defense then held to preserve the shutout.

In the Redfield games, Groton dropped two, hard-fought games. The 7th graders lost by the score of 6 to 8. A failed two-point conversion was the difference. The Tiger's only touchdown came early in the game on a short pass from Ethan Gengerke to Andrew Marzahn, which he then scampered about 60 yards for the touchdown after the catch.

In the 8th grade game, Groton lost 12 to 16 to an athletic bunch from Redfield. Kaden Kurtz again had two rushing touchdowns for the Tigers that still led 12 to 8 at the third quarter break, but then gave up another touchdown losing by the score of 12 to 16.

7th grade team members are: Ethan Gengerke, Cade Larson, Jacob Lewandowski, Cole Simon, Andrew Marzahn, Caleb Hanten, Tate Larson, Porter Johnson, Cole Bisbee, Kaleb Antonsen, Aeydon Johnson, Corbin Reich, Danny Feist, and Tannor McGannon.

8th grade team members are : Jayden Zak, Seth Johnson, Jace Kroll, Kaden Kurtz, Jordan Bjerke, Jackson Cogley, Pierce Kettering, Evin Nehls, Trey Johnson, and Lane Krueger.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 5 of 58



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")**

## GROTON KIWANIS CLUB

Tom Mahan was program leader for Wednesday's Kiwanis Club meeting. Tom introduced Emily Richardt, from Aberdeen. Emily is the head of the senior meals program in Aberdeen. Their program actually covers thirteen counties, but operates out of the Aberdeen senior center. All meals are prepared by a registered dietician. They operate on donations, and Federal funding.

Twelve members and two guests were present for the noon meal, prepared and served by Tom Paepke.

Lee Schinkel turned a new petition and membership fees for Kiersten Sombke, GHS principal.

The annual homecoming cookout before the football game, is September 22, chaired by Lori Giedt and Chuck Padfield.

Roger Rix has made arrangements for a convertible, for the Snow Queens in the homecoming parade.

Next week's program leader is Roger Rix followed by Orville Schaller.

## Help Wanted

We are Hiring Nurses – RN or LPN,  
Full or Part Time.

**NEW WAGE PACKAGE!!!**

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

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

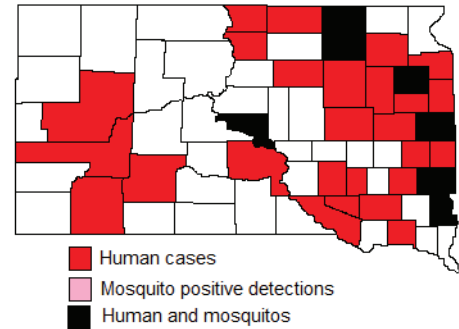


**GROTON**  
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

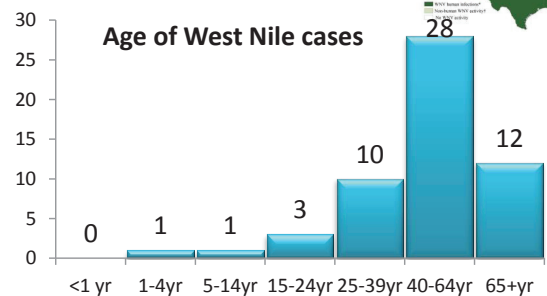
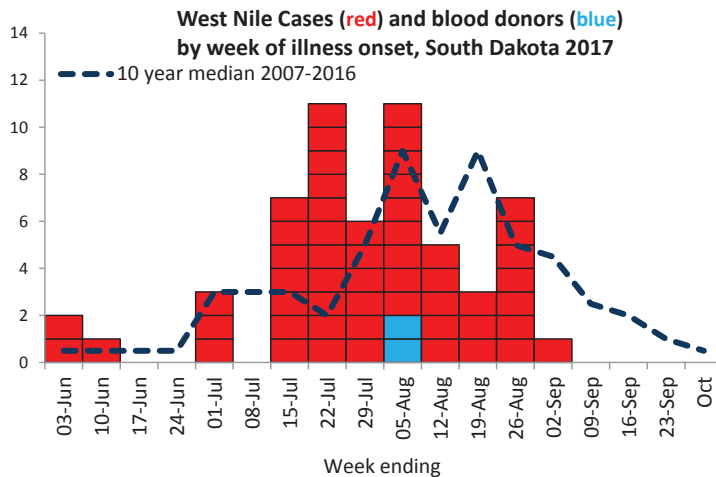
**1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton  
605-397-2365**

## West Nile update: South Dakota, 13 September 2017

- **55 human cases of West Nile virus disease have been reported to the SD Department of Health.** 35% of cases have neuroinvasive disease, 65% have West Nile Fever. 44% hospitalized.
- **Deaths:** 1.
- **Age:** median age 53 years; range 4-85 years.
- **Race:** 87% White, 11% American Indian, 2% Other. **Sex:** 51% male, 49% female.
- **Counties with human WNV cases:** Aurora 1, Beadle 2, BonHomme 2, Brookings 5, Brown 4, Campbell 1, Charles Mix 1, Clark 1, Codington 4, Davison 2, Day 1, Deuel 1, Douglas 1, Faulk 2, Grant 1, Hamlin 1, Hughes 2, Hutchinson 3, Jackson 1, Kingsbury 1, Lake 1, Lincoln 3, Lyman 1, McCook 1, McPherson 1, Meade 1, Minnehaha 2, Moody 1, Oglala Lakota 1, Pennington 2, Walworth 1, Yankton 2.
- **Viremic blood donors:** 2, both in Brown County.
- **WNV positive mosquito detections:** Brookings, Brown, Codington, Hughes, Lincoln and Minnehaha counties.
- **WNV positive horse:** Spink County.
- **WNV positive birds:** 2 Red-tailed hawk, Codington County.



West Nile virus activity reported to CDC, by state, United States, 2017 (as of 12 Sept 2017)



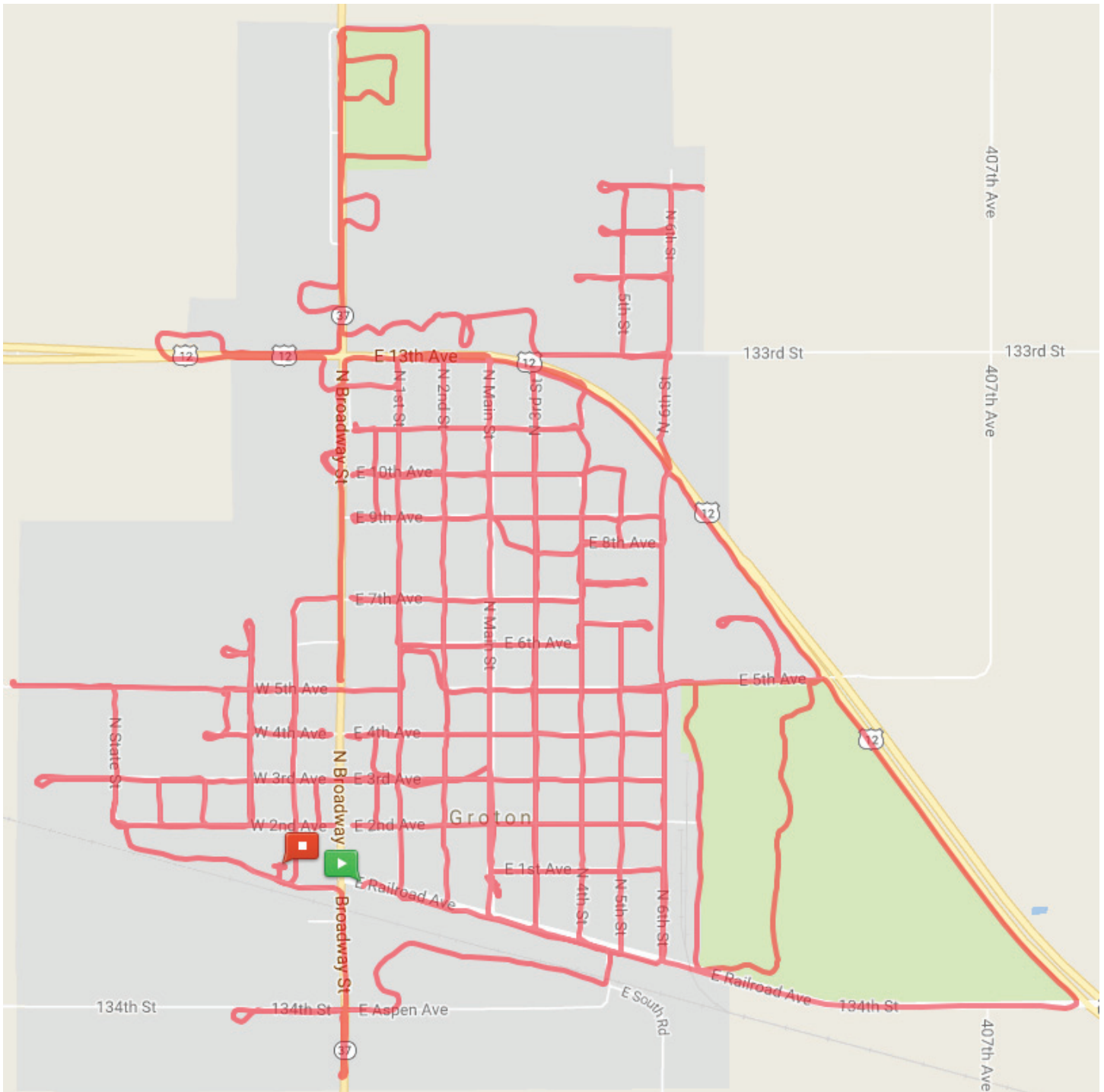
SD Department of Health phone 800-592-1861  
 SD Department of Health: <http://westnile.sd.gov>  
 SDSU WNV risk assessment: <http://mosquito.sdstate.edu>  
 CDC West Nile: [www.cdc.gov/westnile](http://www.cdc.gov/westnile)

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 7 of 58

## Mosquito Control done last night

The City of Groton did mosquito control last night. Evolver was used - 8.5 gallons. The distance travelled was 30.6 miles in 2 hours and 46 minutes. Wind was East-Northeast at 5-10 mph and the temperature was 71 degrees.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 8 of 58



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

**St. John's Lutheran Church  
Groton, SD  
Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**

**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.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 9 of 58

Granary Rural Cultural Center - Groton, S.D.

## LIVING HISTORY FALL FESTIVAL

See The Past Come Alive!



Saturday, September 23, 2017

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**FREE ADMISSION**

COME DRESSED IN FRONTIER COSTUME—GET A PRIZE!

Fun for All Ages! Reenactment, Demonstrations,  
Hands On Activities, Spelling Bee at 2:30 p.m.,  
Square Dance Lessons with Art Marmorstein  
Pie Social from 1-4 p.m., Music & More!

**NEW!**

... As if you were there!

**PRESIDENT TEDDY  
ROOSEVELT**

Played by Arch Ellwein of Flyin' Lion Productions



**PERFORMANCES at 1 & 3 p.m.**

Program made possible by: South Dakota Humanities Council  
(An affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities)



Stop by for Lunch! Concessions by: **THE BRASS KETTLE**



THE GRANARY - Physical Address: 40161 128th St., Rural Groton  
The Arts & Culture Campus of Dacotah Prairie Museum  
Museum Website: [www.dacotahpraiemuseum.com](http://www.dacotahpraiemuseum.com) • Granary Website: [granaryfinearts.org](http://granaryfinearts.org)



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 10 of 58

## Today in Weather History

September 14, 1993: An early freeze and frost hit the state of South Dakota on the 14th and 15th. On the morning of the 14th, some low temperatures included 24 degrees at Rapid City, 19 degrees at Camp Crook and Porcupine, and 31 degrees at Pierre. The 24 degree low at Rapid City broke the old record for the date by 10 degrees and was the earliest in the season it has ever been that cold. The air mass had moderated some by the time it hit eastern South Dakota early on the 15th. Some low temperatures on the 15th included 28 degrees at Brookings, 30 degrees at Watertown, and 32 at Sioux Falls.

1928: A violent, estimated F4 tornado, with winds of 200 mph, tore across Rockford, Illinois. The tornado first touched down 8 miles south-southwest of Rockford and moved across the southeast part of the city. The tornado was on the ground for 25 miles with a width varying from 200 to 500 feet. A total of 14 people were killed, with around 100 injuries reported in Rockford alone. Two hundred buildings were damaged or destroyed.

1937 - The mercury soared to 92 degrees at Seattle, WA, a record for September. (The Weather Channel)

1944 - A very destructive hurricane swept across Cape Hatteras and Chesapeake Bay, side swiped New Jersey and Long Island, and crossed southeastern Massachusetts. The hurricane killed more than four hundred persons, mainly at sea. The hurricane destroyed the Atlantic City NJ boardwalk. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1970 - The temperature at Fremont, OR, dipped to 2 above zero to equal the state record for September set on the 24th in 1926. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Barrow, AK, received 5.1 inches of snow, a record for September. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather from Minnesota to Texas. Thunderstorms in Iowa produced baseball size hail at Laporte City, and 80 mph winds at Laurens. Hail caused more than ten million dollars damage to crops in Iowa. Thunderstorms in Missouri produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Missouri City and Kansas City. A thunderstorm in Texas deluged the town of Fairlie with two inches of rain in just two hours. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Hurricane Gilbert made the first of its two landfalls on Mexico, producing 170 mph winds at Cozumel. (The Weather Channel)



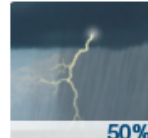

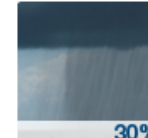


1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Texas panhandle during the evening hours. One thunderstorm spawned a strong (F-2) tornado in the southwest part of Amarillo, and deluged the area with five inches of rain. The heavy rain left roads under as much as five feet of water, and left Lawrence Lake a mile out of its banks. Hurricane Gilbert lost some of its punch crossing the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Its maximum winds diminished to 120 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

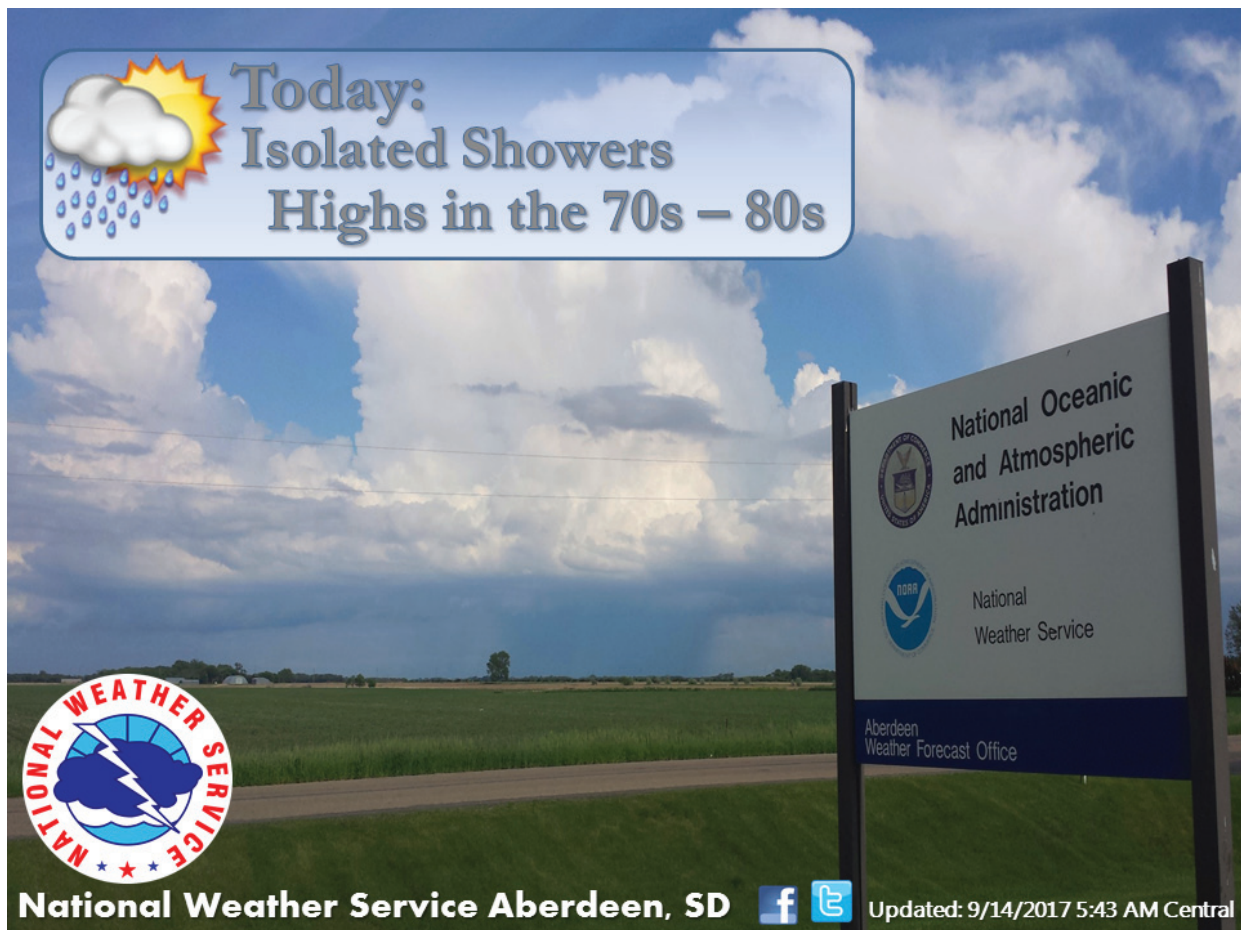
1989 - Unseasonably cool weather prevailed across the south central U.S. Eight cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Raton NM with a reading of 30 degrees. The afternoon high of 59 degrees at Topeka KS marked their third straight record cool maximum temperature. Unseasonably warm weather continued in the Pacific Northwest. Seattle WA reported a record eight days in a row of 80 degree weather in September. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2008: Hurricane Ike became extratropical on this day. The St. Louis Metropolitan Area experienced hurricane conditions, with Ike's remnants inflicting severe damage to homes. Several areas in Illinois and Indiana, already flooded by the frontal boundary to the north, saw significant additional rainfall. Due to flooding in Chicago, a state of emergency was declared for Cook County due to flooding of the Des Plaines River. Hurricane-force wind gusts were reported to the east of the center across parts of Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania with significant wind damage including structural damage to buildings and trees.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 11 of 58



Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Scattered Showers then Slight Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms then Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 83 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 69 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 59 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 66 °F



**Today:**  
Isolated Showers  
Highs in the 70s – 80s

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Weather Service  
Aberdeen Weather Forecast Office

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD   Updated: 9/14/2017 5:43 AM Central

Published on: 09/14/2017 at 5:47AM

A frontal boundary stalled out across the region today will be the focus for isolated showers and thunderstorms. A few of these storms will be capable of locally gusty winds and small hail across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota later this afternoon. Highs will generally be in the 70s and 80s today, which is a sign of the cooler temperatures to come - especially once we get to Saturday.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 12 of 58

## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 91.5

Low Outside Temp: 66.1

High Gust: 12

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 102° in 1948

Record Low: 28° in 1949

Average High: 73°F

Average Low: 47°F

Average Precip in Sept: 1.05

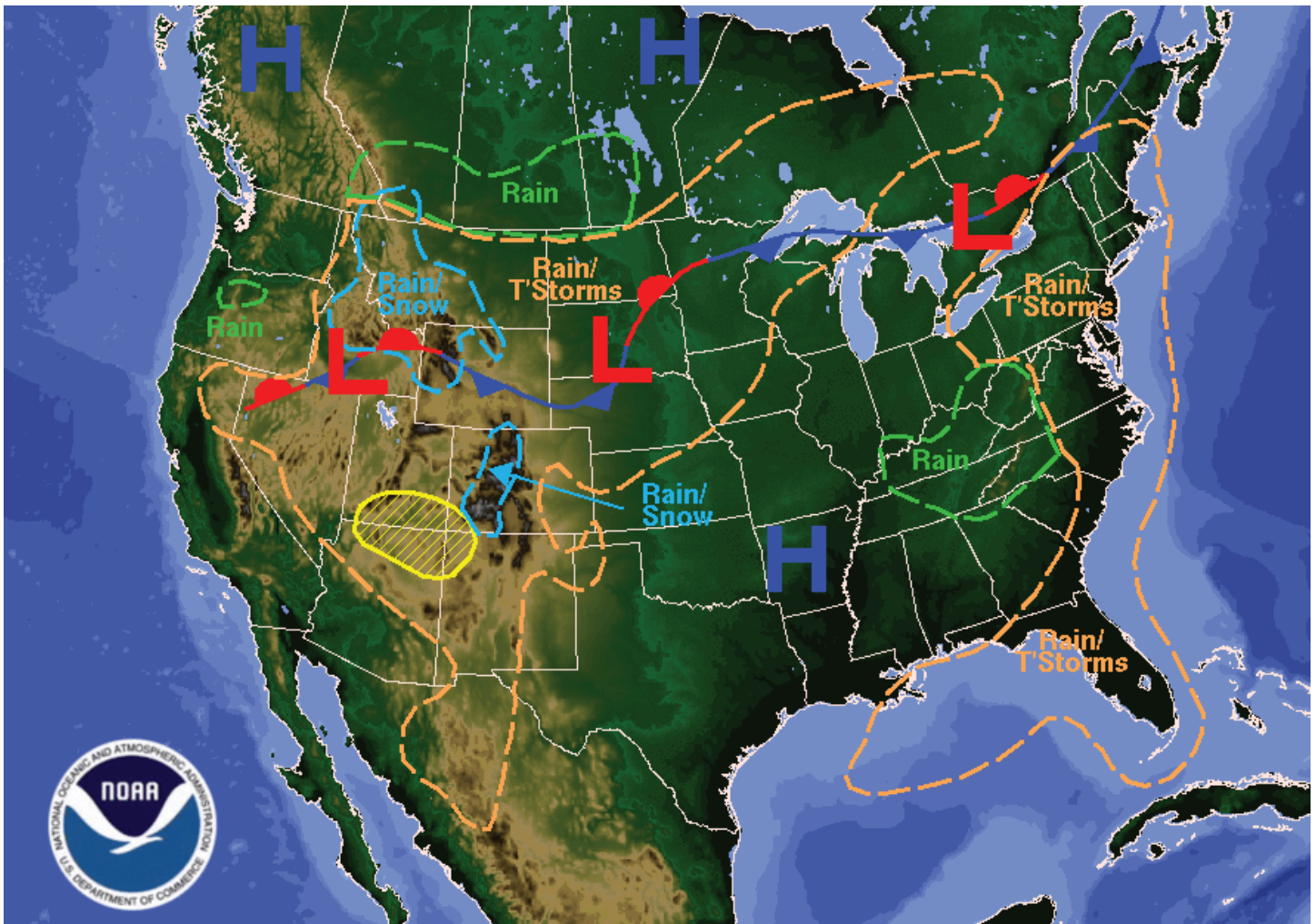
Precip to date in Sept: 0.11

Average Precip to date: 17.34

Precip Year to Date: 9.63

Sunset Tonight: 7:46 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:12 a.m.



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Sep 14, 2017, issued 4:44 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

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 13 of 58



## BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

It was his first day in art class. Mark was determined to draw a portrait of Jesus. He began one drawing and then another. After trying time and time again, he decided to place his pallet and brushes on his stool and in defeat walked away from his canvas.

Noticing his despair, his teacher walked to him and asked, "Mark, what is your difficulty?"

"It's no use," he said. "I was determined to draw a picture of Jesus. But it's useless!"

"Why?" asked his teacher.

"Because I cannot make Him beautiful enough," he said.

Mark echoed the words of the Psalmist: "You are the most excellent of men!"

Years ago someone wrote, "All other men who were recognized as great have been made to look insignificant by what Jesus did in His brief lifetime. All others who were considered wise appear inadequate in their expression of truth when compared to Him. All others who labor to bring healing to the sick cannot match His miracles. All others who attempt to do good for mankind cannot match His deeds of compassion and expressions of concern for the weak and lonely. Those who appear to be perfect eventually show their flaws. There is only One who has ever walked on this planet who deserves the title: 'You are the most excellent of men.'"

And this "most excellent example of men," God's Only Son, lived a sinless and perfect life so that He could become our Redeemer and Savior. There are many ways we can look at Him, but only one way that truly matters: "For the Son of Man came to seek and save." How do you see Him?

Prayer: We stand in awe, Father, for the beauty we see in Your Son. May His beauty be seen in our lives as we reflect His love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 45:2 You are the most excellent of men and your lips have been anointed with grace, since God has blessed you forever.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 14 of 58

## News from the Associated Press

### **Man accused of killing girlfriend acquitted**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A jury in Pennington County has acquitted a man accused of killing his girlfriend. Brian Duncan walked out of the courthouse Wednesday night as a free man after spending the last 14 months in jail. He had been charged with second-degree murder, which carries a possible sentence of life without parole.

A Rapid City pathologist who conducted an autopsy on Helen Wright ruled she died of strangulation due to hemorrhaging in her neck.

But a pathologist who reviewed the case for the defense testified Wright died of pneumonia and that the hemorrhaging was a sign of decomposition. Her body was found at the Western Thrifty Inn in Rapid City days after her death in November 2015.

The Rapid City Journal says Duncan began sobbing after the jury foreman read the “not guilty” verdict.

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

### **Judge substituted in chief’s child pornography case**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A request for a new judge has been granted to former Sioux Falls Fire Chief Jim Sideras in his child pornography case.

Sideras said he didn’t think he could get a fair trial with Judge Joseph Neiles presiding, but an affidavit doesn’t explain why.

The Argus Leader reports Second Judicial Circuit Judge Larry Long granted the request, appointing Judge Robin Houwman to Sideras’ case.

Sideras pleaded not guilty in May to 10 counts of possession, manufacturing or distribution of child pornography.

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

### **Dollar Loan Center shut down again by regulators**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota banking regulators have revoked the lending license for the Dollar Loan Center stores in Sioux Falls and Rapid City.

The state Division of Banking shut down the stores after learning the short-term loan company was charging 36 percent interest and charging late fees if loans were not repaid in a week.

South Dakota voters last year approved a ballot measure to ban payday and short-term, high interest loan businesses. That forced Dollar Loan Center out of business temporarily. The company reopened in July.

The Argus Leader reports owner Chuck Brennan says he’s pursuing “available legal remedies.”

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

### **SD Lottery**

**By The Associated Press**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) \_ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Wednesday:

Dakota Cash

15-22-25-26-34

(fifteen, twenty-two, twenty-five, twenty-six, thirty-four)

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 15 of 58

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Hot Lotto

07-20-31-34-35, Hot Ball: 13

(seven, twenty, thirty-one, thirty-four, thirty-five; Hot Ball: thirteen)

Estimated jackpot: \$10.47 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$86 million

Powerball

17-24-35-57-63, Powerball: 19, Power Play: 3

(seventeen, twenty-four, thirty-five, fifty-seven, sixty-three; Powerball: nineteen; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$115 million

## South Dakota Indian students will hear original works played

By JEFF BAENEN, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A composing boot camp is allowing teens and adults from a South Dakota American Indian reservation who may never have written a piece of music before to hear their original compositions performed by professional musicians.

Eight students and adults from the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate tribe and nearby community teamed up with the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra as part of the Lakota Music Project, aimed at building relationships between American Indians and white communities. Two ensembles will perform the works at free concerts Thursday and Friday in Sisseton and on the reservation, which covers northeastern South Dakota and part of southeastern North Dakota.

"It's good music, very good music," said composer-in-residence Jerod Tate, 49, a Chickasaw from Oklahoma. "I'm so inspired by the composer in them."

The only requirement, Tate said, is that students must know how to play an instrument. "You can't write poetry until you know how to write the letters," he said.

Although the program is focused on young American Indians, Tate said it also includes non-Indians. And even within the Indian community, the program helps build bridges as it did for aspiring composers who took part in a recent similar program on the Pine Ridge Reservation, he said.

"They're all composing next to each other," Tate said.

The music composition academies include daily lessons in composing and activities emphasizing cultural understanding. The academies were made possible by the Bush Prize for Community Innovation, given by the St. Paul, Minnesota-based Bush Foundation, and New Music USA's "Music Alive" program, which selected the Sioux Falls-based South Dakota Symphony Orchestra to participate in the national three-year residency program.

"It invests in the students themselves, teaching them new skills and building their self-esteem," SDSO music director Delta David Gier said in a news release.

Garrett Lawrence, 18, who plays baritone and piano and is in the Sisseton High School band, is among those who will hear their works debut this week. His father, Derrick Lawrence, a Dakota from the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate and IT director for the tribal college, and 16-year-old sister, Alannah, also are having original compositions performed.

Garrett said he did not know how to write a single piece of music when he started the program. It took him six days to learn how to write a piece.

Garrett's two-minute piece, "The Unforgiveable River," which will be performed by a woodwind quintet, has "a soft flow to it, kind of like a river," he said, "and eventually turns into a raging river." He said he already has started writing another piece and is looking at studying music education at college.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 16 of 58

"I learned that there's more to writing music, writing a piece, than just sound," he said. "You really have to put in emotion."

Online:

Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate: <http://www.swo-nsn.gov/>

South Dakota Symphony Orchestra: <http://www.sdsymphony.org/>

Music Alive: <https://www.newmusicusa.org/grants/music-alive/>

Follow Jeff Baenen on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/jeffbaenen> . Find more of his work at <https://apnews.com/search/jeff%20baenen>

## Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

American News, Aberdeen, Sept. 13

Can Expedition baseball score in Aberdeen?

A different brand of baseball is coming to Aberdeen starting in spring.

Aberdeen will be part of the 10-team Expedition League that will use wood bats and be played by unpaid college players from all over the nation and Canada. It seems like a nice fit in Aberdeen, a town with a rich baseball tradition and two college baseball programs from which players could be recruited.

A 64-game regular season, with 32 in Aberdeen, will add entertainment opportunities from May to August. It also has the potential to give baseball here a much-needed boost both in numbers and facilities.

Aberdeen Hardball Association President Guy Trenhaile said he's also excited about the ripple effect the team could have on youth baseball.

"If this collegiate baseball can do for youth baseball what the Wings have done for hockey, it'll be great," Trenhaile said.

The Wings are Aberdeen's junior hockey team featuring unpaid players ages 16-20 who are hoping to extend their on-ice careers by earning college scholarships. They play in the North American Hockey League.

Trenhaile is a past member of the youth hockey board. He said that with the help of the Wings, participation in youth hockey has increased 200 percent in Aberdeen.

And if first impressions mean anything, we like the attitude of the new owners of the Aberdeen team in the Expedition League.

Owners Chuck and Mayra Heeman said purchasing the team is a risk. However, they have been amazed at the positive attitudes and experiences they've had so far.

"The city of Aberdeen has an obligation to some point," he said. "But we have an obligation to the city of Aberdeen. We've got to make this thing work for the people, and we're promising you to do that."

That onus is certainly on them to make it work, but we think it has great potential here. So does Expedition League president Steve Wagner.

"(S)ummer collegiate baseball is absolutely incredible and the Aberdeen market will do, I think, very well," Wagner said. "A lot of real positives here, a lot of baseball folks."

Also, we certainly think the new Aberdeen baseball business has opportunities to learn from the Wings, and vice versa. Both are trying to sell sports packages in a competitive sports market community under 30,000 in the city.

The Wings, coming off their most successful season in franchise history, have established solid cornerposts in Aberdeen. Attendance-wise, the Wings consistently have been one of the top draws in the NAHL.

That in a town where, at the same time and sometimes the same day, thousands of fans turn out for their Northern State football and basketball games. At the same time, Presentation College and three high schools in Aberdeen are drawing fans as well.

So surely this seems like a town that could use another draw to its summertime activities. Especially in baseball. Not only does this community have excellent amateur and youth baseball traditions, Aberdeen



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 17 of 58

has had two successful runs in minor league baseball, although the latter Prairie League fizzled out after only a handful of seasons in the 1990s.

Still, Aberdeen left its mark as during the 1995 Prairie League season, the Aberdeen Pheasants set an all-time minor-league record by going 56-13 (.812) in the regular season.

Aberdeen baseball is best known for its 1946 to 1971 run in the Northern League. The Northern League produced some of Major League Baseball's best players, including greats Don Larsen, Jim Palmer and Lou Piniella.

So, another brand of baseball in Aberdeen?

Sounds like a good idea to us.

---

Argus Leader, Sioux Falls, Sept. 9

Higher voting threshold not needed for city council races

What does city councilor Rex Rolfing hope to achieve with his upcoming amendment to establish a majority-vote requirement in future city council elections?

His publicly stated rationale is that there's no "legitimate" reason not to make council races as "important and meaningful as the mayor's race." That means forcing council campaigns to a runoff election if a "50 percent plus one vote" threshold isn't met by the winner of races involving more than two contenders.

The current requirement to gain a seat at Carnegie Town Hall is to earn more votes than any other competitor and secure at least 34 percent of the vote.

Under those parameters, Rolfing and amendment supporter Michelle Erpenbach would have faced additional weeks of campaigning on their way to election runoffs in their 2010 council bids.

Councilor Pat Starr - who along with councilors Theresa Stehly and Greg Neitzert would also have gone to a runoff in 2016 under the proposed change - said he's not bothered by the potential \$80,000 price tag for runoffs because "there's a cost to democracy."

At the risk of softening all this self-importance over how to seat a city council, there are good reasons to vote down this amendment:

? Council positions don't carry nearly the same weight as the top executive office in Sioux Falls' strong-mayor form of city government. That is a legitimate reason not to make attaining the position as demanding or expensive.

? Spending a potential \$80,000 for runoff elections to determine office-holders who represent only a portion of the city's electorate might not be a proportional "cost to democracy."

? The likelier prospect of facing a runoff, along with the additional time and money required for longer campaigns, puts grassroots candidates at a disadvantage to deeper-pocketed establishment candidates, a potentially greater cost to democracy.

If the goal is fairer representation through preventing the election of candidates supported only by a minority (rather than trying to keep rabble-rousers at bay), there are smarter and cheaper methods than defaulting to a delayed top-two runoff.

Alternatives like ranked-choice voting (or "instant runoffs") allow voters to rank an array of candidates in order of preference, a process used in Twin Cities municipal elections. When there's not a first-round majority winner, the rankings come into play, reflecting the will of voters more accurately than a later runoff with lower turnout than the original election.

Change for the sake of change isn't necessarily a virtue. If our city council feels a better system is needed to produce democratic outcomes, let them be equally democratic in finding a method that won't leave the general citizenry shaking its collective head.

---

Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, Sept. 7

Congress needs to preserve DACA program

Just as Americans are coming together in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, a man-made storm is brewing and the designated first responders are members of Congress.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced Tuesday that the same lawmakers who seem to view compro-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 18 of 58

mise as a threat to their livelihoods have six months to rescue the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that applies to around 800,000 young people known as Dreamers who lack legal immigration status through no fault of their own.

President Obama established the DACA program by executive order in 2012 after Congress failed to address what many now consider a humanitarian issue. President Trump, who recently said he “loves” the Dreamers, wants Congress to find a legislative solution or he may revisit the issue later, which might be the best hope for Dreamers who could be deported to countries as foreign to them as to a rancher born and raised in Western South Dakota.

House Speaker Paul Ryan did offer them a sliver of hope Wednesday when he told reporters, “I think there’s a serious humane issue here that needs to be dealt with.” He added, however: “But it’s only fitting and reasonable that we also deal with some of the root causes of this problem. We’re going to work with our members to find out where that compromise is.”

But compromise is not part of the vocabulary of Republican lawmakers like Rep. Steve King of Iowa, who criticized President Trump for not sending the Dreamers packing immediately.

South Dakota’s Republican lawmakers — Sens. Thune and Rounds and Rep. Noem — have not yet taken a public stand on the issue even though approximately 500 state residents are Dreamers, which is disappointing but not unexpected.

The Dreamers can now expect to become a focal point of the immigration debate that helped Trump get elected president. But these young people who consider themselves Americans are not the criminals that Trump referred to when he declared he would build a border wall that Mexico would pay for someday.

In order to be a Dreamer, participants must have no criminal record, prove they were brought to the U.S. before age 16 and be under 31 years old when the program was launched. They also must renew their permit every two years. These are people who follow the rules, serve in the military, attend college, pay their taxes and work in professional careers. One of the heroes of Houston who died was a Dreamer who drove more than 100 miles to rescue Hurricane Harvey victims.

Among those who support the program are 400 business leaders who asked President Trump to preserve the program. According to a recent report from the Center of American Progress, 72 percent of the top 25 Fortune 500 companies employ Dreamers. Religious leaders, law enforcement officials, judges and Republican senators like Lindsey Graham of South Carolina support the program.

Three things are clear moving ahead if Congress fails to preserve the program in a timely manner or at all: the issue will further divide our country along racial lines; our illegal immigration problems will continue to exist; and opponents of reform will be galvanized and millions of Hispanic voters and others will be energized for the upcoming mid-term elections and beyond.

However, this shouldn’t be a debate only about immigration policy. The Dreamers are real people with families here who deserve better from the place we like to call the greatest country in the world. Congress needs to put people ahead of politics this time.

## South Dakota campaign finance reform group sees low turnout

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers say low turnout at task force meetings on campaign finance reform may be a sign of dwindling support for changes in the law.

Two meetings the Government Accountability Task Force held in Sioux Falls and Rapid City this week were poorly attended, the Argus Leader reported .

The sparse attendance comes after legislators began repealing a campaign reform measure in January, prompting protests at the state Capitol. The reform campaign’s website says Initiated Measure 22 was created with the intention to prevent political bribery, improve transparency and increase ethics enforcement.

Sen. Jordan Youngberg, R-Madison, chairs the task force created to revisit the repealed issues. He says low turnout could signal declining support for the changes.

“You had a lot of people that were angry and upset to the point that I got a threat they were going to burn my house down over the repeal of this,” Youngberg said of the earlier protests. “Where is that pas-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 19 of 58

sion now to come and talk this through and move forward as a state?"

Supporters of the campaign finance changes said the turnout is a result of poor timing for the meetings and the strong message lawmakers sent to voters by striking the law.

"I would suspect there's a fair amount of frustration from voters that said, 'We did speak and it doesn't matter if we show up or not because the Legislature is going to repeal what we pass,'" said Sen. Billie Sutton, D-Burke. "I don't know that all of this would have been necessary if we would have just implemented what the voters wanted."

The task force will hold a final meeting next month before compiling its final recommendations to the Legislature.

Some leaders have begun circulating proposals similar to the 2016 ballot measure, aiming to amend the state's campaign finance laws. If passed, the proposal would amend the state's constitution and exempt it from legislative repeal.

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

## Canterbury says numbers higher heading to final race weekend

SHAKOPEE, Minn. (AP) — Canterbury Park is heading into its final weekend of live racing this year, and officials of the Minnesota track say it's been a good season.

President Randy Sampson says wagering and the number of starters per race has increased.

He credits a 2012 agreement with the Shakopee Mdewakanton (mid-WAH-kuh-ton) Sioux Community to boost race purses by \$75 million over 10 years. Sampson says the agreement has more than doubled purses, drawing more horse owners and bolstering the state breeding program.

The Shakopee track has 13 races set for both Friday and Saturday. Sampson says he expects the average daily handle to be up from last year.

Final numbers won't be released until after the season.

## A year later, Dakota Access pipeline protests changed people

By DAN GUNDERSON, Minnesota Public Radio News

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP) — A year ago, protest camps near North Dakota's Standing Rock Sioux Tribe reservation swelled with thousands of people intent on stopping the Dakota Access pipeline.

Today, the camps are gone and oil is flowing through the pipeline while court battles over pipeline permits continue. But the massive demonstrations that caught the world's attention last year have permanently changed people and politics here.

While problems on the reservation remain, tribal leaders say Standing Rock is stronger for what happened last year and that tribal members are engaged and focused on helping build the future.

"There's a sense of liberation, a sense of freedom, and a sense of worth. I can actually do something. I'm actually free?" said Standing Rock Chair Dave Archambault.

Cows now graze on the site of the Oceti Sakowin camp where thousands pitched tents and built rudimentary wood structures. There are bits and pieces scattered about. Broken glass, weathered batteries, a bent fork and squash growing where a camp kitchen was set up.

People still return to the site to ponder what happened here.

A recent visit by Minnesota Public Radio News found a big bearded man leaning on a wooden walking stick surveying what was the Rosebud camp, next to the Cannon Ball River.

"Tent used to be right over here," said Dave Lillis, pointing to spot near a line of trees. Lillis, 39, is from Washington state and said he lived in the camp for five months, until the camps were shut down in February.

"It's bittersweet," he said. "I came here last night for minute and was going to camp out. Ended up going up the road and sleeping in the car for a while, because it just didn't feel the same."

Lillis sat at his old campsite for a bit and thought about the experience. "The lessons I learned here:

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 20 of 58

how to listen, how to stay humble, stay in prayer," he said.

"It's a very sacred space, always will be," Lillis added. "I'll always stop here when I get a chance, probably for the rest of my life"

He said he plans to spend time this winter at a Minnesota camp on the White Earth reservation set up to oppose the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline project.

The Standing Rock camps drew thousands of people, including tribal delegations from Africa and South America. It also drew unprecedented public attention to Standing Rock.

"A year and a half ago we were invisible, we were invisible people," said Linda Black Elk, a teacher at Sitting Bull College on the reservation who spent months helping coordinate medical care at the camp.

"We were invisible to people, they didn't want to see us and we're not invisible anymore," she said. "And I think that we have decided that visibility is a gift. And we are going to use it for the greater good."

One tangible change that has roots in the protest camp is a new free clinic that's currently being developed in Fort Yates, North Dakota, where the Standing Rock tribal government is headquartered.

The need for health care that integrates traditional treatments with western medicine became apparent while the camps were operating, Black Elk said.

"We actually had people who live in the local area who were not even in camp or weren't really even interested in what was going on at camp who would come to camp just to receive health care because, it was free first of all, but also I think it just really touched a part of them that traditional western health care doesn't," she said.

Land is set aside, money is being raised and an architect is working on the clinic design.

Black Elk has a list of medical practitioners, many who volunteered at the camp, who offered to return to staff the clinic for two week shifts.

It's a challenge to raise the money, said Black Elk, because everyone is exhausted. But donations for the clinic continue to come in.

The time she spent at the camp changed Black Elk in good and bad ways she says. The trauma of clashes with police left her distrustful and reliving painful experiences.

"One of the things I dream about a lot is this sort of slow motion of me standing there and all of a sudden this massive dog coming at me and coming right up to my face like it was going to bite my face," said Black Elk.

But the movement also made her more outspoken, unwilling to sit by and watch injustice. She now has a nationwide support system.

"I found family in camp and people who are still my family," she added. "People who I have absolutely no doubt that whenever I need them they will be there for me."

The Dakota Access protest has also had positive and negative financial impacts.

The Standing Rock tribe received \$11 million in donations. Some went to reimburse communities that sheltered people from the camps during winter storms.

But there are complaints and rumors about the money.

Archambault says the tribe has been transparent about how it used the donations, but that dozens of outside groups and individuals used online fundraising sites to raise money. The tribe has documented at least \$40 million, but that money that doesn't go to Standing Rock.

Edward Swifthouse, who lives in Cannon Ball, the reservation community nearest the camps, said he supported the effort to stop the pipeline. But he thinks people took advantage of this small community that opened its doors and helped thousands of people with shelter, showers and food.

"Cannon Ball should have been compensated from the GoFundMe groups to whoever used Cannon Ball's name for profit," said Swifthouse. "Because of the Dakota Access pipeline protest we that live here have to deal with racism or prejudice more now than before up in Bismarck," North Dakota's capital.

Anger from the tribe's neighbors is also putting the squeeze on the tribal economy, Archambault said.

"The casino is still impacted by this. And our casino is one of our primary economic drivers," said Archambault, who points to talk of a casino boycott by residents of Bismarck.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 21 of 58

Business has been slow since the protest camps started, casino revenues are down two-thirds from two years ago. The tribe has used donations to keep some programs running while they wait for casino income to rebound.

"But it's going to take time and it's going to take healing and it's going to take relationship building again," said Archambault, who knows rebuilding those relationships won't be easy.

North Dakota's governor has reached out to the tribe in an effort to repair relationships, and Archambault is appreciative. He thinks governments have more incentive to get along, but it will be much more difficult to overcome the anger and resentment among individual citizens on both sides.

"If I were to cuss you out and call you bad names and bad words, how easy is it for you to forgive and let that go?" Archambault said. "So, at the individual level, it's not very easy to overcome what has happened."

He's said he's also asked the federal government to turn the land back to the tribe so the protests can be memorialized. "It could be a monument, it could be a site where people can come and pray," said Archambault, who doubts his request will be approved anytime soon.

Archambault is quick to point out what happened a year ago at Standing Rock isn't over. The large camps might be gone but the legal battle over the Dakota Access Pipeline continues in a federal district court in Washington D.C.

For some, the battle continues on the ground.

About 100 miles south of Cannon Ball, a few refugees from the Standing Rock camps have set up about a dozen tents at the pow wow grounds in the town of Eagle Butte, South Dakota.

They are here with the blessing of the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe.

Sherman Alexander sits in a tipi he brought from the Oceti Sakowin camp. He calls it home. Alexander is from the Cheyenne River reservation. He first went to the Standing Rock camps for free food, but the atmosphere kept him there for months.

"The way people just got along, said 'hi' to each other, 'good morning,' helped each other out. Like when somebody was down, somebody would go over there and pick them up," explained Alexander, who credits living at Oceti Sakowin camp with easing his depression and anxiety.

"It gave me a purpose. I have a purpose in this world again. How often is this opportunity going to come along again where I can say I did something good with my life?"

While he still struggles with mental illness and alcohol abuse, Alexander says he now has people who support and encourage him.

The leader of this small camp is Hoka Luta Win, or Red Badger Woman. She was one of the first people to start questioning the Dakota Access pipeline route.

She admits she thought little about environmental issues before she became aware the pipeline would cross the Missouri river near the Standing Rock reservation. She dropped out of nursing school when the Standing Rock camps started and stayed until the camps were closed in February.

"Our sacrifices up on Standing Rock humbled me," said Hoka Luta Win who paints herself as a very angry person when the camps began, beaten down by reservation life.

"I learned how to control my anger. The unity, the love and the compassion. The pride of just uniting all of us. Different races, indigenous people from all over the world. It was beautiful," she said.

Hoka Luta Win hopes to return to college and become a registered nurse. But not just yet.

"This isn't going to go away. This is embedded in our hearts," she explained, "It's something we have to do. To save our planet. To save the human race."

This intense commitment to a cause is a common thread among those who lived at the Standing Rock camps.

Joye Braun has seen it over and over. She was one of the first to set up camp near Cannon Ball in the late spring snow. Braun lives in Eagle Butte. She's a community organizer for the Minnesota-based Indigenous Environmental Network.

She's thought a lot about what created such a strong bond among so many who came to Standing Rock. She's concluded the experience filled a spiritual need.

"It's not this hippy dippy thing, and it's not this New Age thing. It's something completely new. It's really

releasing that inner warrior, that spiritual warrior," said Braun.

"And it doesn't matter what background you come from or where you're from. We've united as people," she said. "We've recognized that human spirit within each other. Because that human spirit doesn't have a color."

## Wildfire in Wind Cave National Park grows to 1,000 acres

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — Firefighters continue to battle a wildfire that has grown to 1,000 acres at Wind Cave National Park in southwestern South Dakota.

Officials say the fire that started Monday was caused by a lightning strike near the park's northern border. The Rapid City Journal says grass and timber are fueling the fire in steep, rocky terrain.

The Great Plains Fire Dispatch says the incident commander is concerned about south winds fueling the fire which has not been contained. About 85 firefighters are working the wildfire.

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

## 1 killed, 2 injured in Brookings County crash

ARLINGTON, S.D. (AP) — One person died and two others were injured in a highway crash in Brookings County.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says a car and pickup truck collided at the intersection of Highways 81 and 14 near Arlington about 9 p.m. Tuesday.

Officials say the driver of the car failed to brake for a stop sign and collided with the pickup. The car's driver, a 39-year-old man, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Two men in the pickup suffered non-life threatening injuries.

## Woman arrested in fatal Dawes County crash

CHADRON, Neb. (AP) — Authorities have arrested a woman who's been accused of driving drunk when her minivan crashed off a northwest Nebraska road, fatally injuring a 6-year-old girl.

The Nebraska State Patrol says the woman was arrested Sunday on suspicion of vehicular homicide, driving under the influence, child abuse/neglect and related crimes. Court records don't show that she's been formally charged yet. The patrol says she lives in Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

The accident occurred Saturday, north of Chadron in Dawes County. The patrol says the minivan she was driving went out of control and rolled, injuring three adults and three children. Two children were flown to a Denver hospital for treatment, and the patrol says one of them — a 6-year-old girl — died there Sunday.

## What happened at dinner? Trump, Dems don't see eye to eye

By ERICA WERNER and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Thursday denied an assertion by the Democratic leaders in Congress that they had an agreement to preserve protections for young immigrants living illegally in America and to bolster U.S.-Mexico border security, but without his coveted wall for now.

"No deal was made last night on DACA," Trump said in an early morning tweet about the program put in place under the Obama administration program.

"Massive border security would have to be agreed to in exchange for consent. Would be subject to vote," Trump said in a series of tweets about the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals initiative.

Trump contradicted the characterization of a private White House dinner on Wednesday night by his guests, Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York and Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, the top Democrats on Capitol Hill.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders also pushed back against the Schumer-Pelosi

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 23 of 58

statement embracing the claim of a deal, saying, "While DACA and border security were both discussed, excluding the wall was certainly not agreed to."

It was a head-snapping turn of events for a president inclined recently to turn to Democrats to jump-start legislative imperatives. Only days ago, Trump and the Democratic leaders agreed to back a three-month extension of the debt limit in order to speed hurricane assistance.

"The WALL, which is already under construction in the form of new renovation of old and existing fences and walls, will continue to be built," Trump tweeted.

At the same time, he expressed sympathy for the hundreds of thousands of younger immigrants vulnerable to deportation even though they were brought to the United States as toddlers or children. He had announced last week that his administration was rescinding the program and gave Congress six months to come up with a legislative fix.

"Does anybody really want to throw out good, educated and accomplished young people who have jobs, some serving in the military, really?" Trump wrote. "They have been in our country for many years through no fault of their own - brought in by parents at a young age. Plus BIG border security."

In their statement, Schumer and Pelosi said: "We agreed to enshrine the protections of DACA into law quickly, and to work out a package of border security, excluding the wall, that's acceptable to both sides."

Separately, Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill had said after the White House dinner "the president was clear he would press for the wall but separate from this agreement."

Either way, it was the second time in two weeks that Trump cut out Republicans to reach a deal with Pelosi and Schumer. A person briefed on the meeting, who spoke on condition anonymity about the private get-together, said the deal specifies bipartisan legislation that would provide eventual citizenship for the young immigrants.

House Republicans would normally rebel over such an approach, which many view as amnesty for lawbreakers. It remains to be seen how conservatives' loyalty to Trump would affect their response to a policy they would have opposed under other circumstances.

The House's foremost immigration hard-liner, GOP Rep. Steve King of Iowa, made clear that he was not happy.

Addressing Trump over Twitter, King wrote that if the reports were true, "Trump base is blown up, destroyed, irreparable, and disillusioned beyond repair. No promise is credible."

Earlier Wednesday, during a White House meeting with moderate House members from both parties, Trump had urged lawmakers to come up with a bipartisan solution.

"We want to see if we can do something in a bipartisan fashion so that we can solve the DACA problem and other immigration problems," he said.

The president said he would be open to separating the wall issue from the question of the younger immigrants, as long as the wall got dealt with eventually.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, in an Associated Press interview Wednesday, said "kicking these 800,000 kids out to countries that they've probably not been to since they were toddlers, in countries that speak languages they may not even know, is not in our nation's interest."

Added Ryan, R-Wis.: "So I do believe that there's got to be a solution to this problem."

Trump, deeply disappointed by Republicans' failure to make good on years of promises to repeal the Obama-era health law, infuriated many in his party last week when he reached a three-month deal with Schumer and Pelosi to raise the debt ceiling, keep the government running and speed relief to states affected by recent hurricanes.

"More and more we're trying to work things out together," Trump said Wednesday, calling the development a "positive thing" for both parties.

"If you look at some of the greatest legislation ever passed, it was done on a bipartisan manner. And so that's what we're going to give a shot," he said.

---

Associated Press writers Kevin Freking and Ken Thomas contributed to this report.

---

Follow Colvin on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

## Death of 8 at Florida nursing home sounds alarms after Irma

By **TIM REYNOLDS** and **TERRY SPENCER**, Associated Press

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP) — Hurricane-scarred Florida warily eyed the fate of its most vulnerable residents and emergency workers were urged to immediately check on those in nursing homes after eight people died in a scorching facility that lost its air conditioning in the storm.

Even in the face of a storm that shrouded nearly the entire state and had officials still piecing together its destruction, the news Wednesday from the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills stood out, with victims as old as 99 among the dead and worries the count could grow.

"Unfathomable," Gov. Rick Scott said. "Inexcusable," Sen. Bill Nelson added.

Elsewhere in South Florida, other alarms were sounded for older residents. In Coral Gables, an apartment building was evacuated after authorities said its lack of power made it unsafe for elderly tenants. And at the huge, 15,000-resident Century Village retirement community in Pembroke Pines, where there were also widespread outages, rescue workers went door to door in the 94-degree heat checking on residents and bringing ice, water and meals.

Fire rescue teams evacuated 122 people Wednesday night from two assisted living facilities near Orlando after the Orange County fire chief ordered firefighters to assess conditions of all elderly communities in the area.

Though the number of people with electricity had drastically improved from earlier in the week, some 6.8 million people across the peninsula continued to wait for power, and utility officials warned it could take a week or more for all areas to be back up and running.

As the state continued to piece itself back together, President Donald Trump was due to visit Naples in southwestern Florida on Thursday.

Including the nursing home deaths, at least 25 people in Florida have died under Irma-related circumstances, and six more in South Carolina and Georgia, many of them well after the storm had passed. The death toll across the Caribbean stood at 38.

In Hollywood, the Rehabilitation Center said the hurricane had knocked out a transformer that powered the air conditioning. Broward County said the home alerted officials Tuesday that it had lost power, but when asked if it had any medical needs or emergencies, it did not request help.

Early Wednesday morning, after responding to three calls about patients there in distress, firefighters went through the facility and found three people dead and evacuated more than 150 patients to hospitals, many on stretchers or in wheelchairs, authorities said.

By the afternoon, five more had died. Others were treated for dehydration, breathing difficulties and other heat-related problems.

"It's a sad state of affairs," said Hollywood Police Chief Tom Sanchez, who said investigators believe the deaths at the Rehabilitation Center were heat-related and said the building has been sealed off and a criminal investigation underway. The chief said authorities have not ruled anything out in the deaths, including carbon monoxide poisoning from generators. He also said investigators will look into how many windows were open.

Across the street from the stifling nursing home sat a fully air-conditioned hospital, Memorial Regional.

Glendale Owens, the daughter of one of the men who died, said she last visited her father in the nursing home Monday and everything seemed fine. She said Bobby Owens had been at the facility for more than 10 years.

"People are telling me different things," she said Wednesday evening. "But nobody from the facility has told me anything yet."

Paulburn Bogle, a member of the housekeeping staff, said after the air conditioning failed, the staff used fans, put cold towels and ice on patients and gave them cold drinks. The medical examiner's office said the victims were five women and three men, ages 70 to 99.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 25 of 58

Scott vowed to punish anyone found culpable in the deaths. Nelson demanded a federal investigation. Calls to the owner and other officials at the Hollywood home were not immediately returned, but the facility's administrator, Jorge Carballo, said in a statement that it was "cooperating fully with relevant authorities to investigate the circumstances that led to this unfortunate and tragic outcome."

The governor announced in a news release Wednesday night that he's directed the Agency for Health Care Administration to issue an emergency moratorium for the facility, preventing it from admitting new patients indefinitely.

Nursing homes in Florida are required by law to file an emergency plan that includes evacuation plans for residents. County officials released documents showing that the Hollywood facility was in compliance with that regulation and that it held a hurricane drill with its staff in October.

Around the state, hazards were popping up in the aftermath of the storm. At least six people in Florida died of apparent carbon monoxide poisoning from generators, and a Tampa man died after the chain saw he was using to remove trees recoiled and cut his carotid artery.

The number of people in shelters across the state fell to less than 13,000.

---

Associated Press writers Jason Dearen on Summerland Key; Brendan Farrington, Gary Fineout and Joe Reedy in Tallahassee; Jay Reeves in Immokalee; Terrance Harris in Orlando; Claire Galofaro in Jacksonville; and Jennifer Kay, 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>

## Malaysia fire blocks lone exit to Islamic dormitory; 23 dead

By EILEEN NG, Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysian authorities were investigating the cause of a fire early Thursday that blocked the only exit of an Islamic dormitory on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur, killing 23 people, most of them teenagers.

Firefighters and witnesses described scenes of horror — first of boys screaming for help behind barred windows as neighbors watched helplessly, and later of burned bodies huddled in corners of the room. Islamic teacher Arif Mawardy said he woke up to what he thought was a thunderstorm, only to realize it was the sound of people screaming.

Firefighters rushed to the scene after receiving a distress call at 5:41 a.m. and took an hour to put out the blaze, which started on the top floor of the three-story building, Kuala Lumpur police chief Amar Singh said.

Singh said 23 charred bodies were recovered — 21 boys between the ages of 13 and 17 and two teachers. "We believe (they died of) suffocation ... the bodies were totally burnt," he said. Singh said 14 other students and four teachers were rescued.

Health Minister S. Subramaniam said six other students and a resident who went to help were hospitalized, with four of them in critical condition. He said the 23 bodies were in the Forensics Department waiting to be identified through DNA.

The fire broke out near the only door to the boys' dormitory, trapping the victims because the windows were barred, fire department senior official Abu Obaidat Mohamad Saithalimat said. He said the cause was believed to be an electrical short-circuit, though Singh said the investigation was continuing.

Another fire department official, Soiman Jahid, said firefighters heard shouts for help when they arrived at the school. He said they found a pile of bodies in the right corner of the dorm and another pile in the left corner.

Local media showed pictures of blackened bed frames in the burned dormitory. A resident, Nurhayati Abdul Halim, was quoted as saying that she saw the boys crying and screaming for help.

"I saw their little hands out of the grilled windows; crying for help. ... I heard their screams and cries but I could not do anything. The fire was too strong for me to do anything," she said. She added that the

school had been operating in the area for the past year.

Noh Omar, Malaysia's minister for urban well-being, housing and local government, said the school's original architectural plan included an open top floor that allowed access to two exit staircases. But he said a wall had been built dividing that floor, leaving only one exit for the dorm.

"The wall shouldn't have been there," he said. He added that the school submitted an application for a fire safety permit that hadn't been approved.

The school, Darul Quran Ittifaqiyah, is a private Islamic center, known as a "tahfiz" school, for Muslim children, mainly boys, to study and memorize the Quran.

School principal Mohamad Zahid Mahmud was quoted by the Berita Harian newspaper as saying the students were being housed in a temporary building because of renovation work at the main school building. He said they were due to move back at the end of this month.

Mohamad Zahid said the school has been operating for 15 years and is registered with the state Islamic religious council. He said the school had housed 42 students, six teachers and two wardens.

However, an official with the state religious council said it had no record of the school.

The Star newspaper said there were 519 tahfiz schools registered nationwide as of April, but many more are believed to be unregistered. Many such schools are exempt from state inspections.

The newspaper said the fire department has recorded 211 fires in such private Islamic centers since 2015. In August, 16 people fled a fire at a tahfiz school in northern Kedah state. Another tahfiz school was destroyed by a fire in May but no one was hurt.

The worst fire occurred in 1989 when 27 female students at a private Islamic school in Kedah state died in a blaze that gutted the school and eight wooden hostels.

## Nearly 3 weeks into Rohingya crisis, refugees still fleeing

By **JULHAS ALAM** and **DAR YASIN**, Associated Press

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh (AP) — Nearly three weeks into a mass exodus of Rohingya fleeing violence in Myanmar, thousands were still flooding across the border Thursday in search of help and safety in teeming refugee settlements in Bangladesh.

The crisis has drawn global condemnation, with U.N. officials demanding Myanmar halt what they described as a campaign of ethnic cleansing that has driven some 400,000 Rohingya Muslims to flee Rakhine state.

One of the dozens of boats carrying Rohingya to the Bangladeshi border town of Teknaf capsized Thursday and at least two people drowned, police said. That brought known drownings in the Naf River to 88 since the crisis began.

Those who arrived Wednesday in wooden boats to beaches near Shah Puri Dwip fishing village described ongoing violence in Myanmar, where smoke could be seen billowing from a burning village — suggesting more Rohingya homes had been set alight.

One Rohingya man who arrived Wednesday said his village of Rashidong had been attacked six days earlier by Myanmar soldiers and police.

"When military and police surrounded our village and attacked us with rocket launchers to set fire, we got away from our village and fled away to any direction we could manage," Abdul Goffar said.

Myanmar's presidential office spokesman Zaw Htay said that, out of 471 "Bengali" villages in three Rakhine townships, 176 were now completely empty while at least 34 more were partially abandoned. Many in Myanmar use that term as part of the long-standing refusal to accept Rohingya as citizens of the country.

Myanmar has accused the Rohingya of burning their own homes and villages — a claim the U.N. human rights chief criticized as a "complete denial of reality."

The crisis and refugee exodus began on Aug. 25, when Rohingya insurgents attacked police posts. Myanmar's military retaliated with "clearance operations" to root out the rebels, but the fleeing Rohingya say Myanmar soldiers shot indiscriminately, burned their homes and warned them to leave or die. Others have said they were attacked by Buddhist mobs. Hundreds have died, mostly Rohingya, and some of the

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 27 of 58

refugees have needed treatment for bullet wounds.

Facing growing condemnation globally, Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi will not attend U.N. General Assembly meetings Sept. 19-25 to instead deal with what the government said were domestic security issues.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters Wednesday that ethnic cleansing was taking place against Rohingya in Rakhine state. The term "ethnic cleansing" is defined as an effort to rid an area of an unwanted ethnic group — by displacement, deportation or even killing.

The U.N. Security Council called for "immediate steps to end the violence" and ensure civilian protections. Rohingya have faced decades of persecution in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, and are denied citizenship despite centuries-old roots in the Rakhine region.

The thousands of Rohingya flooding into Bangladesh every day have arrived hungry and traumatized. Many need urgent medical care for violence-related injuries, severe infections or childbirth.

"The women who are coming for check-ups all have a terrified and exhausted look," said Sumaya, a midwife at the Nayapara refugee camp working in association with the U.N. population fund. "We keep hearing stories from them of walking through jungles and across hills for days without food, their children carried over their shoulders. They've lost their homes."

Two existing refugee camps were packed beyond capacity, and Bangladesh has said it would free land to build a third. Many of the new arrivals were huddling in makeshift shelters along roads or in open fields. Near the camp of Balukhali, some were setting up tents made of bamboo and plastic along hillsides muddy from days of rain. Children walked uphill to capture rainwater before it spilled into the teeming settlements below.

Food, clean water and other necessities were scarce.

Panic erupted Thursday along roadsides where local volunteers were distributing food, water and other supplies haphazardly from parked vehicles. Local officials shouted through bullhorns for volunteers to coordinate their efforts with aid agencies to avoid spreading chaos.

"There are acute shortages of everything, most critically shelter, food and clean water," UNICEF's country representative Edouard Beigbeder said.

The U.N. children's agency said it needed \$7.3 million to help just the hundreds of thousands of Rohingya children now at high risk of contracting water-borne diseases.

On Thursday afternoon, a scuffle broke out at a makeshift relief center at Kutupalong, where some refugees tried to break into the center and were beaten back by at least four security guards wielding sticks.

Those who managed to receive some aid after waiting hours in line were dismayed by the meager hand-out.

"I have just got a tarpaulin sheet but no food," said 55-year-old Osman, who gave only one name. "I need rice to eat, I need to feed my family. They said they can't give us anything else. What will I eat now?"

The head of the U.N. High Commission for Refugees said humanitarian assistance would increase "very, very quickly." Asked why the response has been slow, Filippo Grandi alluded to difficulties working in Bangladesh, but said he hoped this will change as the scale of the crisis becomes more apparent.

It is the Myanmar government's "responsibility to ensure that security returns to Rakhine," Grandi told The Associated Press at the Stockholm Security Conference in Sweden.

Bangladesh already was housing some 500,000 Rohingya who fled earlier flashes of violence including anti-Muslim riots in 2012. Rakhine state had up to 1 million Rohingya before the latest violence.

Yasin reported from Shah Puri Dwip, Bangladesh. AP journalist David Keyton in Stockholm, Sweden, contributed to this report.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

### 1. TRUMP DENIES DEAL WITH DEMOCRATS ON 'DREAMERS'

The president is denying assertions by Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi that they have an agreement with him that will preserve protections for young immigrants in the U.S. illegally while adding border security without the wall he has coveted.

### 2. OLDER RESIDENTS COMING INTO FOCUS AFTER IRMA

Florida emergency workers are urged to check the welfare of those in nursing homes after eight people died in a scorching facility in Hollywood that lost its air conditioning during the hurricane.

### 3. HURRICANE PUSHES FLORIDA POOR CLOSER TO RUIN

In places like poverty-stricken Immokalee near the Everglades, the day-to-day struggle to survive is now an hour-to-hour fight.

### 4. WHERE TRUMP IS HEADED

The president will hear directly from Floridians affected by Irma's fury as he makes his third visit in less than three weeks to the storm-wracked South.

### 5. 'NONE OF THIS HAS A REASONABLE EXPLANATION'

New details the AP has learned about a string of mysterious "health attacks" on U.S. diplomats in Cuba indicate the bizarre incidents were narrowly confined within specific rooms or parts of rooms.

### 6. IRAQ'S KURDS TO VOTE ON INDEPENDENCE

That strong prospect of a "yes" outcome alarms nearly everyone else — the Baghdad government, Turkey, Iran and the Kurds' own ally, the United States.

### 7. 'THE WALL SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THERE'

A fire that blocked the only exit to an Islamic school dormitory killed 24 people, mostly teenagers, on the outskirts of Malaysia's capital, officials say.

### 8. MEDICARE CARDS GETTING A MAKEOVER

The move, to fight identity theft, would replace Social Security numbers with unique new numbers to identify beneficiaries.

### 9. A DIFFERENT SEAN SPICER PAYS VISIT TO 'JIMMY KIMMEL LIVE'

A smiling, chill Spicer, showed up on the late-night show in marked contrast to the six hot-tempered months he spent as White House Press Secretary.

### 10. INDIANS WIN 21ST STRAIGHT

Cleveland surpasses the 2002 Oakland Athletics for the American League record and ties the 1935 Chicago Cubs for the second longest streak since 1900.

## AP NewsBreak: Medicare card remake to protect seniors

By LAURAN NEERGAARD, AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Medicare cards are getting a makeover to fight identity theft.

No more Social Security numbers plastered on the card. Next April, Medicare will begin mailing every beneficiary a new card with a unique new number to identify them.

"Criminals are increasingly targeting people age 65 and older for medical identity theft," Medicare chief Seema Verma told The Associated Press. "We are committed to preventing fraud."

Medicare is revealing the cards' new design on Thursday as the government gears up for a massive transition that will involve coordination with 58 million beneficiaries and their family members, plus hospitals, doctors, insurance companies, pharmacies and state governments.

While the first mailings of new cards begin next April, Congress has set an April 2019 deadline for all beneficiaries to have received one.

One goal is to make sure seniors know what's coming so they're not confused by the change — and in

the meantime, are reminded to guard their old cards that, if lost or stolen, can leave them vulnerable to financial and legal consequences. The government recorded 2.6 million cases of identity fraud involving seniors in 2014, up from 2.1 million in 2012.

Verma said one woman reported her Medicare card was stolen, got a replacement and thought no more about it until two years later when she learned she might be arrested: The thief had impersonated her to get opioid painkillers.

Medicare has set up a website — [www.cms.gov/newcard](http://www.cms.gov/newcard) — and is beginning ads to tell beneficiaries what to expect starting next spring. Medicare will automatically mail beneficiaries their new card. They'll be instructed to destroy their old cards after they get a new one. New cards may be used right away.

Private insurers already have stopped using Social Security numbers on ID cards.

While the Medicare change is crucial for seniors, the transition period also is a time when crooks may pounce, warned AARP's Amy Nofziger, a fraud prevention expert.

"If anyone calls you to say you need to pay for your new Medicare card, it is a scam," she said. "If anybody is calling you and asking you to verify your Social Security number in order to issue your new Medicare card, it is a scam."

## **Attacked in bed, safe a few feet away: Cuba mystery deepens**

**By JOSH LEDERMAN, MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN and MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The blaring, grinding noise jolted the American diplomat from his bed in a Havana hotel. He moved just a few feet, and there was silence. He climbed back into bed. Inexplicably, the agonizing sound hit him again. It was as if he'd walked through some invisible wall cutting straight through his room.

Soon came the hearing loss, and the speech problems, symptoms both similar and altogether different from others among at least 21 U.S. victims in an astonishing international mystery still unfolding in Cuba. The top U.S. diplomat has called them "health attacks." New details learned by The Associated Press indicate at least some of the incidents were confined to specific rooms or even parts of rooms with laser-like specificity, baffling U.S. officials who say the facts and the physics don't add up.

"None of this has a reasonable explanation," said Fulton Armstrong, a former CIA official who served in Havana long before America re-opened an embassy there. "It's just mystery after mystery after mystery."

Suspicion initially focused on a sonic weapon, and on the Cubans. Yet the diagnosis of mild brain injury, considered unlikely to result from sound, has confounded the FBI, the State Department and U.S. intelligence agencies involved in the investigation.

Some victims now have problems concentrating or recalling specific words, several officials said, the latest signs of more serious damage than the U.S. government initially realized. The United States first acknowledged the attacks in August — nine months after symptoms were first reported.

It may seem the stuff of sci-fi novels, of the cloak-and-dagger rivalries that haven't fully dissipated despite the historic U.S.-Cuban rapprochement two years ago that seemed to bury the weight of the two nations' Cold War enmity. But this is Cuba, the land of poisoned cigars, exploding seashells and covert subterfuge by Washington and Havana, where the unimaginable in espionage has often been all too real.

The Trump administration still hasn't identified a culprit or a device to explain the attacks, according to interviews with more than a dozen current and former U.S. officials, Cuban officials and others briefed on the investigation. Most weren't authorized to discuss the probe and demanded anonymity.

In fact, almost nothing about what went down in Havana is clear. Investigators have tested several theories about an intentional attack — by Cuba's government, a rogue faction of its security forces, a third country like Russia, or some combination thereof. Yet they've left open the possibility an advanced espionage operation went horribly awry, or that some other, less nefarious explanation is to blame.

Aside from their homes, officials said Americans were attacked in at least one hotel, a fact not previously disclosed. An incident occurred on an upper floor of the recently renovated Hotel Capri, a 60-year-old concrete tower steps from the Malecon, Havana's iconic, waterside promenade.

The cases vary deeply: different symptoms, different recollections of what happened. That's what makes

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 30 of 58

the puzzle so difficult to crack.

In several episodes recounted by U.S. officials, victims knew it was happening in real time, and there were strong indications of a sonic attack.

Some felt vibrations, and heard sounds — loud ringing or a high-pitch chirping similar to crickets or cicadas. Others heard the grinding noise. Some victims awoke with ringing in their ears and fumbled for their alarm clocks, only to discover the ringing stopped when they moved away from their beds.

The attacks seemed to come at night. Several victims reported they came in minute-long bursts.

Yet others heard nothing, felt nothing. Later, their symptoms came.

The scope keeps widening. On Tuesday, the State Department disclosed that doctors had confirmed another two cases, bringing the total American victims to 21. Some have mild traumatic brain injury, known as a concussion, and others permanent hearing loss.

Even the potential motive is unclear. Investigators are at a loss to explain why Canadians were harmed, too, including some who reported nosebleeds. Fewer than 10 Canadian diplomatic households in Cuba were affected, a Canadian official said. Unlike the U.S., Canada has maintained warm ties to Cuba for decades.

Sound and health experts are equally baffled. Targeted, localized beams of sound are possible, but the laws of acoustics suggest such a device would probably be large and not easily concealed. Officials said it's unclear whether the device's effects were localized by design or due to some other technical factor.

And no single, sonic gadget seems to explain such an odd, inconsistent array of physical responses.

"Brain damage and concussions, it's not possible," said Joseph Pompei, a former MIT researcher and psychoacoustics expert. "Somebody would have to submerge their head into a pool lined with very powerful ultrasound transducers."

Other symptoms have included brain swelling, dizziness, nausea, severe headaches, balance problems and tinnitus, or prolonged ringing in the ears. Many victims have shown improvement since leaving Cuba and some suffered only minor or temporary symptoms.

After the U.S. complained to Cuba's government earlier this year and Canada detected its own cases, the FBI and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police traveled to Havana to investigate.

FBI investigators swept the rooms, looking for devices. They found nothing, several officials briefed on the investigation said.

In May, Washington expelled two Cuban diplomats to protest the communist government's failure to protect Americans serving there. But the U.S. has taken pains not to accuse Havana of perpetrating the attacks. It's a sign investigators believe that even if elements of Cuba's security forces were involved, it wasn't necessarily directed from the top.

Cuba's government declined to answer specific questions about the incidents, pointing to a previous Foreign Affairs Ministry statement denying any involvement, vowing full cooperation and saying it was treating the situation "with utmost importance."

"Cuba has never, nor would it ever, allow that the Cuban territory be used for any action against accredited diplomatic agents or their families, without exception," the Cuban statement said.

After half a century of estrangement, the U.S. and Cuba in 2015 restored diplomatic ties between countries separated by a mere 90 miles of water. Embassies were re-opened and restrictions on travel and commerce eased. President Donald Trump has reversed some of those changes, but left others in place.

Mark Feierstein, who oversaw the Cuba detente on President Barack Obama's National Security Council, noted that Cuban authorities have been uncharacteristically cooperative with the investigation.

If the Trump administration felt confident Raul Castro's government was to blame, it's likely the U.S. would have already taken major punitive steps, like shuttering the newly re-established American Embassy. And the U.S. hasn't stopped sending new diplomats to Cuba even as the victim list grows.

"Had they thought the Cuban government was deliberately attacking American diplomats, that would have had a much more negative effect," Feierstein said. "We haven't seen that yet."

---

Weissenstein reported from Havana. Associated Press writers Bradley Klapper, Eric Tucker and Lauran Neergaard in Washington, Rob Gillies in Toronto and Jake Pearson in New York contributed.

## Trump heads to southwestern Florida to survey Irma recovery

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will hear directly from people affected by Irma's fury as he makes his third visit in less than three weeks to the storm-wracked South.

Trump, joined by Vice President Mike Pence, was scheduled to visit Naples and Fort Myers on Florida's southwestern coast Thursday to meet with those affected by the hurricane and learn more about relief efforts.

He tweeted Wednesday that he planned to meet "with our great Coast Guard, FEMA and many of the brave first responders & others."

The daytrip to Florida follows two earlier outings in which Trump took in Harvey recovery efforts in late August. During the president's first trip to Texas, immediately after Harvey, he drew criticism for having minimal interaction with residents, seeing little damage and offering few expressions of concern. On his second trip, with stops in Texas and Louisiana, he was more hands-on, visiting with those driven from their homes by Harvey, touring a Houston mega-shelter housing hundreds of displaced people and briefly walking streets lined with soggy, discarded possessions.

The president monitored Irma over the weekend from Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland.

Nearly half of Florida was engulfed by Irma, which left flooded streets, damaged homes and displaced residents in its wake. The Keys felt Irma's full fury when the hurricane roared in after wreaking devastation in the Caribbean, but the extent of the damage has been an unanswered question because some places have been unreachable.

Florida's southwestern coast, where Trump was headed, is a haven for retirees seeking warm weather and beautiful sunsets across the Gulf of Mexico. Many communities there are still cleaning up or without power or air conditioning.

In Lee County, which includes Cape Coral and Fort Myers, the Florida Emergency Management Agency said 66 percent of the area's 290,000 electrical customers were still without power Wednesday. Widespread outages led to long lines outside of the relatively few stores, gas stations and restaurants that had reopened.

The situation was even worse to the south in Collier County, where Naples is located. Days after Irma passed, almost 80 percent of homes and businesses were still without electricity there, and floodwaters still covered some communities entirely.

As of Wednesday, the number of people without electricity in Florida's late-summer heat was 6.8 million — about a third of the state's population. Utility officials warned it could take 10 days or more for power to be fully restored. The number of people remaining in shelters fell to under 13,000.

## School shooting: A gun jams, and a student tries to help

BY NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS, Associated Press

ROCKFORD, Wash. (AP) — Armed with a pistol and rifle, classmates say the shooter's face "was passive" in the hallway of a high school in a tiny Washington state town. He tried to fire a weapon, but it jammed, and another boy confronted him.

"He went to his next weapon," Spokane County Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich said. "A student walked up to him, engaged him, and that student was shot. That student did not survive."

Three other students were seriously injured by gunfire Wednesday morning at Freeman High School south of Spokane. A custodian stopped the shooter, a heroic action the sheriff said prevented more bloodshed. The injured victims were expected to survive.

The suspect, who a classmate described as being obsessed with previous school shootings, was taken into custody.

Witnesses described a panicked scene when shots rang out, with bullets hitting the ceiling and students screaming and running down the hallway.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 32 of 58

A two-lane highway into the town of about 500 people near the Idaho border was clogged as worried parents sped to the school. Some people abandoned their cars on the road shoulder to make it to their children.

Elisa Vigil, a 14-year-old freshman, told The Associated Press that she saw one male student shot in the head who janitors covered with a cloth and another female student wounded in the back.

Michael Harper, a 15-year-old sophomore, said the suspect had brought notes in the beginning of the school year, saying he was going to do "something stupid" and might get killed or jailed. Some students alerted counselors, the teen told AP, but it wasn't clear what school officials did in response.

A call to the school was not immediately returned.

Harper said the shooter had many friends and was not bullied, calling him "nice and funny and weird" and a huge fan of the TV show "Breaking Bad." He also said the suspect was obsessed with other school shootings.

"He watched a lot of school shooting documentaries," Harper said.

Authorities didn't release the suspect's identity or a possible motive. The victims also were not named. Luis Prito, an assistant football coach at Freeman High, called the shooting devastating.

"This is a real close-knit community," he said.

Gov. Jay Inslee said in a statement that "all Washingtonians are thinking of the victims and their families, and are grateful for the service of school staff and first responders working to keep our students safe."

Cheryl Moser said her son, a freshman, called her from a classroom after hearing shots fired.

"He called me and said, 'Mom, there are gunshots.' He sounded so scared. I've never heard him like that," Moser told The Spokesman-Review newspaper. "You never think about something happening like this at a small school."

Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center and Children's Hospital received three pediatric patients, spokeswoman Nicole Stewart said. They were in stable condition and surrounded by family, she said.

Stephanie Lutje told AP she was relieved to hear her son was safe after his school near Freeman High was put on lockdown. She commended the school district for its communication.

She still worried for others she knew, including a co-worker who had yet to hear from her son, a sophomore at Freeman.

"My stomach's in knots right now," she said.

---

Associated Press writers Rebecca Boone in Boise, Idaho, and Alina Hartounian in Phoenix contributed to this story.

## **Bruce, (W)indians enjoying record ride together**

**By TOM WITHERS, AP Sports Writer**

CLEVELAND (AP) — Just a little more than a month ago, Jay Bruce was in New York sinking with the Mets as a season that began with promise and a richness of pitching was undermined by injuries.

The plunge was dramatic. So was the rise.

A trade rescued Bruce and dropped him in Cleveland, where he made history on Wednesday.

"I pretty much went from the least fun situation in baseball to the most fun," he said.

Bruce hit a three-run homer in the first inning as the Indians set the AL record with their 21st straight win, a 5-3 victory over the Detroit Tigers that pushed Cleveland closer to another division title and within reach of a 101-year mark that has come under scrutiny because of a peculiarity.

Unbeaten and nearly unchallenged for three weeks, the Indians surpassed the "Moneyball" 2002 Oakland Athletics for the league record and tied the 1935 Chicago Cubs for the second longest streak since 1900.

The only team to win more consecutive games was the 1916 New York Giants, who won 12 in a row, played a tie that was ended by rain and replayed, and then won 14 more.

Despite the tie, the Giants' streak is acknowledged as the record by Elias Sports Bureau, Major League's Baseball's statistical watchdog. The flaw in the record has perturbed some fans. Not the Indians.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 33 of 58

"I've given that zero thought," manager Terry Francona said when asked if he regarded 21 or 26 as the record. "I promise you I've given it no thought."

That's been the attitude of his players, who have gone 21-0 with minimal celebrating. When closer Cody Allen got the final out, retiring Ian Kinsler on a sinking liner to left field, the 29,000 fans who hung on every pitch inside Progressive Field as if it was Game 7 of the World Series, erupted as flames shot from over the center-field wall and fireworks exploded overhead.

The Indians didn't mob each other or carry on as if it was a big deal. They've got more important games — and hopefully victories — ahead of them.

Cleveland's first World Series title since 1948 remains the only goal for a team built to win.

"We don't have time to worry about what happened in the past and we definitely don't have any time to worry about what's going to happen in the future," Bruce said. "We have a group of guys here, coaching staff and just a whole organization that kind of echoes that sentiment. It's something that we haven't had to deal with and there's been no pulling the reins back on people or hey, let's not get ahead of ourselves.

"Everyone comes here and gets ready to play and I think that's something that speaks volumes."

After the Tigers took a 1-0 lead in the first off Mike Clevinger (10-5), Bruce put Cleveland back on top for good with his three-run shot into the left-field bleachers. It was his 34th homer this season and fifth with the Indians, who acquired him on Aug. 9, an all-in move necessitated by All-Star Michael Brantley going on the disabled list with a serious ankle injury.

Bruce has provided protection for Cleveland slugger Edwin Encarnacion and given Francona even more depth in a lineup with no apparent holes.

"You make a mistake and he knows what to do with it," Francona said.

When he met with reporters following the Indians' historic win, Bruce wore a red T-shirt with Cleveland's controversial smiling Chief Wahoo emblazoned on the front. There were moment when Bruce's beamed just as brightly.

He'll be a free agent after the season, but any thoughts about his future are on hold as he savors being on a team expected to play deep into October.

The Indians are 30-5 since Bruce arrived, and that may not be coincidence. He joked about "some selection bias" when asked if he's changed the club's fortunes.

"In all honesty, I feel like I do add something positive to this team," he said. "This team has added something to me as well. It gives you a little boost. You come in, you're ready to play, you want to come to the ballpark, and you're coming into something that is bigger than yourself."

After the Indians matched Oakland's 15-year-old record with their 20th straight win Tuesday night, Bruce texted with Scott Hatteberg, a member of that celebrated A's team that flopped in the postseason but gained fame in film. They were briefly teammates in Cincinnati.

"I just said, 'Who would've thought?'" Bruce recalled. "And he said, 'Good luck, win another one and win a ring.'"

## Sean Spicer pressed (gently) as 'Jimmy Kimmel Live' guest

By FRAZIER MOORE, AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It was a different Sean Spicer who paid a visit to ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live" Wednesday night.

This was a smiling, chill Spicer, in marked contrast to the six hot-tempered months he spent as White House Press Secretary, conducting volatile news conferences that were given added heat thanks to Melissa McCarthy's unsparing impersonation of him on "Saturday Night Live."

It was Spicer's first television appearance since resigning from the Trump Administration in July from what Kimmel joked was his hit reality show, "I'm the Press Secretary — Get Me Out of Here."

He took Kimmel's ribbing in much better spirits than the grilling the White House press corps dished out.

"A lot of these members of the press were your friends, right?" Kimmel asked.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 34 of 58

"WERE, yeah," replied Spicer, chuckling.

Kimmel reminded him of how his tenure began: awkwardly backing up Republican President Donald Trump's claim that his inauguration crowd was the biggest ever, when photographic evidence proved otherwise.

"Why is he so concerned with size?" asked Kimmel. "Have you ever seen the president naked?"

"I have not," Spicer replied good-naturedly.

But even if Spicer knew Trump's crowd wasn't larger, Kimmel pressed on, his job as press secretary obliged him to say that it was.

"Your job as press secretary is to represent the president's voice," Spicer explained. "Whether you agree or not is not your job."

"And then you have to march out there and go, 'He had a bigger crowd, everybody,'" Kimmel laughed.

At Kimmel's urging, Spicer tried to account for the tension that prevailed between him and the press corps.

"Some of us who worked very hard to get (Trump) elected felt as though a lot of folks, in the media particularly, constantly sought to undermine the validity of that election," Spicer said. "So you to have to understand it sometimes from that perspective."

If Kimmel thought Spicer would dish dirt on Trump, he was disappointed.

"Sean, you don't work there anymore," Kimmel jokingly egged him on. "You don't have to worry about him. We can protect you here."

But Spicer remained resolute in his defense of Trump, declaring at one point, "He's a good man that really cares about this country."

Even so, Spicer did acknowledge that the relationship between the press and the White House could stand some improvement.

"I think there's a time when we can start taking down the temperature and get back to a more civil and constructive dialogue," he said.

To that Kimmel fired back, "You mean when Mike Pence takes over?"

## As Rohingya flee Myanmar, leader Suu Kyi skips UN meeting

By JULHAS ALAM, Associated Press

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh (AP) — Facing global condemnation for weeks of violence that has driven minority Rohingya to flee — a crisis U.N. officials have described as "ethnic cleansing" — Myanmar's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, pulled out of this month's U.N. General Assembly meetings.

The president's office said Wednesday that Suu Kyi would miss the assembly's ministerial session, which opens Sept. 19 and runs through Sept. 25, to address domestic security issues.

The U.N. Security Council condemned the violence that has driven some 380,000 ethnic Rohingya Muslims to flee to safety in neighboring Bangladesh. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters that ethnic cleansing was taking place against Rohingya in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

The term "ethnic cleansing" is defined as an effort to rid an area of an unwanted ethnic group — by displacement, deportation or even killing.

Security Council members called for "immediate steps to end the violence," de-escalate the situation and ensure civilian protections in what many Rohingya see as their homeland.

The statement was the first made by the U.N.'s most powerful body in nine years addressing the precarious situation Rohingya face in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, Britain's U.N. Ambassador Matthew Rycroft said, calling it "an important first step."

Suu Kyi's appearance at last year's General Assembly was a landmark: her party had just won elections in 2015, replacing a military-dominated government and ushering in an era of democratic reform.

But even then, she faced criticism over Myanmar's treatment of Rohingya Muslims, whose name she did not utter. Many in Myanmar instead use the term "Bengalis" and insist they are people who migrated illegally from Bangladesh.

Rohingya have faced decades of persecution in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, and are denied citizenship

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 35 of 58

despite centuries-old roots in the Rakhine region.

Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate who lived for years under house arrest when Myanmar was ruled by a military junta, has faced a torrent of criticism since the crisis erupted.

Myanmar has blamed the violence on Rohingya insurgents who attacked police outposts in Rakhine state on Aug. 25, inciting the military to respond with what it called "clearance operations" to root out the rebels.

Many Rohingya villagers who have flooded into Bangladesh say Myanmar soldiers shot indiscriminately, burned their homes and warned them to leave or die. Others have said they were attacked by Buddhist mobs.

Suu Kyi is not Myanmar's president — her official titles are state counselor and foreign minister — but she effectively serves as leader of the Southeast Asian nation though she does not control the military.

Presidential office spokesman Zaw Htay said that, with President Htin Kyaw hospitalized, second Vice President Henry Van Tio would attend this week's U.N. meeting.

"The first reason (Suu Kyi cannot attend) is because of the Rakhine terrorist attacks," Zaw Htay said. "The state counselor is focusing to calm the situation in Rakhine state. There are circumstances. The second reason is, there are people inciting riots in some areas. We are trying to take care of the security issue in many other places. The third is that we are hearing that there will be terrorist attacks and we are trying to address this issue."

He said Suu Kyi would give a speech next week covering the same topics she would have addressed at the United Nations. He did not say if that included the violence in Rakhine state.

The violence has left hundreds dead and set off a refugee exodus that has overwhelmed Bangladesh, with thousands of Rohingya flooding into the country by land and sea every day.

They've arrived hungry and traumatized. Many need urgent medical care for violence-related injuries, severe infections or childbirth, aid groups say.

"The women who are coming for check-ups all have a terrified and exhausted look," said Sumaya, a midwife at the Nayapara refugee camp working in association with the U.N. population fund. "We keep hearing stories from them of walking through jungles and across hills for days without food, their children carried over their shoulders. They've lost their homes."

Zaw Htay said that, out of 471 "Bengali" villages in three Rakhine townships, 176 were now completely empty while at least 34 more were partially abandoned.

He said there were at least 86 clashes through Sept. 5, but none since — suggesting that security forces had succeeded with efforts to stabilize the region "to a point."

The government blames Rohingya for setting fire to their own homes, but journalists who visited the region found evidence that raised doubts about those claims.

On Wednesday, dozens of foreign diplomats and aid officials visited heaving refugee camps in the Bangladeshi border district of Cox's Bazar, and called on Myanmar to find a lasting solution for the Rohingya to live in peace.

"They need to have their own country," said Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Mario Palma, adding that Myanmar must face the issue and "give citizenship to these people."

Thousands were still streaming into the country on Wednesday. Some had paid smugglers for passage on packed wooden boats to beaches at Shah Porir Dwip. Others were walking for days through jungles or wading through the monsoon-swollen Naf River.

At least 86 people have drowned when boats capsized in the river, according to police in near the border town of Teknaf, where nine bodies were recovered from a capsizing Tuesday night. At least dozens more have died after capsizings at sea.

Two existing refugee camps were packed beyond capacity, with many new arrivals huddling in makeshift shelters along roads or in open fields. Aid groups were struggling to provide enough food, clean water and medical aid.

Near the camp of Balukhali, some were setting up tents made of bamboo and plastic along hillsides muddy from days of rain. Children walked uphill to capture rainwater before it spilled into the teeming settlements below.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 36 of 58

The head of the U.N. High Commission for Refugees said humanitarian assistance would increase "very, very quickly." Asked why the response has been slow, Filippo Grandi alluded to difficulties working in Bangladesh, but said he hoped this will change as the scale of the crisis becomes more apparent.

It is the Myanmar government's "responsibility to ensure that security returns to Rakhine," Grandi told The Associated Press at the Stockholm Security Conference in Sweden.

Bangladesh already was housing some 500,000 Rohingya who fled earlier flashes of violence including anti-Muslim riots in 2012. It pledged this week to free land for a new camp to cope with new arrivals.

Associated Press journalists Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations and David Keyton in Stockholm, Sweden, contributed to this report.

## White House: ESPN could justify firing Hill for Trump tweets

BRISTOL, Conn. (AP) — White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Wednesday that sports anchor Jemele Hill could justifiably be fired from ESPN for tweets calling President Donald Trump a "white supremacist" and "a bigot."

"I think that's one of the more outrageous comments that anyone could make, and certainly something that I think is a fire-able offense by ESPN," Sanders said.

Sanders said she was not sure whether the president was aware of Hill's comments.

On Monday night, in a series of exchanges with other Twitter users, Hill said, "Donald Trump is a white supremacist who has largely surrounded himself w/ other white supremacists."

Hill, an African-American co-host of the 6 p.m. broadcast of "SportsCenter," also added that "Trump is the most ignorant, offensive president of my lifetime. His rise is a direct result of white supremacy. Period."

In another tweet, she said, "Donald Trump is a bigot," and went on to criticize his supporters, adding "The height of white privilege is being able to ignore his white supremacy, because it's of no threat to you. Well, it's a threat to me."

ESPN distanced itself from Hill's tweets Tuesday.

"The comments on Twitter from Jemele Hill regarding the president do not represent the position of ESPN," the network tweeted from its public relations department's account. "We have addressed this with Jemele and she recognizes her actions were inappropriate."

Disney-owned ESPN didn't elaborate on any possible punishment for Hill, and she was on "SportsCenter" as usual Tuesday and Wednesday.

Hill tweeted a statement Wednesday night, saying: "My comments on Twitter expressed my personal beliefs. My regret is that my comments and the public way I made them painted ESPN in an unfair light. My respect for the company and my colleagues remains unconditional."

While many Twitter users called for Hill to be fired, unemployed NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick expressed his support, tweeting "We are with you @jemelehill."

Kaepernick, who remains unsigned after opting out of his contract with the San Francisco 49ers, received plenty of criticism — and support — after kneeling during the national anthem before games last season to protest police brutality.

When asked why prominent African-Americans were criticizing Trump, Sanders said she could not speak for Hill and said the president has met with respected African-American leaders like U.S. Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, the only black Republican in the Senate.

"He's committed to working with them to bring the country together," Sanders said. "I think that's where we need to be focused — not on outrageous statements like that one."

The National Association of Black Journalists said in a statement that it "supports Hill's First Amendment rights on all matters of discussion, within and outside the world of sports, as they do not impinge on her duties as a host and commentator."

Three weeks ago, ESPN said it pulled broadcaster Robert Lee, who is Asian-American, from the Virginia football season opener because of violence in Charlottesville, Virginia. The violence erupted at a rally to

protest the decision to remove a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

## Democrats say they have deal with Trump on young immigrants

By ERICA WERNER and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The top House and Senate Democrats said Wednesday they had reached agreement with President Donald Trump to protect thousands of younger immigrants from deportation and fund some border security enhancements — not including Trump's long-sought border wall.

The agreement, the latest instance of Trump ditching his own party to make common cause with the opposition, was announced by Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi following a White House dinner that Republican lawmakers weren't invited to attend. It would enshrine protections for the nearly 800,000 immigrants brought illegally to this country as kids who had benefited from former President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program, which provided temporary work permits and shielded recipients from deportation.

Trump ended the program earlier this month and gave Congress six months to come up with a legislative fix before the statuses of the so-called "Dreamers" begin to expire.

"We agreed to enshrine the protections of DACA into law quickly, and to work out a package of border security, excluding the wall, that's acceptable to both sides," Pelosi and Schumer said in a joint statement.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders partially disputed their characterization, saying over Twitter that "excluding the wall was certainly not agreed to."

Either way, it was the second time in two weeks that Trump cut out Republicans to reach a deal with Pelosi and Schumer. A person briefed on the meeting, who demanded anonymity to discuss it, said the deal specifies bipartisan legislation called the DREAM Act that provides eventual citizenship for the young immigrants.

House Republicans would normally rebel over such an approach, which many view as amnesty for law-breakers. It remains to be seen how conservatives' loyalty to Trump will affect their response to a policy they would have opposed under other circumstances.

The House's foremost immigration hardliner, GOP Rep. Steve King of Iowa, made clear that he, for one, was not happy.

Addressing Trump over Twitter, King wrote that if the reports were true, "Trump base is blown up, destroyed, irreparable, and disillusioned beyond repair. No promise is credible."

Earlier Wednesday, during a White House meeting with moderate House members from both parties, Trump had urged lawmakers to come up with a bipartisan solution for the "Dreamers."

"We don't want to forget DACA," Trump told the members at the meeting. "We want to see if we can do something in a bipartisan fashion so that we can solve the DACA problem and other immigration problems."

Foreshadowing what was to take place later that evening, Trump said he would be open to separating the wall issue from the question of the younger immigrants, as long as the wall got dealt with eventually.

At Thursday night's dinner, "the president was clear he would press for the wall but separate from this agreement," said Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill.

The apparent deal is the latest example of Trump's sudden pivot to bipartisanship after months of railing against Democrats as "obstructionist." He has also urged them to join him in overhauling the nation's tax code, among other priorities.

Trump, who was deeply disappointed by Republicans' failure to make good on years of promises to repeal "Obamacare," infuriated many in his party last week when he reached a three-month deal with Schumer and Pelosi to raise the debt ceiling, keep the government running and speed relief to states affected by recent hurricanes.

"More and more we're trying to work things out together," Trump explained Wednesday, calling the development a "positive thing" for both parties.

"If you look at some of the greatest legislation ever passed, it was done on a bipartisan manner. And so that's what we're going to give a shot," he said.

The “Kumbaya” moment now appears to extend to the thorny issue of immigration, which has been vexing lawmakers for years. Funding for Trump’s promised wall had been thought to be a major point of contention between Republicans and Democrats as they attempted to forge a deal — yet by Thursday, Trump was apparently ready to deal even on that issue, the one that most defined his campaign for president last year.

Associated Press writers Kevin Freking and Ken Thomas contributed to this report.

Follow Colvin on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

## Irma’s fury in the Keys: High winds, waves, then devastation

By JASON DEAREN, Associated Press

SUMMERLAND KEY, Fla. (AP) — Huge waves crashed down on this tropical paradise, pounding the white sands of Summerland Key with brute fury. Then came bomb-blast winds as Hurricane Irma slammed ashore.

For survivors John Hartman and Mae Skiver, the worst was yet to come as they sheltered in a friend’s house, utterly at the mercy of the monster storm now thrashing this slender island chain.

The two 27-year-olds both lived in trailers in neighboring Cudjoe Key in this palm-studded archipelago that juts about 120 miles (190 kilometers) away from South Florida across warm waters.

They and other survivors told The Associated Press what they experienced in Irma’s monstrous grip.

Hartman and Skiverhow said they watched 10-foot (3-meter) waves churning as Irma approached. As Irma pounded the Keys, even the second floor of their friend’s home began to flood. Then the ceiling caved in. Possibly there were tornados, too. The sound was so loud, Hartman says, “it hurt your eardrums.”

Like others in this idyllic spot for snorkeling, boating, fishing and laid-backed nonchalance, they didn’t believe the eye would pass right over them. But it did.

“Nobody did beforehand, but then by the time we (knew), it was too late,” Skiver said. Afterward, they emerged to find the homes on either side of their friend’s house had their roofs torn off.

After Irma barreled up the Florida peninsula, the two returned to their own trailer homes. Surprisingly, both trailers were relatively unscathed — unlike many others left crumpled and splintered.

Now, like other survivors, they grapple with big questions like how to put their lives back together.

“We don’t have food and water in abundance, and all of that stuff’s just gonna take a long time,” Skiver said.

On Wednesday, the two were out foraging. Their destination: a school where military meals-ready-to-eat were being handed out.

And Skiver had a word of advice for those who left ahead of Irma: “Don’t come back. At least (not) for a long time.”

Officials aren’t sure when residents of the middle and lower Florida Keys will be allowed back. First workers need to scramble to get power back and water running.

Palm Beach County Fire Rescue spokesman Jeremy Hurd, who was in the Keys helping out, said officials want to make sure infrastructure is in place before they let island dwellers return. Six locations have been set up to distribute food and water to those who stayed behind when thousands fled.

Hurd said more than 300 power poles are down, and officials are concerned that fires could be started as they try to restore power. Gasoline supplies are still a problem the further one goes toward the lower Keys, where many gas stations are damaged and not working anyway.

Dan Border, 67, rode his bike from his home to a school on Sugarloaf Key where Florida National Guard soldiers were handing out MREs and water Wednesday. He remained haunted by seeing Irma’s eye pass right over his home.

“It was dead calm in the eye for what seemed like over an hour,” he said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 39 of 58

Border had a working generator but was running out of fuel. He siphoned some out of a jet ski and hoped the soldiers would have some gas. They didn't.

"Not being able to communicate with my family is the worst part. They saw the news and everyone saying it was total destruction and we're thinking 'Dad's dead.' They lived with that for days." Finally a wildlife officer loaned him a satellite phone and he made contact with the outside world.

Further toward the mainland on Marathon Key, a grocery store had opened under police guard by Tuesday, but residents could only buy 20 items each, and no cigarettes or alcohol. So said 70-year-old retiree Elaine Yaquinto.

Her home with new storm shutters on the bay side of Marathon survived, but she had no electricity or effective running water.

Still there was a trickle of cold water — good enough for a shower.

"It made me feel like normal," she said.

Yaquinto sat in her Cadillac across from the Marathon airport listening to recovery updates on a local radio station powered by a generator. She said she had yet to see any state or federal agencies or utility companies working on the ground.

The Coast Guard has delivered water and hundreds of pounds of food, blankets and hygiene items to the Marathon airport as aid workers struggle to fill the gap. "Our cutter crews have been working around the clock," says Capt. Jason Ryan, Chief of Enforcement for the Coast Guard's Seventh District.

Irma roared in Sunday with 130 mph (210 kph) winds, a major hurricane. Rooftops of luxurious multistory waterfront homes along this stretch of the Keys now look as if they'd been peeled away by can openers. Every power pole has been snapped. Boats like the Keys Please now rest on dry land, heaved ashore by Irma. Condominiums are battered.

Nevertheless, some local officials say the damage doesn't appear as bad as one preliminary estimate from the Federal Emergency Management Agency that a quarter of all homes in the Keys were destroyed and nearly all the rest were heavily damaged.

"Things look real damaged from the air, but when you clear the trees and all the debris, it's not much damage to the houses," said Monroe County Commissioner Heather Carruthers. Her county covers the entire Keys.

In Key West, the Southernmost Point Marker of the "Continental U.S.A." — which faces the sea — was scarred to bare metal in spots by Irma's battering.

A few people rode bicycles down Duval Street on Wednesday, but only two bars were open. The city of Ernest Hemingway fame was devoid of tourists, who flock here in good times to party and carouse.

Angel Majors said she appreciated the quiet, despite the power outage at her Key West home. Besides, she was getting to eat like a tourist: One bar offered all-you-can-eat stone crabs and lobster for \$10 on Tuesday night, and Back Bar offered stone crabs for free Wednesday.

"Us locals love it. We love our tourists, but it's kind of refreshing," she said.

Associated Press writer Jennifer Kay contributed to this report from Miami.

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

## AP interview: Ryan opens door to tax cuts adding to deficit

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Paul Ryan backed off months of promises that the Republicans' tax plan won't add to the nation's ballooning deficit, declaring Wednesday in an AP Newsmaker interview

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 40 of 58

that the most important goal of an overhaul is economic growth.

Asked twice whether he would insist the emerging tax plan won't pile more billions onto the \$20 trillion national debt, Ryan passed up the chance to affirm that commitment. GOP leaders made that "revenue neutral" promise in a campaign manifesto last year and many times since.

"We want pro-growth tax reform that will get the economy going, that will get people back to work, that will give middle-income taxpayers a tax cut and that will put American businesses in a better competitive playing field so that we keep American businesses in America," the Wisconsin Republican told Associated Press reporters and editors. "That is more important than anything else."

Ryan's comments signaling possible retreat on a core GOP commitment came amid quickening action on taxes, which Republicans view as their last, best chance to notch a significant accomplishment to take to voters in the 2018 midterm elections following the collapse of their "Obamacare" repeal drive. Yet even as President Donald Trump hunted for Democratic votes for a plan that's not yet taken shape, and GOP leaders laid out an aggressive timetable to lawmakers, significant hurdles remained.

A major one is the GOP's failure, thus far, to pass a federal budget, which under legislative rules is a prerequisite for a tax plan that can avoid being stalled to death by Democrats in the Senate.

Others involve the contents of the tax blueprint itself, which Ryan and his lieutenants envision as a far-reaching reform plan that would significantly lower rates for corporations and individuals while cleaning up the loophole-ridden code. One problem is that every tax deduction has its own constituency, and Ryan has already ruled out eliminating some of the most popular ones, including deductions for home mortgages and charitable giving.

Objections also threaten from the GOP's seemingly shrinking ranks of deficit hawks if Ryan, Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell do try to move forward with a tax plan that could cost hundreds of billions of dollars, without paying for it with cuts in federal spending or some new sources of revenue. Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, issued a statement earlier this week calling the debt the "greatest threat to our nation," greater than North Korea, Russia or the Islamic State group.

Ryan made his comments on taxes as he discussed a range of issues with the AP, including immigration, where he pledged to find a solution for the nearly 800,000 immigrants brought to this country as children and now here illegally. He declared that removing them all is "not in our nation's interest," though he declined to reaffirm his past support for eventual citizenship for the "Dreamers."

He said any immigration solution must include border security measures, though he said a wall along the entire southern border, which Trump has repeatedly urged, doesn't make sense.

On taxes, Trump himself added to the complications when he surprisingly declared, at a meeting with a bipartisan group of House members, that taxes on the wealthy would not go down under the GOP plan and might even go up. Although the administration has not provided specifics on its plan, House Republicans have embraced an approach that would lower the top individual rate from 39.6 percent to 33 percent, which would be enormously beneficial to the wealthiest Americans.

Still, Trump declared, "The rich will not be gaining at all with this plan. We are looking for the middle class and we are looking for jobs — jobs being the economy."

Trump reiterated that he hoped to lower the top corporate tax rate from 35 to 15 percent, something Ryan has already ruled out as impractical — and an idea the president himself has backed off from, according to people with knowledge of a meeting he held Tuesday night with bipartisan senators.

The president added, improbably, that the individual rate would be even lower than that.

The long list of difficulties has led some analysts to conclude that Congress is likelier to settle on straightforward tax cuts than on full-blown reform — if it passes anything at all.

But Ryan rejected that approach, telling the AP, "It's not just narrow cuts in taxes that will do the job."

Referencing tax cuts signed by President George W. Bush, Ryan said, "You can't just do what Bush did in 2001 and 2003. You have to overhaul the system itself to put American businesses and the American economy in a much more competitive situation."



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 41 of 58

Earlier Wednesday, Ryan and House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady met behind closed doors with GOP lawmakers to lay out a timetable on taxes, pledging a detailed blueprint from top congressional Republicans and administration officials in the final week of September. The goal, which Ryan reiterated Wednesday, is to send Trump a bill to sign before year's end.

The challenges were immediately apparent as House Republicans left the meeting with Ryan and Brady complaining they still didn't know what was going on. And some conservatives were voicing concerns about Trump's newfound fondness for making deals with Democrats, as he did last week on the debt ceiling with House Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California.

After Schumer and Pelosi had dinner at the White House Wednesday night, they said they had reached agreement with Trump to protect the DACA immigrants and fund some border security enhancements — not including Trump's long-sought border wall.

No Republicans were present at the dinner save the president, who was once a Democrat.

"The problem here is we don't have a clue what's in the tax plan," said Rep. Dave Brat, R-Va. "Now Trump is talking about doing bipartisan stuff with Chuck and Nancy on taxes. And I don't want to open the door to that until we see what this tax plan looks like."

Associated Press writers Alan Fram, Richard Lardner, Stephen Ohlemacher and Catherine Lucey contributed.

## Irma's life and demise: 2 weeks of destruction and fear

By **SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Irma, which flattened some Caribbean islands and enveloped nearly all of Florida in its fury, no longer exists. The open Atlantic's most powerful hurricane on record finally sputtered out as an ordinary rainstorm over Ohio and Indiana.

Irma's confirmed death toll is 61 and still rising, 38 in the Caribbean and 23 in the United States. In the U.S. alone, nearly 7 million people were told to evacuate, and 13 million Floridians were left without power in hot steamy weather.

This storm grew so immensely powerful over warmer-than-normal Atlantic water that it devastated the first islands in its path. Its gargantuan size — two Hurricane Andrews could fit inside it — spread so much fear that people all over the Florida peninsula upended their lives to flee.

"This was a large, extremely dangerous catastrophic hurricane," National Hurricane Center spokesman and meteorologist Dennis Feltgen said Wednesday, when he declared the storm over.

Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach put it simpler: "Irma was a beast."

Irma generated as much accumulated energy in a dozen days as an entire six-month hurricane season would in an average year, Klotzbach calculated.

Just 30 hours after it became a tropical storm on Aug. 30, Irma was a major Category 3 hurricane. By Sept. 4 it had intensified into a Category 4, with 130 mph (210 kph) winds, and it wasn't near done.

It became a Category 5 storm the next day with top winds of 185 mph (nearly 300 kph), the highest ever recorded in the open Atlantic. Only one storm whirled faster — Hurricane Allen reached 190 mph (305 kph) in 1980 over the normally warm Gulf of Mexico — but Irma held its ferociously high speeds for 37 hours, a new global record for tropical cyclones. It beat Typhoon Haiyan, which also reached 185 mph (nearly 300 kph) before killing more than 6,000 people in the Philippines. Irma ultimately spent 78 hours as a Category 5, the longest in 85 years for Atlantic hurricanes.

Irma's entire path, from its birth off Africa to its death over the Ohio Valley, stayed within the cone of the probable track forecast by the National Hurricane Center.

Irma claimed its first victim when it was still far off, sending a "monster wave" to drown a teen-aged surfer in Barbados. Then it hit the Leeward Islands in full fury, sweeping a 2-year-old boy to his death after tearing the roof from his home.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 42 of 58

Irma bullied through much of the Caribbean — Antigua, St. Martin, St. Barts, Anguilla, the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos, the Bahamas. It narrowly skirted Puerto Rico, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. It turned lush tropical playgrounds into blasted-out landscapes, littered with splintered lumber, crumpled sheet metal and shattered lives. In St. Martin, 15 people were killed.

Irma was still a Category 5 when it raked Cuba's coast, the first hurricane that size to hit the storm-prone island since 1924. At least 10 people died there, despite massive evacuations. And by moving briefly over land, it may have spared Florida a tougher punch.

More importantly, the system slowed, delaying its turn north and steering its center over Florida's west coast, which is less populated and less densely developed than the east. It also allowed dry air and high winds from the southwest to flow into Irma, taking a bite out of the storm and even tearing the southwest eyewall apart for a while.

Irma was more vulnerable, but by no means weak. A Category 4 storm with 130 (210 kph) winds when it slammed into Cudjoe Key, it tied for history's seventh strongest hurricane to make U.S. landfall, based on its central pressure. With Harvey's swamping of Texas, this is the first year two Category 4 storms hit the United States.

The Keys were devastated. Federal officials estimated that a quarter of the homes were destroyed, and hardly any escaped damage. Roofs seemed peeled off by can-openers; power poles were nowhere to be seen.

Irma was back over water as it closed in on mainland Florida, weakening still but spreading much wider — to more than 400 miles (640 kilometers) in girth — whipping the entire peninsula with winds of 39 mph (62 kph) or more. It pushed its highest storm surge, 10 feet (more than 3 meters), onto Florida's southwestern coast, while causing some of its worst flooding in northeast Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, far from Irma's center.

Irma's second U.S. landfall was on Marco Island, near where Wilma hit in 2005. By then, Irma was a still-major Category 3, with 115 mph (185 kph) winds, but weakening fast. The worst of its fury somehow missed the Tampa Bay area, where homes were not nearly as flooded as those in faraway Jacksonville. Irma then sloshed through Georgia and Alabama as a tropical storm, blowing down tall trees and power lines, before dissipating Tuesday over Tennessee and Ohio.

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

## Top Dems say Flynn left Mideast trip off security clearance

By **CHAD DAY** and **STEPHEN BRAUN**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Trump administration national security adviser Michael Flynn is facing new questions about a 2015 trip he took to the Middle East as part of a private proposal to build nuclear power plants across the region.

Two top Democrats said in a letter released Wednesday that he appeared to have violated federal law by failing to report the trip when he renewed his security clearance last year. The lawmakers — Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland and Rep. Eliot Engel of New York — also said documents turned over to their staff suggested that Flynn also failed to report contacts with Israeli and Egyptian government officials.

The information released by the lawmakers was fresh evidence that Flynn didn't fully account for his foreign contacts and business entanglements even though he was liable for possible federal criminal penalties for lying or omitting such information. Security clearance questionnaires specifically ask applicants to report any meetings abroad or contacts with foreign government officials that occurred in the previous seven years. As a former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Flynn maintained a security clearance. His last renewal was in early 2016.

Flynn has been dogged by questions about his lack of disclosure of a Turkish lobbying operation and of foreign payments he accepted after leaving the military in 2014. Flynn also was forced to resign his Trump

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 43 of 58

administration post in February after White House officials determined that he had misled them about the nature of diplomatic conversations with Russia's ambassador to the U.S.

Special counsel Robert Mueller is scrutinizing Flynn's foreign interactions as part of his probe into Russia's meddling in the 2016 election and any possible coordination with Trump associates. Earlier this year, that investigation incorporated an ongoing federal probe into Flynn's Turkish lobbying.

On Wednesday, a professional editor who performed contract work for Flynn's now-defunct consulting firm said that he was questioned Tuesday by FBI agents. Editor Hank Cox said the agents' questions centered on the roles played by Flynn and his business partner, Bijan R. Kian, in the development of an op-ed that ran last November under Flynn's name in *The Hill*, a Washington political newspaper.

The op-ed praised Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and urged the extradition from the U.S. of Fethullah Gulen, a Muslim cleric whom Erdogan has accused of involvement in last year's aborted military coup in Turkey. The op-ed published on Election Day quickly prompted a Justice Department inquiry that resulted in Flynn acknowledging in March that the work may have aided the interests of Turkey's government.

Flynn's attorney, Robert Kelner, declined to comment on the letter from the Democratic lawmakers. Flynn's legal team has previously said that he'd like to cooperate with Congress but only intended to respond to subpoenas that compel him to do so. Flynn has been turning over documents, mostly related to two of his businesses, to the Senate and House intelligence committees in response to subpoenas, but he has declined to speak with congressional committees without a guarantee of immunity.

Flynn's son, Michael Flynn Jr., also has declined to talk to the Senate intelligence committee, according to a person familiar with the matter. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because negotiations were private.

As members of the minority party, Cummings, the ranking member on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and Engel, the ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs committee, do not have subpoena power. Still, Cummings and Engel asked the companies and Flynn to provide the names and nationalities of any officials he met with during the trip abroad.

Cummings and Engel first raised concerns in June about Flynn's 2015 Mideast trip after *Newsweek* reported that Flynn had worked with companies angling to persuade foreign governments and companies to join in a plan to build a cluster of 40 nuclear plants in the Mideast for civilian power needs. The lawmakers also seized on a comment Flynn made in congressional testimony in the summer of 2015, in which he said that he had just returned from the Middle East.

In their latest letter, Cummings and Engel write that "it appears that General Flynn violated federal law by omitting this trip and these foreign contacts from his security clearance renewal application in 2016 and concealing them from security clearance investigators who interviewed him as part of the background check process."

Because of the potential for a criminal violation, the two lawmakers say they are providing Mueller with the responses from the companies.

According to the letter and documents released by Cummings and Engel, Flynn's Mideast trip was backed by ACU Strategic Partners, a U.S. firm that sent him to persuade officials to support a plan involving companies from the U.S., Russia, France, the Netherlands, Britain, Ukraine, Israel and several Persian Gulf nations.

Thomas Cochran, an adviser to ACU Strategic Partners, told the lawmakers that Flynn was expected to press Egyptian and other officials to hold off on accepting a rival offer from Russia to finance and construct a smaller system of four reactors in Egypt and two in Jordan. Flynn also traveled to Israel where, Cochran said, he sought to assure Israel that the project would be in its interest.

The proposal has never gotten beyond the planning stage. But in his response, Cochran indicated that there could be support from the Trump administration, particularly in its effort to involve both U.S. and Russian interests.

In a subsequent response to the lawmakers on Wednesday, Cochran said ACU has never briefed Presi-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 44 of 58

dent Donald Trump or Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. He also said ACU has had no relationship with Flynn since May 2016.

In a separate response to the congressmen, ACU Managing Director Alex Copson confirmed that ACU paid Flynn's travel expenses and wrote him a \$25,000 check for "loss of income and business opportunities resulting from this trip." But Copson told the lawmakers that bank records show Flynn never cashed the check.

Flynn had previously not disclosed his compensation on his government financial disclosure filed earlier this year, but in August, he filed an amended disclosure that listed he had received more than \$5,000 from ACU. Flynn also listed that he was a consultant to another company, IronBridge Group, which was connected to the project.

An attorney for retired Rear Adm. Michael Hewitt, the chairman of IronBridge, confirmed to lawmakers that Flynn took the trip, but did not provide details of his foreign contacts.

Michael Summersgill, an attorney for IronBridge, did not respond to a telephone message Tuesday seeking comment.

---

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

## Pharma Bro Martin Shkreli has bail revoked, heads to jail

By TOM HAYS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge jailed former pharmaceuticals company CEO Martin Shkreli on Wednesday after finding that he violated his bail on a securities fraud conviction with a social media posting she agreed posed a threat to Hillary Clinton.

Defense attorneys had argued at a hearing in federal court in Brooklyn that the post by Shkreli, offering a \$5,000 bounty to anyone who could grab him one of Clinton's hairs while she's on a book tour, was political satire. But U.S. District Judge Kiyoko Matsumoto didn't see the humor, saying the offer could be taken seriously by fellow Clinton detractors.

The Clinton offer could be viewed as "a solicitation of an assault," the judge said before revoking Shkreli's \$5 million bail.

"This is not protected by the First Amendment," the judge said. "... There's a risk that somebody may take him up on it."

The government had told the judge that the message had alarmed the Secret Service detail that protects Clinton, a Democratic former presidential candidate and first lady. It also argued that it fit a pattern of veiled threats against female journalists who rebuffed Shkreli's social media advances and of taunts aimed at prosecutors in his case.

On Monday, Shkreli, often called the Pharma Bro, wrote to the court apologizing for his behavior, saying, "I am not a violent person."

But for the judge, it was too little, too late.

"He doesn't have to apologize to me," she said. "He should apologize to the government, the Secret Service and Hillary Clinton."

Shkreli watched in silence as the hearing unfolded and sometimes put his head down and appeared to scribble notes. After the judge's ruling, he remained expressionless as deputy U.S. marshals led him out a side door of the courtroom without handcuffing him.

Defense attorney Ben Brafman said outside court he was disappointed in the judge's decision.

"We believe the court arrived at the wrong decision, but she's the judge and right now we will have to live with this decision," he said.

Shkreli, who is best known for hiking up the price of a life-saving drug and for trolling his critics on social media, was found guilty last month on charges, unrelated to the price-fixing scandal, that he cheated investors in two failed hedge funds he ran. The defense had argued that investors got their original investments back and even made hefty profits.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 45 of 58

Since his 2015 arrest, Shkreli's attorneys have tried and failed to get him to tone down online antics they feared would taint his jury and, after his conviction, hurt his chances for a lenient sentence by giving the court the impression he wasn't taking his situation seriously. Along with the Clinton flap, reports surfaced that he was trying to auction off what he claims is a one-of-a-kind Wu-Tang Clan album he bought for \$2 million.

For now, Shkreli will await his Jan. 16 sentencing at a federal jail in an industrial part of Brooklyn instead his Manhattan apartment, which was a familiar backdrop for his live-streamed bluster. He faces a maximum of 20 years in prison, though the term could end up being shorter under federal sentencing guidelines.

The government sought to get Shkreli locked up as a danger to the community amid the fallout from his social media post, which read: "The Clinton Foundation is willing to KILL to protect its secrets. So on HRC's book tour, try to grab a hair from her. I must confirm the sequences I have. Will pay \$5,000 per hair obtained from Hillary Clinton."

The defense insisted it was merely a tasteless joke comparable to some of President Donald Trump's derisive comments.

"Indeed, in the current political climate, dissent has unfortunately often taken the form of political satire, hyperbole, parody or sarcasm," the defense's court papers said. "There is a difference, however, between comments that are intended to threaten or harass and comments — albeit offensive ones — that are intended as political satire or strained humor."

## Win-win: Paris awarded '24 Olympics, LA gets '28

By EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer

LIMA, Peru (AP) — The tears welling in the Paris mayor's eyes told the story one way. The words the Los Angeles mayor spoke told it another.

This was one of those rare Olympic moments when everyone walked away a winner.

Paris for 2024. Los Angeles for 2028. And the International Olympic Committee for transforming its unruly, tension-filled and sometimes corrupt bidding process into a history-making, two-city victory that secures the future of the Games for the next 11 years.

"This is a pretty radical revolution today," LA mayor Eric Garcetti said. "Usually, we have two or three cities crying in a corner, and one glorious victory. In this world, there are enough losers today, enough people who go after dreams to have them crushed. Today, we model something that can be different."

Different, as in the first time the IOC has granted two Summer Olympics at once. And different, in that there was no need for a secret ballot or any last-minute, back-room deal making. This result came after a year's worth of scrambling by IOC president Thomas Bach, who had only the two bidders left for the original prize, 2024, and couldn't afford to see either lose.

There was no drama — the decision had been locked in for more than a month. But to say there was no emotion would not be true.

After Bach called for a show of hands to approve the dual award, dozens of arms shot skyward from the audience; moments later, Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo stood next to the IOC president dabbing tears from her eyes.

"It was a very strong, very emotive moment," Hidalgo said. "We are all united. Altogether, it's very special for us, because in France, and in other countries, that's not usual."

Moments after the vote, Bach handed cards with the winners' names on them to Hidalgo and Garcetti. One read "Paris 2024," and the other "LA 2028." It was a mere formality, yet both mayors held them aloft with wide smiles on their faces.

Both cities will host their third Olympics.

The Paris Games will come on the 100th anniversary of its last turn. That milestone, plus the fact that Paris has been on the losing end of these bids for 1992, 2008 and 2012, would have made the French capital the sentimental favorite had only 2024 been up for grabs.

Los Angeles moved to 2028, and those Olympics will halt a stretch of 32 years without a Summer Games

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 46 of 58

in the United States. In exchange for the compromise, LA will grab an extra \$300 million or more that could help offset the uncertainties that lie ahead over an 11-year wait instead of seven.

"We're ready now," Garcetti insisted, speaking of a city that has virtually every sports venue already in place.

Without any nail-biting conclusion to see, the post-vote celebration at the Eiffel Tower was a sparsely attended near rain-out. Los Angeles held a small event with Olympians Nastia Liukin and John Naber standing beneath the blazing Olympic cauldron at the famous LA Coliseum, but it was mostly media, and no fans.

Meanwhile, in the Lima exhibition hall, the California-cool LA delegation wore sneakers to the presentation, and was going to forego neckties, too, before thinking better of it.

In this never-before-seen style of selection, Bach asked the 94 IOC members to allow the real contests to play out at the Olympics themselves and transform the vote from a game of sorts into a pure business decision.

It wasn't such a bad idea considering the news still seeping out about a bid scandal involving a Brazilian IOC member's alleged vote-selling to bring the 2016 Olympics to Rio de Janeiro.

More than that, Bach needed to ensure stability for his brand.

The public in many cities is no longer keen to approve blank checks for bid committees and governments that have to come up with the millions simply to bid for the Olympics, then billions more to stage them if they win.

That reality hit hard when three of the original five bidders for 2024 — Rome, Hamburg, Germany, and Budapest, Hungary — dropped out, and the U.S. Olympic Committee had to pull the plug on its initial candidate, Boston, due to lack of public support.

"This is a solution to an awkward problem," said longtime IOC member Dick Pound of Canada.

It was solved by Paris and Los Angeles, two cities with a storied tradition of Olympic hosting and an apparent understanding of Bach's much-touted reform package, known as Agenda 2020. It seeks to streamline the Games, most notably by eliminating billion-dollar stadiums and infrastructure projects that have been underused, if used at all, once the Olympics leave town.

Can they deliver?

Paris will have the traditional seven-year time frame to answer that.

Only one totally new venue is planned — a swimming and diving arena to be built near the Stade de France, which will serve as the Olympic stadium. In all, the projected cost of new venues and upgrades to others is \$892 million.

To be sure, Paris already has much to work with. Beach volleyball will be played near the Eiffel Tower; cycling will finish at the Arc de Triomphe; equestrian will be held at the Chateau de Versailles. And what would an Olympics be without some water-quality issues? There will be pressure to clean up the River Seine, which is where open-water and triathlon will be held.

Los Angeles, meanwhile, will get an extra four years that Garcetti insists is hardly needed. Los Angeles proposed a \$5.3 billion budget for 2024 (to be adjusted for 2028) that included infrastructure, operational costs — everything. A big number, indeed, though it must be put into perspective: Earlier this summer, organizers in Tokyo estimated their cost for the 2020 Games at \$12.6 billion.

Traffic could be a problem — it almost always is in LA — but the city will be well along in its multi-decade, multibillion-dollar transit upgrade by 2028. Those with long memories recall free-flowing highways the last time the Olympics came to town, as locals either left the city or heeded warnings to use public transportation or stay home.

Those 1984 Games essentially saved the Olympic movement after a decade of terror, red ink and a boycott sullied the brand and made hosting a burden. The city points to its Olympic legacy to explain a nearly unheard-of 83 percent approval rating in a self-commissioned poll — not an insignificant factor when the IOC picks a place to bring its crown-jewel event.

Along with Paris, LA is stepping in again to try to change the conversation about what hosting the Olympics can really be.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 47 of 58

"I think it's a very positive message about the value of the Olympic movement and the value of the Olympic Games," said Sergei Bubka, the Olympic champion pole vaulter, who is an honorary member of the IOC. "I think we're going in the right direction."

AP Sports Writers Beth Harris in Los Angeles and John Leicester in Paris contributed to this report.

## US Virgin Islands getting aid, but still reeling from Irma

By BEN FOX and IAN BROWN, Associated Press

ST. THOMAS, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP) — The last of the late-summer tourists were gone Wednesday from the U.S. Virgin Islands, ferried away from the wreckage of Hurricane Irma in cruise ships bound for Puerto Rico and Miami. Most part-time residents — and anyone else who didn't have to stay — had cleared out as well, back to homes on the mainland with water, power and internet, and where food isn't scarce.

Those left behind on St. Thomas and St. John were surviving on whatever they could find as they tried to repair or secure their houses with whatever materials were available. They had to dodge downed power lines that snaked through hills that were a deep green before the storm but now so stripped of leaves and trees that they are brown and desolate.

Many people were surviving on military rations handed out by U.S. Marines and the National Guard or at a local church that is serving 500 people a day.

"What I see are people coming who are hungry, who are tired, who are thirsty and need help," said the Rev. Jeff Neevel, pastor of the St. Thomas Reformed Church in the Virgin Islands capital of Charlotte Amalie. "It's a destruction zone. Everything is destroyed. Everything."

His church got power Tuesday for the first time since the storm hit a week earlier, thanks to it being designated an official food distribution center. Neevel said one of the most critical needs he sees is for tarps to protect the many homes that have lost roofs.

People are also desperate for power and water so they can get back to work and return to some sense of normalcy.

"The village where I live is devastated," said Dominique Olive from French Town on St. Thomas' southern coast. "There are people I've known for many, many years. Everything they have is gone."

Olive said there has been some "disgusting" looting and desperation but also hopeful signs. "We are helping each other. It doesn't matter which color you are, we are all helping each other," he said as he walked through Charlotte Amalie shortly after the curfew was lifted at noon.

Gov. Kenneth Mapp warned that it could take several weeks to restore full power and water to the territory as he angrily denounced people with "unrealistic expectations," an apparent reaction to complaints on social media and the radio.

"If you are not prepared to go through these challenges in a realistic way, with realistic expectations, I am strongly urging you to take one of the flights or one of the mercy cruises and go to the mainland for a few months and come back," Mapp told reporters.

Hurricane Irma lashed St. Thomas and St. John with winds of 150 mph for more than four hours when the storm hit Sept. 6. A complete damage assessment has yet to be done but many homes were left in ruins, as were police and fire stations and the main hospital. There were four deaths from the storm, as well as a power line worker killed late Tuesday while trying to do repairs.

About 5,000 tourists who couldn't get on any of the last departing flights endured the storm's wrath along with the islands' 105,000 residents. St. Croix, the most populated of the islands in the chain, escaped relatively unscathed because its location some 45 miles to the south spared it a direct hit.

The storm killed at least 38 people across the northern Caribbean, including 10 in Cuba and 15 on the island shared by French St. Martin and Dutch St. Maarten. The Dutch Red Cross said 90 percent of buildings on St. Maarten were damaged and a third were destroyed by Irma's fierce winds and powerful storm surge.

In the U.S. Virgin Islands, damage was particularly widespread on St. John, an island of stunning natural beauty that is mostly national park surrounded by coral reefs.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 48 of 58

"You could see there was not much left," Larry Brown, a part-time resident, said as he waited in Puerto Rico for a flight back to his home in southwestern Florida to see what damage awaited him there. "It was just horrible."

There was some progress in getting back to normal on St. Thomas. The health department reopened a prenatal clinic and at least one water-pump station was back online. Power was restored to parts of the island, though most residents still remained in the dark and downed power lines posed a hazard. Several U.S. Navy ships were in the islands, ferrying in heavy equipment for a recovery effort led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and its local equivalent.

Mapp said several airlines including American and Delta plan to resume flights Saturday to the St. Thomas airport, which should help bring in additional emergency supplies.

Private aid and donations have been making it to the territory as well. The governor announced that former San Antonio Spurs basketball star Tim Duncan, a native of St. Croix, would arrive in the Virgin Islands on Thursday, accompanied by former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg, with about \$5 million in aid.

Mapp and other officials have denied reports of violence and theft in the immediate aftermath of the storm and said there have been no major crimes. But the governor did say that dozens of National Guard soldiers and police officers were on St. John and noted New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo had agreed to send 100 state troopers and National Guardsmen to relieve and assist local law enforcement personnel.

Mapp praised the response of the U.S. federal government and said President Donald Trump would visit in about a week. He said he was creating a recovery task force to help rebuild the islands and restore their tourism-based economy.

The goal, Mapp said, will be "making sure folks know we're here, we are rebuilding and that we should not be written off as ... a place to vacation."

---

Associated Press writer Ben Fox reported this story from Miami and AP videographer Ian Brown reported in St. Thomas.

---

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

## Sanders would make government health care role even bigger

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an animated, campaign-style rally, Sen. Bernie Sanders unwrapped his plan to remake the nation's convoluted health care system into federally run health insurance Wednesday — a costly proposal embraced by liberal activists hoping to steer the Democratic Party in upcoming elections.

The Vermont independent's plan would hand government a dominant role in insuring Americans, a crucial step, he said, in guaranteeing health care for all. Census Bureau data this week showed the proportion of people lacking policies falling to 8.8 percent last year under "Obamacare," the lowest level ever recorded, but he called it an "international disgrace" that not all Americans have coverage.

Though Sanders' plan is going nowhere in the current GOP-controlled Congress, he drew a big crowd to a packed and electrified Senate hearing room.

Hours earlier, Republican senators unveiled their own last-ditch, long-shot plan to scuttle President Barack Obama's 2010 statute and practically begged the White House to help.

"Pick up the phone" and ask governors to support the repeal effort, said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., aiming his remarks at President Donald Trump. "Tell them this matters to you, that you weren't kidding about repealing and replacing Obamacare, that you actually meant it."

Shortly afterward, Trump issued a statement saying "I sincerely hope" the effort by Graham and three other GOP senators will succeed.

The waning desire of GOP lawmakers to revive their failed effort to scrap Obama's law contrasted with growing, though wary, Democratic support for Sanders' bill. It has attracted 16 co-sponsors, one-third of



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 49 of 58

all Senate Democrats, though most are from safely Democratic states.

"Today we begin the long and difficult struggle to end the international disgrace of the United States, our great nation, being the only major country on Earth not to guarantee health care to all," Sanders declared.

Though his bill has no chance in the current Congress, the issue is enthusiastically backed by large segments of a Democratic Party hoping to capture House control in the 2018 elections. Sanders caucused with Democrats and unexpectedly gave Hillary Clinton a tough run for the party's presidential nomination last year.

The room where Sanders spoke held more than 200 people, including members of unions and progressive groups. Many waved posters and chanted "Medicare for all," the name he has given his 96-page bill, which would gradually expand the health insurance program for the elderly to cover all Americans.

Nine other senators attended and most also spoke, including at least four potential 2020 presidential aspirants who almost seemed to be auditioning. Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., called the health care battle "a fight for our nation to live up to our ideals."

Cries for universal coverage and government-provided, single-payer health care have simmered among Democrats for decades.

The notion was submerged as Obama enacted his overhaul, which boosted federal spending and set coverage requirements but left much of the existing private system in place. About 156 million people get policies at work, about half of all those insured, with most of the rest getting coverage through Medicare or Medicaid or by buying individual plans.

But support among Democrats for Sanders' bill and similar measures by other Democrats, plus polling showing growing public backing, suggests the push for a single-payer system will be a major theme inside the party.

"We will defend it at every turn," Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., another possible presidential hopeful, told the crowd about Obama's law. "But we will go further." Potential candidates Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and Kamala Harris of California also attended the event.

Sanders provided no details about the price tag of his measure or how it would be financed. Aides have said it would likely rely largely on income-adjusted premiums people would pay the government, ranging from zero for the poorest Americans to high levies on the rich and corporations.

People would no longer owe monthly premiums and other out-of-pocket costs like copayments, and companies would not have to offer coverage to workers. Sanders says most people and employers would save money.

The version he introduced during his 2016 presidential run was supposed to cost an enormous \$1.4 trillion annually.

His plan would surpass Obama's law in covering a long list of services, including dental, vision, hospital, doctors and mental health costs. Copayments would be allowed for prescription drugs.

Many Democrats from politically competitive states have shied away from Sanders' plan, aware that Republicans are ready to cast it as a huge tax hike and government-run health care.

"The president as well as the majority of the country knows that the single-payer system that the Democrats are proposing is a horrible idea," said White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders. "I can't think of anything worse than having government being more involved in your health care instead of less involved."

Meanwhile, Graham and three other GOP senators released details of their proposal to erase many of the subsidies and coverage requirements of Obama's law and instead give block grants to states to help individuals pay for coverage.

"If you believe repealing and replacing Obamacare is a good idea, this is your best and only chance to make it happen because everything else has failed," Graham said.

Republicans lost the votes of three of their 52 senators in July on legislation aimed at Obamacare repeal. A special budget procedure that's allowed them to approve the legislation with just 51 votes, instead of the usual 60, expires Sept. 30.

With Democrats all opposed, that gives Republicans barely two weeks to succeed.

AP reporter Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

## Study prompts call to examine flu vaccine and miscarriage

By MIKE STOBBE, AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A puzzling study of U.S. pregnancies found that women who had miscarriages between 2010 and 2012 were more likely to have had back-to-back annual flu shots that included protection against swine flu.

Vaccine experts think the results may reflect the older age and other miscarriage risks for the women, and not the flu shots. Health officials say there is no reason to change the government recommendation that all pregnant women be vaccinated against the flu. They say the flu itself is a much greater danger to women and their fetuses.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reached out to a doctor's group, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, to warn them the study is coming out and help them prepare for a potential wave of worry from expectant moms, CDC officials said.

"I want the CDC and researchers to continue to investigate this," said Dr. Laura Riley, a Boston-based obstetrician who leads a committee on maternal immunization. "But as an advocate for pregnant women, what I hope doesn't happen is that people panic and stop getting vaccinated."

Past studies have found flu vaccines are safe during pregnancy, though there's been little research on impact of flu vaccinations given in the first three months of pregnancy.

This study focused only on miscarriages, which occur in the first 19 weeks of pregnancy and are common. As many as half of pregnancies end in miscarriage, according to a March of Dimes estimate that tries to include instances in which the miscarriage occurs before a woman even realizes she was pregnant.

Flu and its complications kill thousands of Americans every year. The elderly, young children and pregnant women are especially at risk. When a new "swine flu" strain emerged in 2009, it killed 56 U.S. pregnant women that year, according to the CDC.

The study's authors, two of whom are CDC researchers, saw a big difference when they looked at women who had miscarried within 28 days of getting a shot that included protection against swine flu, but it was only when the women also had had a flu shot the previous season.

They found 17 of 485 miscarriages they studied involved women whose vaccinations followed that pattern. Just four of a comparable 485 healthy pregnancies involved women who were vaccinated that way.

The first group also had more women who were at higher risk for miscarriage, like older moms and smokers and those with diabetes. The researchers tried to make statistical adjustments to level out some of those differences but some researchers don't think they completely succeeded.

Other experts said they don't believe a shot made from killed flu virus could trigger an immune system response severe enough to prompt a miscarriage. And the authors said they couldn't rule out the possibility that exposure to swine flu itself was a factor in some miscarriages.

Two other medical journals rejected the article before a third, *Vaccine*, accepted it. Dr. Gregory Poland, *Vaccine's* editor-in-chief, said it was a well-designed study that raised a question that shouldn't be ignored. But he doesn't believe flu shots caused the miscarriages. "Not at all," said Poland, who also is director of vaccine research at the Mayo Clinic.

Though this study may cause worry and confusion, it is evidence "of just how rigorous and principled our vaccine safety monitoring system is," said Jason Schwartz, a Yale University vaccine policy expert.

Some of the same researchers are working on a larger study looking at more recent data to see if a possible link between swine flu vaccine and miscarriage holds up, said James Donahue, a study author from the Wisconsin-based Marshfield Clinic Research Institute. The results aren't expected until next year at the earliest, he said.

This story has been corrected to say that Marshfield Clinic Research Institute is based in Wisconsin.

## Spy museum's newest: ax used on Trotsky, parts of Powers' U2

By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — H. Keith Melton spent 40 years looking for the ice-climbing ax used in the bloody assassination of Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky. It had been sitting under a bed in Mexico City for decades.

Much easier was acquiring a mangled, basketball-size chunk of Gary Powers' U2 spy plane shot down over the Soviet Union in 1960. It was a gift from a Soviet official.

The items are part of the world's largest private collection of spy artifacts. Melton, a wealthy businessman from Boca Raton, Florida, is donating all of it to the International Spy Museum in Washington.

The museum announced Wednesday that more than 5,000 items Melton amassed during four decades of crisscrossing the globe will be the cornerstone of a new, larger facility slated to open next year in the nation's capital.

It is a "magnificent gesture," gushed Peter Earnest, the museum's founding director, crediting Melton's donation with tripling the museum's current holdings of roughly 2,000 items.

There's a victory flag that CIA-backed Cuban exiles never flew after the botched Bay of Pigs invasion in 1960.

There's a 13-foot-long World War II spy submarine known as the "Sleeping Beauty."

And there are escape-and-evasion devices, codes and cipher machines along with the disguises, secret writings, listening devices, clandestine radios, spy cameras and uniforms and clothes of the most famous spooks ever employed by CIA, KGB, FBI and Britain's MI6.

"It took nine people 17 days to pack the collection in an assembly line," Melton told The Associated Press in an interview this month. "I had to breathe deeply several times as I saw all of the gadgets being packed up and leaving."

Melton, a founding member of the museum's board, said professional appraisers estimated his collection at more than \$20 million. He said he's paid "foolish" prices for some items and, at times, acquired things that he later learned were fakes.

"To me, the goal is not to see how many widgets I can get. It's what can I learn. I love research. Every artifact I have is part of a detective search," he said. "You travel into strange places in the world and sometimes pay too much money, but you end up fascinated with the variety of things that you see."

Melton graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1966 and went to Vietnam during the war. He trained as an engineer and considered working in intelligence, before opting for a career in business. He made his money owning and operating McDonald's restaurants. At one time he was the largest McDonald's franchise owner in the country.

Dabbling in the spy world was a hobby — an expensive one — that sort of got out of control.

Melton placed ads around the world seeking spy articles. He was in Germany in 1989 after the Berlin Wall came down and traveled to Moscow in early 1992 after the Soviet Union collapsed. In both instances, he made contacts that helped him find items from the defunct East German ministry for state security and the Soviet KGB.

Among them: a World War II-era electro-mechanical cipher machine with Japanese characters that the Germans produced to share with their Asian ally. The war ended before the Enigma machine, which looks like a special typewriter in a wooden box, could be sent to Japan. A U.S. soldier found a stack of the machines in a boat in France and took one home with him to Long Island, New York.

"He kept it in his closet for 50 years," Melton said.

Another item is a silver dollar concealing what appeared to be a tiny straight pin. It was one of five suicide needles filled with shellfish toxin that U.S. intelligence services made around the 1960s so American spies could kill themselves on an operation gone awry.

A printing plate was used by Nazi intelligence officers to print bogus British currency during the war. They rounded up about 100 people, including master Jewish forgers, in concentration camps and told them if

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 52 of 58

they could produce undetectable British notes, they wouldn't be killed. After being released, the forgers dumped the weighty crates of fake currency, printing plates and presses into a lake in the Austrian Alps as they fled to allied lines.

A nearby innkeeper discovered the bills floating on the surface of the lake in 1952. But it took a mini submarine in the early 1990s to recover the printing plates. Melton got the items from someone involved in the recovery operation.

Melton's biggest coup — the item he looked for the longest — is the ice ax that killed Trotsky at his compound outside Mexico City in 1940. The assassin was Ramon Mercader, a communist and suspected agent of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin who was jailed for years in Mexico.

A man who operated a teaching museum within the Mexican police checked out the ax from a police property room in the 1940s. He then got it in the 1960s as a retirement present.

"He gave it to his daughter and it had been under her bed until 2008," Melton said. "She pulled it out. I made three trips to Mexico City and we were able to prove that it was the right ax."

## Longest serving New Mexico senator leaves bipartisan legacy

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS and MORGAN LEE, Associated Press**

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Pete V. Domenici, the son of Italian immigrants who rose to become a power broker in the U.S. Senate, died Wednesday in New Mexico. The Republican was known for reaching across the partisan divide and his work on the federal budget and energy policy over a career that spanned more than 30 years.

Domenici was surrounded by family when he died at an Albuquerque hospital after suffering a setback following a recent surgery, his family said. He was 85.

The Albuquerque-born Domenici carried a consistent message of fiscal restraint from his first term in 1972 until leaving office in 2009 — regardless of which party was in power. He even refused once to buckle to President Ronald Reagan.

Former Democratic U.S. Sen. Bennett Johnson of Louisiana described Domenici as "the consummate legislator."

"He always knows his subject very, very well," Bennett said previously. "He's strong in his views, but not rigid in his approach to negotiations. He's willing to give in when necessary, but he keeps his eye on the ultimate objective."

New Mexico's longest-serving U.S. senator, Domenici was remembered most for his ability to reach across the aisle and for his unflagging support of the state's military installations and national laboratories.

Domenici announced in October 2007 that he wouldn't seek a seventh term because he had been diagnosed with an incurable brain disorder, frontotemporal lobar degeneration.

"I love the job too much," Domenici said days before leaving the Senate. "I feel like I'd like to have the job tomorrow and the next day."

His decision started a scramble that saw the state's three congressmen give up their seats to run for the Senate. His successor was Democratic Rep. Tom Udall, the son of Stewart Udall, a former Arizona congressman and Interior secretary in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

"While we sat on different sides of the political aisle, I admired Pete's dedication to the well-being of all of New Mexico," Sen. Udall said in a statement.

As chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Domenici oversaw part of the debate on a national energy policy, including decisions about oil and gas drilling, nuclear power and renewable energy.

Former U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman, a New Mexico Democrat, said Wednesday that he was proud to have served with Domenici at a time when there was more willingness to put partisanship aside.

Following a moment of silence Wednesday at the State Capitol in Santa Fe, Republicans and Democrats — from Gov. Susana Martinez to legislative leaders — all said that Domenici was someone who put politics aside for the benefit of the people.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 53 of 58

"He really forever changed the landscape of New Mexico economically, politically, on so many levels," said GOP Rep. Sarah Maestas Barnes of Albuquerque. "In today's somewhat hyperpartisan world, we can really learn a lesson."

Late in his career, Domenici was linked to the ouster of U.S. Attorney David Iglesias, one of nine federal prosecutors fired in a series of politically tinged dismissals in 2006. The Senate Ethics Committee found Domenici created an appearance of impropriety when he called Iglesias to inquire about the timing of corruption indictments. However, no punishment was recommended.

Domenici made headlines again in 2013 when he acknowledged that he had a son out of wedlock in the 1970s. The saga shocked New Mexicans who viewed him as a man of honesty and integrity during his six terms and 36 years in the Senate. That son went on to build an impressive resume himself — Adam Laxalt is now the Nevada attorney general.

In 2004, Domenici co-wrote a book, "A Brighter Tomorrow: Fulfilling the Promise of Nuclear Energy," on the benefits of a nuclear-powered future and how to get there. He long argued that the nation had an irrational fear that held back its ability to benefit from nuclear energy.

He also was dedicated to reining in the federal budget. His knowledge on the subject made him popular with the national press after Democrat Bill Clinton was elected partly on a platform of trimming the bulging deficit.

His independence on budget matters also cost him conservative support. He warned as early as 1983 that the Republican economic recovery would be in jeopardy without effective action against huge budget deficits.

When Reagan summoned him to put off for one more day a budget process that had been delayed for two months, Domenici refused. Saying no to the president, he recalled afterward, was the toughest thing he'd ever done.

Domenici also campaigned for free trade with Mexico and scoffed at misgivings about its impact on U.S. employment.

"Can you imagine an economic superpower afraid to go into free trade with our own neighbor?" he said.

In one of his last speeches as a senator, Domenici acknowledged during a debate over a failed immigration bill that his mother had entered the country illegally as a child. She eventually became a U.S. citizen.

He was born Pietro Vichi Domenici on May 7, 1932, the only son of Cherubino and Alda Domenici, who also had four daughters. He attended an Albuquerque Catholic school and graduated in 1954 from the University of New Mexico. At UNM, he was a pitcher on the baseball team and after graduation signed a contract with the minor league Albuquerque Dukes.

He also taught math in Albuquerque public schools. He received his law degree from Denver University and opened a law office in 1958 — the same year he married Nancy Burk. The couple had two sons and six daughters.

He began his political career in 1966 after his morning coffee buddies persuaded him to run for the Albuquerque City Commission. He ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1970 and then won the 1972 Senate election.

Domenici is survived by his wife; sons Peter, David and Adam; daughters Helen, Paula, Nanette, Nella, Clare and Lisa; and numerous grandchildren.

---

Lee reported from Santa Fe. Associated Press writer Susan Montoya Bryan in Albuquerque contributed to this report.

## Senate rejects bipartisan push for new US war authorization

By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Wednesday rejected a bipartisan push for a new war authorization against the Islamic State and other terrorist groups, electing to let the White House rely on a 16-year-old law passed after the Sept. 11 attacks as the legal basis to send U.S. troops into combat.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 54 of 58

Senators voted 61-36 to scuttle an amendment to the annual defense policy bill by Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., that would have allowed war authorizations, created in the wake of al-Qaida's 9/11 strikes, to lapse after six months. Paul, a leader of the GOP's noninterventionist wing, said Congress would use the time to debate an updated war authority for operations in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and elsewhere before the old ones expired.

Paul criticized his colleagues ahead of the vote, urging them to embrace their war-making responsibility instead of surrendering their power to the White House. He and senators who backed his amendment said former President Barack Obama and President Donald Trump have used the war authorizations from 2001 and 2002 for military operations in countries that Congress never voted to support.

"We are supposed to be a voice that debates and says, 'Should we go to war?' It's part of doing our job," Paul said. "It's about grabbing power back and saying this is a Senate prerogative."

Opponents of Paul's amendment agreed on the need for a new authorization but warned that his plan would backfire.

Voting to rescind existing war authorities without a replacement risks leaving U.S. troops and commanders without the necessary legal authority they need to carry out military operations. Opponents said they worried Congress would not approve a new law in the six-month window.

"You can't replace something with nothing. And we have nothing," said Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island, the top Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

White House legislative director Marc Short said Tuesday that the Trump administration has adequate legal authority to combat terrorist groups and did not support a new war authorization.

Sen. Bob Corker, chairman of the Senate Relations Committee, said he agreed that the White House has proper authority, but said his committee intends to take up legislation for a new war authority soon. He opposed Paul's amendment.

"I agree that we need to take action," said Corker, R-Tenn.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., the Armed Services Committee chairman, voted against Paul's measure because he said it would leave U.S. troops in legal limbo. But McCain, who is working with other senators on a new authorization, said he expects that the vote on the amendment will give "momentum" to their efforts.

To fight IS, the Trump administration, as did the Obama administration, relies on an authorization for the use of military force that was signed into law by President George W. Bush on Sept. 18, 2001.

But the White House's use of an authorization from a decade and half ago is a legal stretch at best, according to critics who long have argued that Congress needs to pass a new one to account for how the dynamics of the battlefield have changed. For example, American troops are today battling an enemy — IS militants — that didn't exist 16 years ago, and are fighting in Syria, a country where the U.S. forces didn't expect to be.

In April, Trump ordered the firing of dozens of Tomahawk missiles at an air base in central Syria, marking the first time the U.S. has directly struck President Bashar Assad's forces during the country's six-year civil war. U.S. troops are supporting a Saudi-led coalition that has been carrying out airstrikes in Yemen since March 2015.

A separate authorization for the war in Iraq approved by Congress in 2002 also remains in force.

The War Powers Resolution, enacted in 1973, requires the president to tell Congress he is sending U.S. troops into combat and prohibits those forces from remaining for more than 90 days unless Congress has approved an authorization for military force.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told lawmakers last month that the 2001 authorization provides sufficient authority to wage war against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. But Tillerson and Mattis also said they were open to an updated authorization provided the measure did not impose tactically unwise restrictions or infringe on the president's constitutional powers as commander in chief.

But Short said the administration was not looking for changes and stood by the 2001 authorization.

---

Contact Richard Lardner on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/rplardner>

## Obama to bring civic leaders to Chicago in October

By **JESSE J. HOLLAND, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Barack Obama announced Wednesday that he plans to invite civic leaders to Chicago next month to exchange ideas and plan ways to solve some of the world's common problems.

The inaugural Obama Foundation leadership summit "will be a place to gather and learn from one another, and then go back to your communities to lead others in the hard work of change," Obama said in a video and email released to supporters.

The former president said he expects the summit, which will be Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, to bring hundreds of leaders from around the world.

The summit will be the beginning of several activities the foundation is planning, Obama said. "In the weeks and months ahead, we'll be kicking off more initiatives and opportunities for people like you to get involved with the Obama Foundation's mission," he said. "That mission is simple: We want to inspire and empower people to change the world."

One of the new projects is an Obama Foundation fellowship "to support and elevate outstanding civic innovators - individuals from around the world who are working with their fellow citizens to tackle big challenges," Obama said in the email. Another project will be "training days," which he said will "teach young people how to put civics into action where they live."

Other projects are in the works, including the merging of Obama's signature My Brother's Keeper Alliance program fully into the Obama Foundation.

"This is only the beginning. Our programs will grow as we continue to listen and learn," said David Simas, the foundation's CEO.

While staying out of the public's eye for much of his post-presidency, Obama has re-emerged in the last few days. He surprised students at a Washington, D.C. high school on Friday, and will attend a fundraiser for the Democratic National Committee on Sept. 27, only the second time he's publicly raised money for his party since leaving the White House.

## FEMA insurance chief: Harvey losses could top \$11 billion

By **MICHAEL BIESECKER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the National Flood Insurance Program said Wednesday early estimates show Hurricane Harvey will result in about \$11 billion in payouts to insured homeowners, mostly in southeast Texas.

That would likely put Harvey as the second costliest storm in the history of the federal insurance program, said Roy E. Wright, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's deputy associate administrator for insurance and mitigation. More than \$16 billion was paid out after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

It is still too soon to estimate losses from Hurricane Irma, Wright said. But he predicted that the storm damage in Florida and other affected states could rival the nearly \$9 billion paid out after Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

Even before the recent back-to-back hurricanes, the federal flood insurance program was about \$25 billion in debt to the U.S. Treasury. Wright said the program currently has enough cash to absorb the initial wave of payments to help homeowners get back on their feet but will need billions more within about a month.

"Congress has never turned their back on a flood insurance holder, and I cannot imagine them looking away now," Wright said. "I am confident there will be no break in the flow of funds."

The Associated Press reported earlier this month that the total number of federal flood insurance policies nationally dropped by about 10 percent over the last 5 years, to about 4.9 million. The drop came after Congress required a premium hike in 2012 and about a half million homeowners elected to drop their coverage.

As a result, scores of homes flooded by Harvey and Irma will not be covered by federal flood insurance.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 56 of 58

Those uninsured homeowners will likely have to seek grants and loans to rebuild. Wright said such federal emergency help should be seen as a life vest, but not the full protection offered by flood insurance.

Wright said that nationally there are about 10 million residential structures, twice the number of properties currently covered, in areas that could potentially flood. That includes many homes that are outside 1-in-100 year flood plains or that don't have federally-backed mortgages requiring flood insurance policies.

Wright said uninsured homeowners around the country should learn from what is happening in Houston and other flood-ravaged parts of the country and seriously weigh whether they should buy a policy.

"Collectively, we need more people covered," Wright said. "We have to get beyond this conversation about what I have to do and what I'm mandated to do, and put folks in an educated position by which they are making a back-pocket economic decision."

Wright said that under current law, FEMA is not allowed to cancel policies covering waterfront or low-lying homes that have been flooded and rebuilt multiple times. In the wake of Harvey and Irma, he said the flood insurance program will likely be refining its policies to allow the owners of such multiple-loss homes to be bought out and moved to higher ground.

Follow Associated Press environmental writer Michael Biesecker at <http://www.Twitter.com/mbieseck>

## Florida nun dons habit, grabs chain saw to help after Irma

MIAMI (AP) — A Florida nun is pitching in on the cleanup efforts following Hurricane Irma by taking a chain saw to downed trees while dressed in her full habit.

Miami-Dade police posted video of Sister Margaret Ann at work on social media taken by an off-duty officer who came across her.

Police say the nun was cutting trees to clear the roadways around Archbishop Coleman Carroll High School near Miami. Sister Margaret Ann is the school's principal, according to its website.

Police say "acts of kindness" like Sister Margaret Ann's remind residents that they're all part of the same community. The department added in its post, "Thank you Sister and all of our neighbors that are working together to get through this!"

## Asian markets lackluster after softer China data

By YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stocks were little changed on Thursday after data showed retail sales and industrial output growth slowed in China.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 was up less than 0.1 percent to 19,873.62 and South Korea's Kospi added 0.1 percent to 2,361.31. China's Shanghai Composite Index lost less than 0.1 percent to 3,382.00 while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 0.3 percent to 27,816.83. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was down 0.3 percent to 5,730.10. Stocks in Southeast Asia were mixed.

CHINA: China's National Bureau of Statistics said the world's second-largest economy saw 6 percent annual growth in its industrial output in August, slower than 6.4 percent growth in July, according to Xinhua News Agency. Retail sales expanded 10.1 percent on year in August, compared with 10.4 percent in July, it said. The data suggested that China's economy continued to cool.

DATA WATCH: Investors are also waiting for the latest updates on the U.S. economy before the Federal Reserve meeting due next week. The U.S. Labor Department is scheduled to release reports on consumer price for August and the number of people who applied for unemployment benefit last week.

WALL STREET: U.S. stock indexes finished with tiny gains Wednesday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index added 0.1 percent to 2,498.37. The Dow Jones industrial average picked up 0.2 percent to 22,158.18. The Nasdaq composite rose 0.1 percent to 6,460.19. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gained 0.2 percent to 1,426.89.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 7 cents to \$49.23 per barrel in New York. The contract rose \$1.07, or 2.2 percent, to close at \$49.30 a barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 57 of 58

15 cents to \$55.01 per barrel in London. It added 89 cents, or 1.6 percent, to finish at \$55.16 a barrel in the previous session.

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 110.47 yen from 110.49 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1879 from \$1.1884.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Sept. 14, the 257th day of 2017. There are 108 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the poem "Defence of Fort McHenry" (later "The Star-Spangled Banner") after witnessing the American flag flying over the Maryland fort following a night of British naval bombardment during the War of 1812.

On this date:

In 1829, the Treaty of Adrianople was signed, ending war between Russia and the Ottoman Empire.

In 1861, the first naval engagement of the Civil War took place as the USS Colorado attacked and sank the Confederate private schooner Judah off Pensacola, Florida.

In 1867, the first volume of "Das Kapital" by Karl Marx was published in Hamburg, Germany.

In 1901, President William McKinley died in Buffalo, New York, of gunshot wounds inflicted by an assassin; Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him.

In 1927, modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan died in Nice (nees), France, when her scarf became entangled in a wheel of the sports car she was riding in.

In 1941, Vermont passed a resolution enabling its servicemen to receive wartime bonuses by declaring the U.S. to be in a state of armed conflict, giving rise to headlines that Vermont had "declared war on Germany."

In 1954, the Soviet Union detonated a 40-kiloton atomic test weapon.

In 1964, Pope Paul VI opened the third session of the Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, also known as "Vatican II." (The session closed two months later.)

In 1975, Pope Paul VI declared Mother Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton the first U.S.-born saint.

In 1982, Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly actress Grace Kelly, died at age 52 of injuries from a car crash the day before; Lebanon's president-elect, Bashir Gemayel (bah-SHEER' jeh-MAY'-el), was killed by a bomb.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, appeared together on radio and television to appeal for a "national crusade" against drug abuse.

In 1991, the government of South Africa, the African National Congress and the Inkatha (in-KAH'-tah) Freedom Party signed a national peace pact.

Ten years ago: Defense Secretary Robert Gates raised the possibility of cutting U.S. troop levels in Iraq to 100,000 by the end of 2008, well beyond the cuts President George W. Bush had approved. In Iraq, some 1,500 mourners called for revenge as they buried the leader of the Sunni revolt against al-Qaida, Abdul-Sattar Abu Risha, who had been assassinated in a bombing claimed by an al-Qaida front.

Five years ago: Fury over an anti-Muslim film ridiculing the Prophet Muhammad spread across the Muslim world, with deadly clashes near Western embassies in Tunisia and Sudan, an American fast-food restaurant set ablaze in Lebanon, and international peacekeepers attacked in the Sinai. A French gossip magazine's publication of topless photos of Prince William's wife, Kate, prompted an immediate (and still pending) lawsuit from the royal couple and statements of outrage from palace officials.

One year ago: Hillary Clinton's campaign released a letter from her doctor saying the Democratic presidential nominee was "recovering well" from pneumonia and remained "fit to serve as President of the United States." President Barack Obama said the U.S. was lifting economic sanctions and restoring trade benefits to former pariah state Myanmar as he met with former political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi (ahng sahn soo chee), the nation's de facto leader. Tyre King, a 13-year-old boy, was fatally shot by Columbus,

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 076 ~ 58 of 58

Ohio, police after authorities said he pulled a BB gun from his pants.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Zoe Caldwell is 84. Feminist author Kate Millett is 83. Actor Walter Koenig (KAY'-nihg) is 81. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown is 77. Singer-actress Joey Heatherton is 73. Actor Sam Neill is 70. Singer Jon "Bowzer" Bauman (Sha Na Na) is 70. Rock musician Ed King is 68. Actor Robert Wisdom is 64. Rock musician Steve Berlin (Los Lobos) is 62. Country singer-songwriter Beth Nielsen Chapman is 61. Actress Mary Crosby is 58. Singer Morten Harket (a-ha) is 58. Country singer John Berry is 58. Actress Melissa Leo is 57. Actress Faith Ford is 53. Actor Jamie Kaler is 53. Actress Michelle Stafford is 52. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev is 52. Rock musician Mike Cooley (Drive-By Truckers) is 51. Actor Dan Cortese is 50. Contemporary Christian singer Mark Hall is 48. Actor-writer-director-producer Tyler Perry is 48. Actor Ben Garant is 47. Rock musician Craig Montoya (Tri Polar) is 47. Actress Kimberly Williams-Paisley is 46. Actor Andrew Lincoln is 44. Rapper Nas is 44. Actor Austin Basis is 41. Country singer Danielle Peck is 39. Pop singer Ayo is 37. Actor Sebastian Sozzi is 35. Actor Adam Lamberg is 33. Singer Alex Clare is 32. Actor Chad Duell (TV: "General Hospital") is 30. Actress Jessica Brown Findlay is 30. Actor-singer Logan Henderson is 28.

Thought for Today: "America has been called a melting pot, but it seems better to call it a mosaic, for in it each nation, people or race which has come to its shores has been privileged to keep its individuality, contributing at the same time its share to the unified pattern of a new nation." — King Baudouin (boh-doo-AHN') I of Belgium (1930-1993).