

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 1 of 42

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Treeline Tree Service Ad
- 2- Chicken Soup of the Day
- 3- Homecoming Coronation and Other photos of the day
- 4- Help Wanted
- 4- Farmers Union PSA
- 6- Pre-School Screening
- 7- Living History Fall Festival
- 8- Today in Weather History
- 9- Today's Forecast
- 10- Yesterday's Weather
- 10- Today's Weather Info
- 10- National Weather Map
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12- News from the Associated Press

Official Notices

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

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

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

© 2017 Groton Daily Independent

19

Homecoming Week

Elementary Dress-up Day: Jersey day (wear your favorite jersey)

High School- "Toga Day"

Senior Menu: Honey glazed chicken breast, parsley buttered potatoes, winter-blend vegetables, ambrosia salad, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast sandwich, fruit, milk and juice.

School Lunch: Hamburger, fries, romaine salad, fruit.

JH Football: at Milbank, 7th grade at 4 p.m., 8th grade at 5 p.m.

Volleyball: at Warner, 7th and C matches at 5:15 p.m.; 8th and JV match at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity match.

United Methodist: Bible Study at 10 a.m.

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

Olive Grove: Bridge Card Tourney, registration at 9 a.m., cards at 10 a.m.

20

Elementary School Dress-up Day: Wild, wacky hair day

MS/HS Dress-up Day: "Hawaiian/Tacky Tourist Day"

Senior Menu: Ham and raisin sauce, sweet potatoes, California blend vegetables, crazy cake, dinner roll.

School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, fruit, yogurt, milk and juice.

School Lunch: Pizza crunchers, corn, broccoli and dip, fruit.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 7 p.m.

Pre-School Screening: GHS Gym.

United Methodist: Coffee fellowship, 9 a.m.; Conde UMW, 10 a.m.; Ad Council, 7:15 p.m.

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

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

Sperry Stump Removal Tyler: 605/216-8431
Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!
TJ: 605/380-7915 **TreeLine Tree Service**

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 2 of 42

Chicken Soup
for the Soul.

“Gratitude turns
what we have into
enough, and
more.”

-Melody Beattie

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 3 of 42



These juniors put on a skit. They are Wyatt Locke, Lucas Hinman and Korbin Blackmun. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



The burning of the "G" was held after the homecoming coronation held Monday evening. (Photo by Grady O'Neill)



Volunteers recognized

Tony Goldade, 10 years; DeLoris Knoll, 15 years and received a pin; and Don Fauwe, 5 years, were recognized by the RSVP of Aberdeen for their years of volunteering. (Photo by Tina Kosel)

Did you miss the homecoming coronation? Watch it at GDILIVE.COM.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 4 of 42



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")**



Logan Olson and Abby Fjeldheim presented the scrolls. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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**

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 5 of 42



The GHS Homecoming Royalty

In back are Alex Stange, Marshall Lane, Jessica Bjerke, Luke Thorson, Gia Gengerke, Seric Shabazz, Hannah Lewandowski and Brandon Keith. In front are Abby Fjeldheim (scroll carrier), Queen Harleigh Stange, King Jackson Oliver and Logan Olson (scroll carrier). (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Nerd Day

Back row: in 12th grade winner is Jenifer Fjelstad, 11th grade winner is Mitchell Koens, 10th grade winner is Kaycie Hawkins, 9th grade winner is Lucas Simon. Front Row: 7th grade winner is Shaylee Peterson, 6th grade winner is Carly Guthmiller, and 8th grade winner is Tatum Wright. (Photo by Tina Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 6 of 42



The cheerleaders put on several performances at the homecoming coronation. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Two queens chosen by Groton Senior Citizens. They are DeLoris Knoll and Elda Stange. (Photo by Tina Kosel)

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.



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 7 of 42

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!*



... 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 • Granary Website: granaryfinearts.org



Today in Weather History

September 19, 1991: Record to near record cold hit central and northeast South Dakota on this day. Temperatures fell into the 20s during the morning bringing a hard freeze to much of the area. Pierre and Mobridge had record lows of 24 degrees while Timber Lake set a record low of 21 degrees. Near record lows of 28 degrees and 22 degrees occurred at Aberdeen and Kennebec, respectively.

1947: A hurricane made landfall near the Chandeleur Islands, LA on this day. Wind gusts of 112 mph and a central pressure of 967 mb were measured at Moisant International Airport. A storm surge of 9.8 feet reached Shell Beach, Lake Borgne. Moisant Airport field was flooded by two ft. of water while Jefferson Parish was flooded to depths of 3.28 ft. New Orleans suffered \$100 million in damages. Total loss of life was 51 people. As a result of this storm, hurricane protection levees were built along the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain to protect Orleans and Jefferson Parishes from future storm surges.

1967 - Hurricane Beulah deluged Brownsville, TX, with 12.19 inches of rain in 24 hours, to establish a record for that location. Hurricane Beulah made landfall on the 20th near the mouth of the Rio Grande River, where a wind gust to 135 mph was reported by a ship in the port. (19th-20th) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Cool autumn-like weather invaded the Central Rockies. Temperatures dipped into the 30s and 40s, with readings in the teens and 20s reported in the higher elevations. Gunnison CO was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 15 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing along a fast moving cold front produced severe weather in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. Eight tornadoes were reported, including five in Indiana. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 74 mph at Wabash IND. Winds associated with the cold front itself gusted to 69 mph at Kenosha WI. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms produced heavy rain in the Middle and Northern Atlantic Coast Region. Cape Hatteras NC was deluged with nearly 3.50 inches of rain in three hours. Syracuse NY reported 1.77 inches of rain, a record for the date, and Chatham NJ reported an all-time record of 3.45 inches in one day. Hurricane Hugo headed for the Bahamas, and Tropical Storm Iris, following close on its heels, strengthened to near hurricane force. (The National Weather Summary)



King Jackson Oliver and Queen Harleigh Stange are pictured outside with the burning of the "G". (Photo by

Julianna Kosel)

Broton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 9 of 42

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
10%	60%					
Breezy. Patchy Fog then Slight Chance T-storms	Severe Thunderstorms and Breezy	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 82 °F	Low: 50 °F	High: 72 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 77 °F

Severe Weather Expected Tuesday

Threat Guidance	Severe T-storm Outlook + Timing
2.0" Hail 70+ mph Wind Tornadoes Possible Flooding Possible	<p style="text-align: center;">~6-7 pm ~9-10 pm</p>
<p>Marginal Isolated Severe Storms Possible</p> <p>Slight Scattered Severe Storms Possible</p> <p>Enhanced Numerous Severe Storms Possible</p> <p>Moderate Widespread Severe Storms Possible</p>	

Forecast Notes: Severe weather may develop quickly, and then move quickly eastward as a line along a strong cold front. Have a safety plan in place in case Warnings are issued for your area!

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD Updated: 9/18/2017 3:50 PM Central

Published on: 09/18/2017 at 4:01PM

We'll be turning back the calendar today, and remind ourselves that Summertime Severe Weather season isn't over quite yet. Very warm and humid air, along with a cold front sweeping across the region later today, will help spark mid afternoon shower and thunderstorm development. Damaging hail and even a tornado threat exists over eastern South Dakota and western MN from mid afternoon through this evening. However, the main threat will be winds gusting over 60 mph. Stay weather aware, especially if you have outdoor activities planned later this afternoon into this evening! Check out your latest forecast for further details, www.weather.gov/abr

Groton Daily Independent

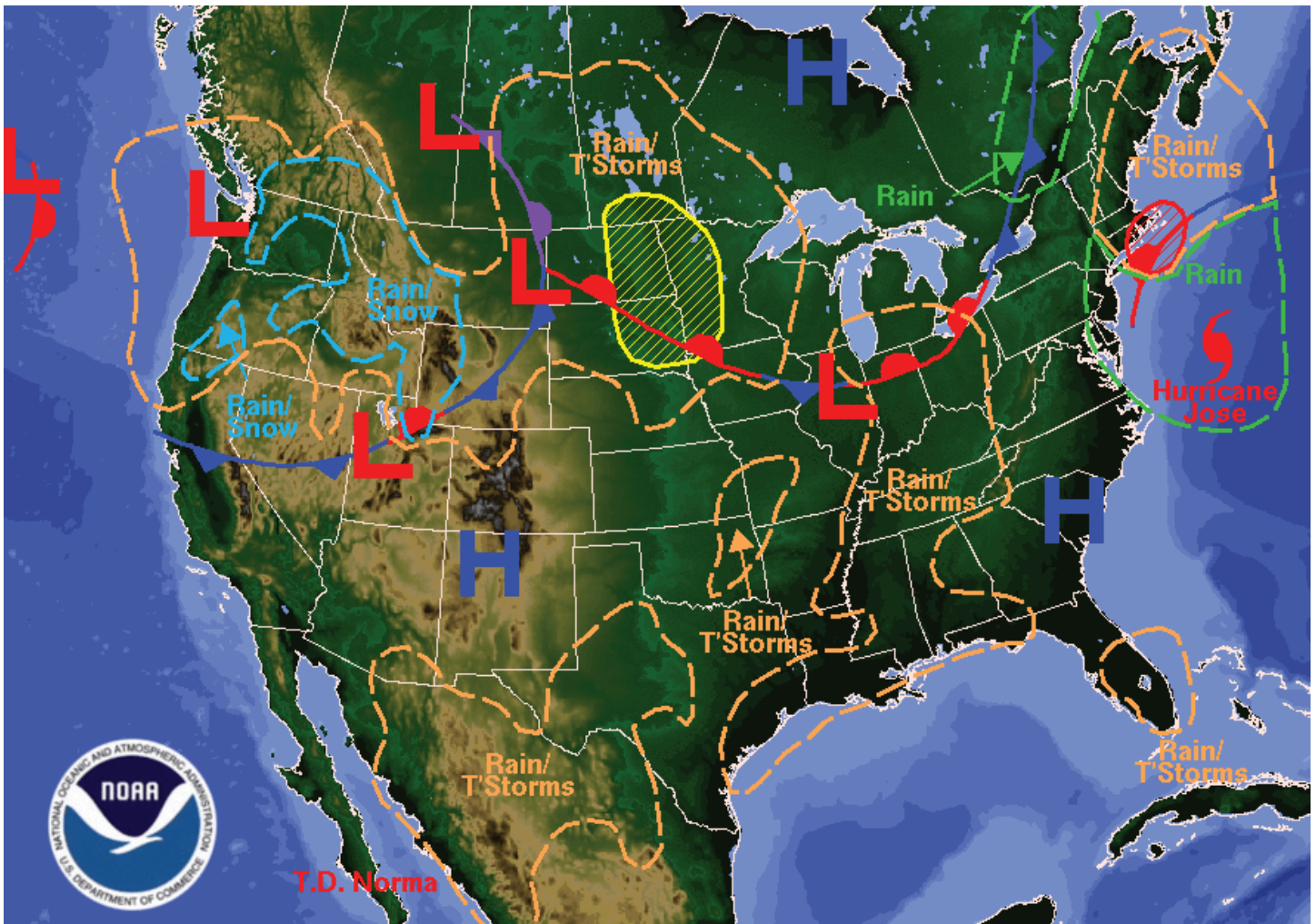
Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 10 of 42

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 79.4 at 5:39 PM
Low Outside Temp: 51.7 at 4:07 AM
High Gust: 17 at 6:07 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 101° in 1895
Record Low: 26° in 1938
Average High: 71°F
Average Low: 44°F
Average Precip in Sept: 1.41
Precip to date in Sept: 0.24
Average Precip to date: 17.70
Precip Year to Date: 9.76
Sunset Tonight: 7:36 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:18 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Sep 19, 2017, issued 5:34 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 11 of 42



HONOR HIM!

Honor gives recognition to the work of someone other than ourselves. It is placing significance, importance or value on what they have done or accomplished. It places them above us in a position that commands respect for what they have done or who they are.

To honor someone requires us, first and foremost, to be humble. We literally bow before them in recognition for what they have done for us or what they have contributed to our lives and to our well-being. What they have done has cost them something. Perhaps they have had to make a sacrifice and the price is more than we can or are able to pay them for what they have done for us.

Honoring someone is not always easy. Pride gets in the way. Self-importance or not wanting to stand aside while others move to the front of the line often complicates things. It is not easy to give credit to someone when I am obligated to them for what they have done. When we honor someone, we make them look good – often at our expense – and that at times is not easy. Who wants to admit their shortcomings or inadequacies?

The Psalmist wrote, "Honor Him for He is your Lord!" Not a very complicated statement. The problem is not understanding the statement that gives so many Christians a problem. It is in applying it. Honoring or bowing down before God is difficult. Pride gets in the way and becomes a problem for many.

Pride is what keeps us from serving Him and loving others as Jesus loved them. Pride is what keeps us from being submissive to Him when we refuse to serve Him in our churches and witness His saving grace to others who are lost and dying.

Prayer: Lord, give us a desire to become humble and honor You. Remove pride from our hearts and replace it with humility. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 45:11 Let the king be enthralled by your beauty; honor him, for he is your lord.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 12 of 42

News from the  Associated Press

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Alcester-Hudson def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-21, 24-26, 25-21, 26-24

Bridgewater-Emery def. Howard, 25-17, 25-17, 27-25

Dupree def. Tiospaye Topa, 25-17, 25-21, 25-8

Ethan def. Mitchell Christian, 25-12, 25-18, 25-23

Great Plains Lutheran def. Castlewood, 25-18, 25-12, 19-25, 25-22

Hamlin def. Estelline, 25-17, 25-8, 25-4

James Valley Christian def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-19, 23-25, 25-17, 25-18

Langford def. Wilmot, 17-25, 27-25, 25-20, 11-25, 15-6

Lead-Deadwood def. Hill City, 21-25, 25-16, 25-14, 25-16

Tea Area def. Parkston, 25-6, 25-22, 25-17

Timber Lake def. Sully Buttes, 24-26, 25-12, 25-22, 25-15

Tri-State, N.D. def. Florence/Henry, 25-22, 25-13, 25-22

Waverly-South Shore def. Britton-Hecla, 25-19, 25-22, 25-16

Winner def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-15, 25-22, 25-13

Alaska to pay \$2.5M to settle claims about food program

By DAN JOLING, Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Alaska will pay \$2.5 million to the federal government to settle allegations of inaccurate reporting in the administration of a federal food assistance program, the U.S. Department of Justice announced Monday.

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services made false claims in its administration of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamps Program, according to the Justice Department.

A consultant who advised Alaska and other states disputes the federal claims about the program that provides financial assistance to low-income families so they can buy nutritious food.

People in the program receive an electronic benefit transfer card, similar to an ATM card, that can be used at participating stores to buy eligible food such as fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products and other items.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture program has provided more than \$71 billion annually since 2010. More than 45 million Americans per month, out of a population of 325.9 million, receive benefits.

Alaska in the last fiscal year issued \$187.8 million in benefits to 129,649 needy residents.

The federal government pays for the program's benefits but states administer them, including the determination of who is eligible. The USDA pays performance bonuses to states that report the lowest error rates and the most improved error rates each year.

States conduct quality control by randomly sampling participating households, reviewing eligibility and the amount of benefits paid and looking for errors. A federal agency reviews a subsample of those households. The results of both reviews are combined to calculate error rates.

Alaska received questionable advice from a consultant in calculating its error rate, Department of Law spokeswoman Cori Mills said in a statement.

"Alaska, like many other states, relied on a contractor, (Julie) Osnes Consulting, who advocated practices that may have led to the inaccurate reporting of food stamp error rates to USDA," the department said in an email response to questions. "USDA awarded bonuses between 2010 and 2014 based on the reported

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 13 of 42

error rates.”

Alaska in late 2009 hired Julie Osnes Consulting LLC, a South Dakota firm. The consultant injected bias into the quality control process for the program, known as SNAP, the Justice Department said.

Osnes’ attorney, Michael Sullivan, disputed that.

“Julie has done a fabulous job with working with states,” Sullivan said. “As the facts will show, in helping them to reach a balanced approach to quality control in the SNAP area, the incredible pressure from the quote-unquote feds has pushed some states into capitulating, and falling like dominoes. We look forward to defending Julie and her company.”

Alaska received performance bonuses for four fiscal years from 2010 through 2013 that should not have been awarded, the Justice Department said.

“Alaska terminated its contract with Osnes Consulting in early 2015 and has reviewed and changed its quality control practices,” Mills said.

State agencies in Virginia and Wisconsin, which also hired Osnes Consulting, reached settlements of about \$7 million each in April with the Justice Department.

Sioux Falls man indicted in death of escaped inmate

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man has been indicted in the death of an escaped South Dakota prison inmate.

A Fall River grand jury indicted 26-year-old Thomas Lucero on first-degree murder, second-degree murder and aggravated assault. Authorities say 32-year-old Moses Dubray was a homicide victim. His body was found in January along state Highway 89 in southwestern South Dakota. Dubray had walked away the day before from his assigned unit in Rapid City.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said Monday Lucero is accused of killing Dubray on or about Jan. 11. Lucero was convicted of first-degree robbery in 2013, was paroled in 2015, then turned himself in to authorities after a warrant was issued on a parole violation. He’s currently in a state prison.

South Dakota officials reconsider hog operation

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Officials of a county in northern South Dakota are reconsidering a planned hog operation that property owners expressed concerns about earlier this year.

The Brown County Planning Commission will discuss two permit applications for a hog operation in the Bath area Tuesday. The commission took no action on the applications in March after residents voiced concern about its proximity to their properties, the Aberdeen American News reported .

“To date, the Brown County Planning Commission has not even heard a presentation or made any motion of any kind on the proposed (concentrated) animal feeding operation for the Tuesday meeting,” said Gary Vetter, commission assistant, in an email Friday.

One application would adjust the setbacks for two new hog barns. The other is to make a special exception for a concentrated animal feeding operation.

Wolff Family Genetics owner Jeff Wolff’s hog operation produces show pigs for sale. He said the operation now has more than 50 animals, including 12 mature sows, three herd boars, 20 gilts and 16 hogs that’ll be marketed as butcher hogs in the next 40 days.

Wolff said neighbors must sign off on the special exception to allow the proposed 133-animal unit to be closer than ordinance setbacks allow. The setback requirement is currently a half-mile, measured building-to-building.

Brown County Planning and Zoning Director Scott Bader said a business and four homes are within the setback. He said the commission requires letters of approval from those neighbors in order to approve Wolff’s request.

The last expansion of a swine facility in the county was at Hutterville Colony near Stratford, where the maximum number of hogs allowed increased by 2,400 to nearly 10,000.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 14 of 42

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

Ex-consultant sues Bosworth legal defense fund

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A consultant is suing former South Dakota U.S. Senate candidate Annette Bosworth, saying he was not paid for work he did for her legal defense fund.

Mitchell Olson says he was hired by Bosworth's legal defense fund in June 2016 and was paid \$4,000 a month from the fund. Olson says he was not paid for work he performed in May, June and July of this year and is owed \$24,000.

Olson filed his lawsuit last Friday in Minnehaha County against Bosworth; her husband, Chad Haber, and the legal defense fund.

Bosworth told the Argus Leader on Monday she has no direct connection with the legal defense fund.

In July, the South Dakota Supreme Court reversed half of Bosworth's convictions stemming from her unsuccessful 2014 GOP primary race.

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

South Dakota Prep Polls

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

Class 11AAA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Sioux Falls Washington;(35);4-0;175;1
2. Sioux Falls O'Gorman;-;3-1;138;2
3. Sioux Falls Roosevelt;-;3-1;105;3
4. Brandon Valley;-;3-1;72;4
5. RC Stevens;-;3-1;34;

Others receiving votes: Watertown 1.<

Class 11AA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Mitchell;(17);3-1;155;2
2. Pierre;(16);3-0;152;3
3. Harrisburg;(2);1-2;101;1
4. Brookings;-;2-2;72;4
5. Douglas;-;2-2;31;NR

Others receiving votes: Huron 13, Yankton 1.<

Class 11A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Madison;(34);4-0;173;1
2. Tea Area;(1);4-0;140;2
3. Dakota Valley;-;4-0;104;3
4. Tri-Valley;-;3-1;49;4
5. Milbank;-;3-1;39;5

Others receiving votes: Dell Rapids 15, St. Thomas More 3, Pine Ridge 1.<

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 15 of 42

Class 11B

Rank-School	FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs
1. Sioux Valley	(24);4-0;159;3
2. Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan	(10);3-1;136;2
3. SF Christian	(1);3-1;105;1
4. Winner	-;3-1;67;4
5. McCook Cent.-Montrose	-;4-0;47;5

Others receiving votes: Canton 4, Stanley County 4, Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 3.<

Class 9AA

Rank-School	FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs
1. Gregory	(34);4-0;174;1
2. Bon Homme	(1);5-0;140;2
3. Hamlin	-;4-0;96;3
4. Miller-Highmore-Harrold	-;3-1;46;4
5. North Border	-;4-0;35;5

Others receiving votes: Irene-Wakonda 19, Arlington/Lake Preston 7, Baltic 5, Webster Area 3.<

Class 9A

Rank-School	FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs
1. Corsica-Stickney	(33);4-0;173;3
2. Warner	-;4-1;95;1
3. Clark-Willow Lake	(1);5-0;92;5
4. Howard	(1);4-1;91;2
5. Canistota Freeman	-;3-1;70;4

Others receiving votes: Avon 2, Britton-Hecla 1, Timber Lake 1.<

Class 9B

Rank-School	FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs
1. Colman-Egan	(26);4-0;160;1
2. Colome	(6);4-0;136;2
3. Sully Buttes	(3);4-0;116;3
4. Castlewood	-;4-0;55;4
5. Harding County	-;5-0;44;5

Others receiving votes: Wall 9, Faulkton Area 5.<

South Dakota Volleyball Polls By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - Here is the South Dakota Media Prep Volleyball Poll for the week of Sept. 18, 2017. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking.<

Class AA

Rank-School	FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs
1. Harrisburg	(15);8-0;87;1
2. Mitchell	(3);11-0;75;2
3. R.C. Stevens	-;13-3;43;5
4. Huron	-;6-4;39;3
5. Aberdeen Central	-;6-3;17;4

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 16 of 42

Others receiving votes: S.F. O’Gorman (8-3) 9.<

Class A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Dakota Valley;(16);10-1;88;1
2. S.F. Christian;(2);9-2;74;2
3. Madison;-;8-2;41;4
4. Miller;-;9-2;37;3
5. Parker;-;11-3;12;RV

Others receiving votes: Lead-Deadwood (10-0)10; West Central (6-3) 8.<

Class B

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Northwestern;(18);16-1;90;1
2. Warner;-;13-1;69;2
3. Hanson;-;11-0;52;4
4. Chester Area;-;10-1;39;3
5. Phillip;-;10-0;13;RV

Others receiving votes: Ethan (11-3) 6; Andes Central-Dakota Christian (12-2) 1.<

2 die in fiery interstate crash in Jones County over weekend

MURDO, S.D. (AP) — Two people died in a fiery weekend crash in Jones County involving a semitrailer and a pickup truck.

The Highway Patrol says a semi eastbound on Interstate 90 went through the median and into the westbound lanes, where it collided with the pickup.

The crash happened midday Sunday, 14 miles west of Murdo. Both the semi’s trailer and the pickup caught fire.

The 64-year-old woman driving the pickup and a 59-year-old male passenger died at the scene. The semi driver wasn’t injured.

None of the people involved were immediately identified.

Aberdeen opens new \$8 million public library

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Aberdeen’s new \$8 million public library is opening.

The American News reports that the 29,400-square-foot K.O. Lee Aberdeen Public Library features separate spaces for youth, adult and children’s books. It also has a genealogy space for historic information, meeting rooms and small group rooms, several computers and The A Place.

The A Place is a special section dedicated to helping newcomers in the city, especially those whose first language isn’t English. It was created with a \$35,000 grant from the Knight Foundation.

Monday was the library’s opening day.

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

Special Olympian gets Garth’s guitar

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A lucky teenager has a special piece of memorabilia from country music star Garth Brooks’ concert in Sioux Falls.

Nineteen-year-old Haylie Weber and her mom were in the sixth row for Brooks’ Saturday show at the Sanford Premier Center. They held up a sign that read “This Special Olympic athlete wants to meet Garth.”

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 17 of 42

KELO-TV reports the sign caught Brooks' attention and toward the end of the show he stopped, signed his guitar and gave it to Haylie. It was an emotional moment for Haylie, her mom and those around them. Haylie says it was a dream come true because she likes to play guitar and sing.

Brooks is back for another round of shows in Sioux Falls next weekend.

Information from: KELO-TV, <http://www.keloland.com>

Woman drives sports car into Mitchell store; no injuries

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — No one was injured when a woman drove her sports car into a Dollar Tree store in Mitchell over the weekend.

Police responded to the scene shortly before 9:30 a.m. Saturday. Officer Paul Wilson tells The Daily Republic that the woman was pulling into a parking space when she stepped on the gas pedal instead of the brake.

She isn't being charged, and her name wasn't released. Both the building and the Mazda MX-5 Miata Club vehicle were damaged.

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

Victims of fatal crashes in Brookings, Day counties ID'd

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The Highway Patrol has identified the victims of recent fatal crashes in Brookings and Day counties.

Thirty-nine-year-old Tyrone King of Brookings died last Tuesday night when the car he was driving collided with a pickup truck at a highway intersection south of Arlington. Authorities say King failed to stop at a stop sign.

King was dead at the scene. Two people in the pickup suffered minor injuries.

The following morning, 27-year-old Sisseton resident Tel Iverson was killed in a rollover crash east of Grenville. He was alone in the vehicle, and died at the scene.

More St. Louis protests expected Tuesday after quiet night

By JIM SALTER and SUMMER BALLENTINE, Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Protesters chanting "free our people" gathered outside the jail in downtown St. Louis for more than two hours to show solidarity with those arrested during demonstrations that turned ugly over the weekend, but there was no new vandalism overnight.

Demonstrators outside the jail late Monday criticized authorities for keeping some of those arrested in jail for nearly 24 hours after they were taken into custody. Police said more than 120 people were arrested during Sunday's protests over the acquittal of a white former police officer in the killing of a black suspect.

Some of those jailed were released Monday evening before organizers announced an end to the demonstration and told people to go home. Organizers said protests will resume Tuesday, but they gave no details.

Monday was the fourth day of protests.

Three days of peaceful protests and three nights of vandalism followed Friday's announcement that a judge found ex-officer Jason Stockley not guilty in the 2011 death of Anthony Lamar Smith.

Smith's mother, Anne Smith, was among those gathered outside the downtown jail Monday.

Hundreds of riot police mobilized downtown late Sunday, arresting more than 80 people at one intersection who police said didn't follow orders to disperse. Earlier, police had responded to reports of property damage and vandalism.

But Sean Porter, 25, of St. Louis, was among those arrested at the intersection. He said they could not follow orders to disperse because police had them blocked in.

"They threw us on the ground, sprayed us, hit us, everything. It's tragic," said Porter, who was released

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 18 of 42

from jail Monday evening. He was charged with failure to disperse.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch said reporter Mike Faulk, who was on the street covering the protests, had an experience similar to the one Porter described.

Police blocked all four sides of the intersection. Faulk heard the police command to move back, but he had nowhere to go, the newspaper reported. Multiple officers knocked Faulk down, he told the Post-Dispatch, and pinned his limbs to the ground. A foot pushed his head into the pavement and he was squirted with pepper spray after he was subdued, he said.

Protesters had marched peacefully through St. Louis' posh Central West End and the trendy Delmar Loop area of nearby University City on Friday and Saturday. Protesters also marched through two shopping malls in a wealthy area of St. Louis County. On Sunday, more than 1,000 people had gathered at police headquarters and then marched without trouble through downtown St. Louis. Silent protesters marched arm-in-arm to city hall during the Monday morning rush hour crush.

But on Sunday night, 100 or so people who remained on the street grew agitated, knocking over planters, breaking shop and hotel windows, and scattering plastic chairs at an outdoor venue as they headed downtown.

They were met with riot police who made the arrests and seized at least five weapons, according to Interim Police Chief Lawrence O'Toole. Later, officers in riot gear gathered alongside a city boulevard chanting "whose street, our street" — a common refrain used by the protesters — after clearing the street of demonstrators and onlookers.

Stockley shot Smith after high-speed chase as officers tried to arrest Smith and his partner in a suspected drug deal. Stockley, 36, testified he felt endangered because he saw Smith holding a silver revolver when Smith backed his car toward the officers and sped away.

Prosecutors said Stockley planted a gun in Smith's car after the shooting. The officer's DNA was on the weapon but Smith's wasn't. Dashcam video from Stockley's cruiser recorded him saying he was "going to kill this (expletive)." Less than a minute later, he shot Smith five times.

Stockley's lawyer dismissed the comment as "human emotions" during a dangerous pursuit. St. Louis Circuit Judge Timothy Wilson, who said prosecutors didn't prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Stockley murdered Smith, said the statement could be ambiguous.

Stockley left the police department and moved to Houston three years ago.

Sign up for the AP's weekly newsletter showcasing our best reporting from the Midwest and Texas: <http://apne.ws/2u1RMfv> .

Hurricane Maria lashes Dominica, now menaces other islands

By **CARLISLE JNO BAPTISTE** and **DANICA COTO**, Associated Press

ROSEAU, Dominica (AP) — Hurricane Maria smashed into Dominica with catastrophic winds, leaving what one official described Tuesday as "widespread devastation" from the monster storm now threatening Caribbean islands already ravaged by Hurricane Irma.

Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skeritt said on his Facebook page while the Category 5 storm was raging over his island nation that he would venture out to see the damage and secure needed help once the all-clear was given. He said his "greatest fear" was that island residents would awake to word of "serious physical injury and possible deaths."

At one point, he lost the roof to his own official residence to fierce winds he also said had torn away the roofs of many others. The initial focus, he said, would be on rescuing trapped people and securing medical aid for the injured. Maria's eye roared over the island late Monday night before the storm briefly dropped to Category 4 strength early Tuesday before resuming its extremely dangerous Category 5 status.

Fierce winds and driving rain lashed mountainous Dominica for hours. A police official on the island, Inspector Pellam Jno Baptiste, said late Monday night that there were no immediate reports of casualties but it was too dangerous for officers to do a full assessment as the storm raged outside.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 19 of 42

"Where we are, we can't move," he said in a brief phone interview late Monday night while hunkered down against the region's second Category 5 hurricane this month.

Maria weakened briefly before dawn Tuesday to a still major Category 4 storm after its rampage over Dominica. But the fluctuation in intensity proved short-lived as a hurricane hunter plane reported the storm had regained its fearsome Category 5 status within hours.

Skerrit earlier had captured the fury of Maria as it made landfall, the eye passing over the island. "The winds are merciless! We shall survive by the grace of God," Skerrit wrote at the start of a series of increasingly harrowing posts on Facebook.

A few minutes later, he messaged he could hear the sound of galvanized steel roofs tearing off houses on the small rugged island.

He then wrote that he thought his home had been damaged. And three words: "Rough! Rough! Rough!"

A half hour later, he said: "My roof is gone. I am at the complete mercy of the hurricane. House is flooding." Seven minutes later he posted that he had been rescued.

Officials in Guadeloupe said the French island near Dominica probably would experience heavy flooding and warned that many communities could be submerged. In nearby Martinique, authorities ordered people to remain indoors and said they should be prepared for power cuts and disruption in the water supply.

Authorities in the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico, which faced the possibility of a direct hit, warned that people in wooden or flimsy homes should find safe shelter before the storm's expected arrival there on Wednesday.

"You have to evacuate. Otherwise, you're going to die," said Hector Pesquera, the island's public safety commissioner. "I don't know how to make this any clearer."

Maria had maximum sustained winds of 160 mph (260 kph) late Monday when it slammed into Dominica before dipping for a time to a Category 4 major storm.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Maria's top sustained winds then returned to 160 mph (260 kph) strength shortly before daybreak Tuesday with the eye of Maria located about 65 miles (100 kilometers) west-southwest of Guadeloupe. The storm was moving west-northwest over the Caribbean at 9 mph (15 kph).

Fluctuations in intensity were expected, and forecasters have warned Maria would likely intensify over the next 24 hours or longer, noting its eye had shrunk to a compact 10 miles across and warning: "Maria is developing the dreaded pinhole eye."

That generally means an extremely strong hurricane will get even mightier, said Brian McNoldy, a hurricane researcher at the University of Miami. He said it just like when a spinning ice skater brings in their arms and rotates faster.

"You just don't see those in weaker hurricanes," he said.

The storm's hurricane-force winds extended out about 35 miles (45 kilometers) and tropical storm-force winds out as far as 125 miles (205 kilometers).

Hurricane warnings were posted for the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guadeloupe, Dominica, St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat. A tropical storm warning was issued for Martinique, Antigua and Barbuda, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, St. Lucia and Anguilla.

Forecasters said storm surge could raise water levels by 6 to 9 feet (1.8 to 2.7 meters) near the storm's center. The storm was predicted to bring 10 to 15 inches (25 to 38 centimeters) of rain across the islands, with more in isolated areas.

The current forecast track would carry it about 22 miles (35 kilometers) south of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands late Tuesday and early Wednesday, territorial Gov. Kenneth Mapp said.

"We are going to have a very, very long night," Mapp said as he urged people in the territory to finish any preparations.

St. Thomas and St. John are still stunned from a direct hit by Hurricane Irma, which did extensive damage and caused four deaths on the two islands.

Barry University said it chartered a private plane to carry students and staff from its St. Croix facility to Florida in preparation for Maria. It said 72 people connected to the Barry's Physician Assistant Program

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 20 of 42

and a few pets were on Monday's evacuation flight.

In neighboring Puerto Rico, nearly 70,000 people were still without power following their earlier brush with Irma and nearly 200 remained in shelters as Maria approached.

Gov. Ricardo Rossello said Puerto Rico had 500 shelters capable of taking in up to 133,000 people in a worst-case scenario. He also said the Federal Emergency Management Agency was ready to bring drinking water and help restore power immediately after the storm, which could hit as a Category 5 hurricane.

"That is catastrophic in every way," said Roberto Garcia with the National Weather Service in San Juan. "People have to act, and they have to act now. They can no longer wait for a miracle."

To the north, Hurricane Jose stirred up dangerous surf and rip currents along the U.S. East Coast, though forecasters said the storm was unlikely to make landfall. Big waves caused by Jose swept five people off a coastal jetty in Rhode Island and they were hospitalized after being rescued.

A tropical storm warning was posted for coastal areas in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and tropical storm watches were up for parts of New York's Long Island and Connecticut. Jose's center was about 365 miles (590 kilometers) south of Nantucket, Massachusetts, early Tuesday and moving north at 9 mph (15 kph). The storm had maximum sustained winds of 75 mph (120 kph).

Associated Press writers Ben Fox in Miami, Seth Borenstein in Washington and Carlisle Jno Baptiste in Roseau Dominica contributed to this report.

Under fire over Rohingya, Suu Kyi defends Myanmar actions

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP) — With a mass exodus of Rohingya Muslims sparking accusations of ethnic cleansing from the United Nations and others, Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi on Tuesday said her country does not fear international scrutiny and invited diplomats to see some areas for themselves.

Though an estimated 421,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh in less than a month as their villages burned and hundreds were killed, Suu Kyi said the "great majority" of Muslims within the conflict zone stayed and that "more than 50 percent of their villages were intact."

The Nobel Peace laureate's global image has been damaged by violence since Rohingya insurgents attacked Myanmar security forces on Aug. 25. Rohingya fled their villages in the military crackdown that followed, and many of their villages have been burned. The government has blamed the Rohingya themselves, but members of the persecuted minority have said soldiers and Buddhist mobs attacked them.

Suu Kyi's first address to the nation since the violence erupted came days after she canceled plans to attend the U.N. General Assembly, a decision widely seen as a response to international criticism.

Suu Kyi said anyone found to have broken the law would be punished. "Human rights violations and all other acts that impair stability and harmony and undermine the rule of law will be addressed in accordance with strict laws and justice," she said.

The Rohingya, who live mainly in northern Rakhine state near the Bangladesh border, have had a long and troubled history in this predominantly Buddhist nation of 60 million.

Though members of the long-persecuted religious minority first arrived in the western state of Rakhine generations ago, most people in Myanmar consider them to have migrated illegally from Bangladesh. Denied citizenship, they are effectively stateless. They cannot travel freely, practice their religion, or work as teachers or doctors, and they have little access to medical care, food or education.

The attacks on Rohingya villages in the last month appear to many to have been a systematic effort to drive them out. U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres has described it as ethnic cleansing.

Satellite imagery released by Human Rights Watch on Tuesday shows massive swaths of scorched landscape and the near total destruction of 214 villages. Also Tuesday, a group that focuses on Rohingya rights said the attacks drove nearly all Rohingya out of one of the three northern Rakhine townships where the ethnic group is concentrated in Myanmar.

The Arakan Project found that almost every tract of villages in Maungdaw township suffered some

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 21 of 42

burning. Most Rohingya villages in Rathedaung township also were targeted, but relatively few were hit in Buthidaung township.

Suu Kyi sought to assure foreign diplomats gathered for her speech in Naypyitaw, the capital, that those who fled to Bangladesh would be allowed to return if they passed a "verification" process. She also said the government was working to restore normalcy in the area.

Though fires have continued to flare in recent days in northern Rakhine state, she said "there have been no armed clashes and there have been no clearance operations" for the past two weeks.

"Nevertheless we are concerned to hear that numbers of Muslims are fleeing across the border to Bangladesh," she said. "We want to understand why this exodus is happening. We would like to talk to those who have fled as well as those who have stayed."

She said she it would be helpful to understand why conflict did not break out everywhere. She invited the diplomats with visit villages that weren't affected so they could learn along with the government "why are they not at each other's throats in these particular areas."

Rohingya now in camps in Bangladesh were angered by the implication that Rohingya who were driven from their villages were themselves responsible, or that some members of the ethnic group are safe.

In the Kutupalong refugee camp, Abdul Hafiz said Rohingya once trusted Suu Kyi more than the military that not only ruled for half a century before, but also held her under house arrest for many years. Now Hafiz calls Suu Kyi a "liar" and says Rohingya are suffering more than ever.

He said Suu Kyi should give international journalists more access to their destroyed villages. If Rohingya are proven wrong that they were attacked, he said, "we will not mind if the world decides to kill us all by pushing us into the sea."

Chris Lewa, founder of the Arakan Project, said the government rules for verifying Rohingya as citizens are too strict, requiring documents dating back decades. "Many people would have lost their documents in the fires, and many children were already unregistered," she said.

Those fires, she added, have destroyed thousands of homes. "So where are they going to go?" I hope not in segregated camps, as in Sittwe," a Rakhine state city where tens of thousands of Rohingya have been confined since another round of ethnic violence five years ago.

Some observers who attended the speech said it was progress for Suu Kyi to invite diplomats to at least some Rohingya villages.

"Today's welcoming of the international community to travel to Rakhine and see for ourselves what the situation is, I think that is a positive statement," said Andrew Kirkwood of the United Nations' Office for Project Services.

W. Patrick Murphy, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Southeast Asia, left the event without commenting.

Russian and Chinese diplomats praised the speech. "The message is quite clear that Myanmar is ready to cooperate with the international community," said the Russian ambassador to Myanmar, Dr. Nikolay Listopadov.

Rights groups were far more critical. Amnesty International regional director James Gomez accused Suu Kyi of "a mix of untruths and victim-blaming."

"There is overwhelming evidence that security forces are engaged in a campaign of ethnic cleansing," Gomez said. "While it was positive to hear Aung San Suu Kyi condemn human rights violations in Rakhine state, she is still silent about the role of the security forces in this."

The exodus continues to grow. The U.N.'s migration agency on Tuesday raised its estimate of the number of refugees in Bangladesh to 421,000, and UNICEF says more than a quarter-million of those are children. Hundreds of thousands more Rohingya were already in Bangladesh from waves of violence years earlier.

Spokesman Joel Millman of the International Organization for Migration says an estimated 20,000 people are flowing across Myanmar's border into Bangladesh every day.

AP writers Robin McDowell in Yangon, Myanmar, and Julhas Alam in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, contributed to this report.

Republican governors get into the 'news' business

By BILL BARROW, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Republican governors are getting into the "news" business.

The Republican Governors Association has quietly launched an online publication that looks like a media outlet and is branded as such on social media. The Free Telegraph blares headlines about the virtues of GOP governors, while framing Democrats negatively. It asks readers to sign up for breaking news alerts. It launched in the summer bearing no acknowledgement that it was a product of an official party committee whose sole purpose is to get more Republicans elected.

Only after The Associated Press inquired about the site last week was a disclosure added to The Free Telegraph's pages identifying the publication's partisan source.

The governors association describes the website as routine political communication. Critics, including some Republicans, say it pushes the limits of honest campaign tactics in an era of increasingly partisan media and a proliferation of "fake news" sites, including those whose material became part of an apparent Russian propaganda effort during the 2016 presidential campaign.

"It's propaganda for sure, even if they have objective standards and all the reporting is 100 percent accurate," said Republican communications veteran Rick Tyler, whose resume includes Ted Cruz's 2016 presidential campaign.

The website was registered July 7 through Domains By Proxy, a company that allows the originators of a website to shield their identities. An AP search did not find any corporate, Federal Election Commission or IRS filings establishing The Free Telegraph as an independent entity.

As of early Monday afternoon, The Free Telegraph's Twitter account and Facebook page still had no obvious identifiers tying the site to RGA. The site described itself on Twitter as "bringing you the political news that matters outside of Washington." The Facebook account labeled The Free Telegraph a "Media/News Company." That's a contrast to the RGA's Facebook page, which is clearly disclosed as belonging to a "Political Organization," as is the account of its counterpart, the Democratic Governors Association.

RGA Chairman Scott Walker, governor of Wisconsin, deferred questions through a spokesman to the group's national staff. At RGA, spokesman Jon Thompson said the site is "just another outlet to share those positive results" of the GOP's 34 Republican governors.

It's not unprecedented for politicians to try their hand at news distribution. President Donald Trump's daughter-in-law, Lara Trump, hosted "real news" video segments in the summer, posted to the president's Facebook page. In one typical segment she told viewers she wanted to highlight "all the accomplishments the president had this week because there's so much fake news out there."

Vice President Mike Pence, when he was Indiana governor, pitched the idea of a news agency run by state government, but he ditched the idea in 2015 after criticism. In both cases, however, Lara Trump and Pence were not aiming to hide the source of the content.

But the RGA site has Democrats, media analysts and even some Republicans crying foul.

Democrats say Republicans are laying the groundwork with headlines that will appear in future digital and television ads, while also providing individual voters with fodder to distribute across social media.

"They're just seeding the ground," said Angelo Carusone, who runs Media Matters, a liberal watchdog group. "They are repackaging their opposition research so it's there as 'news,' and at any moment that publication could become the defining moment of the narrative" in some state's campaign for governor.

Political communications expert Kathleen Hall Jamieson, a University of Pennsylvania professor who has studied political advertising for four decades, said The Free Telegraph commits a form of "identity theft" by "appropriating the integrity of news" because "the form of news carries credibility" that blatantly partisan sites do not.

Jamieson was particularly critical of RGA's initial failure to disclose its involvement. "What we know about audiences is they factor in the source of information when judging that information," she said. "If you are denying the reader, the listener or the viewer information you know the reader uses, the question is why do you feel the need to do this?"

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 23 of 42

A recent RGA fundraising email said the site was “fact-checking the liberal media” and is a counter to “decades of demonizing Republicans.” Playing off President Donald Trump’s dismissal of “fake news,” the email said media “can say whatever they like about us — whether it’s true or not.”

Some of The Free Telegraph’s content plays off of material from traditional media organizations and from right-leaning outlets such as The Daily Caller. RGA press releases are linked. Some headlines and photos are exact duplicates of RGA press releases.

In the days after Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas and Louisiana, the site included headlines praising Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican, for his response. There were no such headlines for Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards, a Democrat.

The content is far tamer than from some sites from that popped up during the 2016 presidential campaign to propagate sensational but baseless stories. But it does create a cache of headlines that could turn up in campaigns.

The first test is in this fall’s Virginia governor’s race pitting Democratic nominee Ralph Northam against Republican Ed Gillespie. Virginians already have seen another site, The Republican Standard, that is run by Virginia Republican operatives with ties to Gillespie, a former state and national party chairman, and to a firm that has been paid by the RGA. The Free Telegraph and its social media accounts frequently link The Republican Standard.

Northam campaign spokesman David Turner accused Gillespie and Republicans of “creating their own Pravda,” a nod to the official newspaper of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

The Gillespie campaign declined comment, referring questions back to the RGA.

Associated Press reporter Scott Bauer in Madison, Wisconsin contributed to this report.

ON THE WEB:

The Free Telegraph, with the RGA’s identifier: <https://freetelegraph.com>

The Free Telegraph, an archived page without the RGA label: <http://web.archive.org/web/20170830121418/https://freetelegraph.com/>

Follow Barrow and Bauer on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP> and <https://twitter.com/sbauerAP>.

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. HURRICANE MARIA PUMMELS DOMINICA

The small island is lashed with catastrophic Category 5 winds as the storm begins a charge into the hurricane-devastated eastern Caribbean with Puerto Rico in its sights.

2. WHAT ARE HOT-BUTTON ISSUES AT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The nuclear threat in North Korea, the plight of Myanmar’s minority Muslims, the spread of terrorism and the impact of climate change will dominate discussions.

3. WHAT SUU KYI IS SAYING ABOUT ROHINGYA MUSLIMS’ PLIGHT

Myanmar’s leader defends her country, insists they do not fear international scrutiny and invites diplomats to see some areas for themselves; refugees say she is a “liar.”

4. ‘FREE OUR PEOPLE’

People protesting the acquittal of a white former police officer in the killing of a black suspect chant outside the jail in St. Louis to show solidarity with those who remain behind bars.

5. WHERE DISPLACED HAITIANS ARE THRIVING

In Tijuana, Mexico, they are opening restaurants, filling factory jobs and having an outsize economic and cultural impact.

6. GEORGIA TECH CAMPUS SCENE OF UNREST

Three people are arrested during a protest after a vigil for a student who was fatally shot by university police.

7. TOYS R US FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION

The pioneering big box toy retailer files for Chapter 11 reorganization while continuing with normal business operations.

8. FACEBOOK MAY BE FACING AN 'ERA OF ACCOUNTABILITY'

The world's biggest social network is facing questions from lawmakers and others seeking to rein in its enormous power and demand more transparency.

9. WHO IS MOST DANGEROUS CELEB ON THE WEB

Cybersecurity firm McAfee says one-time pop-punk princess Avril Lavigne is the most likely celebrity to land users on websites that carry viruses or malware.

10. MATTHEW STAFFORD KEEPS LIONS ROLLING

The NFL's highest paid player scrambles to frustrate the New York Giants' defense and throws two third-down touchdown passes in Detroit's 24-10 victory.

Rohingya Muslims being wiped off Myanmar's map

By **ROBIN McDOWELL, Associated Press**

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — For generations, Rohingya Muslims have called Myanmar home. Now, in what appears to be a systematic purge, the minority ethnic group is, quite literally, being wiped off the map.

After a series of attacks by Muslim militants last month, security forces and allied mobs retaliated by burning down thousands of Rohingya homes in the predominantly Buddhist nation.

More than 500,000 people — roughly half their population — have fled to neighboring Bangladesh in the past year, most of them in the last three weeks.

And they are still leaving, piling into wooden boats that take them to sprawling, monsoon-drenched refugee camps in Bangladesh. Their plight has been decried as ethnic cleansing by U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres. And despite assurances Tuesday by Myanmar's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, few believe they will ever be welcomed back.

"This is the worst crisis in Rohingya history," said Chris Lewa, founder of the Arakan Project, which works to improve conditions for the ethnic minority, citing the monumental size and speed of the exodus. "Security forces have been burning villages one by one, in a very systematic way. And it's still ongoing."

Using a network of monitors, Lewa and her agency are meticulously documenting tracts of villages that have been partially or completely burned down in three townships in northern Rakhine state, where the vast majority of Myanmar's 1.1 million Rohingya once lived. It's a painstaking task because there are hundreds of them, and information is almost impossible to verify because the army has blocked access to the area. Satellite imagery released by Human Rights Watch on Tuesday shows massive swaths of scorched landscape and the near total destruction of 214 villages.

The Arakan Project has found that almost every tract of villages in Maungdaw township suffered some burning, and that all of Maungdaw has been almost completely abandoned by Rohingya.

Of the 21 Rohingya villages in Rathedaung, to the north, only five were not targeted. Three camps for Rohingya who were displaced in communal riots five years ago also were torched.

Buthidaung, to the east, so far has been largely spared. It is the only township where security operations appear limited to areas where the attacks by Rohingya militants, which triggered the ongoing crackdown, occurred.

The Rohingya have had a long and troubled history in Myanmar, where many in the country's 60 million people look on them with disdain.

Though members of the ethnic minority first arrived generations ago, Rohingya were stripped of their citizenship in 1982, denying them almost all rights and rendering them stateless. They cannot travel freely, practice their religion, or work as teachers or doctors, and they have little access to medical care, food or education.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 25 of 42

The U.N. has labeled the Rohingya one of the world's most persecuted religious minorities. Still, if it weren't for their safety, many would rather live in Myanmar than be forced to another country that doesn't want them.

"Now we can't even buy plastic to make a shelter," said 32-year-old Kefayet Ullah of the camp in Bangladesh where he and his family are struggling to get from one day to the next.

In Rakhine, they had land for farming and a small shop. Now they have nothing.

"Our heart is crying for our home," he said, tears streaming down his face. "Even the father of my grandfather was born in Myanmar."

This is not the first time the Rohingya have fled en masse.

Hundreds of thousands left in 1978 and again in the early 1990s, fleeing military and government oppression, though policies were later put in place that allowed many to return. Communal violence in 2012, as the country was transitioning from a half-century of dictatorship to democracy, sent another 100,000 fleeing by boat. Some 120,000 remain trapped in camps under apartheid-like conditions outside Rakhine's capital, Sittwe.

But no exodus has been as massive and swift as the one taking place now.

The military crackdown came in retaliation for a series of coordinated attacks by Rohingya militants led by Attaullah Abu Ammar Jununi, who was born in Pakistan and raised in Saudi Arabia.

Last October, the militants struck police posts, killing several officers and triggering a brutal military response that sent 87,000 Rohingya fleeing. Then on Aug. 25, a day after a state-appointed commission of inquiry headed by former U.N. chief Kofi Annan released a report about the earlier bloodshed, the militants struck again.

They attacked more than 30 police and army posts, causing casualties.

It was the excuse security forces wanted. They hit back and hard. Together with Buddhist mobs, they burned down villages, killed, looted and raped.

That sent a staggering 412,000 fleeing as of late Monday, according to U.N. estimates.

"The military crackdown resembles a cynical ploy to forcibly transfer large numbers of people without possibility of return," Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights, said earlier this month in Geneva, calling it a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing."

It could be months before the extent of the devastation is clear because the army has blocked access to the affected areas. Yanghee Lee, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar, said at least 1,000 civilians were killed. The government claims more than 400 died, the vast majority Rohingya militants. They put the number of civilians killed at 30.

Whether it's the end game for the Rohingya in Myanmar remains to be seen, said Richard Horsey, a political analyst in Yangon. It depends in part on whether arrangements will be made by Bangladesh and Myanmar for their eventual return and the extent of the destruction.

"We are still waiting for a full picture of how many villages are depopulated versus how many were destroyed," he said.

Associated Press writer Muneeza Naqvi contributed to this report from Bangladesh.

Toys 'R' Us files for bankruptcy but keeps stores open

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO and BILL CORMIER, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Toys 'R' Us, the big box toy retailer struggling with \$5 billion in debt and intense online competition, has filed for bankruptcy protection ahead of the key holiday shopping season — and says its stores will remain open for business as usual.

The company based in Wayne, New Jersey, said late Monday that it was voluntarily seeking relief through the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia in Richmond — and that its Canadian subsidiary would be seeking similar protection through a Canadian court in Ontario as it seeks to reorganize.

Toys 'R' Us said court-supervised proceedings will help restructure its debts and set the stage for long-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 26 of 42

term growth. Its announcement said separate operations outside the U.S. and Canada are not part of the filings. And it emphasized that its stores worldwide will remain open and that it will continue to work with suppliers and sell merchandise.

"The company's approximately 1,600 Toys 'R' Us and Babies 'R' Us stores around the world — the vast majority of which are profitable — are continuing to operate as usual," the company statement said. "Customers can also continue to shop for the toy and baby products they are looking for online."

Dave Brandon, company chairman and CEO, said that the court filing provides a path for the company and its investors to work with its debtholders and other creditors to work on restructuring the debt be-leaguering the pioneering toy retailer.

"Together with our investors our objective is to work with our debtholders and other creditors to re-structure the \$5 billion of long-term debt on our balance sheet, which will provide us with greater financial flexibility to invest in our business ... and strengthen our competitive position in an increasingly challenging and rapidly changing retail marketplace worldwide," he said in the announcement.

The move comes at a critical time ahead of the peak holiday shopping season that is crucial to retailers' bottom lines. Brandon expressed confidence in the looming reorganization, vowing that the iconic Toys 'R' Us and Babies 'R' Us brands known to shoppers for generations would continue on.

Toys 'R' Us, a major force in toy retailing in the 1980s and early 1990s, started losing shoppers to discounters like Walmart and Target and then to Amazon. The company has struggled with debt since private-equity firms Bain Capital, KKR & Co. and Vornado Realty Trust took it private in a \$6.6 billion leveraged buyout in 2005. The plan had been to take the company public, but that never happened because of its weak financial performance.

With such debt levels, Toys 'R' Us has not had the financial flexibility to invest in its business. Analysts say Toys 'R' Us hasn't been aggressive about building its online business, and has let those sales migrate to rivals. And they say the company should have also thought of new ways to attract more customers in its stores, such as hosting birthday parties.

A Toys 'R' Us bankruptcy filing would join a list of those from other major retailers since the beginning of the year — including shoe chain Payless Shoe Source, children's clothing chain Gymboree Corp. and the True Religion jean brand — as people shop less in stores and more online.

While toy sales overall have held up fairly well, they are shifting toward discounters and online companies. U.S. toy sales rose 6 percent last year on top of a 7 percent increase in the prior year, says NPD Group Inc., a market research firm. That was the biggest increase since 1999 and was fueled by several blockbuster movies.

But for the first half of 2017, sales rose 3 percent. That puts more pressure on the later part of the year, when most toy sales occur, for the industry to meet NPD's estimate for a 4.5 percent annual increase. Lego is laying off 1,400 workers after saying profits and sales dropped in the first half. And the nation's two largest toy makers, Mattel and Hasbro, reported disappointing second-quarter results.

In a separate statement late Monday, the company said its online sales sites worldwide remain open for business during the court-supervised process. It added that the company's operations outside of the U.S. and Canada, including operations in Europe and Australia as well as some 255 licensed stores and joint venture partnership in Asia — all separate entities — were not part of the Chapter 11 filing or the parallel Canadian move.

The company has nearly 65,000 employees worldwide and bills itself as a leading global retailer of toy and baby products. Merchandise is sold through 885 Toys 'R' Us and Babies 'R' Us stores in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Guam, and in more than 810 international stores and over 255 licensed stores in 38 countries and jurisdictions.

— Cormier reported from Atlanta.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 27 of 42

Trump and Macron take spotlight at UN but challenges are key

By EDITH M. LEDERER, Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump and French leader Emmanuel Macron are expected to take the spotlight at the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations — but it's the tough global challenges from the nuclear threat in North Korea and the plight of Myanmar's minority Muslims to the spread of terrorism and the impact of climate change that will dominate discussions.

The six-day meeting opens Tuesday morning with a state-of-the-world speech by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. He is making his debut at the General Assembly ministerial session along with the American and French leaders.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian set a somber tone for the meeting, telling reporters Monday that dissension and conflict are at their highest levels since the Cold War and that cooperation among nations has become more difficult in a world that is more interdependent than ever.

What is worse, Le Drian said, is that some countries are increasingly questioning the role of working together, "and with a temptation of withdrawal out of fear or selfishness." He gave no examples but appeared to be pointing to growing nationalism in the United States and some European countries.

Many world leaders, concerned about America's priorities and role in the world, will get their first chance to hear and meet Trump. He is scheduled to speak after Guterres and Brazil's president, who for more than 35 years has been the first leader to address the 193-member General Assembly.

Brazilian President Michel Temer, charged last week with obstruction of justice and leading a criminal organization, flew to New York on Monday to continue the tradition, according to his office.

Other key speakers on Tuesday are Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, whose country has been accused by a group of Arab nations including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates of supporting terrorist groups — an allegation Qatar denies. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are also scheduled to address the assembly.

Guterres has called North Korea "the most dangerous crisis that we face today," and while Trump and Macron will grab headlines it's the next steps in dealing with Pyongyang leader Kim Jong Un's relentless pursuit of nuclear weapons that will be watched most closely.

Not far behind on the list of issues needing urgent international attention is the plight of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims, victims of what Guterres calls a campaign of "ethnic cleansing" that has driven nearly 400,000 to flee into Bangladesh over the past three weeks.

The secretary-general said a third major challenge is climate change.

On Monday night, the eve of the ministerial meeting, the second Category 5 hurricane in a month hit the Caribbean, with the small island of Dominica the first landfall for Hurricane Maria. Earlier in the day, Guterres and top government officials from several countries devastated by the other Category 5 storm, Hurricane Irma, addressed a hastily called U.N. meeting and appealed for help to rebuild following that storm's destruction.

Guterres called this year's hurricane season "the most violent on record" and warned that extreme weather linked to climate change is having an impact all over the world, "including floods in southern Asia and landslides and droughts in Africa."

AP Exclusive: Evidence of spills at toxic site during floods

By MICHAEL BIESECKER and FRANK BAJAK, Associated Press

PASADENA, Texas (AP) — The U.S. government received reports of three spills at one of Houston's dirtiest Superfund toxic waste sites in the days after the drenching rains from Hurricane Harvey finally stopped. Aerial photos reviewed by The Associated Press show dark-colored water surrounding the site as the floods receded, flowing through Vince Bayou and into the city's ship channel.

The reported spills, which have been not publicly detailed, occurred at U.S. Oil Recovery, a former petroleum industry waste processing plant contaminated with a dangerous brew of cancer-causing chemicals. On Aug. 29, the day Harvey's remnants cleared out, a county pollution control team sent photos to the

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 28 of 42

Environmental Protection Agency of three large concrete tanks flooded with water. That led PRP Group, the company overseeing the ongoing cleanup, to call a federal emergency hotline to report a spill affecting nearby Vince Bayou.

Over the next several days, the company reported two more spills of potentially contaminated storm water from U.S. Oil Recovery, according to reports and call logs obtained by the AP from the U.S. Coast Guard, which operates the National Response Center hotline. The EPA requires that spills of oil or hazardous substances in quantities that may be harmful to public health or the environment be immediately reported to the 24-hour hotline when public waterways are threatened.

The EPA has not publicly acknowledged the three spills that PRP Group reported to the Coast Guard. The agency said an on-scene coordinator was at the site last Wednesday and found no evidence that material had washed off the site. The EPA says it is still assessing the scene.

The AP reported in the days after Harvey that at least seven Superfund sites in and around Houston were underwater during the record-shattering storm. Journalists surveyed the sites by boat, vehicle and on foot. U.S. Oil Recovery was not one of the sites visited by AP. EPA said at the time that its personnel had been unable to reach the sites, though they surveyed the locations using aerial photos.

Following AP's report, EPA has been highlighting the federal agency's response to the flooding at Superfund sites. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt reiterated that safeguarding the intensely-polluted sites is among his top priorities during a visit Friday to the San Jacinto River Waste Pits, one of the sites AP reported about two weeks ago.

Pruitt then boarded a Coast Guard aircraft for an aerial tour of other nearby Superfund sites flooded by Harvey, including U.S. Oil Recovery.

Photos taken Aug. 31 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration show dark-colored water surrounding the site two days after the first spill was reported to the government hotline. While the photos do not prove contaminated materials leaked from U.S. Oil Recovery, they do show that as the murky floodwaters receded, they flowed through Vince Bayou and emptied into the ship channel leading to the San Jacinto River. The hotline caller identified Vince Bayou as the waterway affected by a spill of unknown material in unknown amounts.

Thomas Voltaggio, a retired EPA official who oversaw Superfund cleanups and emergency responses for more than two decades, reviewed the aerial photos, hotline reports and other documents obtained by AP.

"It is intuitively obvious that the rains and floods of the magnitude that occurred during Hurricane Harvey would have resulted in some level of contamination having been released to the environment," said Voltaggio, who is now a private consultant. "Any contamination in those tanks would likely have entered Vince Bayou and potentially the Houston Ship Channel."

He said the amount of contaminants spread from the site during the storm will likely never be known, making the environmental impact difficult to measure. The Houston Ship Channel was already a polluted waterway, with Texas state health officials warning that women of childbearing age and children should not eat fish or crabs caught there because of contamination from dioxins and PCBs.

PRP Group, the corporation formed to oversee the cleanup at U.S. Oil Recovery, said it reported the spills as legally required but said subsequent testing of storm water remaining in the affected tanks showed it met federal drinking water standards. The company declined to provide AP copies of those lab reports or a list of specific chemicals for which it tested, saying the EPA was expected to release that information soon.

U.S. Oil Recovery was shut down in 2010 after regulators determined operations there posed an environmental threat to Vince Bayou, which flows through the property in Pasadena. Pollution at the former hazardous waste treatment plant is so bad that Texas prosecutors charged the company's owner, Klaus Genssler, with five criminal felonies. The German native fled the United States and is considered a fugitive. Genssler did not respond to efforts to contact him last week through his social media accounts or an email account linked to his website address.

More than 100 companies that sent hazardous materials and oily waste to U.S. Oil Recovery for processing are now paying for the multimillion-dollar cleanup there through a court-monitored settlement, including Baker Hughes Oilfield Operations Inc., U.S. Steel Corp. and Dow Chemical Co.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 29 of 42

Past sampling of materials at the site revealed high concentrations of hazardous chemicals linked to cancer, such as benzene, ethylbenzene and trichloroethylene. The site also potentially contains toxic heavy metals, including mercury and arsenic.

A 2012 EPA study of the more than 500 Superfund sites across the United States located in flood zones specifically noted the risk that floodwaters might carry away and spread toxic materials over a wider area.

Over the past six years, remediation efforts at U.S. Oil Recovery have focused on the northern half of the site, including demolishing contaminated structures, removing an estimated 500 tons of sludge and hauling away more than 1,000 abandoned containers of waste.

PRP Group said the southern portion of the site, including the three waste tanks that flooded during Harvey, has not yet been fully cleaned. Over the years workers have removed more than 1.5 million gallons of liquid waste — enough to fill nearly three Olympic-sized swimming pools.

AP began asking the EPA whether contaminated material might have again leaked from U.S. Oil Recovery last week, after reviewing the aerial photos taken Aug. 31. The EPA said it visited the site on Sept. 4, nearly a week after site operators reported an initial spill, and again the following week. The EPA said that its staff saw no evidence that toxins had washed away from the scene during either visit.

“Yesterday, an EPA On-scene coordinator conducted an inspection of Vince Bayou to follow up on a rumor that material was offsite and did not find any evidence of a black oily discharge or material from the U.S. Oil Recovery site,” an EPA media release said on Thursday.

PRP Group said the spills occurred at the toxic waste site on Aug. 29, Sept. 6 and Sept. 7. One of the EPA’s media releases on Sept. 9, more than 11 days after the first call was made to the hotline, made reference to overflowing water at the scene, but did not describe it as a spill.

The company said it reported the first spill after Harvey’s floodwaters swamped the three tanks, filling them. The resulting pressure that built up in the tanks dislodged plugs blocking a series of interconnecting pipes, causing the second and third spills reported to the hotline the following week.

The company does not know how much material leaked from the tanks, soaking into the soil or flowing into nearby Vince Bayou. As part of its post-storm cleanup workers have vacuumed 63 truckloads holding about 315,000 gallons from the tanks.

The Superfund site is located just a few hundred yards from the Pollution Control Services offices for Harris County, which includes Houston. Its director, Bob Allen, says his team took pictures of the flooding on Aug. 29, when the area that includes the three big tanks was still underwater. The AP requested those photos as public records, but they have not yet been released.

Allen said his staff did not note any black water or oily sheen on the surface at the time, and did not collect water samples for testing. He said the EPA later sampled the area to determine whether there was contamination.

“We knew that the water probably got into the plant, probably washed out some of the stuff that was in the clarifier,” Allen said, referring to one of the old concrete tanks once used to store toxic waste. “Once they get done with the assessment of that site and the other Superfund Harris County sites, then they’ll probably let us know, let the public know, what’s been going on.”

Biesecker reported from Washington. Associated Press reporters Reese Dunklin in Dallas and Jeff Horwitz in Washington contributed to this reporting.

Follow Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck> and Bajak at <https://twitter.com/fbajak>

Submit a confidential tip to The Associated Press at <https://www.ap.org.tips>

Trump, the 'America First' president, goes to the UN

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Elected on the nationalist slogan "America first," President Donald Trump will use his debut address to the U.N. General Assembly to argue that individual nations should act in their own self-interest, yet rally together when faced with a common threat such as North Korea.

Trump, who has warned of "fire and fury" if North Korea does not back down, was expected to argue Tuesday that the dangers posed by Kim Jung Un's pursuit of a nuclear weapons program should unite all nations. And he planned to issue not just warnings to North Korea but also rebukes to states that have enabled Pyongyang, though it was unclear if he would criticize China by name.

Addressing the General Assembly is a milestone moment for any president, but one particularly significant for Trump, a relative newcomer to foreign policy who has at times rattled the international community with his unpredictability. He has pulled the United States out of multinational agreements, considered shrinking the U.S. military footprint in the world and deployed bombastic language on North Korea that has been criticized by other world leaders.

Trump frequently belittled the U.N. as a candidate and some within his White House believe the U.N. acts as a global bureaucracy that infringes on the sovereignty of individual countries. But the president was expected to stand before world leaders and a global audience and declare that U.N. members, acting as a collection of self-interested nations, should unite to confront global dangers, according to aides previewing his speech.

Beyond North Korea, crisis points the Republican president planned to address include Iran's nuclear agenda, the instability in Venezuela and the fight against terrorism in Syria and elsewhere.

World leaders, many of whom will be seeing Trump in person for the first time, are bound to take the measure of the man and parse his every word for clues on how he views the U.S. role in the world and within the U.N.

"It's a tremendous opportunity because the world wants to work with the United States if there's any way to do so," said Jon Alterman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "He has an opportunity to show surprising openness."

Trump tipped his hand Monday as he riffed on his campaign slogan when asked to preview his central message to the General Assembly: "I think the main message is 'make the United Nations great' — not 'again.' 'Make the United Nations great.'"

"Such tremendous potential, and I think we'll be able to do this," he added.

In brief remarks to the U.N. on Monday, Trump chastised the world body's bloated bureaucracy and budget, saying, "We are not seeing the results in line with this investment."

But even with that scolding, Trump pledged to the U.N. that the United States would be "partners in your work" to make the organization a more effective force for world peace.

He praised the U.N.'s early steps toward change and made no threats to withdraw U.S. support. The president's more measured tone stood in sharp contrast to the approach he took at NATO's new Brussels headquarters in May, when he upbraided member nations for not paying enough and refused to back its mutual defense pact explicitly.

While running for office, Trump had labeled the U.N. weak and incompetent. He has suggested it was "not a friend" to the United States or democracy while deriding it as "a club for people to get together, talk and have a good time."

He thundered often about putting "America first," and has withdrawn from what he considered multi-lateral agreements that he found unfavorable to the United States, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. He also announced his intention to withdraw from the Paris climate accord, which would leave the U.S. one of only three countries outside the pact. Aides have since suggested Trump would be willing to renegotiate terms of the deal but European leaders have dismissed that approach.

Trump has also frequently questioned the value of a robust American presence around the world. When briefed on the government's diplomatic, military and intelligence posts, the new president would often cast doubt on the need for all the resources.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 31 of 42

Some aides have suggested that Trump employs “principled realism” — making global decisions based on the best outcome for the United States. The administration has also shied away from talk of nation-building or creating democracies through the use of the U.S. military.

But Trump has softened his rhetoric about the United Nations since taking office and cheered the recent Security Council resolution that approved new sanctions against North Korea. Potentially foreshadowing a Trump argument, Brian Hook of the State Department said Monday that the U.N. could be useful as a “force multiplier” to “bring a global approach to global threats.”

“The president has been working very well with the U.N. Security Council,” said Hook, who praised Trump’s ability to deal with the world body and “leverage it for the purposes the U.N. charter created, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.”

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

Facebook may be facing an ‘era of accountability’

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY, AP Technology Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — The problems keep piling up for Facebook, and it’s unclear how long the internet giant will be able to brush them aside as it barrels toward acquiring its next billion users.

The world’s biggest social network has unwittingly allowed groups backed by the Russian government to target users with ads. That’s after it took months to acknowledge its outsized role in influencing the U.S. election by allowing the spread of fake news — though before news emerged that it let advertisers target messages to “Jew-haters.”

Now Facebook is under siege, facing questions from lawmakers and others seeking to rein in its enormous power. The company has turned over information on the Russia-backed ads to federal authorities investigating Russian interference in the U.S. presidential election. Critics say the company also needs to tell its users how they might have been influenced by outside meddlers.

Speculation is rife that Facebook executives, perhaps including CEO Mark Zuckerberg, could be called to testify before Congress. Hearings might lead to new regulations on the company.

“Facebook appears to have been used as an accomplice in a foreign government’s effort to undermine democratic self-governance in the United States,” writes Trevor Potter, former chairman of the Federal Election Commission and now head of a nonpartisan election-law group, in a letter to Zuckerberg.

“ERA OF ACCOUNTABILITY”

Potter’s group, the Campaign Legal Center, wants Facebook to make the Russian-sponsored ads public. The company has so far declined to do so, citing the ongoing investigations. It has provided the ads and other information to Robert Mueller, the special counsel in charge of the Russia investigation, Facebook said in a statement, although it declined to elaborate.

The company that nudges its users to reveal intimate details about their lives, it turns out, isn’t all that comfortable doing the same. That’s true for everything from the secret algorithms that recommend “people you might know” to data on its attempts to clamp down on the spread of false news shared across its network.

The company justifies its secrecy in many ways, having variously claimed legal restrictions, business secrets, security and privacy protections to excuse its opacity. But Jonathan Albright, whose late 2016 research on the “fake news” propaganda ecosystem outlined how propaganda websites track and target users, thinks the current moment may be a turning point for online giants like Facebook.

“Now that it has run directly into something that possibly affected the outcome of the election — but they can’t determine how — this may be their era of accountability,” said Albright, the director of research at the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University.

There has been no other company on the planet, Albright added, that can provide access to as many real people as Facebook.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 32 of 42

POWER GAMES AND NEW RULES

Facebook prefers to think of itself as an online platform, but in many respects it's also a modern sort of media company, if for no other reason than that so many people rely on it as a source of news and information. In its early years, Facebook even described itself as a "social utility."

Now the question is whether it should be regulated as one — and if so, how. There aren't many straightforward answers, even where political ads already subject to government rules are concerned.

It's already illegal for foreign nationals to spend money in connection with a U.S. federal election, whether on or off of Facebook. And campaign law requires people who spend money on another person's website to disclose that fact in the ad itself.

Broadcast-era election law, however, can be a poor fit for the Internet Age. Attempts to sway political sentiment on Facebook can be targeted to small groups who share a common background or attitudes, making them difficult to track from the outside. And many such efforts might not resemble traditional advertisements at all. The goal of many Facebook marketing campaigns is to generate posts that regular people will spread widely for free; political persuasion campaigns can work the same way.

"As a practical matter, it is extremely difficult for the U.S. government to regulate content on the internet that may have an effect on the U.S. election," said Nathaniel Persily, a professor at Stanford Law School. "If a teenager in his mother's basement in Moscow wants to put up a YouTube video, it's not clear what the U.S. will be able to do about that."

Difficult doesn't mean impossible. Persily, for instance, thinks that Facebook could use its AI technology to flag election-related ads that don't bear the disclosures required by existing law.

Companies like Facebook could also be required to do some kind of due diligence on who is spending money on their platforms on behalf of candidates, he added. Keeping an online repository of all candidate-related ads within six months of an election, identified by their backers, could also provide an additional check on illegal attempts to sway elections.

Defending Myanmar, Suu Kyi says most Rohingya villages calm

By **ROBIN McDOWELL, Associated Press**

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP) — After a mass exodus of Rohingya Muslims sparked allegations of ethnic cleansing, Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi said Tuesday her country does not fear international scrutiny.

She told the world that even with an estimated 412,000 Rohingya fleeing to Bangladesh in less than a month as their villages burned and hundreds were killed, the "great majority" of Muslims within the conflict zone stayed and that "more than 50 percent of their villages were intact."

The Nobel Peace laureate's global image has been damaged by violence since Rohingya insurgents attacked Myanmar security forces on Aug. 25. Rohingya fled their villages in the military crackdown that followed. Many of their villages were in flames when they left. The government has blamed the Rohingya themselves, but members of the persecuted minority have said soldiers and Buddhist mobs attacked them.

Suu Kyi told foreign diplomats gathered for her speech in Naypyitaw, the capital, that the government was working to restore normalcy in the area.

Though fires have continued to flare in recent days in northern Rakhine state, home to most Rohingya, she said "there have been no armed clashes and there have been no clearance operations" since Sept. 5.

"Nevertheless we are concerned to hear that numbers of Muslims are fleeing across the border to Bangladesh," she said. "We want to understand why this exodus is happening. We would like to talk to those who have fled as well as those who have stayed."

She said she it would be helpful to understand why conflict did not break out everywhere. She invited the diplomats with visit villages that weren't affected so they could learn along with the government "why are they not at each other's throats in these particular areas."

Rohingya now in camps in Bangladesh the implication that Rohingya who were driven from their villages were themselves responsible, or that some members of the ethnic group are safe.

In the Kutupalong refugee camp, Abdul Hafiz said Rohingya once trusted Suu Kyi more than the military

that not only ruled for half a century before, but also held her under house arrest for many years. Now Hafiz calls Suu Kyi a "liar" and says Rohingya are suffering more than ever.

He said Suu Kyi should give international journalists more access to their destroyed villages. If Rohingya are proven wrong that they were attacked, he said, "we will not mind if the world decides to kill us all by pushing us into the sea."

The Rohingya have had a long and troubled history in Myanmar, where many of the country's 60 million people look on them with disdain.

Though members of the long-persecuted religious minority first arrived generations ago, they were stripped of their citizenship in 1982, denying them almost all rights and rendering them stateless. They cannot travel freely, practice their religion, or work as teachers or doctors, and they have little access to medical care, food or education.

AP writer Julhas Alam in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, contributed to this report.

New misconduct allegations hang over UN meeting on sex abuse

By ALEXANDRA OLSON, Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said sexual abuse is a problem that goes beyond peacekeeping missions and plagues the entire United Nations, pledging Monday to root out the problem "once and for all."

The leaders of 57 countries joined a group established by Guterres to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation, the centerpiece of a high-level meeting to showcase the world body's commitment to fighting a scourge that has darkened the reputation of peacekeeping missions around the world.

They included many of the countries whose military personnel have been accused of sex crimes while serving on U.N. peacekeeping missions. Some of the nations have yet to punish any alleged perpetrators.

"We are here to take bold, urgent and much-needed action to root out sexual exploitation and abuse once and for all in the United Nations," Guterres said.

The Associated Press launched an investigative series in March on the U.N.'s peacekeeping crisis, uncovering roughly 2,000 allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation during a 12-year period. Most of the allegations were against peacekeepers, but other U.N. agencies were also involved.

Guterres said he has "been haunted by my many encounters with women and children scarred by sexual violence and further stigmatized sometimes by their own communities."

He stressed that "sexual exploitation and abuse is not a problem of peacekeeping, it is a problem of the entire United Nations."

"We cannot allow the unspeakable acts of a few to tarnish the work of thousands of men and women who uphold the values of the United Nations Charter, often at great personal risk and sacrifice," Guterres said.

In March, the secretary-general announced new measures to tackle the problem, including a new focus on victims and bans on alcohol and fraternization for troops.

On Monday, he announced that 75 countries have signed or pledged to sign a separate compact committing to preventing sexual abuse. He also introduced the first U.N. rights advocate for victims, Australian lawyer and human rights advocate Jane Connors.

Hanging over the meeting were new allegations that the U.N. mishandled 14 abuse cases involving peacekeepers in Central African Republic.

The cases cited by the Code Blue campaign, a watchdog group, were investigated last year to determine whether the allegations could be substantiated.

Code Blue said that in eight cases the alleged victims were not interviewed, and 10 cases did not appear on the U.N. website where data is supposed to be released about sexual misconduct cases.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Monday that a preliminary inquiry determined seven of the cases were recorded in the tracking system and had been acted upon. He provided no other details but said a full investigation is in progress.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 34 of 42

Code Blue criticized the measures announced Monday, saying it saw little difference from pledges made by the U.N. at a similar event more than decade ago. The group proposed that U.N. member states create an independent court mechanism to investigate allegations.

The U.N. lacks legal jurisdiction over its peacekeeping force and relies on member states to prosecute crimes by their own troops, making justice elusive in many cases.

One of the grimmest cases detailed in the AP investigation recounted how a group of Sri Lankan peacekeepers ran a child sex ring in Haiti between 2004 and 2007.

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena was among the 57 leaders who joined the "circle of leadership" against sexual abuse. But no Sri Lankan peacekeeper has been prosecuted for a sex crime, despite a U.N. investigation.

Earlier this year, the U.N. announced four new child sex abuse cases in Central African Republic involving U.N. troops from Bangladesh, Congo, Niger and Senegal.

At the meeting, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said her country has dealt strongly with two sex abuse allegations it has received against its peacekeepers over the years.

"Bangladeshi peacekeepers have consistently maintained good image and credibility almost in all missions," Hasina said.

She provided few details, saying only that one perpetrator was dismissed from the military and imprisoned.

Hasina also announced that Bangladesh was contributing \$100,000 to a victims' fund established by the United Nations.

The U.N. said \$463,000 in initial contributions is being used to fund projects in Congo, where many of the allegations have been made.

U.S. President Donald Trump also added his name to the "circle of leadership."

Earlier this year U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley cited the AP's investigation at a U.N. Security Council meeting, warning that the United States could withdraw funding for missions where sexual abuse is rife and for countries that fail to hold perpetrators to account.

Organizers end Monday protests; more set for Tuesday

By JIM SALTER and SUMMER BALLENTINE, Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Protesters chanting "free our people" gathered outside the jail in downtown St. Louis for more than two hours Monday night to show solidarity with those who remain behind bars.

Police said more than 120 people were arrested during Sunday's protests over the acquittal of a white former police officer in the killing of a black suspect. Demonstrators outside the jail criticized authorities for keeping some of those arrested in jail nearly 24 hours after they were taken into custody.

"That was the main purpose of the night. To be in solidarity," said Cheyenne Green, 24, of St. Louis, who helped organize Monday evening's event and others since Friday's verdict.

Some of those jailed were released Monday evening before organizers announced an end to the demonstration and told people to go home. Organizers said protests will resume Tuesday, but they gave no details.

Monday was the fourth day of protests. In the morning, a racially mixed crowd of demonstrators marched through downtown.

The latest action follows three days of peaceful protests and three nights of vandalism and unrest in the city that's been rocked since Friday, when a judge announced he found Jason Stockley not guilty in the 2011 death of Anthony Lamar Smith.

Smith's mother, Anne Smith, was among those gathered outside the downtown jail on Monday.

Hundreds of riot police mobilized downtown late Sunday, arresting more than 80 people at one intersection who police said didn't follow orders to disperse. Earlier, police had responded to reports of property damage and vandalism.

"I'm proud to tell you the city of St. Louis is safe and the police owned tonight," Interim Police Chief Lawrence O'Toole said at a news conference early Monday.

But Sean Porter, 25, of St. Louis, was among those arrested at the intersection and one of several who

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 35 of 42

said Monday that they could not follow orders to disperse because police had them blocked in.

"They threw us on the ground, sprayed us, hit us, everything. It's tragic," said Porter, who was released from jail Monday evening. He was charged with failure to disperse.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that reporter Mike Faulk, who was on the street reporting about the protests, had an experience similar to the one Porter described.

Police blocked all four sides of the intersection. Faulk heard the police command to move back, but he had nowhere to go, the newspaper said. Multiple officers knocked Faulk down, he told the Post-Dispatch, and pinned his limbs to the ground. A foot pushed his head into the pavement and he was squirted with pepper spray after he was subdued, he said.

Protesters marched through St. Louis' posh Central West End and the trendy Delmar Loop area of nearby University City on Friday and Saturday. Protesters also marched through two shopping malls in a wealthy area of St. Louis County.

On Sunday, more than 1,000 people had gathered at police headquarters and then marched without trouble through downtown St. Louis. By nightfall, most had gone home.

But the 100 or so people who remained grew increasingly agitated as they marched back toward downtown. Along the way, they knocked over planters, broke windows at a few shops and hotels, and scattered plastic chairs at an outdoor venue.

According to police, the demonstrators then sprayed bottles with an unknown substance on officers. One officer suffered a leg injury and was taken to a hospital. His condition wasn't known.

Soon afterward, buses brought in additional officers in riot gear, and police scoured downtown deep into the night, making arrests and seizing at least five weapons, according to O'Toole. Later, officers in riot gear gathered alongside a city boulevard chanting "whose street, our street" — a common refrain used by the protesters — after clearing the street of demonstrators and onlookers.

"We're in control. This is our city and we're going to protect it," O'Toole said.

Mayor Lyda Krewson said at the same Monday news conference that "the days have been calm and the nights have been destructive" and that "destruction cannot be tolerated."

Early Monday, more than 150 protesters marched arm-in-arm, some carrying signs, to city hall. Police turned traffic away as the marchers blocked a busy St. Louis street during the rush hour crush. Once at city hall, they found their voices, chanting: "I know that we will win." The protesters then marched four blocks to a city court building, where they chanted again, then dispersed.

Also Monday, high school students in at least two suburban districts protested the Stockley ruling. In Kirkwood, about 100 students walked out and held a brief rally, while 250 students in Webster Groves staged what school officials described as a peaceful demonstration.

The recent St. Louis protests follow a pattern seen since the August 2014 killing of Michael Brown in nearby Ferguson: The majority of demonstrators, though angry, are law-abiding. But as the night wears on, a subsection emerges, a different crowd more willing to confront police, sometimes to the point of clashes.

Protest organizer Anthony Bell said he understands why some act out: While change can come through peaceful protests, such as those led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., years of oppression has caused some to turn violent.

"I do not say the (unruly) demonstrators are wrong, but I believe peaceful demonstrations are the best," Bell said.

Many protesters believe police provoked demonstrators by showing up in riot gear and armored vehicles; police said they had no choice but to protect themselves once protesters started throwing things at them.

Stockley shot Smith after high-speed chase as officers tried to arrest Smith and his partner in a suspected drug deal.

Stockley, 36, testified he felt endangered because he saw Smith holding a silver revolver when Smith backed his car toward the officers and sped away.

Prosecutors said Stockley planted a gun in Smith's car after the shooting. The officer's DNA was on the weapon but Smith's wasn't. Dashcam video from Stockley's cruiser recorded him saying he was "going to kill this (expletive)." Less than a minute later, he shot Smith five times.

Stockley's lawyer dismissed the comment as "human emotions" during a dangerous pursuit. St. Louis Circuit Judge Timothy Wilson, who said prosecutors didn't prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Stockley murdered Smith, said the statement could be ambiguous.

Stockley left the police department and moved to Houston three years ago.

Sign up for the AP's weekly newsletter showcasing our best reporting from the Midwest and Texas: <http://apne.ws/2u1RMfv>.

3 arrested during protest at Georgia Tech after vigil

By KATE BRUMBACK, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Three people were arrested Monday night during a protest after a vigil for a Georgia Tech student who was fatally shot by campus police, a university spokesman said.

Police shot and killed Scout Schultz late Saturday night after the 21-year-old student called 911 to report an armed and possibly intoxicated suspicious person, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation has said.

Georgia Tech sent out alerts urging students to shelter indoors Monday night and lock doors and windows because of violent protests. Video posted on social media showed a police vehicle burning in the street and officers pinning people to the ground as onlookers shouted at them.

After a peaceful vigil, about 50 protesters marched to the campus police department, university spokesman Lance Wallace said. A police vehicle was damaged and two officers suffered minor injuries, with one taken to a hospital for treatment.

Police restored order relatively quickly, and three people were arrested and charged with inciting a riot and battery of an officer, Wallace said.

In a statement released through attorney Chris Stewart, Schultz's family urged protesters to remain peaceful.

"(W)e ask that those who wish to protest Scout's death do so peacefully. Answering violence with violence is not the answer," the statement said. "Our goal is to work diligently to make positive change at Georgia Tech in an effort to ensure a safer campus for all students."

The GBI has said an officer responding to a 911 call about 11:17 p.m. Saturday shot Schultz as the student advanced on officers with a knife and refused commands to put down the knife. Stewart said Monday that the GBI confirmed to him that Schultz was holding a multipurpose tool and that the knife blade was not out.

Schultz was the one who called 911, GBI spokeswoman Nelly Miles said in an emailed statement Monday.

"In the call, Shultz describes the person as a white male, with long blonde hair, white T-shirt and blue jeans who is possibly intoxicated, holding a knife and possibly armed with a gun on his hip," Miles said, adding that three suicide notes were found in Schultz's dorm room.

Investigators recovered a multi-purpose tool at the scene but didn't find any guns, Miles said.

Flanked by Schultz's parents Monday morning, Stewart said the officer who shot Schultz overreacted. Schultz was having a breakdown and was suicidal but if the officer had used non-lethal force rather than shooting, Schultz could have received treatment and gotten better, Stewart said.

"The mentally ill are looking for a way out when they're having a full breakdown, and there's no way you should be able to use a police officer to take your life when that person isn't threatened," Stewart said.

Georgia Tech police don't carry stun guns, but are equipped with pepper spray, a spokesman told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Stewart says he plans to sue over the shooting.

Authorities have not identified the officer who shot Schultz. Georgia Tech on Monday refused to release personnel or disciplinary reports involving the officers, saying such information is exempt from Georgia's open records law.

Schultz was president of Pride Alliance at Georgia Tech. The fourth-year computer engineering student used the name Scout, rather than the given name Scott, and preferred the pronouns "they" and "them"

rather than “he” or “him.”

“I’m bisexual, nonbinary and intersex,” Schultz wrote in a Pride Alliance profile.

William Schultz told reporters Monday that his child had a 3.9 GPA and was on track to graduate early in December.

Lynne Schultz told the Journal-Constitution over the weekend that her oldest child had struggled with depression and attempted suicide two years ago using a belt as a noose.

After that, Scout Schultz went through counseling, William Schultz said. Scout Schultz spent this past summer at home and there were no obvious problems when school resumed last month, the elder Schultz said.

The GBI, through its Crisis Intervention Team, has trained about 10,000 local, state and federal law enforcement officers since it began in 2004, the Atlanta newspaper reported. Some agencies require that training while others don’t.

It wasn’t immediately clear whether the officers who responded Saturday had undergone such training.

Stewart, the family’s lawyer, said the university has failed in not providing its officers with stun guns. He also said university police officers “should have the highest training in dealing with people having mental or emotional breakdowns and issues.”

Referring to a video of the incident, Stewart says the main officer was doing a “phenomenal job” handling the situation — retreating, trying to deescalate and putting a barrier between himself and Schultz — and that other officers also appeared to be providing appropriate backup. But one officer behaved inappropriately by firing on Schultz when there was no immediate danger to any of the officers, Stewart said.

William Schultz said the encounter shouldn’t have ended in his child’s death.

If given a chance to talk to the officer, he told reporters, he just has one question: “Why did you have to shoot? That’s the question. I mean, that’s the only question that matters right now. Why did you kill my son?”

Associated Press writer Jeff Martin contributed to this report.

Floods, fires, other disasters add stress to state budgets

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY and BOB SALSBERG, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A summer of natural catastrophes, from epic hurricanes to scorching wildfires, has exposed another peril in disaster-prone states: How to pay for the rescues, repairs and rebuilding.

The combined tab from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma is expected to hit \$200 billion or more. While the federal government is expected to pay most of that, the affected state and local governments have to start paying for recovery now and eventually could be on the hook for tens of millions of dollars or more.

States vary on how prepared they are to weather such costs. Florida and South Carolina, both hit by Hurricane Irma, are among the dozen or so states that do not have dedicated disaster funds and opt to cover the expenses after the fact, potentially by dipping into reserves or shifting money from other state agencies.

Experts say such pay-as-you-go disaster funding can be risky. Add an economic downturn when reserves are low and budgets are tight, and state and local officials could easily find themselves struggling to pay for recovery and rebuilding.

Even putting money into a dedicated disaster fund may not be enough.

In Montana, where wildfires raged across the state this summer, threatening hundreds of homes and destroying a historic lodge in Glacier National Park, the firefighting costs so far have exceeded the amount set aside in a special disaster fund by \$20 million.

“It took us all by surprise,” state Rep. Nancy Ballance said.

All but a handful of states maintain so-called rainy day accounts, but in most cases “rainy day” is a misnomer: The money is typically used to get through economic downturns rather than responding to natural disasters. States tapped, and in many cases depleted, their rainy day funds to avoid massive cuts

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 38 of 42

and maintain critical services after tax revenue plummeted during the recession.

Several states have struggled to rebuild their savings since then because tax revenue hasn't rebounded enough to provide a cushion. In all, 33 states reported tax revenue coming in below forecast last year.

New Jersey's rainy day fund has been empty since 2009. Pennsylvania's is so small it would barely fund government operations for two hours, according to a recent study by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Texas, hit hard by Hurricane Harvey last month, has the largest rainy day fund of any state — \$10 billion — but state officials are keeping that as a last resort. Gov. Greg Abbott has said he wants to consider what other funding might be available first. That could include tapping into money already allocated to state agencies.

Others in Texas, including Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, have advocated for tapping into reserves now.

"If this isn't a rainy day, I don't know what is," Patrick said last week.

Georgia is one of the states better prepared financially to handle the unexpected costs of a disaster. It has a dedicated emergency fund with roughly \$20 million available annually and a rainy day fund with approximately \$2.4 billion, England said.

"Thankfully, our economy is in pretty good shape right now," said state Rep. Terry England, chairman of the House budget committee in Georgia, where all 159 counties reported damage from Hurricane Irma. "If this had hit in 2010 or 2011, it might have been a little bit different."

In addition to budget reserves, 28 states have established special funds to help residents and businesses after a disaster. The downside: Several are not currently funded, according to the National Emergency Management Association.

California is among the states with a dedicated disaster fund — for fighting wildfires — but already has burned through more than half the \$427 million it set aside this year, with Southern California's fearsome Santa Ana wind season looming. Even if that fund runs dry, however, the state will tap other sources, said H.D. Palmer, spokesman for the state Department of Finance.

"There has never been a situation when the state's finances would be an impediment to deploying crews and materials to knock down a fire as soon as possible to save lives and property," he said.

Montana's wildfire season has left lawmakers there facing difficult decisions.

The state typically keeps between \$50 million and \$100 million on hand for wildfire costs. This year, after a relatively wet winter and facing an estimate of lower than expected tax revenue, lawmakers authorized the governor to use some of that money to help fill a budget gap — leaving about \$30 million in the fund.

Then disaster struck in the form of several large wildfires, which the state estimates have burned about 10 times as much land as last year's fires. So far, the state has spent roughly \$58 million on fire suppression since the beginning of July.

"We thought we would be OK with fires," said Ballance, chairwoman of the House budget committee, "so we took the money to use in other ways."

With tax revenue down, the state has depleted its reserves and emergency funds. The governor has asked state agencies to prepare for 10 percent cuts to fill a projected \$227 million budget shortfall.

While the federal government spends tens of billions to help communities recover, the assistance is not guaranteed and the amounts generally cover only a share of the recovery costs — up to 75 percent.

The federal share also might be changing.

President Donald Trump's budget proposal calls for cutting billions of dollars from agencies involved in disaster management. At the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Trump has proposed cutting the disaster relief budget by \$667 million, targeting grants that help state and local governments prepare for natural disasters.

In addition, FEMA is considering a change to how it reimburses states for disaster costs. It would require them to pay a predetermined amount before the federal government would provide money to repair or replace damaged infrastructure.

The main challenge, experts say, is for state and local officials to set aside money ahead of time.

"It's very difficult for elected officials to pay attention to disaster funding when the sun is shining and

the sky is blue," said Trina Sheets, executive director of the National Emergency Management Association.

Salsberg reported from Boston. Associated Press writers Gary Fineout in Tallahassee, Florida; Matt Volz in Helena, Montana; and Paul J. Weber in Austin, Texas, contributed to this report.

Follow the reporters on Twitter at http://twitter.com/AP_Christina and http://twitter.com/bsalsberg_ap.

Review: Glitzy iPhone X aside, the iPhone 8 is fine for most

By ANICK JESDANUN, AP Technology Writer

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The difference between Apple's new iPhone models is a bit like flying first class compared with coach. We envy first class, but coach gets us there without breaking the budget.

The iPhone 8 will do just fine for \$300 less than the glitzy iPhone X, even though it won't make your friends and colleagues jealous. It's also available much sooner — this Friday — starting at almost \$700. The X (read as the numeral 10) won't be out until November.

Still, the iPhone 8 remains a fairly straightforward update of the iPhone 7, which itself was a fairly straightforward update of the iPhone 6S. Then again, no one expects much different from a coach seat.

WHAT YOU'RE NOT GETTING

It's hard to talk about the iPhone 8 without comparing it to my 15 minutes with the iPhone X last Tuesday.

The X wowed with a fancy new display that flows to the edges of the phone. The phone is compact, yet features a screen slightly larger than the one on the supersized iPhone 8 Plus. The X also features facial recognition that lets you unlock the phone with a glance; you can also create animated emojis that match your facial expressions.

The 8 has none of that, although it does share other new goodies the X is getting, including wireless charging. The 8 and the X both have faster processors and sensors to enhance graphics in augmented reality, a blending of the virtual and physical worlds, though older iPhones will also run AR apps with a software update Tuesday.

WIRELESS CHARGING

Apple embraces wireless-charging technology that Android phones have had for years. It's a rare case in which Apple isn't going its own way; instead, it's adopting an existing standard called Qi (pronounced chee). That means the iPhone gets all the technical advancements from the consortium behind Qi — and can take immediate advantage of a slew of public wireless-charging stations.

It worked perfectly for me while waiting for a connecting flight in Los Angeles — no need to rummage through my backpack for a charging cord.

Apple says the wireless system should charge as quickly as the wall adapter included with iPhones. But I found wireless slower in testing, using a Belkin charger with the same power output as the iPhone charger.

Wireless charging is largely about convenience; it's terrific if you can just drop your phone on a charging pad overnight or during the day at your desk. Apple says it will boost wireless-charging power by 50 percent in coming months, which will speed things up further. But those in a rush should consider a wall charger that comes with the iPad, which will still be even faster.

In a way, wireless charging makes up for Apple's earlier decision to ditch the headphone jack in the iPhone 7, which made people share the Lightning port with both charging cords and wired headphones. You can now charge and use wired headphones at the same time.

DISPLAY

Colors on the 8's screen adapt to lighting in the room. It's noticeable in my apartment at night, as artificial lighting tends to be warmer and more yellowish. The screen adapts by making whites more like beige and yellow even yellower. It's softer on the eyes and mimics how light glows on white paper, though it can make images appear less natural. You can turn this feature off.

Resolution isn't as sharp as what the X and many rival Android phones offer. The Plus offers enough

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 40 of 42

pixels for high-definition video at the highest quality, 1080p, while the regular model is comparable to the lesser 720p.

CAMERA

New color filters produce truer and richer colors without looking fake, while a new flash technique tries to light the foreground and background more evenly. You have to know to look, as the iPhone 7 already had a great camera. Differences in test shots taken while sightseeing in Poland were subtle, but noticeable — more so on the iPhone 8 screen than on last year's Mac.

The iPhone 8 also offers additional video options, including recording of ultra-high definition, or 4K, at 60 frames per second, twice the previous rate. (The phone's display, though, isn't sharp enough for 4K.)

A second lens in the 7 Plus and 8 Plus models lets the camera gauge depth and blur backgrounds in portrait shots, something once limited to full-featured SLR cameras. Samsung adopted that feature in this year's Note 8 .

Coming to the 8 Plus are filters to mimic studio and other lighting conditions. My favorite, stage light, highlights the subject's face and darkens the background. Some of these filters make images look fake — Apple has slapped a "beta" test tag to signal it's not flawless. You can try them out and undo any changes you don't like.

DESIGN

To make wireless charging work, the 8 features a glass back, something last seen in the iPhone 4S in 2011. Aesthetic considerations aside, this gives you another sheet of glass to break.

Apple says custom glass from Corning makes the phone stronger. Even so, consider a service plan and get a case. Wireless charging works with most cases, as long as there's no metal or magnets. I found the phone charged just as fast with the case on.

ABOUT THAT PRICE TAG

The iPhone 8 is about \$50 more than what the iPhone 7 cost at launch. Samsung has similarly increased the prices of its flagship Galaxy phones, and the S8 still outsold last year's S7. Consumers seem willing to pay.

You do get double the storage — 64 gigabytes — at that price, a value considering that iPhone storage boosts typically cost \$100. You'll need that extra storage for video, apps and fancy features such as AR and animated photos.

Nonetheless, I would have preferred the option of a cheaper, lower-storage version. For that, you need an older model , such as the \$549 iPhone 7 and the \$449 6S. There's also the smaller iPhone SE for \$349.

Asian shares mixed as Nikkei rises on yen, muted elsewhere

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mixed Tuesday, as investors awaited comments from the U.S. Federal Reserve, and Japan's benchmark rose on optimism over a weak yen and a record finish on Wall Street.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 added 1.5 percent to 20,197.56 in early trading, coming off a national holiday Monday. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 edged up nearly 0.1 percent to 5,724.70. South Korea's Kospi lost 0.2 percent to 2,413.48. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was little changed at 28,162.32, while the Shanghai Composite dipped 0.2 percent to 3,355.96.

WALL STREET: The S&P 500 index rose 3.64 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,503.87. The Dow gained 63.01 points, or 0.3 percent, to 22,331.35. Both indexes closed at new record highs as the market extended gains from last week.

THE QUOTE: "So what could whisk the rug from under optimistic investors' feet? Not much today, though as we noted yesterday, this happier more stable backdrop brings central banks back into play," says Rob Carnell, head of research in Asia of ING.

THE FED: Investors were looking ahead to the latest two-day policy meeting of the U.S. Federal Reserve, which begins Tuesday. Forecasters expect the Fed to leave interest rates unchanged and stick to plans to raise rates in December. But traders will be listening for any indications the central bank could move sooner.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 41 of 42

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 1 cent to \$49.92 a barrel. It rose 2 cents to \$49.91 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, used to price international oils, dropped 9 cents to \$55.39 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 111.52 yen from 111.39 late Monday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1968 from \$1.1945.

AP Business Writer Alex Veiga contributed to this report.

AP Business Writer Yuri Kageyama can be reached at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

Her work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/yuri%20kageyama>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 19, the 262nd day of 2017. There are 103 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 19, 1777, the first Battle of Saratoga was fought during the Revolutionary War; although British forces succeeded in driving out the American troops, the Americans prevailed in a second battle the following month.

On this date:

In 1796, President George Washington's farewell address was published. In it, America's first chief executive advised, "Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all."

In 1881, the 20th president of the United States, James A. Garfield, died 2½ months after being shot by Charles Guiteau; Chester Alan Arthur became president.

In 1915, vaudeville performer W.C. Fields made his movie debut as "Pool Sharks," a one-reel silent comedy, was released.

In 1934, Bruno Hauptmann was arrested in New York and charged with the kidnap-murder of Charles A. Lindbergh Jr.

In 1945, Nazi radio propagandist William Joyce, known as "Lord Haw-Haw," was convicted of treason and sentenced to death by a British court.

In 1957, the United States conducted its first contained underground nuclear test, code-named "Rainier," in the Nevada desert.

In 1959, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, in Los Angeles as part of his U.S. tour, reacted angrily upon being told that, for security reasons, he wouldn't get to visit Disneyland.

In 1960, Cuban leader Fidel Castro, in New York to visit the United Nations, angrily checked out of the Shelburne Hotel in a dispute with the management; Castro ended up staying at the Hotel Theresa in Harlem.

In 1970, the "Mary Tyler Moore" show debuted on CBS-TV.

In 1982, the smiley emoticon was invented by Carnegie Mellon University professor Scott E. Fahlman, who suggested punctuating humorously intended computer messages with a colon followed by a hyphen and a parenthesis as a horizontal "smiley face." :-)

In 1985, the Mexico City area was struck by a devastating earthquake that killed at least 9,500 people.

In 1997, in his first public comments since the death of Princess Diana, Prince Charles told the British people he would always feel the loss of his former wife, and thanked them for their support. Six people were killed when an express passenger train and a freight train collided in west London. The crime drama "L.A. Confidential" was released by Warner Bros.

Ten years ago: The Senate blocked legislation that would have regulated the amount of time troops spent in combat, a blow for Democrats struggling to challenge President George W. Bush's Iraq policies. A powerful bomb killed anti-Syria lawmaker Antoine Ghanem and six others in Beirut, Lebanon.

Five years ago: Members of Congress presented the Congressional Gold Medal to Myanmar democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi (ahng sahn soo chee) in a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda. The Justice De-

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 072 ~ 42 of 42

partment's internal watchdog found fault with the agency's handling of a gun-trafficking probe in Arizona that resulted in hundreds of weapons turning up at crime scenes in the U.S. and Mexico; the inspector general's report referred more than a dozen people for possible disciplinary action for their roles in Operation Fast and Furious. The Windseeker ride at Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, California, broke down, leaving about 20 riders dangling 300 feet over the amusement park for nearly four hours. Fred Couples was elected into the World Golf Hall of Fame.

One year ago: President Barack Obama and Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi (HY'-dahr ahl ah-BAH'-dee), meeting on the sidelines of a United Nations summit, put the Islamic State group on notice that they planned to recapture the city of Mosul within months. World leaders meeting at the United Nations approved a declaration aimed at providing a more coordinated and humane response to the refugee crisis that was straining resources and stoking divisions around the world. Angelina Jolie Pitt filed for divorce from Brad Pitt, citing irreconcilable differences.

Today's Birthdays: Author Roger Angell is 97. Host James Lipton (TV: "Inside the Actors Studio") is 91. Actress Rosemary Harris is 90. Former Defense Secretary Harold Brown is 90. Actor David McCallum is 84. Singer-songwriter Paul Williams is 77. Singer Bill Medley is 77. Singer Sylvia Tyson (Ian and Sylvia) is 77. R&B singer Freda Payne is 75. Golfer Jane Blalock is 72. Singer David Bromberg is 72. Actor Randolph Mantooth is 72. Rock singer-musician Lol Creme (10cc) is 70. Former NFL running back Larry Brown is 70. Actor Jeremy Irons is 69. Actress Twiggy Lawson is 68. TV personality Joan Lunden is 67. Singer-producer Daniel Lanois (lan-WAH') is 66. Actor Scott Colomby is 65. Musician-producer Nile Rodgers is 65. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Reggie Williams is 63. Singer-actor Rex Smith is 62. Rock singer Lita Ford is 59. Actor Kevin Hooks is 59. Actress Carolyn McCormick is 58. Celebrity chef Mario Batali is 57. Actress-comedian Cheri Oteri is 55. Country singer Jeff Bates is 54. Country singer Trisha Yearwood is 53. News anchor Soledad O'Brien is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Espraronza Griffin (Society of Soul) is 48. Celebrity chef Michael Symon is 48. Actress Sanaa Lathan (suh-NAH' LAY'-thun) is 46. Actress Stephanie J. Block is 45. Rock singer A. Jay Popoff (Lit) is 44. "Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon is 43. TV personality Carter Oosterhouse is 41. Actress-TV host Alison Sweeney is 41. Rock musician Ryan Dusick is 40. Folk-rock singers-musicians Sara and Tegan (TEE'-gan) Quin are 37. Actor Columbus Short is 35. Rapper Eamon is 34. Christian rock musician JD Frazier is 34. Actor Kevin Zegers is 33. Actress Danielle Panabaker is 30.

Thought for Today: "If you are losing your leisure, look out; you may be losing your soul." — Logan Pearsall Smith, Anglo-American author (1865-1946).