

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 1 of 35

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1-Harr Auto Body Ad
- 2- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 3- Upcoming events on GDILIVE.COM
- 4- Netters beat Roncalli
- 5- Help Wanted
- 5- Farmers Union PSA
- 5- Sisseton Cross country Results
- 6- Obit: Former Mayor Gerald Rix
- 7- Merger Approved
- 8- SDSU Local Foods Education Center Grand Opening
- 9- Today in Weather History
- 10- Today's Forecast
- 11- Yesterday's Weather
- 11- Today's Weather Info
- 11- National Weather Map
- 12- Daily Devotional
- 13- News from the Associated Press

JH v-ball match (8th grade only) with Hitchcock/Tulare on Tuesday, Oct 10th has been CANCELLED! H/T has a conflict with their JH playing that night.

29

Senior Menu: Tuna noodle casserole, peas, Swedish apple pie square, whole wheat bread.

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

School Lunch: Pancake on stick, tri taters, cauliflower with dip, fruit.

Football: at Milbank, 7 p.m.

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

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

30

Heaven Bound Ministries: Worship in Pierpont at 5:30 p.m.

Catholic Parish: Mass at SEAS in Groton, 4:30 p.m.; Mass at St. Anthony, Bristol, 6 p.m.

Soccer: Semifinals.

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**

"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild... we can do it all!"

NOW OPEN

Harris
Auto Body AB DN

225 Brown County Hwy 19 South
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 2 of 35

"SOME BOOKS LEAVE
US FREE
AND SOME BOOKS
MAKE US FREE."

RALPH WALDO
EMERSON



Chicken Soup
for the Soul

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 3 of 35

It's Football Action on GDILIVE.COM



Groton Area Tigers

VS



Milbank Bulldogs

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017, 7:00 p.m.
at Milbank

[Click here for the program](#)

Groton Area shuts down Roncalli, 3-0

Groton Area's volleyball team posted an impressive 3-0 win over Aberdeen Roncalli in a key Northeast Conference match and in a key match that propelled the Tigers to the top of the region in the seeding. "We had a good week of practice and we also had some different workouts we've been doing to work on our quickness," said Coach Chelsea Hanson. "We lost Taylor (Holm) this week to a knee injury so we really challenged the girls to adapt, not only physically, but more mentally so we could still compete."

Groton Area took command of the match from the very first serve, taking a 2-0 lead in the first game and never trailed to win the first game, 25-16. "There was something in the gym this week," Hanson said. "I'm not sure what got it going but the girls really bought in to working hard and making themselves better."

The second game was as exciting as it could get. Groton held the 3-0 lead. The Cavaliers came back to tie the game at three. Then there were four lead changes and the game was tied three more times before Groton recaptured the lead, scoring seven straight points to take a 12-7 lead. The Tigers had a 21-16 lead before Roncalli rallied to tie the game at 21. Groton went up by two, 24-22, but the Cavaliers rallied and ended up with a 26-25 lead. Groton tied the game at 26 and scored the last two points for the 28-26 win.

"This match was the best we've probably played defensively and offensively," Hanson said. "We didn't make a lot of mistakes. We needed this win for some confidence in a new rotation. We're unsure how long Taylor will be out for so we're going to keep working at getting better as a team and try and fill the presence she provided. It was a great night for us!"

The big second game win took the wind out of the sails of Roncalli and Groton Area dominated the third game, jumping out to a 4-0 lead and went up, 12-1, and easily went on to win the third game, 25-16.

The match was carried live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by the Aberdeen Chrysler Center.

Gia Gengerke had 14 kills (29-40) and two solo and one assisted block on the night. Miranda Hanson was 107 of 110 in sets with 27 assists and was 20 of 22 in serves with three ace serves. Jennie Doeden had eight kills (30-33), two blocks and three ace serves (16-16). Nicole Marzahn had four kills, one solo and one assisted block. Jessica Bjerke had two kills and Eliza Wanner had two kills and 19 digs. Payton Maine had 27 digs as the Tigers had 80 as a team.

Groton Area is now 8-2 on the season and will travel to Henry on Monday to take on Florence/Henry. Roncalli falls to 10-5.

Groton Area won the junior varsity match, 25-22 and 25-15. The C team won its games, 25-21, 25-15 and 25-8. The two junior high teams dropped their matches.

Region 1	Seed Points	W-L
Groton Area	42.10	8-2
Redfield/Doland	42.00	12-6
Aberdeen Roncalli	41.73	10-5
Milbank	38.50	8-8
Sisseton	37.74	3-16
Webster Area	36.77	2-11
Tiospa Zina	35.50	2-8

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 5 of 35



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")**

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



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CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

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

Thompson is medalist at Sisseton

Emily Thompson was a medalist at the Sisseton Invitational Cross Country Meet held Thursday. She ran the 5,000m course in a time of 21:09.31 to placed sixth. Hannah Lewandowski was 23rd with a time of 23:06.06. Rylee Rosenau was 56th with a time of 26:28.36 and AnneMarie Smith was 63rd with a time of 27:26.72.

In the boy's division, Isaac Smith placed 29th with a time of 19:34.05. Micah Poor was 50th with a time of 20:59.67. Spencer Jacobs was 72nd with a time of 24:00.59.

The Life of former Mayor Gerald Rix



Services for Gerald "Jerry" Rix, 92, of Groton will be 11:00 a.m., Saturday, September 30th at the United Methodist Church, Groton. Rev. Thomas Carlson will officiate. Burial with Masonic Rites will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel on Friday, September 29, 2017 from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Jerry passed away September 27, 2017 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen.

Gerald Lloyd was born on August 5, 1925 in Aberdeen to Floyd A. and Lillian E. (Walter) Rix. He attended school in Riverside as a child and graduated from Groton High School in 1943. Jerry continued his education at Northern State College. He returned to the family farm, working beside his father and brother. On September 14, 1952, he was united in marriage with Anna Sammuli at the Savo Lutheran Church, rural Frederick. The couple made their home in Groton.

Jerry, known as Gil Favor by many, was a very active member of the Groton United Methodist Church, serving on many boards. He was very proud of the recognition pin he received from the UMW for his contributions to the church. Jerry was a leader in public service, having served on the Groton School Board for 25 years, Groton City Council for 5 years and as Mayor of Groton for 17 years (1990-2007) also serving on municipal boards during this time. In addition, Jerry was a member of the Groton Masonic Lodge, Yelduz Shrine, a past member of the Groton Kiwanis Club and the Dacotah Bank board. He was quietly instrumental and generous with many civic improvements and greatly enjoyed his time on the bank board and being mayor even through the tough times. He pursued his passion for flying by obtaining his pilot's license and owning his own plane. Jerry enjoyed reading - especially WWII history.

Celebrating his life are his wife, Ann, of Groton, his children, Roger (Pamela) Rix of Groton, Elaine (Fred) Wolken of Piedmont, Teresa (Larry) Enze of Sioux Falls; his grandchildren, Grant (Tracy) Rix, Jarrett Rix, Mary Ann Rix, Jessica (Mike) Hauck, Adam Grams, Alana (David) White, Amber Wolken and fiancé Bryce Sombke, Sheila Taul, Wendy (Jamie) Howard, Christa (Mike) Sports, Logan Enze and Erin Enze. Jerry is also survived by his great-grandchildren: Gideon & Conrad Rix, Justin & Casey Taul, Neva & Theresa Howard, Nicholas Lane, Rowan Shepherd, his sister-in-law, Nora Rix, and special friends Anita and John Lowary.

Preceding him in death were his parents, an infant sister, his brother, William Rix and daughter-in-law, Marian Rix.

Casketbearers will be Grant Rix, Jarrett Rix, Logan Enze, David White, Bryce Sombke, Adam Grams, Mike Hauck and John Lowary.

Gil Favor has pulled his last Hank Snow.

North Central Farmers Elevator and Wheat Growers Members Approve Unification

(SEPT. 28, 2017; Ipswich & Aberdeen, SD) – The member-owners of North Central Farmers Elevator and Wheat Growers have each voted to approve the unification of the two cooperatives.

The North Central Farmers Elevator members voted for the proposed unification 911-657. The Wheat Growers members also voted for the proposed unification, 1598-954. With this vote, the new cooperative is expected to begin operations effective Feb. 1, 2018. Until the effective date, each cooperative will continue to operate independently from the other.

“We listened to our members and it was based on their comments that we brought this to a vote of the membership,” said Rick Osterday, North Central Farmers Elevator Board President. “We’re pleased that they concluded that the unification of both cooperatives can bring additional value to members and ensure the long-term relevance and viability of a unified cooperative. We want to thank them for their support and participation in this important part of cooperative governance.”

“This is a merger of two financially strong, legacy-rich cooperatives,” said Wheat Growers Board President Hal Clemensen. “Our mission now is to seize this opportunity to build a new, even stronger cooperative better able to serve our member-owners. As we go forward, we will create new efficiencies, take advantage of new technologies and continue to build a strong employee team – all in order to create more value for our members.”

The member voting period began Aug. 29 and followed a series of member information meetings that were held throughout the region beginning Aug. 21. Members cast their ballots through Sept. 28. All ballots submitted were verified by Eide Bailly, the third-party audit firm administering the vote.

The focus of the two cooperatives now turns to planning integration efforts, including developing a name for the new cooperative.

SDSU Local Foods Education Center Grand Opening Oct. 7

BROOKINGS, S.D. - The grand opening of the South Dakota State University Local Foods Education Center will take place on Saturday, Oct. 7, at 1 p.m.

A program and ribbon cutting will kick off the event, followed by a pumpkin rush from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. where children of all ages are invited to pick and take home the pumpkin of their choice. There are more than 400 pumpkins of all shapes, sizes and colors to choose from. Add a ZooMobile, face painting, bounce bug, SDSU ice cream, and much more and it is sure to be an eventful afternoon for all!

The day wouldn't be complete without some Jackrabbit football. At 6 p.m. the Jacks will be taking on Southern Illinois University for the SDSU Hall of Fame Football Game. A ticket is required for entrance to the game.

The Local Foods Education Center is a novel approach to addressing food security in South Dakota. The 1.2-acre outdoor classroom is fully dedicated to student and public teaching and learning, emphasizing hands-on field experience with small-scale food production and distribution practices.

"Most of the food harvested from this learning center has been donated to the Harvest Table of Brookings", says David Wright, Head of the Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science. "Our students produced and distributed more than 2,000 pounds of fresh produce to food insecure residents of this city."

The center is based on a foundation of student learning, ecosystem sustainability, and consumer access to a safe and stable food supply. There is growing consumer demand for locally produced, marketed and consumed food in the U.S., which is why local food production has become a core of the SDSU horticulture curriculum.

The SDSU Local Foods Education Center is located on Medary Avenue north of the Animal Science Arena. Parking is available north of the arena. In the event of rain, the ribbon cutting and pumpkin rush will be held in the Animal Science Arena.



Photo by: Sydney Sleep, SDSU College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences. SDSU students produced and distributed more than 2,000 pounds of fresh produce during the summer of 2017 for the Harvest Table of Brookings.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 9 of 35

Today in Weather History

September 29, 1982: An early snowfall in the Black Hills resulted in the breakage of tree branches and caused power outages in parts of Lead and Nevada Gulch.

1927 - An outbreak of tornadoes from Oklahoma to Indiana caused 81 deaths and 25 million dollars damage. A tornado (possibly two tornadoes) cut an eight-mile long path across Saint Louis MO, to Granite City IL, killing 79 persons. The damage path at times was a mile and a quarter in width. The storm followed a similar path to tornadoes which struck in 1871, 1896, and 1959. (The Weather Channel)

1959 - A storm produced 28 inches of snow at Colorado Springs, CO. (David Ludlum)

1983 - Heavy rains began in central and eastern Arizona which culminated in the worst flood in the history of the state. Eight to ten inch rains across the area caused severe flooding in southeastern Arizona which resulted in thirteen deaths and 178 million dollars damage. President Reagan declared eight counties of Arizona to be disaster areas. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - A week of violent weather began in Oklahoma which culminated in one of the worst flooding events in the history of the state. On the first day of the week early morning thunderstorms caused more than a million dollars damage in south Oklahoma City. Thunderstorms produced 4 to 7 inches of rain from Hobart to Ponca City, and another round of thunderstorms that evening produced 7 to 10 inches of rain in north central and northeastern sections of Oklahoma. (Storm Data)





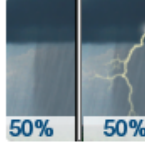
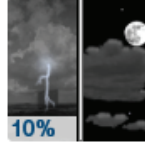

1987 - A slow moving cold front produced rain from the Great Lakes Region to the Central Gulf Coast Region. A late afternoon thunderstorm produced wind gusts to 62 mph at Buffalo NY. Warm weather continued in the western U.S. In Oregon, the afternoon high of 96 degrees at Medford was a record for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - High pressure brought freezing temperatures to parts of Vermont and New York State. Burlington VT dipped to 30 degrees, and Binghamton NY reported a record low of 34 degrees. The high pressure system also brought cold weather to the Central Rocky Mountain Region. Alamosa CO reported a record low of 18 degrees, and Gunnison CO was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of just five degrees above zero. (National Weather Summary)

1989 - Seven cities reported record high temperatures for the date, as readings soared into the 80s and low 90s in the Northern Plateau and Northern Plains Region. Record highs included 91 degrees at Boise ID, and 92 degrees at Sheridan WY. The high of 100 degrees at Tucson AZ marked their 51st record high of the year, and their 92nd day of 100 degree weather. (National Weather Summary)

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 10 of 35

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Slight Chance Showers and Breezy	Breezy, Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance T-storms	Breezy, Chance Showers then Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms then Partly Cloudy	Slight Chance Showers
High: 67 °F	Low: 49 °F	High: 68 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 67 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 64 °F

Dry Conditions Today Windy on Saturday / Stormy on Sunday



Friday



Dry

60-70°

Saturday



WINDY

Isolated Showers Windy

65-75°

Sunday



Showers and Thunderstorms

60-70°

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 9/29/2017 5:28 AM Central

Published on: 09/29/2017 at 5:30AM

Surface high pressure will bring dry and mild conditions today. Southerly winds will develop late this afternoon and continue through the weekend. Showers and thunderstorms can be expected Saturday night through Sunday.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 11 of 35

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 72.2

Low Outside Temp: 36.9

High Gust: 14

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 95° in 1897

Record Low: 11° in 1939

Average High: 66°F

Average Low: 40°F

Average Precip in Sept: 2.17

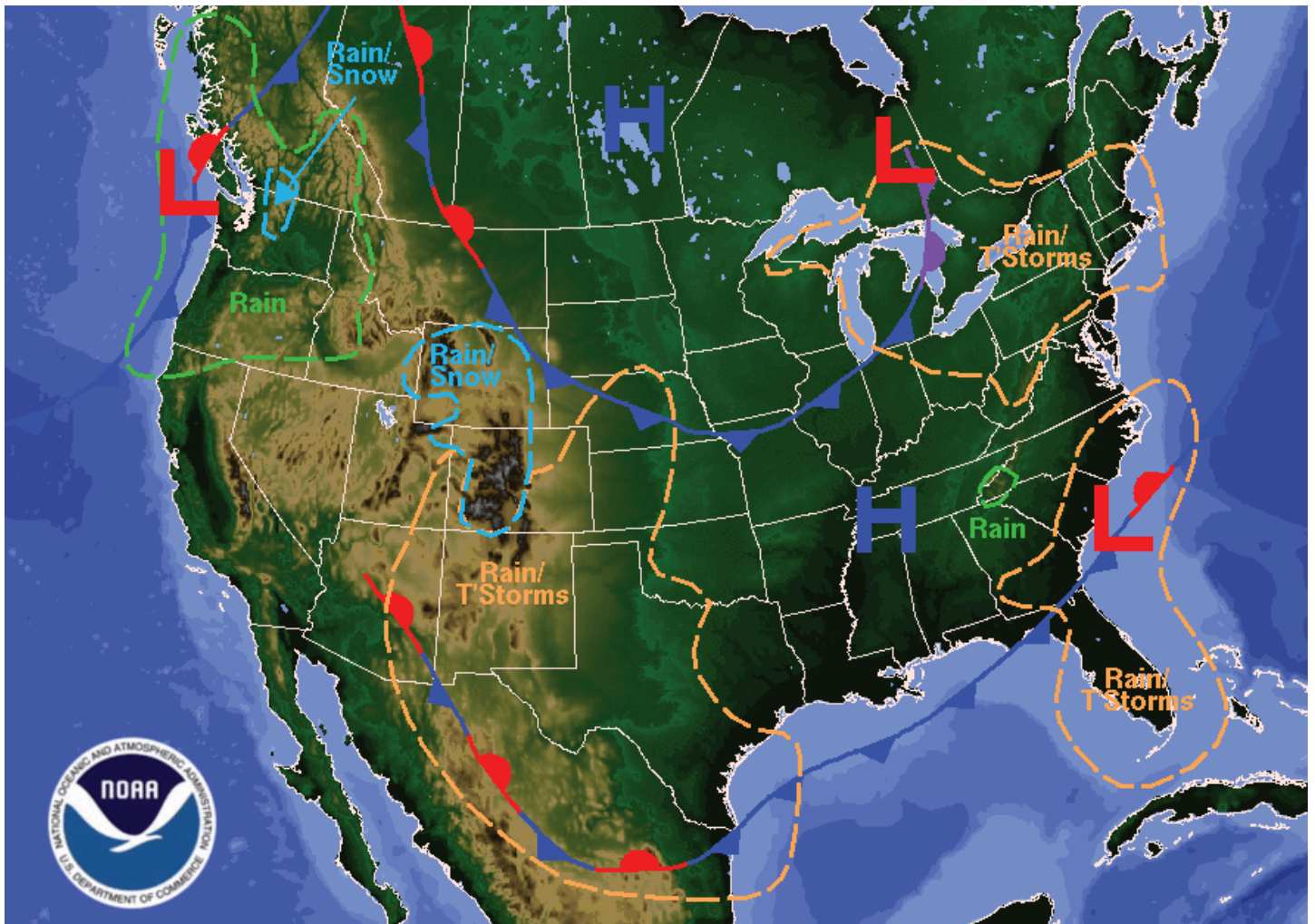
Precip to date in Sept: 3.57

Average Precip to date: 18.41

Precip Year to Date: 13.09

Sunset Tonight: 7:19 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:31 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Sep 29, 2017, issued 4:44 AM EDT

DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center

Prepared by McReynolds 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

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 12 of 35



THE RESULTS OF RESTORATION

"I know I'm forgiven," he said, "but I don't have the same feelings I once had. Will they ever come back?"

While our salvation is established on facts, feelings play an important role in our relationship with God. They come from the Holy Spirit and from God to let us know what our condition or relationship is with Him. If there is joy and gladness in our lives, we know God is with us. When we are uncomfortable in His presence and feel a sense of alienation from Him, we know there is a need for us to confess our sins and repent.

When we go to God and experience His restoration, He, as well as others, will see the fruit of His forgiveness in our lives. David sets our example: "Then – after my restoration when I am given a recreated heart – I will teach transgressors Your ways and sinners will turn back to You." When we receive a renewed heart there is a renewed desire in us to worship and witness for God. "Old things have passed away and all things are new again!" When we once again walk in God's ways we, then once again, do God's work.

Is anyone a more powerful witness to the wonder of God's grace than someone who has been redeemed from a hell they created for themselves by being disobedient to God's laws? When we recover from our own self-inflicted wounds, we can recognize the pain and hurt in others who are suffering as we once suffered. We become more open to their needs because we "have been there, done that, suffered and recovered" because God continues to love us and then continues to grant us His mercy and grace.

And the more we worship the more we witness. Our motivation to witness comes from worship.

Prayer: Grant us, Lord, a journey with You that leads us to a life that is dedicated to worshiping You and witnessing to others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 51:12-13 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 13 of 35

News from the Associated Press

Capitol flags at half-staff for late Rapid City lawmaker

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has ordered flags at the state Capitol to be flown at half-staff in memory of former state Senate Majority Leader Homer Kandaras.

The Rapid City Democrat died Monday. He was 88. His funeral is Friday. Kandaras served in the Senate from 1971-76.

Feds to announce more indictments in SD eagle parts case

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Federal authorities in South Dakota are preparing to announce more charges stemming from a two-year undercover investigation into the illegal trafficking of eagle parts.

U.S. Attorney Randy Seiler will hold a news conference in Rapid City on Friday to announce several new indictments and 16 new defendants.

Prosecutors announced indictments against 15 people in April for illegally trafficking in eagles and other migratory birds.

The case offers a rare window into the black market for eagle carcasses, feathers, parts and handicrafts. Eagle heads or wings can fetch hundreds of dollars. The parts are often used in Native American-style handicrafts.

Federal law limits possession of eagle feathers and other parts to enrolled members of federally recognized tribes who use them in religious practices. Hunting them generally remains illegal.

Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Central def. Pierre, 25-17, 25-18, 23-25, 25-19
Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-17, 25-15, 28-26
Arlington def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-14, 25-11, 25-7
Brandon Valley def. Sioux Falls O'Gorman, 19-25, 25-20, 25-20, 15-25, 15-13
Britton-Hecla def. Deuel, 27-25, 21-25, 18-25, 25-20, 15-9
Burke/South Central def. Boyd County, Neb., 25-10, 25-10, 25-15
Canistota def. Mitchell Christian, 26-28, 25-21, 25-20, 26-24
Castlewood def. DeSmet, 25-13, 25-18, 25-18
Chester def. Beresford, 25-15, 25-16, 25-11
Clark/Willow Lake def. Webster, 25-17, 25-22, 25-20
Dell Rapids def. Lennox, 25-21, 25-15, 25-20
Deubrook def. Colman-Egan, 25-17, 25-20, 25-19
Dupree def. Bison, 25-17, 25-20, 27-25
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-9, 25-17, 25-13
Ethan def. Freeman, 19-25, 25-14, 25-13, 25-7
Faith def. Harding County, 20-25, 25-9, 25-21, 25-17
Faulkton def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-13, 25-12, 25-10
Great Plains Lutheran def. Florence/Henry, 26-24, 23-25, 25-20, 17-25, 15-9
Gregory def. Chamberlain, 17-25, 25-10, 20-25, 25-18, 15-8
Groton Area def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 25-16, 28-26, 25-16
Hamlin def. Milbank, 25-18, 25-18, 24-26, 25-17
Hanson def. Kimball/White Lake, 25-19, 25-10, 16-25, 25-20

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 14 of 35

Harrisburg def. Yankton, 25-14, 25-23, 25-11
Howard def. Flandreau, 25-12, 25-21, 25-9
Ipswich def. Edmunds Central, 25-13, 25-9, 25-20
Langford def. Waubay/Summit, 25-13, 25-12, 25-10
Lemmon def. Stanley County, 22-25, 25-20, 18-25, 25-23, 15-8
McCook Central/Montrose def. Tri-Valley, 25-20, 25-17, 25-18
Menno def. Bon Homme, 25-16, 25-11, 25-12
Mitchell def. Huron, 26-24, 16-25, 25-15, 19-25, 16-14
Moorcroft, Wyo. def. Edgemont, 23-25, 25-16, 19-25, 25-23, 15-6
Parker def. Garretson, 25-19, 25-11, 25-9
Parkston def. Scotland, 25-14, 25-15, 25-19
Philip def. Sully Buttes, 25-20, 25-22, 16-25, 21-25, 15-4
Platte-Geddes def. Lyman, 25-16, 25-17, 25-8
Rapid City Christian def. Jones County, 22-25, 25-17, 25-18, 25-23
Redfield/Doland def. Sisseton, 25-9, 25-17, 25-16
Sioux Falls Christian def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-13, 25-12, 25-17
Spearfish def. Hot Springs, 25-16, 25-23, 25-11
St. Thomas More def. Pine Ridge, 25-20, 21-25, 25-6, 25-19
Sturgis def. Lead-Deadwood, 24-26, 25-16, 25-21, 25-15
Tea Area def. Canton, 25-16, 25-9, 25-16
Timber Lake def. McIntosh, 26-24, 25-19, 20-25, 25-16
Tripp-Delmont/Armour def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-14, 17-25, 26-24, 25-16
Wall def. Newell, 25-5, 25-19, 25-7
Warner def. Herreid/Selby Area, 25-22, 25-12, 25-19
Watertown def. Brookings, 25-23, 25-19, 25-15
Waverly-South Shore def. Wilmot, 22-25, 23-25, 25-21, 25-20, 18-16
West Central def. Vermillion, 25-20, 25-11, 19-25, 25-11
281 Conference Tournament
First Round
Highmore-Harrold def. Wessington Springs, 21-25, 23-25, 25-22, 25-21, 15-8
Hitchcock-Tulare def. James Valley Christian, 18-25, 25-19, 25-20, 25-23
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Iroquois, 25-4, 25-3, 25-15
Wolsey-Wessington def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-17, 25-14, 25-10
Belle Fourche Triangular
Belle Fourche def. Douglas, 25-12, 25-9, 25-22
Belle Fourche def. Chadron, Neb., 23-25, 20-25, 25-18, 28-26, 15-9
Chadron, Neb. def. Douglas, 25-19, 26-24, 25-19
Ponca Triangular
Dakota Valley def. Ponca, Neb., 25-13, 21-25, 25-21
Dakota Valley def. Pierce, Neb., 25-21, 25-23

FAA bans drone flights near major US landmarks

NEW YORK (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration is banning drone flights within 400 feet (122 meters) of several national landmarks, including the Statue of Liberty and Mount Rushmore.

The FAA announced the no-fly drone zones at 10 Department of the Interior sites on Thursday. They take effect Oct. 5.

The restricted sites also include Boston National Historical Park, Philadelphia's Independence National Historical Park and Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, Missouri.

Five dams also are on the list: Nevada's Hoover Dam, Shasta and Folsom Dams in California, Arizona's

Glen Canyon Dam and Washington's Grand Coulee Dam.

Drone violators may face civil penalties and criminal charges.

The FAA says the new restrictions came at the request of U.S. national security and law enforcement agencies.

Tribal head who led Dakota Access pipeline fight voted out

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Native American official who has been the face and voice of the fight against the Dakota Access oil pipeline has been voted out of office.

Unofficial results from the Standing Rock Sioux tribe's general election Wednesday showed that Dave Archambault received only 37 percent of about 1,700 votes cast. His opponent, longtime tribal councilman and wildlife official Mike Faith, received 63 percent, according to the totals released Thursday.

Archambault conceded defeat in a statement.

"I will continue to advocate for the issues facing our community and look forward to exploring new opportunities," he said. "I wish the new administration the best and look forward to a smooth transition, ensuring that we do not lose the powerful momentum we have at Standing Rock."

The tribe opposed the \$3.8 billion pipeline built by Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners over fears it would harm cultural sites and the tribe's Missouri River water supply — claims rejected by ETP. Protests failed to stop the pipeline, and it began moving North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to a distribution point in Illinois on June 1. The Standing Rock and three other Sioux tribes are still fighting the pipeline in federal court.

A protest camp on federal land just north of the reservation and near the area where the pipeline skirted tribal land drew hundreds and sometimes thousands of pipeline opponents, some of whom clashed with police. There were 761 arrests between August and February.

Archambault earlier this year called for the large camp and other smaller camps in the area to disband before the spring flooding season, upsetting some tribal members.

Activist Chase Iron Eyes, who is a Standing Rock member, clashed with Archambault over whether the large-scale on-the-ground protests should continue. But he said that even though he and Archambault disagreed about tactics, they shared the same goal and that Archambault "represented us well" overall.

However, Iron Eyes said fresh voices in tribal leadership might bolster efforts to repair relations with county, state and federal officials that became strained during the protests.

The Rev. John Floberg, who has been an Episcopal minister on the reservation for 26 years, said he doesn't think Archambault's handling of the protests was a big factor in his defeat.

"A lot of times when Standing Rock has an election, it isn't about getting rid of someone that's not doing a good job, it's about looking to what the gifts (strengths) are of the candidates," he said, adding that Faith has long been a respected leader on the reservation.

Faith, 64, said he's not sure how big of an issue the pipeline protest was in the campaign. The reservation has numerous other problems that need addressing, from a poor economy to poor health care, he said.

Faith, who used to manage the tribe's buffalo herd and work as a ranger in its wildlife department, has been on the Tribal Council for a total of 18 years. He said he personally opposes the pipeline but thinks the large-scale protest took focus away from other issues, including health care, education, elderly needs, suicide problems, illegal drugs and a poor economy.

"We kind of neglected our own" by taking the lead on the pipeline protest, he said. "We did what we had to do, but we didn't realize we were going to hurt our economy that much."

The state shut down the highway near the protest camp for months. The highway also was the main route for patrons of the tribe's casino, its main source of revenue.

"People want to see how we can fix ourselves," Faith said. "We have to look at not depending on the casino so much. We have to look at enticing companies to come down here."

Faith said he respects what Archambault did, and Archambault said he wishes the new administration

well and looks forward to a smooth transition.

"I did the best I could for my tribe and that's what we must ask of our leaders," Archambault said.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake> . Sign up for the AP's weekly newsletter showcasing our best reporting from the Midwest and Texas at <http://apne.ws/2u1RMfv> .

Feds to announce more indictments in SD eagle parts case

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Federal authorities in South Dakota are preparing to announce more charges stemming from a two-year undercover investigation into the illegal trafficking of eagle parts.

U.S. Attorney Randy Seiler will hold a news conference in Rapid City on Friday to announce several new indictments and 16 new defendants.

Prosecutors announced indictments against 15 people in April for illegally trafficking in eagles and other migratory birds.

The case offers a rare window into the black market for eagle carcasses, feathers, parts and handicrafts. Eagle heads or wings can fetch hundreds of dollars. The parts are often used in Native American-style handicrafts.

Federal law limits possession of eagle feathers and other parts to enrolled members of federally recognized tribes who use them in religious practices. Hunting them generally remains illegal.

Black Hills neighbors concerned over water amid resort sale

LEAD, S.D. (AP) — A ski resort in South Dakota's Black Hills is being put up for sale at a sheriff's auction after its owners defaulted on \$3.7 million in loans.

The Mystic Miner Mountain Resort's sale comes in the wake of a July default judgment in state court against Union Resort LLC as well as an Aug. 2 foreclosure judgment.

Judge Eric Strawn awarded Victory Land, the creditors, more than \$3.7 million and possession of the property. Strawn said Victory Land can sell the resort to meet the obligations of the debtors.

In addition to its ski area with 850 feet of vertical runs, the resort south of Lead features a 6,850-foot summit and a tubing park, the Rapid City Journal reported .

About 100 homeowners live in neighboring Deer Mountain developments, which are served by the same private water system that served the resort. Some homeowners said they're concerned because most of the mechanical systems involved with delivering water to residences are located on some of the land up for sale.

"Our water company is a private entity, so if someone buys it, they can do whatever they want with it," said Shari Kosel, who has lived in Deer Mountain since 2002. "Our concern is being without water. We need our water, a vital component to living. We can't have 100 homes individually drilling our own wells at this point."

Kosel said residents are considering forming a sanitation district to take over the water system if necessary.

"My hopes are we could form a sanitary district, purchase it from the new investment concerns and take legal matters into consideration to at least put a stay and maintain our water system until all legal matters and issues are resolved with the sale," she said.

There has been no update yet on the sale's outcome.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 17 of 35

Kentucky governor to appeal judge's ruling on abortion law

By ADAM BEAM, Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Kentucky's Republican governor will appeal a ruling striking down a state law requiring pregnant women seeking an abortion to first have an ultrasound.

The ruling means doctors at Kentucky's lone abortion clinic will not be forced to perform ultrasounds and describe them in detail while the pregnant woman listens to the fetal heartbeat. The law says women can close their eyes, and they can ask to have the sound of the heartbeat turned off. But doctors still have to perform the ultrasound and describe it to her, even if she asks them not to. If they don't, they could be fined up to \$250,000.

Lawyers for EMW Women's Surgical Center in Louisville said the law violates their doctors' First Amendment rights because it forces doctors "to deliver the state's ideological, anti-abortion message to their patients." Lawyers for the state say that's not true, because the law only requires doctors to "disclose truthful, non-misleading, and relevant information."

But U.S. District Judge David Hale sided with the clinic, ruling "the First Amendment protects an individual's right to refrain from speaking just as much as it protects the right to speak freely."

"We are pleased that Kentuckians will no longer be subjected to this demeaning and degrading invasion into their personal health care decisions," said Alexa Kolbi-Molinas, senior staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union's Reproductive Freedom Project. "This ruling puts us one step closer to getting Kentucky politicians out of the exam room."

Amanda Stamper, spokeswoman for Gov. Matt Bevin, said the governor was disappointed and "will appeal immediately." She said the governor is confident the law is constitutional because similar laws in Texas and South Dakota have been upheld by two federal appellate courts.

However, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled a similar law in North Carolina was unconstitutional. And the Oklahoma Supreme Court struck down that state's ultrasound law.

Bevin is not a defendant in the lawsuit. But his cabinet secretary for Health and Family Services is, and Bevin's lawyer has been representing her in the case. Democratic Attorney General Andy Beshear is a named defendant in the lawsuit. A spokesman said the Attorney General's Office is reviewing the ruling.

The law was one of the first to pass the state Legislature earlier this year after voters elected a Republican majority in the House for the first time in nearly a century.

Senate confirms North Dakota judge to 8th Circuit

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The U.S. Senate has overwhelmingly approved a North Dakota judge to serve on the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Senate voted 95-1 Thursday to confirm Judge Ralph Erickson of Fargo to the St. Louis-based court. Clerk of the Court Michael Gans says Erickson will replace Kermit E. Bye, who retired last year.

President Donald Trump nominated Erickson in June. He's served in various judicial positions for nearly a quarter of a century. In 2003, he was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as a federal judge.

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals handles appeals from federal courts in the Dakotas, Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska.

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, Sept. 28

Forest Service listens and finds solutions

The relationship between the Mystic Ranger District and bicyclists has come a long way since 2016 when a red line was drawn in the Black Hills National Forest.

But it has been a challenging and difficult ride.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 18 of 35

It got real bumpy in April 2016 when the district ranger at the time decided the best way to respond to mountain bikers who created and maintained unauthorized trails was to threaten to prosecute them, which could have led to six months in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

In April 2017, that same district ranger, Ruth Esperance, announced she was canceling popular mountain bike and trail-running races, including the Black Hills Back 40, which raises money for local charities while attracting visitors from across the country to the Black Hills.

In both cases, the parties eventually decided it was better to work together to find a solution than be in irreconcilable conflict over how to share a public resource. They talked and began working on a plan to allow more mountain-biking trails and the decision to cancel the races was rescinded.

Now and without the drama that highlighted the process before, the Mystic Ranger District is working with fat-tire bicyclists so they too can enjoy the beautiful Black Hills of western South Dakota.

On Sunday, the Journal reported that after some tense exchanges last year over trail usage, the Forest Service has identified trails and roads in five areas that could be groomed for fat-tire bicycles, which allow riders to navigate terrain that is muddy or snow-covered.

In doing so, the Forest Service hopes it will keep the bikes off trails now used by snowmobiles and are off-limits to wheeled vehicles. Those groomed trails are supported by snowmobile licenses and fees.

Mark Van Every, the supervisor of the Black Hills National Forest, said representatives from several trails and recreation groups met with state and local land managers to discuss the issue and then preliminarily identified trails and roads for fat-tire bikers.

While there is still work ahead and certainly more discussions before any plans are finalized, the process this time around has certainly been smoother.

The Forest Service, bikers and others have shown that it is possible to find equitable solutions once the position of no compromise is dismissed and the red line is erased. After all, the national forests belong to all of us.

It's a lesson that those in elected office and party loyalists can learn from. We can work together in this country and often that is the best course to take.

The Daily Leader, Madison, Sept. 25

Lake County isn't only one to face jail limits

We've read several stories recently about county jails across South Dakota facing capacity problems and other structural issues, including Codington County, Davison County and Lawrence County.

The problems seem to be due, in least partially, to the criminal justice reforms passed by the state Legislature four years ago. It is a complex issue, of course, but the reforms were an attempt to reduce the capacity strain on the state's prison system.

At the time, legislators and the governor worked to remove nonviolent offenders from long prison sentences and into highly supervised probation. The changes occurred at roughly the same time as increases in methamphetamine and opioid arrests, putting more offenders into county jails.

State prison populations dropped after the reforms, but are now rising again.

In some counties' cases, the capacity strain also occurs at a time when jails are showing their ages. Some fixes are manageable within normal county budgets, while others will require tax increases or other funding to upgrade.

Rules about jailing women and juveniles have changed over the years, and some county jails aren't set up to meet those rules. In those cases, women or juveniles are sent to other facilities that can accommodate them, incurring transportation and housing costs.

In Lake County's case, the current facility has some aging infrastructure issues, plus a desire to create a better facility for 911 communications, and to put the state's attorney's office on the ground. In addition, an improved design could increase safety and efficiency in staffing.

Lake County has been housing female prisoners since the beginning of 2017. It has also been talking with neighboring counties about sharing the use of the facility in Madison.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 19 of 35

Expanding and renovating the Lake County jail is a complex and expensive proposition, and we urge citizens to learn as much as they can in upcoming months about the issue so we can make the best decisions.

The Capital Journal, Pierre, Sept. 26

South Dakota has a diversity problem

As much or more than two-thirds of our state's crop land is dominated by just two types of plant: corn and soybeans.

This is a big and growing problem. One that, for about 10 years, has been obscured by high prices and relative boom times for many of our state's farmers. Not so long ago, corn was fetching around \$8 per bushel. That may not seem like too much to the non-farming public but, if you can raise an average of 200 bushels on each acre of a 160-acre quarter section, you've raised about \$256,000 worth of grain. The average size of a farm in South Dakota this year is a hair over 1,400 acres.

The prices certainly are down from that record high. Yesterday, for example, the average price per bushel in the U.S. was about \$3.53. The drop in price is due, in no small part, to a glut of corn having been grown in response to extraordinarily high prices.

And therein lies one aspect of the problem — there's too much reliance on too few types of crop. The price of corn has been inflated, artificially many would say, by the rise of ethanol as an alternative fuel source for our beloved cars and SUVs.

The ethanol industry has benefited greatly from generous, though often indirect, subsidies from all levels of government. One notable federal example is the Renewable Fuel Standard, which forces oil companies to mix ethanol into their gasoline. There also are the federal farm programs that help lower the risks of farming, thus lowering the price of such things as corn.

While low corn prices certainly benefit the corporations that produce ethanol, they're not always great for the folks who grow the corn. In a market not affected by government interference, the overabundance of corn would be solved by suppliers simply choosing not to grow so much corn.

The problem is that our farm programs often discourage farmers from planting a more diverse mix of crops. Diversification should be encouraged whenever possible. It's more profitable for farmers over the long term.

Hospital official says 4 killed in Afghan suicide bombing

By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A suicide bomber blew himself up outside a mosque in the Afghan capital on Friday, killing four people and wounding 20 others, authorities said, in the latest attack to target the country's minority Shiites.

Hospital program coordinator Dejan Panic confirmed the fatalities from the attack, which came as worshippers were leaving the Hussainia Mosque in central Kabul following Friday prayers. Police officer Abdul Rahman said the attacker blew himself up on the street about 1,000 meters (1,094 yards) from the mosque.

Police official Sadiq Muradi said police confronted the attacker as he came through a checkpoint near the holy site, calling for him to stop. But that's when he ignited his explosives, blowing himself up.

Mir Hussain Nasiri, a member of Kabul's Shiite clerics council, told The Associated Press the attacker was disguised as a shepherd.

Mohammad Ismail, police chief of Kabul's 10th district, said a second person suspected of involvement was in custody.

Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani condemned the attack in a statement, saying the "terrorists" targeted civilians and their holy place, which shows the attackers "are against humanity and anti-religion and faith."

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which took place two days before the Muslim holy day of Ashura. But Afghanistan has faced a series of large-scale attacks in recent months targeting minority Shiites for which the Sunni-dominated Islamic State group affiliate in Afghanistan has taken

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 20 of 35

responsibility.

In July, IS attacked the Iraqi Embassy in Kabul and then warned Shiites in Afghanistan that their mosques would be targeted. Sunni extremists consider Shiites to be heretics.

Within days of that, IS also took responsibility for a suicide attack on a Shiite mosque in western Herat province that left 32 people dead.

Last month, militants stormed a packed Shiite mosque in Kabul during Friday prayers in an attack that lasted for hours and ended with at least 20 worshippers killed and another 50 seriously wounded, many of them children. IS claimed it was responsible.

Also on Friday, an Afghan official said a Taliban attack on a police checkpoint left five police dead in western Farah province.

Iqbal Baher, spokesman for the provincial chief of police, says two others were wounded when the militants launched their attack early Friday in Bala Bluk district.

Baher said reinforcements from the Afghan national army arrived after several hours of fighting and pushed the Taliban fighters out of the district. He said the Afghan air force struck three Taliban vehicles as they tried to escape, killing at least 20 of the militants.

There was no immediate statement from the Taliban.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. TRUMP TO PROMOTE TAX REWRITE PLAN

The president will push his plan to an audience eager for the proposed change — the National Association of Manufacturers.

2. 'WE LOST A COMPLETE HARVEST'

Farmers fear Puerto Rico's small but diverse agricultural sector may never recover from the punch delivered to one of the island's economic bright spots by Hurricane Maria.

3. ANOTHER HUGE ROCK FALL AT YOSEMITE'S EL CAPITAN

The slide comes a day after a giant slab of granite plunged from the same formation, killing a British man on a hiking and climbing visit and injuring his wife.

4. DEADLY MUMBAI STAMPEDE IN MORNING RUSH

Indian police are investigating what caused the crush on crowded pedestrian bridge connecting two railway stations in the city that killed more than 20 people.

5. WHAT'S ON TILLERSON'S TO-DO LIST

The U.S. secretary of state's agenda for visiting China is top-heavy with North Korea, trade issues and preparing for Trump's trip in November — the president's first to Asia.

6. JET-SETTING TRUMP APPOINTEE APOLOGIZES

Health secretary Tom Price also promises to repay taxpayers for the costly charter flights he took while on government business.

7. WHAT TOURIST HAVEN IS ON EDGE

More than 130,000 people have fled the region around the Mount Agung volcano on the Indonesian island of Bali, fearing it will soon erupt.

8. WHITHER THE HOUSE OF HEFNER

It's the end of an era for the Playboy Mansion with the death of Hugh Hefner, the man who turned it into the one of the most storied homes in the world.

9. NO. 1 IF BY LAND, NO. 2 IF BY SEA

Archaeologists are excavating what they believe was the site of an outhouse next door to Paul Revere's home. The potty could be flush with artifacts.

10. QB PUTS ON A SHOW

Aaron Rodgers throws four touchdown passes to lead Green Bay past Chicago 35-14.

Stampede on crowded Indian pedestrian bridge leaves 22 dead

By **RAFIQ MAQBOOL and MANISH MEHTA, Associated Press**

MUMBAI, India (AP) — A stampede broke out on a crowded pedestrian bridge connecting two railway stations in Mumbai during the Friday morning rush, killing at least 22 people and injuring 32 others, Indian officials said.

Police were investigating what caused the stampede on the bridge, which led some commuters to leap over the railing. Others were crushed or fell underfoot and were trampled.

"There were too many people on the bridge, and the people were in hurry and wanted to move out," said Brijesh Upadhyay, one of the many caught in the crowd. "There was nobody helping, it was very suffocating, and we just wanted to get out of there — and fell on each other."

One rescuer told Indian broadcaster NDTV that the stampede trapped dozens in the narrow passage, forcing rescuers to break the railing to pull people out.

Mumbai police official Gansham Patel said some falling concrete had hit part of the bridge railing, leading people to surge forward out of panic at the thought that the bridge was collapsing.

Commuters also often complain about hawkers selling their wares on the narrow overpass, which connects two commuter railway stations, Elphinstone and Parel.

Heavy rains meant the bridge was even more crowded than usual, as some sought shelter from the downpour under the canopy covering the bridge, said lawmaker Shaina Nana Chudasama of the governing Bhartiya Janata Party.

Hospitals were treating 32 injured people, including 19 women and 13 men.

As Mumbai police appealed to citizens to donate blood to help the injured, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences to the families of those killed.

"Prayers with those who are injured," Modi tweeted.

Kishore Thakkar, another witness, said the bridge became overcrowded as people stopped, waiting for the rain to ease. "But then came a heavy push by people, causing some people to fall down and get crushed by the surge of passengers."

He complained that government rescuers did not respond quickly to alerts sent by phone. "Local people had pulled out most of the victims by the time the police and government rescuers arrived," Thakkar told TV news channel ABP.

Separately in the southern city of Bangalore, two people were killed in another stampede by hundreds of people jostling to obtain coupons for free food offered by a local philanthropist, police said. The philanthropist has been detained for questioning.

Deadly stampedes are fairly common in densely populated India, where many cities are unequipped to deal with large crowds gathering in small areas, with few safety or crowd control measures.

In October 2013, a stampede in Madhya Pradesh state in central India killed more than 110 people, mostly women and children.

Trump to promote tax plan in address to manufacturers group

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will promote his plan for a sweeping rewrite of the tax code to an audience eager for the proposed change.

Trump is set to address the National Association of Manufacturers on Friday in Washington. A senior administration official says Trump will promote the tax plan as one that will help make American businesses more competitive. The official insists on anonymity to discuss the speech ahead of time.

The president and congressional Republicans this week released the outlines of a nearly \$6 trillion tax cut plan that would deeply reduce taxes for corporations, simplify tax brackets and nearly double the standard deduction used by most tax filers. Many details remain to be fleshed out.

In the remarks, Trump is expected to highlight a provision that would allow businesses for the next five

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 22 of 35

years to write off the full cost of new equipment in the year it's purchased.

Under the broader proposal, corporations would see their top tax rate cut from 35 percent to 20 percent. Seven personal tax brackets would be reduced to three: 12 percent, 25 percent and 35 percent. But the information released didn't include the income levels applied to the rates, making it difficult to know how a typical family's tax bill may be affected.

The plan also recommends a surcharge for the very wealthy. The standard deduction would nearly double to \$12,000 for individuals and \$24,000 for families, basically increasing the amount of personal income that would not be taxed. Deductions for mortgage interest and charitable giving would remain, but the plan seeks to end most other itemized deductions.

In the address, Trump will also review policy changes since he took office in January that are intended to improve the business climate, the official said. Those changes include lifting restrictions on energy production, reversing environmental rules and rolling back regulations. He'll also review economic gains of the past eight months.

Jay Timmons, president and CEO of the association, said Trump has been a "tireless advocate" for manufacturers. Timmons said U.S. manufacturers "have never been as enthusiastic or as optimistic about their future as they are this year, and that is because of the huge opportunity we have to get tax reform done."

Trump wants to sign tax legislation into law by the end of the year.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

Farmers say Maria wrecked bright spot of Puerto Rico economy

By DAVID PITT, Associated Press

For 21 years Hector Alejandro Santiago spread joy throughout Puerto Rico with the poinsettias, orchids and other ornamental plants he raised and sold to major retailers including Costco, Walmart and Home Depot. In a matter of hours Hurricane Maria wiped it away.

The greenhouses and other buildings on the 40 acres where he grew the plants and prepared them for customers lie in tatters, ripped to shreds by 155 mph (244 kph) winds and driving rain. Trees are flattened.

"I will need to begin from zero," said Santiago, 43, whose Cali Nurseries is located in Barranquitas, a small mountain city 34 miles (55 kilometers) southwest of San Juan. He's determined to rebuild and get back into business despite the losses he estimates at \$1.5 million.

Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico on Sept. 20 as a Category 4 storm, the strongest to hit the island in a century. At least 16 people died and nearly all 3.4 million people on the island were left without power and most without water.

The hurricane devastated agriculture, a small bright spot of economic growth in a U.S. territory mired in a decade-long recession and crushing debt.

While most of the island's food is imported, statistics from the governor as of late 2016 show about 7,000 people working in agriculture, farm income growing and acres under cultivation up 50 percent over the past four years.

Agricultural income is divided nearly equally between crop and livestock production, according to the most recent Census of Agriculture compiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for Puerto Rico in 2012.

Crop sales generate about \$271 million a year led by production of plantains, vegetables and melons, nursery and greenhouse crops, fruits and coffee. Livestock sales are about \$276 million led by milk production, poultry and cattle, the report said.

Noel Lopez, 40, operates 10 dairy farms with his father and brother. Before the storm they were milking 12,000 cows, producing 22,000 gallons (85,000 liters) of milk a day. Maria destroyed 90 percent of the barns and as many as 700 cows are missing or dead, each one valued at \$2,500.

Without electricity, Lopez spent days after the storm focusing on finding enough diesel fuel to keep generators running so the cows could be milked and the milk could be kept cool. Failure to milk the cows could lead to an infection that could kill them and the milk can spoil within days without refrigeration.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 23 of 35

Lopez said he has managed to get back into operation.

"A lot of people will never be able to get back to business," he said. "The ones that will be able to get back into business will never be as they were."

Jayson Harper, a professor of agricultural economics at Penn State University, spent three months in Puerto Rico in 2014 and said the hurricane has destroyed the high value crops that farmers produce, some which take years to replace.

The losses are different from crops in the Midwest, where a tornado could take out a field of corn. It's a major loss but the farmer can replant the next year. Coffee trees, when destroyed by wind, take several years to mature enough to produce beans again.

"It's a very large investment and it's just a different kind of situation," Harper said.

The coffee industry was hit at the worst time, just before the beans are picked, said Eva Legner, who with her husband Kurt operates Hacienda Pomarrosa in Ponce, a city on the island's southern coast where they have 8 acres of coffee plants.

The couple operates a small specialty coffee growing operation and a cottage where guests can stay on the coffee farm, tour the field and experience production. It is part of the island's growing agri-tourism industry.

She said the storm cut right through the island's mountainous coffee-growing area. The specialty beans their farm produces grow on bushes that are planted beneath taller trees to protect them from direct sun.

"We've lost many trees which fell on the bushes and broke them," Legner said. "My husband tells me we lost a complete harvest."

Santiago, the ornamental plants farmer, said he was unable to get to his farm for five days after Maria. When he arrived he found his employees had been working since the first day.

"I just started crying, I choked up, when I saw them working like nothing had happened," Santiago said. "They give me the strength to not give up and to do whatever I have to do to continue with my business."

Iraqi ban on flights to Kurdish capital Irbil begins Friday

By SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq (AP) — An Iraqi government order that international airlines halt all flights in and out of the cities of Irbil and Sulaimaniyah in Kurdish territory was set to kick in Friday.

The decision to shut down the flights comes amid tensions over an overwhelming "yes" vote in an independence referendum held this week in Iraq's Kurdish region and disputed territories.

Iraq's Transport Ministry ordered international airlines to halt service to Irbil, the Kurdish regional capital, and Sulaimaniyah, its second city. Regional airlines have said they will honor the flight ban.

The nonbinding referendum — in which the Kurds voted overwhelmingly in favor of independence from Iraq — was billed by Kurdish leaders as an exercise in self-determination. The idea of an independent state has been central to Kurdish politics for decades.

Also on Friday, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced the launch of the "second phase" of the operation to retake the Islamic State-held city of Hawija, 150 miles (240 kilometers) north of Baghdad.

Hawija is one of the last pockets of IS-held territory in Iraq. Iraqi forces are also fighting the extremists in the western province of Anbar where IS launched a counterattack against Iraqi forces holding the provincial capital of Ramadi Wednesday. The city had been declared "fully liberated" from the group in Feb. 2016.

Despite the threatened flight ban, anti-IS coalition military air operations from Irbil airport continue as normal, U.S.-led coalition spokesman Col. Ryan Dillon told reporters at the Pentagon on Thursday from his headquarters in Baghdad.

More broadly, Dillon said the fallout from the Kurdish referendum has diminished the military's focus on fighting IS.

"What I'll say now is that there is a lot of posturing and a lot of things that have been said about what could or may happen," he said. "The focus, which used to be like a laser beam on (IS), is now not 100 percent there. So there has been an effect on the overall mission to defeat (IS) in Iraq as a result of the

referendum.”

Asked whether it is just the Iraqi security forces that have lost focus, he said the Peshmerga and U.S. military planners and advisers also have lost some of their focus as a result of the referendum. The loss of focus, he said, is “across the board.” U.S. military planners have had to spend time to “play out the what-ifs” that arise from the political and military implications of the referendum, he said.

Baghdad announced Thursday that Turkey — an indispensable trade partner to the region and once a key political ally — will now only deal with Iraq’s central government on oil sales. That could deprive the Kurdish region of more than 80 percent of its income.

Ankara had forged close ties to Iraq’s Kurdish region but strongly opposes its moves toward independence, fearing it could inspire Turkey’s own Kurdish minority. Turkey has threatened military action and economic sanctions against the region.

Associated Press writers Qassim Abdul-Zahra in Baghdad and Robert Burns in Washington D.C. contributed to this report.

Senator slams Twitter over suspected accounts tied to Russia

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Social media giant Twitter told congressional investigators it has suspended at least two dozen accounts that may have been tied to Russia, but the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee was anything but satisfied.

Virginia Sen. Mark Warner said Twitter’s explanations of its actions against Russia-linked accounts were “deeply disappointing,” and he suggested the company doesn’t understand the seriousness of Congress’ investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election. Warner made the comments after company executives met behind closed doors with staff members of both the Senate and House intelligence committees for several hours.

Warner said the information Twitter shared “was frankly inadequate on almost every level.”

The disclosures by Twitter follow Facebook revelations that some 3,000 ads were purchased by entities with likely ties to Russia and as congressional investigators are examining the spread of false news stories and propaganda on social media during the campaign.

The committees have been investigating Russia’s election meddling and any possible coordination with associates of Republican Donald Trump in his campaign against Democratic rival Hillary Clinton. They have specifically been looking at Twitter and Facebook and their roles in the spread of misinformation and propaganda during the campaign.

Twitter said in a blog post that it found 22 accounts corresponding to about 450 Facebook accounts that were likely operated out of Russia and pushed divisive social and political issues during the 2016 U.S. presidential election. Facebook has said those accounts were responsible for buying about 3,000 ads worth about \$100,000.

Twitter says it also found an additional 179 related accounts and took action against ones that violated its rules. The company didn’t specify how many of those accounts were suspended or the type of action taken. A person familiar with Twitter’s response to the accounts says that most of those accounts were found to have violated the platform’s rules. The person did not know if all 179 had been suspended from the service. The person spoke only on condition of anonymity because the person wasn’t authorized to discuss the information publicly.

Warner said that Twitter’s findings were merely “derivative” of Facebook’s work, and “showed an enormous lack of understanding from the Twitter team of how serious this issue is, the threat it poses to democratic institutions.”

He said the meeting underscored the need for the company to come forward in a public hearing. Both the House and Senate intelligence panels are inviting Twitter, Facebook and Google to testify this fall.

Thursday’s closed meetings lasted several hours. Twitter’s executives included Colin Crowell, a vice

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 25 of 35

president of public policy, government and corporate philanthropy; Carlos Monje, director of public policy and philanthropy; attorney Elizabeth Banker, and Emily Horne, global policy communications director.

Twitter said it also provided congressional investigators with a "roundup" of ads from accounts used by Russia's state-sponsored news network, RT. The company said in a blog post that RT spent \$274,100 on ads targeted to markets in the U.S. during 2016. Twitter provided the ads, which came from three handles used by RT, to the congressional investigators. Most tweets from the accounts promoted news stories.

In its blog post, Twitter said it has worked harder to detect and prevent spam and "malicious automation." The company said it removed tweets that were attempting to suppress legitimate votes by telling people they could vote for Clinton by texting. The company said that its automated systems catch more than 3.2 million suspicious accounts globally per week, which is more than double the amount the company detected this time last year.

The top Democrat on the House intelligence panel, California Rep. Adam Schiff, showed less frustration after his own panel's staff was briefed by Twitter, saying the meeting was "good but preliminary."

"I think there are challenges to Twitter in its forensic investigation because Twitter users don't provide the same background information that Facebook users do," Schiff said. "At the same time I don't think we've more than scratched the surface in terms of our understanding how the Russians may have used that platform."

Unlike Facebook, which has said phony accounts on its platform attempted to stir up divisiveness in the election, Twitter has remained mostly silent. Twitter allows users to register anonymously and has more public accounts than Facebook. Many lawmakers have expressed concerns about the proliferation of the anonymous "bots."

Lawmakers have been interested in Twitter's potential vulnerabilities in terms of tracing potential foreign intrusions. There have been concerns that the company doesn't move quickly enough to remove posts and isn't able to track the original postings that were spread and retweeted.

Twitter, Facebook and Google haven't yet said whether they will accept the invitations to testify publicly before both intelligence panels. The House committee is planning a hearing in October and the Senate committee has invited witnesses to appear on Nov. 1.

Facebook acknowledged in earlier briefings with the intelligence panels that the hundreds of phony Facebook accounts, likely run from Russia, spent about \$100,000 on ads aimed at stirring up divisive issues such as gun control and race relations during the 2016 campaign.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said last week that the company will provide congressional investigators with the contents of the 3,000 ads bought by a Russian agency, and he pledged to make political advertising on its platform more transparent.

Associated Press writers Matthew Daly and Tom LoBianco contributed to this report.

Price says he's reimbursing costs for his private flights

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fighting to keep his job, health secretary Tom Price says he'll write a personal check to reimburse taxpayers for his travel on charter flights taken on government business and pledged to fly commercial — "no exceptions."

The repayment — \$51,887.31, according to Price's office — covered only the secretary's seat. Price did not address the overall cost of the flights, which could amount to several hundred thousand dollars and is under investigation.

"I regret the concerns this has raised regarding the use of taxpayer dollars," Price said in a statement. "I was not sensitive enough to my concern for the taxpayer." His mea culpa came a day after a public rebuke from President Donald Trump.

A former congressman from Georgia regarded as a conservative policy expert, Price said he hopes to keep his Cabinet seat. At the White House, press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders wouldn't go that far.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 26 of 35

"We're going to conduct a full review and we'll see what happens," Sanders told reporters. Travel by other top officials is also attracting scrutiny.

Price said the president had personally let him know of his displeasure. "As he has said publicly, he wasn't happy, and he expressed that to me very clearly," Price said Thursday evening on Fox News.

All his travel was legally approved by officials at Health and Human Services, Price said. It amounted to 10 trips with 26 different segments.

On Wednesday Trump had declared that he's "not happy" over reports that Price flew on costly charters when he could have taken cheaper commercial flights. Asked whether he'd fire Price, Trump said, "We'll see."

Price told reporters Thursday, "I think we've still got the confidence of the president." About the controversy, he said, "We're going to work through this."

Taxpayers "won't pay a dime for my seat on those planes," Price said in his statement.

Price played a supporting role in the fruitless Republican effort to repeal Barack Obama's health care law — another source of frustration for the president.

Prompted partly by controversy over Price, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has launched a wide-ranging investigation into travel by Trump's political appointees. On Wednesday the committee sent requests for detailed travel records to the White House and 24 departments and agencies, dating back to the president's first day in office.

Trips by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt have also drawn criticism.

A senior GOP lawmaker urged Trump to lay down some rules. "Considering the many travel options to and from Washington, D.C., I'm urging you to emphasize to Cabinet secretaries the necessity of using reasonable and cost-effective modes of travel in accordance with federal restrictions," Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, wrote to Trump on Thursday.

The president had vented about Price to reporters on Wednesday as he left the White House for a trip to sell his tax overhaul in Indianapolis.

"I was looking into it, and I will look into it, and I will tell you personally I'm not happy about it," Trump responded when asked about Price's travel. "I am not happy about it. I'm going to look at it. I'm not happy about it and I let him know it."

Price's travels were first reported last week by Politico, which said cheaper commercial flights were a viable option in many cases.

On a June trip to Nashville, Price also had lunch with his son, who lives in that city, according to Politico. Another trip was from Dulles International Airport in the Washington suburbs to Philadelphia International Airport, a distance of 135 miles.

Last Friday the HHS inspector general's office announced it was conducting a review to see if Price complied with federal travel regulations, which generally require officials to minimize costs.

Price's office had initially said the secretary's demanding schedule sometimes did not permit the use of commercial airline flights. Price says he's fully cooperating with investigators.

Trump's publicly expressed displeasure — or ambivalence — has been a sign in the past that the tenure of a key aide will soon be over.

In August, the president was asked if he still had confidence in Steve Bannon, then a senior strategist in the White House. "He's a good person. He actually gets very unfair press in that regard. But we'll see what happens with Mr. Bannon," Trump said. Bannon was out three days later.

Price, an ally of House Speaker Paul Ryan, is a past chairman of the House Budget Committee, where he was a frequent critic of wasteful spending. As HHS secretary, he has questioned whether the Medicaid health insurance program for low-income people delivers results that are worth the billions of dollars taxpayers spend for the coverage. He's a former orthopedic surgeon who once practiced in an inner-city hospital.

Tillerson carries full agenda as he prepares to visit China

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is making his second trip to China since taking office in February, and relations between the two world powers have rarely mattered so much.

The standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons has entered a new, dangerous phase as its leader, Kim Jong Un, and President Donald Trump exchange personal insults and threats of war with no sign of a diplomatic solution.

Even as Washington and Beijing grapple with that security crisis, Trump wants action from China for more balanced trade with America — a dispute with ramifications for the global economy.

Tillerson, facing criticism at home for his muted impact as the top U.S. diplomat, will be laying the groundwork for Trump's planned visit to China in November. He meets Saturday with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and other Chinese leaders.

What will be on the agenda:

NORTH KOREA

Tillerson will be pushing China to fully implement the latest U.N. Security Council resolutions on North Korea and take further steps on limiting crucial oil supplies to its troublesome neighbor. If the restrictions on trade in textiles, coal and other commodities are properly enforced, North Korea will lose the vast majority of its export revenue. In its latest step to comply with the sanctions, China on Thursday ordered North Korean-owned businesses to close by early January.

China accounts for about 90 percent of North Korea's foreign trade, so it's pivotal in the U.S.-led campaign to exert economic pressure with the aim of getting the pariah nation to disarm. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said Tuesday that "China has taken tremendous steps in the right direction." Trump has also lauded an order by China for its banks to stop dealing with North Korea, although Beijing has yet to announce such a measure.

But U.S. praise always comes with a proviso: that China needs to do more. There's a growing sense of urgency. North Korea is moving closer to its goal of having a nuclear-tipped missile that could strike America. Yet Beijing remains skeptical about the efficacy of sanctions and wary of drastic action that could cause North Korea to collapse. China wants the U.S. to restart dialogue with Pyongyang. That's an increasingly distant prospect after the recent angry exchanges between Trump and Kim.

TRUMP VISIT

China doesn't want Tillerson's visit to be consumed by North Korea. It wants attention paid to Trump's state visit in November.

Stewardship of the U.S. relationship is crucial for the standing of any Chinese leader. It will be Trump's first trip to Asia and it will come just weeks after Xi Jinping is due to be anointed with a second five-year term as the leader of China's communist party.

Despite his tough criticism of China's trade practices, Trump has forged a personal connection with Xi. He hosted the Chinese president at his Mar-a-Lago resort in April, where they agreed on four high-level dialogues to cover various aspects of relations. In a prelude to his trip to Beijing, Trump met Thursday with Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong, who was attending the inaugural dialogue on people-to-people ties in Washington.

The November meeting of the two leaders will be grander and more choreographed than the informal talks in Florida that were most memorable for Trump's ordering a missile strike on Syria and then informing Xi about it afterward over dinner as they ate chocolate cake.

Other than North Korea, the U.S. and China have other security concerns to address. They remain at odds over Beijing's military buildup and assertive claims to disputed islands in the South China Sea.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 28 of 35

Trump has slammed China's large trade surpluses with the United States and last month ordered an investigation into whether Beijing improperly pressures companies to hand over their technology in exchange for market access. Last year, the U.S. ran up a \$347 billion trade deficit in goods with China — accounting for nearly half the total.

During the Mar-a-Lago summit, the two leaders agreed on a 100-day plan for trade talks. After visiting China this week, U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said there's been some progress, including a deal to let U.S. beef into China, but they need to tackle "bigger things and more difficult things." The U.S. priorities are better market access, less protectionism and protecting intellectual property rights.

In Beijing this weekend, Tillerson is likely to restate those U.S. concerns and raise the impact of national security legislation on American companies operating in China. Washington wants Beijing to make good on its promise to let market forces have a bigger role in its economy, give equal treatment to foreign and Chinese companies and roll back state industry's dominance.

2 days, 2 dangerous rock falls at Yosemite National Park

By **SCOTT SMITH, Associated Press**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Two days of cracking, thundering falling rock at Yosemite National Park have left one man dead, two people injured, and even experienced climbers stunned by the spectacle.

A massive new hunk of granite broke off Thursday at the park's mountaineering mecca of El Capitan, injuring an elderly man and sending huge plumes of white dust.

"There was so much smoke and debris," said climber Ryan Sheridan, who had just reached the top of El Capitan when the rock let loose below him. "It filled the entire valley with smoke."

The slide came a day after a giant slab of granite plunged from the same formation, killing a British man on a hiking and climbing visit and injuring his wife.

"It was in the same location of the previous rock fall," Sheridan told The Associated Press by cellphone from the mountain. "A larger rock fall let loose, easily three times the size," Sheridan said.

One person was injured and was flown to a hospital, park ranger and spokesman Scott Gediman said. There was no immediate word on the person's condition.

Officials did not identify the person, but an older man with cuts and scrapes on his face and head was being treated by paramedics after the slide.

Meanwhile, the man killed Wednesday was identified as Andrew Foster, 32, of Wales. The park didn't identify his wife, but said she remained hospitalized.

The park indicated that seven rock falls actually occurred during a four-hour period Wednesday on the southeast face of El Capitan. However, it was rare for such a collapse to kill anyone, longtime climbers said Thursday.

Rocks at the world-renowned park's climbing routes break loose and crash down about 80 times a year. The elite climbers who flock to the park using ropes and their fingertips to defy death as they scale sheer cliff faces know the risk but also know it's rare to get hit and killed by the rocks.

"It's a lot like a lightning strike," said Alex Honnold, who made history June 3 for being the first to climb El Capitan alone and without ropes. "Sometimes geology just happens."

The last time a climber was killed by a rock falling at Yosemite was in 2013, when a Montana climber fell after a rock dislodged and sliced his climbing rope. It was preceded by a 1999 rock fall that crushed a climber from Colorado. Park officials say rock falls overall have killed 16 people since 1857 and injured more than 100.

The rock falls came during the peak of the climbing season for El Capitan, with climbers from around the world trying their skill against the sheer cliff faces. At least 30 climbers were on the formation when a section gave way Wednesday.

Foster and his wife were not on the cliff, however. They were hiking at the bottom of El Capitan far from trails used by most Yosemite visitors in preparation for an ascent when the chunk of granite about 12 stories tall broke free and plunged, Gediman said.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 29 of 35

The slab was about 130 feet (40 meters) tall and 65 feet (19 meters) wide and fell from the popular "Waterfall Route" on the East Buttress of El Capitan, Gediman said.

Yosemite geologist Greg Stock said the break was probably caused by the expansion and contraction of the monolith's granite as it heats up during the summer and gets cold and more brittle in the winter.

Officials had no immediate estimate for how much the big rock weighed. But Gediman said all of the rock falls combined on Wednesday weighed 1,300 tons (1,100 metric tons).

Associated Press writers Olga R. Rodriguez, Jocelyn Gecker and Ellen Knickmeyer contributed to this story.

Harvey may not have dealt devastating blow to Texas ranchers

By WILL WEISSERT, Associated Press

GLEN FLORA, Texas (AP) — As John Locke looked down from a helicopter at his roughly 200 cattle struggling with Harvey's rising floodwaters, he saw about 20 becoming entangled in a barbed wire fence and feared the worst.

Bundled in a lifejacket, the 38-year-old rancher jumped in to try and help. But by the time he reached the Brahms, a beef cow species that originated in India and is known for its distinctive hump, most had already freed themselves and headed for higher ground with the rest of the herd.

"I thought they were going to die, and they're fine, which is kind of a theme for the whole thing," Locke said.

The damage Harvey inflicted on Texas' cattle industry hasn't been calculated yet, but there's evidence that it might be less than initially feared and perhaps not as costly as Hurricane Ike. That came ashore in 2008 as a weaker storm but with more salty storm surge that wiped out pastures for months. Even though Harvey unleashed catastrophic flooding on counties that are home to 1.2 million beef cattle, which is more than a fourth of the state's herd, there were apparently only a few instances in which large groups of cows drowned.

To be sure, some ranchers were walloped by Harvey, including at least one family that lost hundreds of cattle in flooding that reached the rooftops of low-lying homes near Beaumont, said Bill Hyman, who heads the Independent Cattleman's Association of Texas. And even surviving cattle can bring increased costs, as they can face longer-term health problems from standing in water for days, having gone long periods without eating and stress.

Hyman said he expects the association's membership to fall by 5 percent because some affected ranchers, especially older ones, will leave the business.

But whatever damage Harvey did cause shouldn't trigger a short-term rise in beef prices, said David Anderson, a Texas A&M University professor and agricultural economist. Texas is the nation's top cattle producer, with cow and calf sales averaging \$10.7 billion annually between 2011 and 2014. But there are 30 million beef cows in the U.S. and most of the Texas beef industry's feed lots and packing plants are concentrated in parts of the state that escaped the storm.

"Individual ranchers are going to see huge financial effects," Anderson said, including livestock killed; replacing destroyed homes, feed, fences and equipment; and purchasing medicines to protect cows from post-Harvey health problems. "But I don't think we're going to see much at all in the way of market impacts, changes in calf prices for other ranchers, or in the consumer beef prices."

One sign that Harvey might not have been as bad on ranchers as had been feared is that there were, in the early weeks after Harvey, fewer than 10 applications to a federal program that provides aid for livestock carcass disposal, said assistant state conservationist Mark Habiger, who cautioned that it's still too early to declare that a crisis was averted. Federal officials urged ranchers to burn cattle killed in the storm because the soil is so saturated that burying them could spread contamination.

When Ike hit Texas nine years ago, it cost the ranching industry at least an estimated \$37 million, killing up to 5,000 cattle and decimating pastureland with saltwater storm surge. During Harvey, most of the flooding was freshwater that came from rains and rivers, meaning many ranches won't have to deal with grasslands hurt by saltwater — though some closer to the Gulf Coast still might.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 30 of 35

At Locke's J.D. Hudgins Ranch in Glen Flora, a village with just one post office and an antique shop about 60 miles (96 kilometers) southwest of Houston, the cattle have returned to grazing in lush pastures that are greener than ever. Although Locke's family lost three cows and a calf to Harvey and a few survivors seemed sluggish or walked with a limp as he herded them under a fence one recent day, Locke said it could have been much worse.

"We're just happy they're still here," he said.

Follow Will Weissert on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/apwillweissert>. Sign up for the AP's weekly newsletter showcasing our best reporting from the Midwest and Texas at <http://apne.ws/2u1RMfv>.

Over 130,000 flee menacing volcano on Bali tourist island

By **STEPHEN WRIGHT, Associated Press**

BALI, Indonesia (AP) — More than 130,000 people have fled the region around the Mount Agung volcano on the Indonesian tourist island of Bali, fearing it will soon erupt.

The disaster mitigation agency's command post in Bali said the number of evacuees has swelled to about 134,200 by Thursday evening. That's more than double the estimated population within the immediate danger zone, but people farther from the mountain are leaving too.

Those who have fled are scattered in more than 500 locations across the island famed for its beaches, lush green interior and elegant Hindu culture, taking shelter in temporary camps, sports centers and other public buildings.

The volcano has been at its highest alert level for a week, sparking the exodus. Thousands of cows were left behind in the rural communities where farming is an important livelihood, but local animal husbandry officials were arranging trucks to remove them.

The exclusion zone around the mountain extends as far as 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) from the crater in places. The local observatory reported a small plume most likely of water vapor after daybreak Friday, but no ash cloud.

"I was very worried about the situation" said Nyoman Suarta, who was leaving a village a few kilometers outside the official no-go radius. "So I decided to get out to save myself with my stuff and my pet," he said, carrying a cage housing a bird.

Agung, which dominates the landscape in the northeast of the island, last erupted in 1963, killing more than 1,100 people. It remained active for about a year.

Volcanologists say the past week's dramatic escalation in tremors indicates an eruption is more likely than not, but they can't say with certainty when it will happen.

"I would definitely be following the advice to stay outside the exclusion zone," said Heather Handley, an assistant Earth sciences professor at Sydney's Macquarie University. The increase in tremors suggests an eruption is "imminent," she said.

Its eruptions in 1963 produced deadly clouds of searing hot ash, gases and rock fragments that traveled down its slopes at great speed. Lava spread for several kilometers and people were also killed by lahars — rivers of water and volcanic debris.

Officials this week installed warning sirens in several townships.

"If Mount Agung erupts, I'm in charge of pressing the alarm button," said Nyoman Kasma, a local official. "Sirens will sound and tell the community the mountain has erupted."

Agung, about 70 kilometers (45 miles) to the northeast of the tourist hotspot of Kuta, is among more than 120 active volcanoes in Indonesia.

Another volcano, Mount Sinabung on Sumatra, has been erupting sporadically since 2010, sometimes blasting volcanic ash several kilometers (miles) into the air and forcing more than 30,000 to evacuate their villages.

Indonesia is located on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin, and is prone to seismic upheaval.

NFL: Message being lost in political firestorm over anthem

By BARRY WILNER, AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL says the message players and teams are trying to express is being lost in a political firestorm.

The issues have been “overtaken by political forces,” NFL spokesman Joe Lockhart said Thursday, referring to President Trump’s criticism of the league, team owners and players for kneeling during the national anthem.

More than 200 players either knelt or used other means as expressions of unity last weekend. Lockhart said such actions are not a protest against the anthem or the flag.

“One of the impacts is to distort the views of the NFL and particularly our players,” Lockhart said.

Trump said NFL owners fear their players, and he renewed calls for action against those who kneel during the anthem.

“I think they are afraid of their players, if you want to know the truth, and I think it’s disgraceful,” he said in an interview that aired Thursday on “Fox and Friends.” He says “most people agree” with him.

The players knelt last weekend in response to social injustice. Full teams, along with some team owners, linked arms either before or during the anthem. Three teams — Pittsburgh, Seattle and Tennessee — did not take the field until after the anthem.

“They are under attack now and the (original) lesson has been forgotten,” Lockhart said. “It is important for everyone to understand what they are talking about, to not see everything in terms of who is up or down politically.

“The NFL players are men of character, many of whom are leaders in their community. They are patriotic, support the military. ... They understand their platform can be used to make the country a better place.”

Lockhart insisted there will be no “leaguewide directive” for future demonstrations.

“This is an issue that should involve the owners of the 32 clubs, the coaches and players to work out together,” he said. “There is very regular dialogue going on between the players, coaches and owners. This is an issue that has sort of gripped the headlines. We all care very deeply about this.

“All of our owners don’t always agree with even each other, and the players often have a position at odds with the league, and we work hard to resolve those,” he added. “We have been united on this issue. They are all pulling in the same direction, but we understand each locker room is different.”

On Thursday, Tennessee Titans tight end Delanie Walker said he and his family have received death threats since he told fans not to come to games if they felt disrespected by NFL players’ protests. The Pro Bowl tight end shared the “heartbreaking” threats in a social media post.

“The racist and violent words directed at me and my son only serve as another reminder that our country remains divided and full of hateful rhetoric,” Walker wrote. “These words of hate will only fuel me in my efforts to continue my work reaching out to different community groups, listening to opposing voices, and honoring the men and women in the Armed Forces who risk their lives every day so that we may have this dialogue.”

Detroit Lions defensive tackle Akeem Spence said on Twitter earlier Thursday that his father, a contractor, was denied a job on a house because of his protest.

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

Climber: Rock fall strikes Yosemite for a second day

By SCOTT SMITH, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A massive new rock fall hit Yosemite National Park on Thursday, cracking with a thundering roar off the El Capitan rock formation, injuring one person and sending huge plumes of white dust surging through the valley floor below.

The slide came a day after a giant slab of granite plunged from the same formation, killing a British man on a hiking and climbing visit and injuring his wife.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 32 of 35

Climber Ryan Sheridan had just reached the top of El Capitan, a 7,569-foot (2,307-meter) formation, when the rock let loose below him Thursday.

"There was so much smoke and debris," he said by cellphone. "It filled the entire valley with smoke."

"It was in the same location of the previous rock fall. A larger rock fall let loose, easily three times the size," Sheridan said.

One person was injured and was flown to a hospital, park ranger and spokesman Scott Gediman said. There was no immediate word on the person's condition.

Meanwhile, the man killed Wednesday was identified as Andrew Foster, 32, of Wales. The park didn't identify his wife but said she remained hospitalized.

The park indicated that seven rock falls occurred during a four-hour period Wednesday on the southeast face of El Capitan. However, it was rare for such a collapse to kill anyone, longtime climbers said Thursday.

Rocks at the world-renowned park's climbing routes break loose and crash down about 80 times a year. The elite climbers who flock to the park using ropes and their fingertips to defy death as they scale sheer cliff faces know the risk but also know it's rare to get hit and killed by the rocks.

"It's a lot like a lightning strike," said Alex Honnold, who made history June 3 for being the first to climb El Capitan alone and without ropes. "Sometimes geology just happens."

The last time a climber was killed by a rock falling at Yosemite was in 2013, when a Montana climber fell after a rock dislodged and sliced his climbing rope. It was preceded by a 1999 rock fall that crushed a climber from Colorado. Park officials say rock falls overall have killed 16 people since 1857 and injured more than 100.

The rock falls came during the peak of the climbing season for El Capitan, with climbers from around the world trying their skill against the sheer cliff faces. At least 30 climbers were on the formation when a section gave way Wednesday.

Foster and his wife were not on the cliff, however. They were hiking at the bottom of El Capitan far from trails used by most Yosemite visitors in preparation for an ascent when the chunk of granite about 12 stories tall broke free and plunged, Gediman said.

The slab was about 130 feet (40 meters) tall and 65 feet (19 meters) wide and fell from the popular "Waterfall Route" on the East Buttress of El Capitan, Gediman said.

Yosemite geologist Greg Stock said the break was probably caused by the expansion and contraction of the monolith's granite as it heats up during the summer and gets cold and more brittle in the winter.

Officials had no immediate estimate for how much the big rock weighed. But Gediman said all of the rock falls combined on Wednesday weighed 1,300 tons (1,100 metric tons).

Associated Press writers Olga R. Rodriguez, Jocelyn Gecker and Ellen Knickmeyer contributed to this story.

Supreme Court, new term near, to hear challenge to unions

By MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Its conservative majority restored, the Supreme Court said Thursday it will return to an issue with the potential to financially cripple Democratic-leaning labor unions that represent government workers.

After the justices deadlocked 4-4 in a similar case last year, the high court will consider a free-speech challenge from workers who object to paying money to unions they don't support.

The court, with conservative Justice Neil Gorsuch on board, could decide to overturn a 40-year-old Supreme Court ruling that allows public sector unions to collect fees from non-members to cover the costs of negotiating contracts for all employees.

The union fees case is among nine new cases the justices added to their docket for the term that begins on Monday. Others deal with a defendant's right to direct his own defense, police searches of vehicles and overtime pay for service advisers at car dealerships.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 33 of 35

Labor unions have been under sustained attack at the high court in recent years. The latest appeal is from a state employee in Illinois. It was filed at the Supreme Court just two months after Gorsuch filled the high court seat that had been vacant since Justice Antonin Scalia's death.

The stakes are high. Union membership in the U.S. declined to just 10.7 percent of the workforce last year, and the ranks of private-sector unions have been especially hard hit.

About half of all union members now work for federal, state and local governments, and many are in states like Illinois, New York, and California that are largely Democratic and seen as friendly toward unions.

Labor leaders criticized the court for taking up the case. "This case is yet another example of corporate interests using their power and influence to launch a political attack on working people and rig the rules of the economy in their own favor," said Lee Saunders, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

But National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation president Mark Mix said the court was poised to protect employees' rights.

"With the Supreme Court agreeing to hear the Janus case, we are now one step closer to freeing over 5 million public sector teachers, police officers, firefighters, and other employees from the injustice of being forced to subsidize a union as a condition of working for their own government," Mix said.

The Illinois case involves Mark Janus, a state employee who says Illinois law violates his free speech rights by requiring him to pay fees to subsidize AFSCME, which represents tens of thousands of Illinois workers. About half the states have similar laws covering so-called "fair share" fees that cover bargaining costs for non-members.

Janus is seeking to overturn a 1977 Supreme Court case, *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*. It said public workers who refuse to join a union can still be required to pay for bargaining costs, as long as the fees don't go toward political purposes. The arrangement was supposed to prevent non-members from "free riding," since the union has a legal duty to represent all workers.

A federal appeals court in Chicago rejected Janus' claim in March. Gorsuch was confirmed in April and the appeal was filed in June.

Scalia died in February 2016, just a month after the justices heard a similar case from California. The court seemed ready to overrule the 1977 case, and the 4-4 tie the court announced in March of that year almost certainly meant that Scalia, not typically a friend of unions in high court cases, would have been part of the majority ruling against them.

The justices will hear argument in the winter.

Asian shares slightly higher, though Japan is exception

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were slightly higher Friday following a record high close on Wall Street, except for Japan, where a pause in the dollar's strengthening dampened optimism about exporters.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 fell 0.3 percent to 20,305.04 in morning trading, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained nearly 0.1 percent to 5,675.20. South Korea's Kospi stood at 2,386.05, up 0.5 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged up 0.2 percent to 27,487.27, and the Shanghai Composite added 0.3 percent to 3,348.66.

THE FED: Trading in Asia was muted overall as market players are weighing an anticipated rate hike by the U.S. Federal Reserve in December.

THE QUOTE: "Following the Fed's somewhat surprisingly hawkish stance last week with inflation forecast and dot-plot being kept unchanged, expectation on a December rate hike has been gradually building," says Zhu Huani of the Singapore Treasury Division at Mizuho Bank.

WALL STREET: The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 3.02 points, or 0.1 percent, to a record high of 2,510.06 overnight. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 40.49 points, or 0.2 percent, to 22,381.20. The Nasdaq composite inched up 0.19 points to 6,453.45. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks continued to set new highs as it advanced 3.97 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,488.79.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 34 of 35

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude slid 4 cents to \$51.52 a barrel. It fell 58 cents to \$51.56 a barrel in New York Thursday. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, rose 7 cents to \$57.23 per barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar dipped to 112.63 yen from 112.90 yen late Thursday in Asia. The euro rose to \$1.1779 from \$1.1735.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Sept. 29, the 272nd day of 2017. There are 93 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 29, 1982, Extra-Strength Tylenol capsules laced with deadly cyanide claimed the first of seven victims in the Chicago area. (To date, the case remains unsolved.)

On this date:

In 1789, the U.S. War Department established a regular army with a strength of several hundred men.

In 1829, London's reorganized police force, which became known as Scotland Yard, went on duty.

In 1902, William Topaz McGonagall, affectionately considered Britain's possibly worst-ever poet, died in Edinburgh, Scotland.

In 1910, the National Urban League had its beginnings in New York as The Committee on Urban Conditions Among Negroes.

In 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders concluded the Munich Agreement, which was aimed at appeasing Adolf Hitler by allowing Nazi annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland.

In 1943, General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Italian Marshal Pietro Badoglio signed an armistice aboard the British ship HMS Nelson off Malta.

In 1957, the San Francisco-bound New York Giants played their last game at the Polo Grounds, losing to the Pittsburgh Pirates, 9-1. The Brooklyn Dodgers played their last game before moving to Los Angeles, losing to the Phillies 2-1 in Philadelphia.

In 1967, author Carson McCullers died in Nyack, New York, at age 50.

In 1977, the Billy Joel album "The Stranger" was released by Columbia Records.

In 1978, Pope John Paul I was found dead in his Vatican apartment just over a month after becoming head of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1987, Henry Ford II, longtime chairman of Ford Motor Co., died in Detroit at age 70.

In 2005, John G. Roberts Jr. was sworn in as the nation's 17th chief justice after winning Senate confirmation.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush signed a bill to prevent a government shutdown, but lambasted Democrats controlling Congress for sending him the stopgap measure while they continued to work on more than a dozen spending bills funding the day-to-day operations of 15 Cabinet departments. Actress Lois Maxwell, who starred as Miss Moneybags in 14 James Bond movies, died in Fremantle, Australia, at age 80.

Five years ago: Omar Khadr, the last Western detainee held at the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, returned to Canada after a decade in custody. Former New York Times publisher Arthur Ochs Sulzberger died at the age of 86.

One year ago: A New Jersey Transit commuter train slammed into the Hoboken station, killing one person and injuring more than 100 others.

Today's Birthdays: Conductor Richard Bonyng is 87. Writer-director Robert Benton is 85. Singer Jerry Lee Lewis is 82. Soul-blues-gospel singer Sherman Holmes is 78. Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., is 75. Actor Ian

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 082 ~ 35 of 35

McShane is 75. Jazz musician Jean-Luc Ponty is 75. Nobel Peace laureate Lech Walesa (lehk vah-WEN'-sah) is 74. Television-film composer Mike Post is 73. Actress Patricia Hodge is 71. TV personality Bryant Gumbel is 69. Rock singer-musician Mark Farner is 69. Rock singer-musician Mike Pinera is 69. Country singer Alvin Crow is 67. Actor Drake Hogestyn is 64. Olympic gold medal runner Sebastian Coe is 61. Singer Suzy Roche (The Roches) is 61. Comedian-actor Andrew "Dice" Clay is 60. Rock singer John Payne (Asia) is 59. Actor Roger Bart is 55. Singer-musician Les Claypool is 54. Actress Jill Whelan is 51. Actor Ben Miles is 51. Actor Luke Goss is 49. Rock musician Brad Smith (Blind Melon) is 49. Actress Erika Eleniak is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Devante Swing (Jodeci) is 48. Country singer Brad Cotter (TV: "Nashville Star") is 47. Actress Emily Lloyd is 47. Actress Natasha Gregson Wagner is 47. Actress Rachel Cronin is 46. Country musician Danick Dupelle (Emerson Drive) is 44. Actor Alexis Cruz is 43. Actor Zachary Levi is 37. Actress Chrissy Metz (TV: "This Is Us") is 37. Actress Kelly McCreary (TV: "Grey's Anatomy") is 36. Country singer Katie McNeill (3 of Hearts) is 35. Rock musician Josh Farro is 30. Actor Doug Brochu is 27. Singer Phillip Phillips is 27. Actress Clara Mamet is 23.

Thought for Today: "Justice cannot be for one side alone, but must be for both." — Eleanor Roosevelt, American first lady (1884-1962).