

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 1 of 52

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1-Johnson Agency Ad
- 2- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 3- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted
- 3- Groton Area Help Wanted
- 3- Netters beat Leola-Frederick
- 4- Groton Senior Citizens
- 4- Bowlers Needed
- 4- Socktober Challenge
- 5- Farmers Union PSA
- 5- Melvin Adams to be at Youth Rally
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 7- Today's Forecast
- 8- Yesterday's Weather
- 8- Today's Weather Info
- 8- National Weather Map
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10- 2018 Community Events
- 11- News from the Associated Press

JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

www.johnsonagencygroton.com

102 N Main St.

Office: 605/397-2424

Groton, SD 57445

Home: 605/397-8565



Thursday

Volleyball at Clark

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

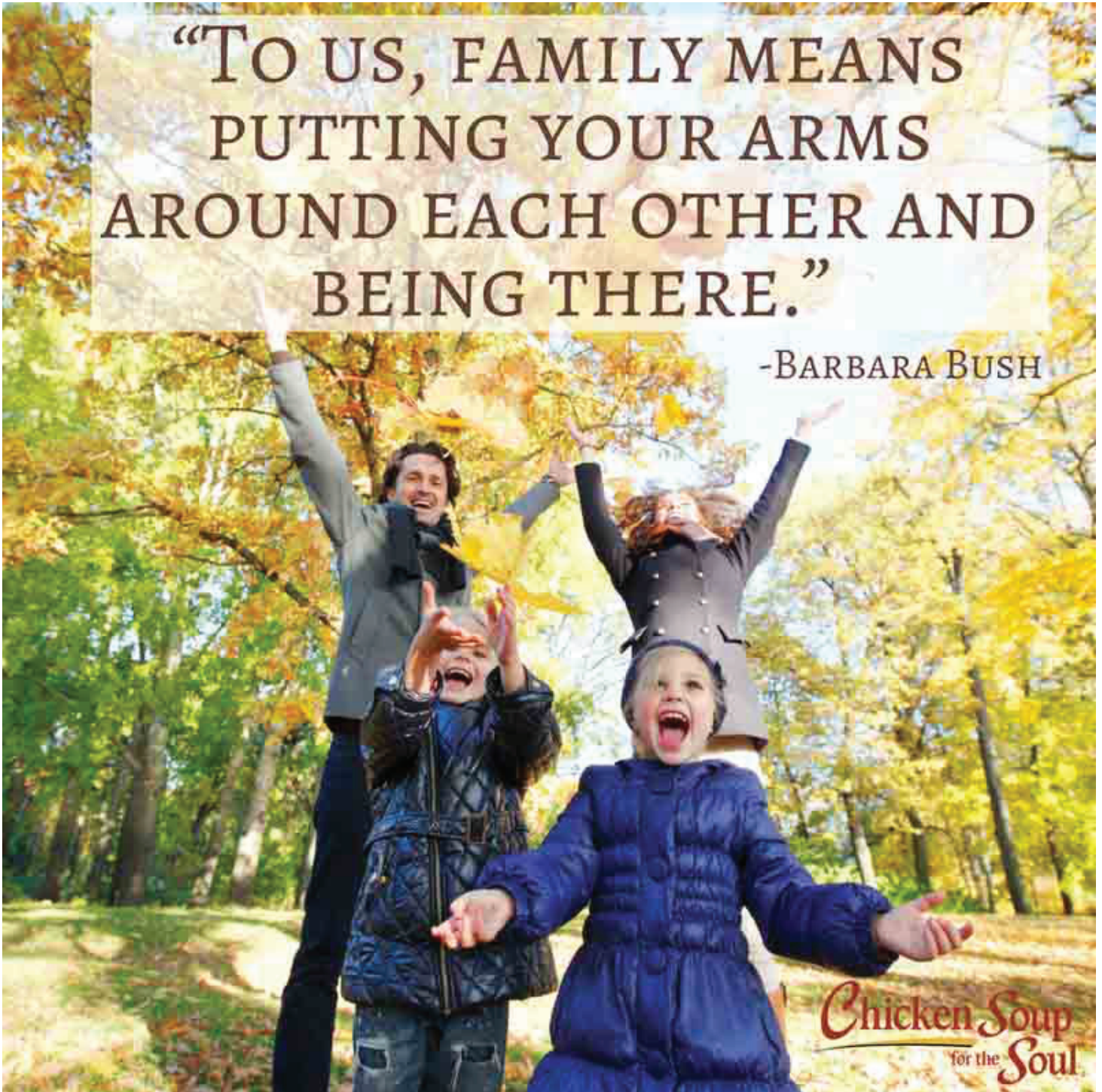
recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 2 of 52

“TO US, FAMILY MEANS
PUTTING YOUR ARMS
AROUND EACH OTHER AND
BEING THERE.”

-BARBARA BUSH



Chicken Soup
for the Soul

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 3 of 52

Help Wanted

We are Hiring Nurses – RN or LPN,
Full or Part Time. Cooks/Dietary Aid.

NEW WAGE PACKAGE!!!

Contact Brynn Pickrel or Nellie Peterson at 605-397-2365 or apply in person.

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



GROTON
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

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

0913.1005

Groton Area Help Wanted

The Groton Area School District is seeking qualified applicants for a part-time Assistant Business Manager. Job description and application materials can be found under the employment tab at www.grotonarea.com. Questions should be directed to Joe Schwan, Superintendent at 605-297-2351.

Netters beat Leola-Frederick, 3-1

Leola-Frederick came to town on Tuesday and they challenged the Tigers in some exciting volleyball action. Groton Area came away with the match win, 3-1.

The first game was tied nine times and there were two lead changes as Groton Area scored the last four points to break a 21-21 tie to win the game, 25-21.

Groton Area led throughout the entire second game, leading by as much as six points. The Titans rallied to close to within two, 22-20, but the Tigers went on to win, 25-21.

The third game went extra points as it was tied 11 times and there were eight lead changes. Payton Colestock had two ace serves near the end of the game to tie it at 24, but the Titans would score the next two points to pull out a 26-24 win.

The fourth game was tied three times and Groton Area scored the last 12 points of the game to post a 25-9 to win the game and match.

In serving, Groton Area was 92 of 99 with six ace serves. Eliza Wanner was 31 of 32 with three ace serves and Payton Colestock was 12 of 12 with two ace serves. Leola-Frederick was 58 of 68 with four ace serves. Hannah Sumption was 14 of 15, Abby Berreth was 13 of 14 and Kelly Podoll was nine of 10 with two ace serves.

In attacks, Groton Area was 135 of 163 with 42 kills. Gia Gengerke was 27 of 34 with 11 kills, Nicole Marzahn was 27 of 32 with 10 kills, Jennie Doeden was 30 of 37 with 10 kills, Payton Maine had two kills and Jessica Bjerke had one. Leola-Frederick was 143 of 161 with 25 kills. Cassandra Hinz was 32 of 35 with nine kills, Abby Berreth was 36 of 40 with four kills, Maddie Nordine was 26 of 31 with five kills, Keely Podoll had four kills and Brooklyn Podoll and Meza Myer each had one kill.

In sets, Groton Area was 156 of 158 with 38 assists. Miranda Hanson was 123 of 124 with 32 assists and Payton Maine was eight of eight with two assists. Leola-Frederick was 113 of 113 with 21 assists. Keely Podoll was 101 of 101 with 19 assists.

The Titans had one more dig than Groton Area, 109-108. Payton Maine led all players with 33 digs for Groton area followed Eliza Wanner with 24 and Jennie Doeden 15. The Titans were led by Audree Berreth with 29, Cassandra Hinz with 25 and Abby Berreth with 22.

Groton Area had five solo and one assisted block. Gia Gengerke had three solo and one assisted block, Nicole Marzahn had one solo and one assisted and Jennie Doeden had one solo. The Titans were led by Cassandra Hinz with three solo and one assist and Maddie Nordine with one solo and two assists.

Groton Area, now 10-2 on the season, will travel to Clark on Thursday to take on the Clark-Willow Lake Cyclones. Leola-Frederick is 6-13 on the season and will travel to Waubay on Thursday.

Groton Area won the junior varisty match, 25-10 and 25-15.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 4 of 52

Groton Senior Citizens

September 11 Groton Seniors met for a meeting . Nineteen members attended. President Ruby Donovan opened with the flag pledge. Lee Schinkel played the Battle Hymn in memory of 9-11. Minutes and treasure report were read and accepted. President honored all post presidents with a beautiful red rose. A picture was taken with them. Deloris Knoll and Elda Stange were honored as Senior Queens in the home coming parade. Meeting was adjourned and cards played the winners of the games . Pinochle-David Kleinsosor, Canasta-Beulah Hoops, Pat Larson, Whist- Grace Albrecht and Deloris Knoll. Door prizes- Pat Larson, Beulah Hoops, and Eunice McColister. Hostees were Tony Goldage and Eunice McCollister September 18 Seniors met. Twenty seven members attended Lee Schinkel , Don Darwin and Marilyn Thorson attended the fall volunteer meeting in Aberdeen. They received fruit baskets DeLoris Knoll was honored with 15 years pin certificate for her volunteer service. Tony Goldage and Don Darwin received pins. Cards were played . The winners pinochle-Don Darwin, Bridge- Darlene Fischer, Canasta- Marilyn Thorson and Mary Walker. Whist- Greace Albrecht, Dick Donavon and Lee Schinkel . Door prizes- Eunice McCollister, Bob and Darlene Fischer. Hostees were Bev Sombke and Grace Albrecht. September Twenty five seniors met for a pot luck dinner. Fourteen members were present. Bingo was played after dinner Pat Larson won black out. Cards were played after Bingo . Door prizes went to Eunice McCollister and Bob and Ruth Pray. Desert was served before going home.

Bowlers Needed!

The Groton Coffee Cup league is in dire need of lady bowlers. If you have time on Mondays between 2 and 4, please consider joining the ladies bowling league. We need you!! We don't care how good or bad you bowl. Please call Vickie Kramp at 382-7293 or call Sam at the Jungle 397-2606.

Socktober Challenge 2017

Here's how it works: All you have to do is put NEW (not used) socks in the Socktober box located in your classroom from October 2-31st. We are looking to collect NEW socks of any size and color for men, women, children, and infants. All of the socks collected at the Groton Area Schools will be donated to the Salvation Army, Safe Harbor, and Journey Home.

The class with the highest percentage of pairs of socks donated will hold the 'Golden Sock' traveling trophy for the 2017-2018 school year and earn a root beer float party.

Let's 'sock' it to them- Tigers!

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 5 of 52



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")**

Melvin Adams to be at Youth Rally

We are very excited to invite you to the Groton Youth Rally that will feature the Former Harlem Globetrotter Melvin Adams at the Groton Area High School Arena, 406 N 2nd Street, Groton, SD. The Rally will be on Wed., Nov. 15th at 7pm. He will be sharing an evangelistic message of hope to this generation.

Please reserve this night for a great time here in Groton and bring the whole family. Tickets will be sold for \$7 in advance at the Groton Dairy Queen and Aberdeen Anchors of Faith, and \$10 at the door, with a family rate of \$20. You may call for tickets or more information at 377-0709 or email : glennaremington@hotmail.com or Groton Youth Rally, PO Box 81, Groton, SD 57445 Please keep this evangelistic event in your prayers. All ages are welcome!!

Groton Youth Rally Committee

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 6 of 52

Today in Weather History

October 4, 2005: A strong low-pressure system developed over the Central Rockies and moved through the Northern Plains, bringing heavy snow to much of the northern Black Hills and far northwest South Dakota. Precipitation started as rain during the day and changed over to snow during the late afternoon and early evening, mixed with freezing rain and sleet. Heavy snow fell during the night and ended in the morning. Snowfall amounts were generally in the 6 to 12-inch range, with locally heavier amounts across northern and western Harding County. The heavy, wet snow resulted in many downed trees, large branches, and power lines. The heavy snow caused numerous power outages and some minor property damage. A few locations had some of the highest daily snowfall amounts ever recorded in October. Camp Crook received 12 inches of snow, which tied the daily record for snow in October. Redig also tied its record for most snowfall in one day in October with 9 inches. Lemmon had its second highest daily total snowfall for October (6.5 inches). Bison received 6 inches, which was tied for the 3rd highest daily total in October. Spearfish tied for the 8th highest daily snow total for October with 7 inches.

1777: The Battle of Germantown was fought in a morning fog that grew denser with the smoke of battle, causing great confusion. Americans firing at each other contributed to the loss of the battle.

1869 - A great storm struck New England. The storm reportedly was predicted twelve months in advance by a British officer named Saxby. Heavy rains and high floods plagued all of New England, with strong winds and high tides over New Hampshire and Maine. Canton CT was deluged with 12.35 inches of rain. (David Ludlum)

1969 - Denver, CO, received 9.6 inches of snow. October of that year proved to be the coldest and snowiest of record for Denver, with a total snowfall for the month of 31.2 inches. (Weather Channel)

1986 - Excessive flooding was reported along the Mississippi River and all over the Midwest, from Ohio to the Milk River in Montana. In some places it was the worst flooding of record. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - A storm brought record snows to the northeastern U.S. Snowfall totals ranged up to 21 inches at North Springfield VT. It was the earliest snow of record for some locations. The storm claimed 17 lives in central New York State, injured 332 persons, and in Vermont caused seventeen million dollars damage. The six inch snow at Albany NY was their earliest measurable snow in 117 years of records. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Southern California continued to "shake and bake". An earthquake was reported during the morning, the second in a matter of days, and during the afternoon temperatures soared well above 100 degrees. Highs of 100 degrees at San Francisco, and 108 degrees at Los Angeles and Santa Maria, were October records. San Luis Obispo was the hot spot in the nation with an afternoon high of 111 degrees. (The National Weather Summary).






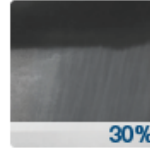

1988 - Temperatures dipped below freezing in the north central U.S. Five cities in North Dakota and Nebraska reported record low temperatures for the date, including Bismarck ND with a reading of 17 degrees above zero. Low pressure brought snow and sleet to parts of Upper Michigan. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Unseasonably cold weather continued in the north central U.S., with freezing temperatures reported across much of the area from eastern North Dakota to Michigan and northwest Ohio. Thirteen cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Saint Cloud MN, which was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 19 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

2005: Hurricane Stan, a minimal Category 1 Hurricane with 75 mph maximum sustained surface winds, made landfall near Punta Roca Partida, Mexico at 4 AM EDT on this day. While not a particularly strong hurricane the torrential rains caused flooding and landslides, which resulted in 1,513 deaths in Guatemala.

Broton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 7 of 52

Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Areas Frost then Sunny	Increasing Clouds	Slight Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Sunny
High: 59 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 59 °F	Low: 43 °F	High: 59 °F	Low: 41 °F	High: 72 °F



Sunny Today
Increasing Rain Chances Tonight Through Friday



Highs Today: Around 60



Scattered Light Showers Tonight
Better Chances Friday

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 10/4/2017 5:28 AM Central

Published on: 10/04/2017 at 5:39AM

With high pressure overhead we will see sunny skies and a wind becoming southeasterly during the afternoon and evening. This southeast wind will draw more humid air into the region, which means an increased chance for light amounts of moisture tonight and into Thursday. A system will move across the area Friday for a better chance for more substantial amounts of moisture.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 8 of 52

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 60.8

Low Outside Temp: 44.0

High Gust: 20

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 93° in 1975

Record Low: 13° in 1894

Average High: 64°F

Average Low: 38°F

Average Precip in Oct: 0.32

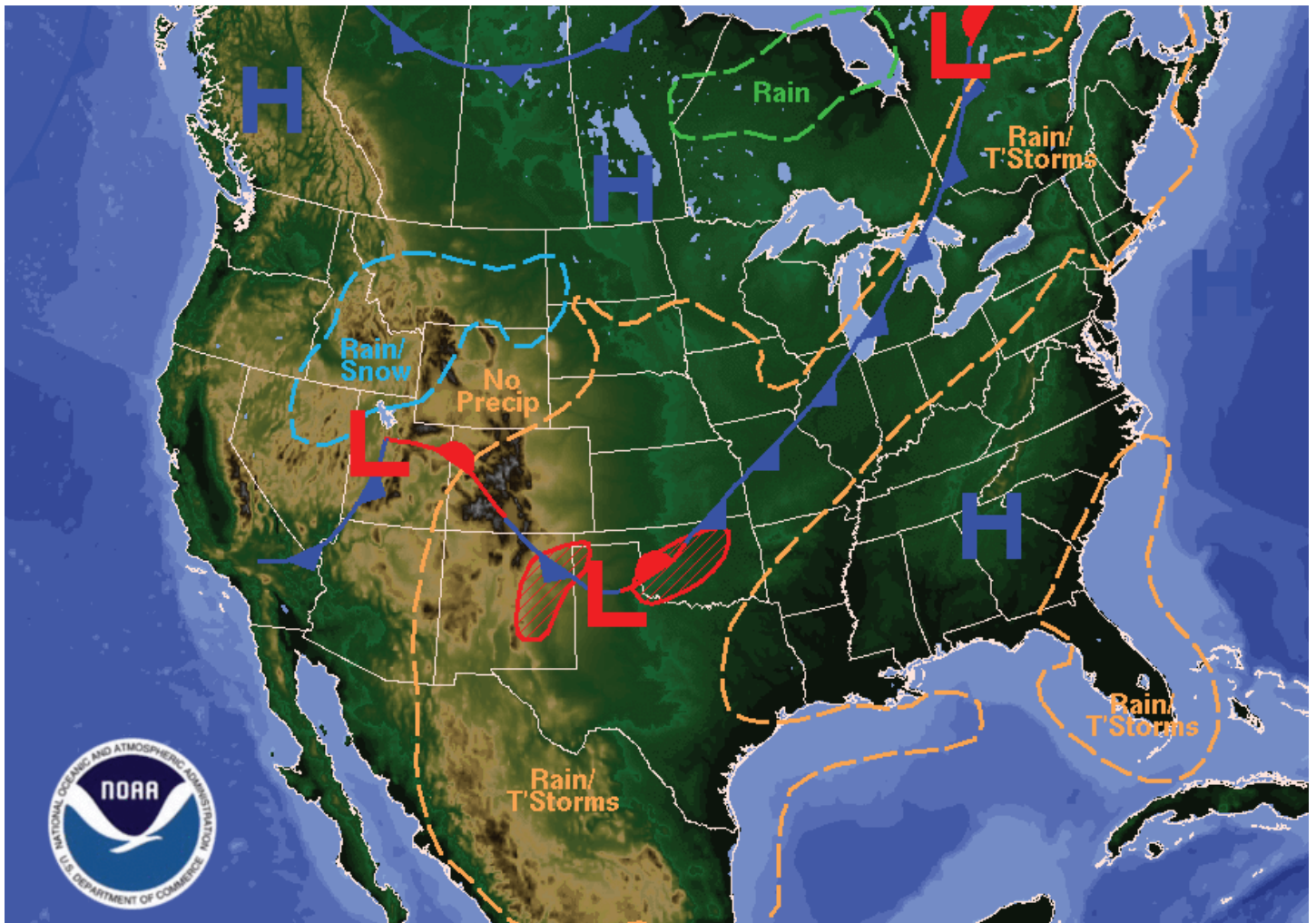
Precip to date in Oct: 0.19

Average Precip to date: 18.80

Precip Year to Date: 13.28

Sunset Tonight: 7:07 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:37 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Oct 04, 2017, issued 4:49 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

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 9 of 52



WHAT DO I DO - WHERE DO I GO?

"I really need help. I don't even know how to explain it. Many people think my problems are insignificant and quite trivial. I can even understand that. I know some people that have been through so much more than me who have survived and have lived to tell their story. I really, really need help but don't know what to do or who to turn to." So went the story.

There are times in each of our lives, no doubt, when we have made similar statements or cried words that echoed the same desperate feelings. We were defeated by the demands of life and felt desperate and empty with no strength to go on. Our words were inadequate or unavailable to share our misery. And, if we were able to "get it out," would anyone understand our fears and frustrations. And if they did, would they extend a helping hand or offer a listening ear?

Sometimes we are threatened by people we don't even know. We hear of their attacks through the warnings of others and know they want to hurt us. Sometimes we know who our oppressors are yet can do nothing to eliminate the power they have over us.

David found himself in a similar situation. He looked around for help and deliverance and found no one ready to help him. But he knew that there was saving power in the name of God and cried out, "Surely God is my help; the Lord is the One Who sustains me."

Often God brings us to a place in our lives to force us to realize that He alone is the ultimate Savior!

Prayer: What a joy it is to know, Father, that You will never leave us or forsake us or let any enemy destroy us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 54:4 Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meal- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/28/2018 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 3/24/2018 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/5/2018 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/28/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)

- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 11 of 52

News from the  Associated Press

Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Arlington def. Deuel, 25-16, 25-14, 25-8
Baltic def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-10, 16-25, 25-21, 27-25
Belle Fourche def. Sturgis Brown, 25-20, 20-25, 25-19, 25-18
Burke/South Central def. Avon, 25-14, 25-14, 25-22
Canistota def. Menno, 25-12, 21-25, 25-21, 25-17
Castlewood def. Florence/Henry, 25-17, 25-21, 25-23
Chadron, Neb. def. Hot Springs, 25-11, 25-12, 25-20
Chester def. Tri-Valley, 25-14, 25-13, 25-15
Deubrook def. Milbank, 25-23, 25-19, 25-12
Ethan def. Wessington Springs, 25-17, 25-12, 25-11
Faith def. Bison, 25-10, 25-19, 25-17
Flasher, N.D. def. McIntosh, 25-22, 25-14, 25-23
Freeman def. Bon Homme, 25-15, 25-19, 25-11
Great Plains Lutheran def. Clark/Willow Lake, 25-19, 25-19, 17-25, 25-22
Groton Area def. Leola/Frederick, 25-21, 25-21, 24-26, 25-9
Harrisburg def. Pierre, 21-25, 25-13, 25-9, 25-17
Hendricks, Minn. def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-9, 25-8, 25-7
Herreid/Selby Area def. Potter County, 25-19, 25-18, 25-16
Ipswich def. Faulkton, 27-25, 25-16, 10-25, 25-21
Irene-Wakonda def. Gayville-Volin, 26-24, 25-19, 26-24
Kimball/White Lake def. Chamberlain, 28-26, 25-22, 25-14
Lead-Deadwood def. Harding County, 20-25, 25-22, 26-24, 25-23
Lemmon def. Timber Lake, 21-25, 26-28, 25-20, 26-24, 15-8
Lower Brule def. St. Francis Indian, 24-26, 25-20, 25-15, 22-25, 15-8
Madison def. Tea Area, 25-17, 25-22, 25-17
McCook Central/Montrose def. Howard, 25-15, 25-16, 25-17
Miller def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 27-25, 25-23, 25-18
Northwestern def. Webster, 25-9, 25-6, 25-8
Parker def. Lennox, 25-12, 25-11, 25-16
Parkston def. Platte-Geddes, 25-21, 25-22, 19-25, 25-19
Rapid City Central def. Douglas, 25-13, 25-13, 25-16
Red Cloud def. Bennett County, 14-25, 25-20, 25-12, 25-16
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-13, 25-17, 20-25, 25-19
Sioux Falls Christian def. Canton, 25-4, 25-10, 25-5
Sioux Valley def. Hamlin, 25-19, 25-15, 25-8
Sisseton def. Britton-Hecla, 25-22, 17-25, 26-24, 25-19
St. Thomas More def. Hill City, 25-16, 27-25, 24-26, 25-17
Sully Buttes def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-17, 25-9, 28-26
Tiospa Zina Tribal def. Flandreau Indian, 25-9, 25-11, 25-6
Wagner def. Scotland, 25-7, 25-17, 20-25, 25-17
Warner def. Langford, 25-10, 25-18, 25-6
Watertown def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 20-25, 25-17, 27-25, 33-31
Waverly-South Shore def. Estelline, 25-15, 25-22, 25-18

Broton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 12 of 52

Winner def. Gregory, 25-10, 25-10, 25-16
Wolsey-Wessington def. Iroquois, 25-4, 25-18, 25-14
Yankton def. Brandon Valley, 25-16, 25-18, 26-24
Colome Tournament
North Central, Neb. def. Colome, 25-6, 25-15, 25-20

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

12-18-19-25-67, Mega Ball: 7, Megaplier: 5

(twelve, eighteen, nineteen, twenty-five, sixty-seven; Mega Ball: seven; Megaplier: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$25 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$94 million

Some upset at plan to drop lawyers in pipeline protest cases

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A proposal by North Dakota judges who say out-of-state lawyers are no longer needed to represent Dakota Access pipeline protesters has drawn hundreds of complaints.

Judges from the state's South Central District, who have been handling the protest cases, say the legal provisions are no longer justified because no new cases have been filed, the Bismarck Tribune reported.

A majority of the more than 500 comments to state court officials are against the move, with many saying there's still too much unfinished business for appointed attorneys to handle. The waiver has allowed out-of-state attorneys to represent clients as long as they sponsored by a North Dakota lawyer.

"To discontinue the special provisions at this juncture would do a great disservice to justice as it would undoubtedly result in disruption of legal representation in active cases and higher rates of unrepresented individuals," Spirit Lake Tribal Chairwoman Myra Pearson wrote in her objection.

One comment supporting the judges' proposal came from North Dakota Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents, which handled 435 pipeline protest cases.

"The DAPL case assignments added significant work volume and contributed to a record-breaking year," wrote H. Jean Delaney, the commission's executive director. "However, the protests appear to have concluded, and there haven't been any additional assignments since July."

The comment period on the proposal ended Monday. Supreme Court Clerk Penny Miller says she expects the court to take up the matter within the next couple of weeks.

About 830 criminal cases were filed in connection to the DAPL protests. More than 400 have closed, most of them with dismissed charges.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

Krebs: Trump commission can buy South Dakota voter data

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Secretary of State Shantel Krebs says that a presidential commission investigating election fraud can purchase South Dakota voter information.

Krebs wrote in a letter last week to the commission that the fee for South Dakota's statewide voter registration file is \$2,500. President Donald Trump's Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity sent one request in June and another in July after a court said the data collection could move ahead.

Krebs initially declined to share voter information with the commission, but wrote in the letter to vice

chairman Kris Kobach that the second request asked for information that's available to anyone under state law. She wrote that driver's license and Social Security numbers and full birthdates would be redacted and included a form to request the data.

Krebs wrote that the commission's first letter said that documents submitted to the panel would be made available to the public, but South Dakota law prohibits information in the voter registration file from being posted in a way that allows for unrestricted access online. The commission later clarified that it wouldn't publicly release personally identifiable voter information from submitted records, she wrote.

Krebs wrote that she agrees with Trump that ensuring the highest integrity and security in elections is necessary. She suggested that the panel consider a nationwide voter crosscheck administered by state officials and encourage citizens to be poll workers and observers.

Krebs also highlighted that South Dakota uses paper ballots and doesn't have Internet connections to tabulating equipment or online voting, moves that she said prevent hacking.

"I am again encouraged that the Commission would look to South Dakota and Secretaries of State across the nation for ways to improve election integrity," she wrote.

Study examines how far US women must travel to get abortion

By DAVID CRARY, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — How far do American women need to travel in order to obtain an abortion?

A new study, billed as the first of its kind, makes those calculations state-by-state and county-by-county, revealing some striking disparities. In New York, the average distance is about three miles (five kilometers). At the other end of the scale, the average distance in Wyoming is about 168 miles (271 kilometers).

The analysis was conducted by researchers with the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights, using 2014 data on abortion clinic locations and U.S. Census population figures. The findings were published online Tuesday by the journal *Lancet Public Health*.

Nationally, according to the study, half of all women of reproductive age lived within 11 miles (18 kilometers) of an abortion clinic in 2014. However, many women in rural areas lived much farther away; the study said 1 in 5 women nationwide would need to travel at least 43 miles (69 kilometers) to reach the nearest abortion clinic.

In the states with the longest average distance to travel — Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota — at least half of women of reproductive age lived more than 90 miles (145 kilometers) from the nearest clinic providing abortion services. Women in Alaska lived an average of nine miles (about 15 kilometers) from the nearest clinic, but 20 percent of women in that state would have to travel more than 150 miles (240 kilometers).

The researchers said the average distance increased between 2011 and 2014 for many women in Texas and Missouri, which imposed restrictions during that period that led to closure of some clinics. At one point recently, there was only one abortion clinic operating in Missouri; there are now two, and abortion-rights advocates are pursuing legal action to expand that number.

In a commentary in the journal, Ushma Upadhyay, a professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences at the University of California, San Francisco, detailed possible repercussions for women facing the long distances.

"Increased travel distance means increased costs for transport, overnight stay, lost wages from time off work, and childcare," she wrote. "For a woman who is economically disadvantaged, having to travel a long distance could put an abortion out of reach, leading her to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term."

Upadhyay suggested that access could be improved if nurse practitioners and certified nurse midwives were allowed to perform abortions without a physician's supervision. Another step, she wrote, would be for the Food and Drug Administration to lift restrictions on the abortion-inducing drug mifepristone so that women could get it at pharmacies with a prescription. It's now dispensed only at clinics, hospitals and doctors' offices.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit on Tuesday challenging those FDA restrictions.

Follow David Crary on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/CraryAP>

South Dakota Volleyball Polls By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - Here is the South Dakota Media Prep Volleyball Poll for the week of Oct. 2, 2017. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking.<

Class AA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Harrisburg;(11);12-1;63;1
2. Mitchell;(1);13-1;52;2
3. R.C. Stevens;(1);22-3;41;3
4. Aberdeen Central;-;8-4;22;5
5. S.F. O'Gorman;-;9-5;7;

Others receiving votes: Watertown (7-4) 6; Huron (7-6) 3; S.F. Washington (8-8) 1.<

Class A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. S.F. Christian;(13);16-4;65;1
2. Dakota Valley;-;18-2;52;2
3. Madison;-;14-3;32;3
4. Miller;-;15-2;25;4
5. Parker;-;17-5;11;5

Others receiving votes: Belle Fourche (16-0) 6; Sioux Valley (17-3) 4.<

Class B

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Northwestern;(13);19-1;65;1
2. Warner;-;19-3;52;2
3. Hanson;-;17-1;38;3
4. Chester Area;-;15-4;23;4
5. Phillip;-;16-1;14;5

Others receiving votes: Ethan (15-3) 2; Andes Central-Dakota Christian (16-2) 1.<

South Dakota man wounded in Las Vegas shooting returns home

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man is recovering after being shot in the leg during the attack by a gunman in Las Vegas that killed at least 59 people and injured hundreds of others.

KSFY-TV reports that Brian Wills returned to Sioux Falls on Monday still wearing jeans bloody from his wounds. Wills says he is happy to be home and feels "extremely fortunate."

Wills says he was hit as he and others tried to leave the area after the gunfire started. He was shot twice in the leg and suffered a broken fibula.

He says the experience is a reminder of "why you hug your family every day." Wills didn't immediately return a request for comment from The Associated Press.

Supreme Court considers conviction in toddler's death

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court has been asked to reverse a murder conviction in the death of a toddler.

The court heard arguments Monday in the case of Joseph Patterson. He was convicted in 2015 of second-degree murder in the death of his girlfriend's 2-year-old son, Tyrese Ruffin. The defense argues the jury in Patterson's trial was unfairly biased by the state. Patterson's attorneys say there's no evidence Patterson "snapped" and hit Ruffin, as the state had argued.

The Argus Leader says the defense thinks the state should not have been allowed to talk about times when Patterson spanked or hit kids. The state said Patterson disciplined Ruffin "his way."

The high court will issue a decision later in the Lincoln County case.

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

Las Vegas gunman's girlfriend returns to US for questioning

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and KEN RITTER, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The Las Vegas gunman's girlfriend, back in the United States after a weekslong trip abroad, will be at the center of the investigation into the shooting deaths of 59 people as authorities try to determine why a man with no known record of violence or crime would open fire on a concert crowd from a high-rise hotel.

Stephen Paddock's girlfriend Marilou Danley, 62, who was in the Philippines at the time of the shooting, was met by FBI agents at the airport in Los Angeles late Tuesday night, according to a law enforcement official.

The official wasn't authorized to publicly discuss the matter and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Sheriff Joseph Lombardo, who has called Danley a "person of interest" in the attack, said that "we anticipate some information from her shortly," and said he is "absolutely" confident authorities will find out what set off Paddock, a 64-year-old high-stakes gambler and retired accountant who killed himself before police stormed his 32nd-floor room.

Danley first arrived in the Philippines on Sept. 15, according to immigration documents there. She departed on Sept. 22 then returned three days later on a flight from Hong Kong. She was traveling on an Australian passport.

Philippines immigration bureau spokeswoman Antonette Mangrobang said authorities there had been working with U.S. officials.

"From the very beginning, we have been providing them necessary information that would aid their investigation," Mangrobang said.

Danley's Australia-based sisters say they believe Paddock sent her away so she wouldn't interfere with his plans.

Australia's Channel 7 TV network interviewed the sisters with their faces obscured and their names withheld. They said they believe their sister couldn't have known about his ideas.

The woman said Danley is "a good person" who would've stopped Paddock had she been there.

One of the sisters, who live near Brisbane, Queensland, said they believed Marilou knew Paddock had guns, but not as many as he had.

"She probably was even (more) shocked than us because she is more closer to him than us," her sister said.

Paddock traveled at least twice to the Philippines, where his girlfriend was born, according to a Filipino official who was not authorized to discuss the trips publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official said Paddock visited the Philippines in 2013 and 2014, around his birthday, staying for five to six days on both occasions. There were no immediate details available about those trips, according to the official.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 16 of 52

Paddock transferred \$100,000 to the Philippines in the days before the shooting, a U.S. official briefed by law enforcement but not authorized to speak publicly because of the continuing investigation told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Investigators are still trying to trace that money and also looking into at least a dozen financial reports over the past several weeks that said Paddock gambled more than \$10,000 per day, the official said.

As for what may have set Paddock off, retired FBI profiler Jim Clemente speculated that there was "some sort of major trigger in his life — a great loss, a breakup, or maybe he just found out he has a terminal disease."

Clemente said a "psychological autopsy" may be necessary to try to establish the motive. If the suicide didn't destroy Paddock's brain, experts may even find a neurological disorder or malformation, he said.

He said there could be a genetic component to the slaughter: Paddock's father was a bank robber who was on the FBI's most-wanted list in the 1960s and was diagnosed a psychopath.

"The genetics load the gun, personality and psychology aim it, and experiences pull the trigger, typically," Clemente said.

Paddock had a business degree from Cal State Northridge. In the 1970s and '80s, he worked as a mail carrier and an IRS agent and held down a job in an auditing division of the Defense Department, according to the government. He later worked for a defense contractor.

He had no known criminal record, and public records showed no signs of financial troubles.

Nevada's Gaming Control Board said it will pass along records compiled on Paddock and his girlfriend to investigators.

His brother, Eric Paddock, said he was at a loss to explain the massacre.

"No affiliation, no religion, no politics. He never cared about any of that stuff," he said outside his Florida home.

Eric Paddock said his brother did show a confrontational side at times: He apparently hated cigarette smoke so much that he carried around a cigar and blew smoke in people's faces when they lit up around him.

Lombardo said the investigation is proceeding cautiously in case criminal charges are warranted against someone else.

"This investigation is not ended with the demise of Mr. Paddock," the sheriff said. "Did this person get radicalized unbeknownst to us? And we want to identify that source."

On Wednesday, President Donald Trump is set to arrive in Las Vegas to meet with public officials, first responders and some of the 527 people injured in the attack. At least 45 patients at two hospitals remained in critical condition.

All but three of the dead had been identified by Tuesday afternoon, Lombardo said.

Some investigators turned their focus Tuesday from the shooter's perch to the festival grounds where his victims fell.

A dozen investigators, most in FBI jackets and all wearing blue booties to avoid contaminating the scene, documented evidence at the site where gunfire rained down and country music gave way to screams of pain and terror.

"Shoes, baby strollers, chairs, sunglasses, purses. The whole field was just littered with things," said Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt after touring the site Monday. "There were bloodstains everywhere."

While Paddock's motive has proved elusive, investigators have found no shortage of evidence of how Paddock carried out the elaborate attack.

He planned the massacre so meticulously that he even set up cameras inside the peephole of his high-rise hotel room and on a service cart outside his door, apparently to spot anyone coming for him, authorities said.

Investigators also found a computer and 23 guns with him at the hotel, along with 12 "bump stock" devices that can enable a rifle to fire continuously, like an automatic weapon, authorities said. Nineteen more guns were found at Paddock's Mesquite home and seven at his Reno house.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 17 of 52

Two Las Vegas hotels temporarily stepped up screening of bags in response to the attack.

Visitors at Wynn Las Vegas and Encore had bags checked by security employees with metal detectors upon entry beginning early Monday, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

A hotel spokesman said they've since returned to the practice of only scanning bags and guests when they "believe the need arises."

Authorities released police body camera video that showed the chaos of the attack as officers tried to figure out the location of the shooter and shuttle people to safety. Amid sirens and volleys of gunfire, people yelled "they're shooting right at us" while officers shouted "go that way!"

Clark County Undersheriff Kevin McMahill said the shooting spanned between nine and 11 minutes.

The cameras Paddock set up at the Mandalay Bay hotel casino were part of his extensive preparations that included stockpiling nearly two dozen guns in his room before opening fire on the concert below. McMahill said the cameras included one in the peephole and two in the hallway.

"I anticipate he was looking for anybody coming to take him into custody," Lombardo said.

During the Sunday night rampage, a hotel security guard who approached the room was shot through the door and wounded in the leg.

"The fact that he had the type of weaponry and amount of weaponry in that room, it was preplanned extensively," the sheriff said, "and I'm pretty sure he evaluated everything that he did and his actions, which is troublesome."

Jim Gomez in Manila, Philippines; Brian Skoloff, Regina Garcia Cano and Sally Ho in Las Vegas; Brian Melley and Andrew Dalton in Los Angeles; and Sadie Gurman and Tami Abdollah in Washington contributed to this report.

For complete coverage of the Las Vegas shooting, click here: —<https://apnews.com/tag/LasVegasmassshooting>.

AP-NORC Poll: Low marks for Trump's Puerto Rico response

By LAURIE KELLMAN and EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans are more likely to approve than disapprove of how President Donald Trump is handling hurricane relief in Florida and Texas, but it's a different story when it comes to Puerto Rico.

According to a new poll by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, 48 percent of Americans approve and just 27 percent disapprove of how Trump is handling the recoveries in U.S. states including Texas and Florida that were hit by hurricanes Harvey and Irma. But just 32 percent approve of how Trump is handling disaster relief in Puerto Rico, while 49 percent disapprove.

"It took him how long to get to Puerto Rico?" said Bree Harris, a 25-year-old chef and Democrat from Los Angeles. She suspects Trump "didn't even know that Puerto Rico was an island that was part of America. It's embarrassing."

The poll was conducted before Trump on Tuesday made his first trip to the U.S. territory 1,000 miles from the mainland after Hurricane Maria roared ashore Sept. 20 and knocked out all power. The federal response has drawn criticism and the administration has aggressively pushed back.

After lavishing attention and time on Texas and Florida, Trump tweeted his wish for Puerto Ricans to "be careful" just before the storm hit, but then didn't talk publicly about the island's post-hurricane struggles for days as he chose instead to fight with the NFL over some of its players kneeling for the National Anthem. Critics said the president had failed to grasp the magnitude of Maria's destruction as quickly as he had the twin wallops of Harvey and Irma.

A week later, Trump publicly tuned in to Maria's aftermath. He sent multiple administration officials out to defend his response. He called briefings and meetings and insisted that helping Puerto Ricans was a top priority.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 18 of 52

But Trump also suggested their suffering was partly the fault of officials who had allowed the island's infrastructure and economy to degrade before the hurricanes and said local people should be doing more to help the recovery.

In an interview with Fox News Tuesday, Trump said that "we're going to have to wipe out" Puerto Rico's debt.

"We're going to work something out," he said in the interview. "We have to look at their whole debt structure. You know, they owe a lot of money to your friends on Wall Street. And we're going to have to wipe that out."

Widespread disasters offer presidents much to gain — or lose — politically as they try to play the role of comforter while competently leading the government's response to life-and-death issues for masses of Americans.

"He didn't do a tremendous job in the states, but it's not quite as disturbing and horrific as his response in Puerto Rico," said Tara Blesh-Boren, 34, a registered Independent from Lincoln, Nebraska. "He is so busy getting his ego involved in these ridiculous back-and-forth arguments about things that don't matter to anyone but him that he is really not managing our country."

The AP-NORC poll includes responses from people living in all U.S. states, but not those living in Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories.

While some Puerto Ricans expressed appreciation for Trump's visit on Tuesday, others said they were frustrated with the pace of the recovery — and the tone of some of the president's remarks.

In the capital San Juan, where several neighborhoods remain without power, pastry chef Rose Cisneros said her family is faring well but she worries about communities in the island's mountainous interior that are still struggling to access food and clean water.

"I am grateful the military is helping. I wish it could be even more," Cisneros said, adding that she's been frustrated to hear Trump bring up Puerto Rico's debt and the cost to the federal government for the recovery effort.

Water service has been restored to about half of customers across the island, according to the governor, who has said he hopes 25 percent of electricity customers will have power by the end of October. Officials have said power would be restored to the entire island before March. Many stores have opened, including half of the island's grocery stores, but many have run out of basic supplies and lines are still long.

The poll shows partisan divisions on Trump's handling of disaster relief, but Republicans and Democrats alike are more likely to approve of Trump's handling of the situation in Texas and Florida than in Puerto Rico.

Among Republicans, 76 percent approve of Trump's disaster response stateside while 62 percent approve of how he's handling the situation in Puerto Rico. Among Democrats, 30 percent approve of how Trump is handling the situations in Florida and Texas while just 11 percent approve of how he's handling the situation in Puerto Rico.

Two in 10 whites, 4 in 10 Hispanics and nearly 6 in 10 African Americans disapprove of the president's response in U.S. states. But 4 in 10 whites, 6 in 10 Hispanics and nearly 8 in 10 blacks disapprove of the response in Puerto Rico.

Nearly 9 in 10 Democrats and 7 in 10 Republicans say the U.S. government has a major responsibility to help disaster victims in U.S. territories.

According to the survey, more than 4 in 10 Americans say they or their friends or family were seriously impacted by this year's hurricanes, including 8 percent who say they were personally impacted and another 34 percent who say that friends or family members were seriously impacted.

Many say they've taken part in charitable activities in response to the recent storms, including 55 percent who gave money, clothing or other items to charity, 11 percent who did extra volunteer work and 9 percent who donated blood or tried to do so.

Associated Press writer Mike Melia in San Juan contributed to this report.

Follow Kellman and Swanson on Twitter at <http://www.Twitter.com/APLaurieKellman> and <http://www>.

Twitter.com/EL_Swan

The AP-NORC poll of 1,150 adults was conducted Sept. 28-Oct. 2 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.1 percentage points.

Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods, and later interviewed online or by phone.

Online:

AP-NORC Center: <http://www.apnorc.org/>

Nobel Prize honors technique for seeing molecules' details

By JIM HEINTZ and DAVID KEYTON, Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Three researchers based in the U.S., U.K. and Switzerland won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry on Wednesday for developing a way to create detailed images of the molecules that drive life — a technology that the Nobel committee said allowed scientists to visualize molecular processes they had never previously seen.

The 9-million-kronor (\$1.1 million) prize is shared by Jacques Dubochet of the University of Lausanne, Joachim Frank at New York's Columbia University and Richard Henderson of MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, Britain.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said their method, called cryo-electron microscopy, allows researchers to "freeze biomolecules" mid-movement. The technology "is decisive for both the basic understanding of life's chemistry and for the development of pharmaceuticals," it said.

Frank said he was "fully overwhelmed" on hearing he had won.

"I thought the chances of a Nobel Prize were minuscule because there are so many other innovations and discoveries that happen almost every day," he said. "So yes, I was in a way speechless."

He said he hasn't yet thought about what to do with the prize money, but added: "I was telling my wife that we don't have to worry about a dog sitter anymore."

Explaining the significance of the technology, Nobel chemistry committee member Heiner Linke said it enables scientists to "see down to the position of individual atoms to be able to see how these molecules interact with one another, what complexes they build, how these complex machineries work."

"It's really the first time that we can see biological molecules in their natural environment and how they actually work together down to the individual atoms," he added.

Electron microscopes once were thought to be useful only for examining nonliving material because the electron beam destroys biological material. But cryo-technology — freezing material at extremely low temperatures — protected the examined material from damage.

Frank developed mathematical models to sharpen fuzzy electron microscope images and Henderson, in 1990, was able to generate a 3-D image of a protein at atom-level resolution.

Dubochet's contribution was to freeze the water in the sample being examined so quickly that it vitrified — forming a kind of glass rather than ice, whose crystalline structure diffracted the electron beam.

The annual prize rewards researchers for major advances in studying the infinitesimal bits of material that are the building blocks of life.

Recent prizes have gone to scientists who developed molecular "machines" — molecules with controllable motions — and who mapped how cells repair damaged DNA, leading to improved cancer treatments.

It's the third Nobel announced this week.

The medicine prize went to three Americans studying circadian rhythms: Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young. The physics prize went to Rainer Weiss, Barry Barish and Kip Thorne for detecting gravitational waves.

The literature winner will be named Thursday and the peace prize will be announced Friday.

Malcolm Ritter in New York and Bob Lentz in Philadelphia contributed to this story.

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. LAS VEGAS GUNMAN'S GIRLFRIEND RETURNS TO US FOR QUESTIONING

Marilou Danley, 62, will be at the center of the investigation into why Stephen Paddock opened fire from a high-rise hotel and killed 59 people at an outdoor concert.

2. HOW ONE CITY DEALS WITH HIGH-RISE SHOOTERS

New York's police department puts sharpshooters on nearby rooftops to scan the windows of other buildings for just an attack at events like the Times Square New Year's Eve celebration.

3. TRUMP POISED TO BE 'COUNSELOR IN CHIEF'

The president reckons with the aftermath of a deadly mass shooting in Las Vegas as he meets with survivors and law enforcement officials.

4. NOBEL CHEMISTRY PRIZE HONORS ELECTRON MICROSCOPY

Switzerland's Jacques Dubochet, American Joachim Frank and Briton Richard Henderson are laureates for their method that allows researchers to "freeze biomolecules."

5. FEW APPROVE OF TRUMP'S PUERTO RICO RESPONSE

Americans are more likely to approve than disapprove of how Trump is handling disaster relief in Florida and Texas, but it's a different story in Puerto Rico, an AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll finds.

6. WHY STATE DEPARTMENT TRAVEL WARNING TROUBLES CUBA

Thousands of private Cuban businesses invested heavily in homes, cars and restaurants in hopes of cashing in on an expected wave of American visitors.

7. WHO IS CONCERNED ABOUT SELF-DRIVING CARS

Safety advocates says a bill before Congress to clear away obstacles to a new era of autonomous vehicles would create hazards on the roads.

8. PLUS-SIZE FOR MEN: SITES OFFER TRENDY LOOKS FOR BIGGER GUYS

Online fashion sellers say they are tapping into a long-ignored group: big guys who want to look stylish.

9. JASON ALDEAN CANCELS TOUR DATES AFTER VEGAS SHOOTING

The country singer is scrubbing three California dates out of respect for the victims and to take time to mourn.

10. YANKEES BEAT TWINS TO ADVANCE IN BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

Aaron Judge, Didi Gregorius and a brilliant bullpen rescue New York from a rugged start and lift the Yanks to their first postseason victory in five years.

Puerto Rico raises hurricane's official death count to 34

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The official death toll from Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico has increased to 34 from 16, the U.S. territory's governor said Tuesday.

Gov. Ricardo Rossello also said he believes the hurricane that struck on Sept. 20 with winds over 150 mph caused \$90 billion in damage across the Caribbean island.

The governor made the announcement at a news conference following U.S. President Donald Trump's short visit to the U.S. territory to assess the storm's impact.

During his stop, Trump congratulated Puerto Ricans for avoiding a high death toll of "a real catastrophe like Katrina." As many as 1,800 people died in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina breached levees protecting New Orleans.

The governor said the death toll in Puerto Rico included 19 people who died as a direct result of the storm and 15 whose deaths were caused indirectly by the storm, local media reported.

Nearly two weeks after the storm, 95 percent of electricity customers remain without power, including

some hospitals. Some people have expressed concerns about the effect that extended outages will have on the ill and vulnerable in the tropical heat.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, there are now more than 10,000 federal officials on the ground on the island, and 45 percent of customers now have access to drinking water. Rossello has said he hopes 25 percent of electricity customers will have power by the end of October.

Judge, Gregorius, bullpen rally wild-card Yankees past Twins

By RONALD BLUM, AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Minutes into the playoff debut for these young New York Yankees, they trailed Minnesota by three runs. Their starting pitcher lasted just one out. A sellout crowd was stunned.

Could their postseason be over almost before it began?

Nope. A strange AL wild-card game was only just beginning.

"We've had a quite a few games where we've gotten down early," Aaron Judge said. "Just keep battling. Just stay calm. Just play your game, and good things will happen."

Judge, Didi Gregorius and a brilliant bullpen rescued New York and lifted the Yankees to their first postseason victory in five years.

Gregorius' three-run homer tied the score in the first inning after Minnesota knocked out Luis Severino, a pumped-up Judge showed his most emotion this season when he hit a two-run shot in his playoff debut and the Yankees beat the Twins 8-4 Tuesday night. New York plays the Indians in a best-of-five Division Series starting Thursday.

"We're not done yet," Judge said. "We've just got to keep it rolling in Cleveland."

Brett Gardner also homered for the Yankees, who chased Ervin Santana after two innings and once again eliminated Minnesota from the playoffs.

Chad Green, David Robertson, Tommy Kahnle and Aroldis Chapman combined for 8 2/3 innings of one-run, five-hit relief, striking out 13 to tie the postseason record for a bullpen.

"It was just remarkable," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said.

Twins manager Paul Molitor marveled at the Yankees relievers and Girardi's use of them over 142 pitches.

"He extended some guys probably past their comfort zone," the Hall of Famer said. "They still performed."

Brian Dozier led off the game with a home run and Eddie Rosario hit a two-run drive as the Twins burst to a quick lead.

But Santana went to full counts on eight of 11 batters, and he was removed after six outs and 64 pitches with the Twins trailing 4-3.

"It's the exhilaration of jumping out," Molitor said, "and then the deflation of giving it back so quickly."

Minnesota, the first team to follow a 100-loss season with a playoff appearance, lost its 13th consecutive postseason game, tying the record set by Boston from 1986-95. The Twins have been eliminated by the Yankees in five of their last six postseason appearances and have not won a playoff series since 2002.

"Nobody expected us to be here," Byron Buxton said. "That's an amazing achievement."

New York won nine regular-season games after trailing by three runs, according to the Elias Sports Bureau — including when Severino fell behind against the Twins on Sept. 20 as New York rebounded to complete a series sweep. Gregorius erased the deficit in this one four batters into the bottom of the first.

"I was hyped, and I tried to get the game going, tried to get the guys going," he said.

Judge, the 6-foot-7 sensation who set a rookie record with 52 home runs, was given a Ruthian ovation, with several sections of fans holding signs in his honor spelling out "All Rise!" He scored three runs, hitting a single to help ignite the first-inning rally, smoking a 108 mph home run off loser Jose Berrios in the fourth and walking in the seventh before coming home when Alan Busenitz walked Aaron Hicks with the bases loaded.

Judge shouted in excitement as he rounded first base after the homer, his face flush with emotion.

"This place was rocking. It was incredible," he said.

New York had made only one postseason appearance since 2012, losing the 2015 wild-card game to

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 22 of 52

Houston 3-0. Just three Yankees who started that game were in the starting lineup, part of a Baby Bombers movement that purged the roster of veterans.

At 23, Severino was the youngest Yankees postseason starter since Andy Pettitte in 1995. The right-hander lasted only 29 pitches on a crisp autumn night and matched the Yankees' shortest postseason start, by Bob Turley in Game 2 of the 1958 World Series and Art Ditmar in the 1960 World Series opener.

Severino was shaking his head as walked to the dugout and Green replaced him with runners at second and third. Green struck out Buxton and Jason Castro , then fanned three in a row in the second.

"I think we're all ready to be in from the first to the ninth," Green said.

Robertson came in with the bases loaded in the third and allowed Buxton's RBI grounder , then struck out Castro.

Robertson tired in the sixth but earned the win, leaving after 52 pitches and 3 1/3 innings. His only longer professional outing was 3 2/3 innings for Double-A Trenton in April 2008.

Kahnle relieved with a runner on and retired Joe Mauer on a flyout to the warning track . After Kahnle threw 2 1/3 perfect innings , Chapman struck out three around a hit in the ninth.

A pitcher named Santana — Johan Santana — beat the Yankees for the Twins' last postseason win in 2004. But Ervin Santana's career postseason ERA climbed to 6.57, contributing to a first inning that lasted 45 minutes and three innings that took 1:43.

Gardner walked leading off, Judge poked a single to center and Gregorius lined a fastball over the right-field scoreboard. Brushed off the plate by a 2-2 pitch in the second, Gardner sent Santana's next offering into the second deck in right for a 4-3 lead.

Green struck out the side in the second, but left in the third after a leadoff single and two walks loaded the bases. Buxton hit into a run-scoring forceout before Robertson struck out Castro, and the Yankees went ahead for good in the bottom half when Gary Sanchez doubled off Berrios leading off and scored on Greg Bird's two-out single.

"I think we can win it all," Todd Frazier said after a draining game that took 3:51. "If we just keep doing what we've been doing, like we did today, sky's the limit."

NATIONAL ANTHEM

After a moment of silence for victims of the Las Vegas shooting , Broadway star Aaron Tveit asked fans to join him in singing "The Star-Spangled Banner." Players on both teams remained at attention on the field until the color guard reached the foul line. Yankees reliever Chasen Shreve, a Las Vegas native, threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

WAY BACK WHEN

When the Yankees last won a postseason game, Judge was at Fresno State. Bird had just finished a season with the Class A Staten Island Yankees, Sanchez with the Class A Tampa Yankees and Severino with the Dominican Summer League Yankees.

UP NEXT

RHP Masahiro Tanaka (13-12) is likely to start Thursday for the Yankees against the Indians and Trevor Bauer (17-9).

More AP baseball: <https://apnews.com/tag/MLBbaseball>

White House to seek \$29B disaster aid package

By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is finalizing a \$29 billion disaster aid package that combines \$16 billion to shore up the government-backed flood insurance program with almost \$13 billion in new relief for hurricane victims, according to a senior administration official and top congressional aides.

The huge request is expected to be officially sent to Congress on Wednesday, but its outlines were characterized by officials who demanded anonymity because the \$29 billion measure is not yet public.

The request would address two urgent needs. The first is to pump money into the flood insurance pro-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 23 of 52

gram, which is rapidly running out of cash to pay an influx of claims from victims of hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. At the same time, the Federal Emergency Management Agency continues to spend money for disaster relief operations at a high rate and requires more money.

The government-guaranteed flood insurance program is maxing out on a \$30 billion line of credit from Treasury; the upcoming proposal would wipe \$16 billion of that debt off the books to permit the program to pay claims from hurricane victims.

Almost \$13 billion is being requested for FEMA, and federal firefighting accounts would receive \$577 million as well to replenish them after a disastrous season of Western wildfires.

"This is going to be extraordinarily expensive and I think we need to get some money out there," said House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said he had met with lawmakers from Texas and Florida on Tuesday to brief them on the White House request.

"Remember, this is emergency money. You've got to deal with the problem," McCarthy told reporters. "So I think we'll be able to get this done."

The request could prove controversial, especially the huge infusion into the flood insurance program. Conservatives are likely to liken it to a taxpayer bailout, but the program is enormously important to homeowners in hurricane-ravaged Texas and Florida, as well as other coastal states.

Congress is in the midst of an effort to reauthorize the troubled flood insurance program, which critics say makes taxpayers subsidize properties that have repeatedly flooded. A bipartisan effort to reform the program was enacted in 2012 but was significantly watered down just two years later after widespread complaints of huge premium increases and resulting disruptions in coastal real estate markets.

Congress last month approved a \$15.3 billion aid package that nearly doubled President Donald Trump's request. Senate Republicans added \$7.4 billion in community development block grant rebuilding funds to Trump's request for immediate cleanup, repair and housing costs.

Later this year, the White House is expected to require tens of billions of dollars more in long-term funds that would rebuild infrastructure, help people without insurance restore their homes, and, perhaps, help Puerto Rico reconstitute its shattered electrical grid.

Trump surveyed Hurricane damage in Puerto Rico on Tuesday. He praised his administration's response, even as lawmakers returning from the island say the president is painting far too rosy a picture.

"What you're seeing is a mirage," Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., said of conditions in San Juan, where Trump visited and where many reporters are located. Many mountain towns are cut off, with sick and elderly people trapped. "I saw the video on TV and everybody's friendly and everybody's smiling. You know what? It gave the wrong impression of what's going on in the island."

Families detail victims' lives: 'Nothing but good memories'

By JAY REEVES and DON BABWIN, Associated Press

A son remembered a mother's laugh. Elementary school employees wore red, white and blue to honor a beloved receptionist. A wife recalled her husband's ultimate devotion: losing his life to protect hers by diving over her while bullets flew.

Families and friends mourned — and celebrated — on Tuesday the lives of at least 59 people who died when a gunman opened fire on a concert in Las Vegas on Sunday night.

Across the United States and Canada, hundreds of people paid tribute to their loved ones in quiet private moments, at vigils, and through social media.

HUSBAND PROTECTED WIFE ON ANNIVERSARY

Laurie Beaton was at the festival with her husband Jack celebrating their 23rd wedding anniversary when they heard what sounded like firecrackers. Like everyone around her, she was looking around to see who was lighting them when she felt something like air rush past her arm.

"I've never experienced gunshots but when I felt air go right past my arm I told my husband, 'I don't think that's fireworks,'" she said in a telephone interview from her home in Bakersfield, California.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 24 of 52

"He told me, 'Get down, get down, get down,'" and put his own body on top of hers for protection, she said. "He told me, 'I love you, Laurie' and his arms were around me and his body just went heavy on me."

Suddenly, she knew her husband had been shot. "I screamed his name and he wasn't answering me, there was a lot of blood," she said.

Another man, someone who told her he was a nurse and an EMT, ran up and told her to put her husband on his side. Helping, she saw blood and heard her husband struggling to breathe.

As quickly as the shooting stopped it started again and now, with lights on, the man told one of the husband's friends who attended the festival with them to take the women to safety.

"So we ran," she said.

Later, friends told Laurie Beaton wasn't on the ground anymore. "He had been moved so we were optimistic that he'd received help," she said.

Calls to hospitals in search of Jack Beaton turned up nothing. Eventually she called the coroner's office, which said her husband was among the dead.

On Tuesday morning she was back home, trying both to comfort a 20-year-old son and an 18-year-old daughter who had just lost their father and be comforted by them.

Beaton said her husband, a 54-year-old construction worker, wouldn't want much said publicly about his death. But she wanted people to hear how he had protected her, just as he always had done.

"I knew every day that he would protect me and take care of me and love me unconditionally, and what he did is no surprise to me, and he is my hero," she said.

NEVADA OUTDOORSMAN: 'THE KID WAS LOVED BY EVERYONE'

Quinton Robbins was the big brother who coached his little brother's flag football team, the prom king who was nice to everyone regardless of their high school social standing, an outdoorsman who loved to fish and boat around the lake.

"The kid was loved by everyone," said his uncle, Mike Wells. "He was popular in high school, but would walk up to the kid who wasn't so popular and befriend him and make him feel good."

Robbins, 20, was among the people killed Sunday in Las Vegas. He died moments after a bullet struck his chest and exited through his lower back.

Robbins was up on his knees, looking for a spot to take his girlfriend for shelter, when he was hit, said Wells, recounting Robbins' girlfriend's account of the terrifying moments.

"I think I got shot," Robbins looked at her and said before collapsing.

"He died probably within seconds after the bullet hit him," Wells said.

His parents sat beside Robbins, who had already died, until about 5 or 6 in the morning, Wells said, before rushing home to make sure they could tell his 11-year-old brother the news themselves.

Robbins was an active member of the Mormon church and had hoped to go on a mission before he was diagnosed with diabetes several years ago, Wells said. He worked for the athletic department in his home city of Henderson, Nevada.

"The positive impact he had on everyone was huge," Wells said.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER CONCERT DATE ENDS IN TRAGEDY

Heather Warino Alvarado made the three-hour drive from her southern Utah home to Las Vegas to get away for the weekend and take her daughter to a country music festival.

Her daughter was unharmed in the Sunday night shooting, but the 35-year-old Warino Alvarado was one of at least 59 people killed when a gunman opened fire at the concert-goers.

Friends and family received confirmation she had died Monday night from Las Vegas police, according to a news release Tuesday from the Cedar City Fire Department, where her husband was a firefighter.

Warino Alvarado ran an in-home day care center in Cedar City, Utah, and was a devoted wife and mother of three children who was always willing to help others, said longtime friend Megan Jackson Gadd.

"She has made huge impacts on those around her with even the smallest gestures," Jackson Gadd said in a Facebook messenger conversation. "A person like her will never be replaced or forgotten and will be missed dearly every day for the rest of our lives."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 25 of 52

'I HAVE NOTHING BUT GOOD MEMORIES OF MY MOM'

As Jeff Rees thinks about his mom, Denise Cohen, one thing keeps repeating in his head: Her laugh. "When she would take me to the movies as a kid, I was just waiting to hear her laugh because it would just crack me up," Rees said.

Cohen, 58, and her boyfriend Derrick "Bo" Taylor, 56, both died at the Las Vegas concert. Taylor was a lieutenant in the California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation. He worked as a commander at the Ventura Conservation Camp, which houses inmates that help California fight wildfires.

Rees met Taylor last year, when he traveled to California to visit his mother. The two had dated on and off for several years.

Cohen was a woman who lived life to the fullest and made everyone around her feel their best, Rees said. "I feel sorry for all of the people in the world who never got a chance to meet her," he said.

'HE'S OUR ONLY SON': A WISCONSIN FATHER MOURNS

Steven Berger, of Shorewood, Minnesota, traveled to Las Vegas as he had many times before with his friends, but this time they would celebrate his 44th birthday.

A fan of country music, Berger and his roommate along with four others were enjoying the Jason Aldean show near the Las Vegas strip when the rain of bullets began from the 32nd floor of a nearby hotel.

Mary Berger, 72, of Brookfield, Wisconsin, said her son's roommate called hours later to tell them Steven had been hit by gunfire and collapsed to the ground.

"He tried to go to him but they were trying to get people out of the way," Berger said. He wasn't sure where Steven wound up, she added.

Steven's father, Richard Berger, said the family was notified by the coroner's office in Las Vegas on Tuesday afternoon that he had died.

"He's our only son," Berger said choking up. "It's terrible. At least now we know. Now we got busy things to do with three grandchildren."

Mary Berger described her son, a father of three, as fun-loving with a serious side and a hard worker. He played basketball in high school and college before he started his career as a financial adviser after graduating from St. Olaf College in 1995.

'THIS IS AS TRAGIC AS IT GETS'

Christiana Duarte, 22, had just taken her first job, working in marketing for the Los Angeles Kings after graduating from the University of Arizona.

"It's just so tragic that this evil, evil man would do this, would just destroy the life of this beautiful young woman," said Danette Myers, a coworker of Duarte's father, Michael, at the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office who is acting as a family spokeswoman. "She would've given so much to this world, and now that's been cut short."

She was the only daughter in a well-known Los Angeles family. Her father, Michael Duarte, is a deputy district attorney, and her older brother, also Michael, is a prospect for the Chicago White Sox baseball team, Myers said.

Ariel Romero, the younger Michael's girlfriend who was with Christiana at the concert, is still in the hospital recovering from her own gunshot wounds and still doesn't know Christiana is dead, Myers said.

"This is as tragic as it gets," Myers said.

CALIFORNIA WOMAN REMEMBERED AS 'THE PERKY ONE'

A one-time high school cheerleader who loved country music, Bailey Schweitzer of Bakersfield, California, went to the Route 91 Harvest Festival to see some of her favorite acts.

A day after the 20-year-old's death, co-workers at the software company where she worked held a vigil. Friends and colleagues gazed at white candles lit in her memory Monday night.

"No one could possibly have a bad day when Bailey was around," said a statement by Fred Brakeman, chief executive officer of Infinity Communications and Consulting, Inc., where Schweitzer was a receptionist.

"If you have ever called or visited our office, she was the perky one that helped direct you to the staff member you needed," he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 26 of 52

Schweitzer graduated in 2015 from Centennial High School, where she was a member of the cheerleading squad. On social media she often posted photos from Bakersfield Speedway, a dirt auto-racing track that her family owns.

'EVERYBODY STARTED RUNNING FOR COVER AND THE GUY KEPT SHOOTING'

Thomas Day Jr. was a big country music fan, so there was no doubt he'd go to the Route 91 Harvest festival in Las Vegas, and that he'd take his whole family with him.

Day, 54, of Corona, California, was one of 59 people killed by a gunman who sprayed the concert with bullets from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino.

"He was just a fun-loving boy, a great family man who loved to spend time with his family," said Thomas Day Sr. who spoke on the phone, surrounded by his son's four grown children at his Las Vegas area home.

The elder Day, who lives near Las Vegas, said he was at home Sunday night when he received a frantic telephone call from his grandson and a granddaughter.

"They were standing right there and they said he and another young man there both took a bullet in the head," said Day, 75. "Everybody started running for cover and the guy kept shooting."

Day said none of his grandchildren were struck by bullets, but his son was. A friend rushed Thomas Day Jr. to a hospital but there was nothing doctors could do.

Struggling to speak, Day said his son loved his three daughters and son and his two grandchildren. The whole group jumped at the chance to drive to Las Vegas for the show.

"We always had fun together," he said.

A GRUELING SEARCH FOR A MISSING WOMAN, AND THEN THE WORST

Stacee Etcheber of Novato, California, was listed as missing for hours before her family found got the worst possible news: The mother of two was dead.

At the concert, her husband told her to hide, then to run, as he helped a concertgoer next to him who had been shot, said Al Etcheber, her brother-in-law.

Her husband, Vincent Etcheber, is a San Francisco police officer, and his training kicked in immediately when shots rang out, Al Etcheber said.

He told Stacee and the couple's three friends to protect themselves behind a nearby barrier. Then he told them to run, just before the second round of shots rang out, Al Etcheber said.

He has not heard from Stacee since, and she was not carrying an ID.

"It's been a grueling 15 hours with no information," Al Etcheber said Monday. On Tuesday morning, he posted on Facebook that the worst fears had been realized — she was dead.

Stacee, 50, worked as a hairdresser. Al Etcheber called her a loving wife and great mother who was "tough as nails and just the salt of the earth."

NEWS FELT 'LIKE AN ATOMIC BOMB WENT OFF IN MY HEART'

Jennifer Topaz Irvine, a 42-year-old San Diego lawyer, was "bright, brilliant and could talk to millennials," her publicist Jay Jones said.

When Jones heard that Irvine was among those killed at the Las Vegas concert, he said it was "like an atomic bomb went off in my heart. I just got punched dead in the gut."

Kyle Kraska, a sports director for the CBS affiliate KFMB-TV in San Diego, was a close friend of Irvine's and posted on Facebook that she was singing and dancing to country music when she was shot in the head. Kraska — who survived after being shot multiple times outside his home in 2015 by a house painter — wrote that Irvine's death felt like "I have now been victimized by gun violence twice."

"When does it stop?!" he wrote.

HUSBAND LOSES HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEART

Bobby Parks' wife was planning to throw him a 40th birthday party next week before Jenny Parks was killed at the concert, friend, Jessica Maddin said.

The couple who were high school sweethearts have two children. Jenny Parks was a kindergarten teacher for the Lancaster School District in California. Bobby Parks was shot in the arm and hand, Maddin said.

Maddin met Parks while working at 24 Hour Fitness. Later Parks would help Maddin who started a group, Jessica's Hope Project, that provides care packages to troops.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 27 of 52

"It breaks my heart," Maddin said. "People go to concerts to have a good time, connect with others and escape the tragedies of this world."

'I CAN HEAR HER LAUGH ... RIGHT NOW'

Neysa Tonks' employer remembered her as a "great mother, colleague and friend."

The 46-year-old mother of three boys worked for the Las Vegas office of Technologist Inc., which offers technology solutions to companies. She was killed in the shooting rampage at the concert.

"Neysa has brought so much joy, fun and laughter to Technologist — she will be greatly missed by all!" said a statement posted by the California-based company.

The company has set up a GoFundMe page to raise funds to help her family.

Tonks grew up in Utah. Her brother, AJ Yerage, told the CBS affiliate in Salt Lake City that he felt "lucky" that Tonks was a part of his life and that she loved making jokes.

"I can hear her laugh, her voice in my head and my heart right now," Yerage told KUTV.

FAMILY HOPED HOSPITAL MADE A MISTAKE

Andrea Castilla was so happy to be in Las Vegas celebrating her 28th birthday. She was holding hands with her sister while watching the band when they heard yells to "duck!" and the sound of gunshots, her aunt, Marina Parker, wrote on a GoFundMe memorial page to raise money for the funeral expenses.

Her boyfriend, sister and friend tried carrying her to safety while dodging bullets and managed to get her over a fence and to a nearby highway, where they flagged down a passing driver, who took them to a hospital in the back of his truck.

After she was admitted, they were told hours later that she had died, Parker wrote, but the hospital system listed her still as alive because she was confused with another patient.

"It has been tragic for our family with her dad still hoping it was a mistake and she's still alive," Parker wrote.

After the family provided her ID and photos she was confirmed to be among the dead.

"Our entire family is heartbroken," Parker wrote on her Facebook page.

STUDENTS MOURN LOSS OF BELOVED TEACHER

Kelsey Meadows, 28, loved children so she returned to her small hometown of Taft, in the eastern part of California, to teach at her alma mater, Taft Union High School, after earning her degree. Meadows was a regular substitute teacher at the school.

"Kelsey was smart, compassionate and kind. She had a sweet spirit and a love for children," Taft Union High School principal, Mary Alice Finn, said in a statement. "Words cannot adequately capture the sorrow felt by her students, colleagues and friends in learning of her passing."

The school district said grief counselors were being made available to students and staff to "assist in coping with the incomprehensible loss."

Her brother, Brad Meadows, posted on his Facebook page that his sister had not been heard from since going to the music festival in Las Vegas. The California firefighter thanked everyone for helping them try to find her.

"So it is with an absolutely shattered heart that I let everyone know that Kelsey did not survive this tragic event," Meadows posted Tuesday. "Please keep my family in your thoughts and prayers as we try and move past this horrible time."

CALIFORNIA WOMAN LEARNS OF FAMILY TRAGEDY ON FACEBOOK

Maribel Ramirez had 30 minutes to go on her shift as a receptionist in Fontana, California, and decided to log onto Facebook. That's how she learned that her 26-year-old cousin, Melissa Ramirez, had been at the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas.

That was about 4:30 p.m. Monday. No one could find Melissa in the confusion and chaos that followed the shootings.

"Nothing was confirmed, and we still had hope that she was alive," Maribel Ramirez told The Associated Press Tuesday.

Melissa's parents and siblings hurried to Las Vegas from Littlerock, California, after getting word of the shootings.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 28 of 52

"They searched Monday ... searched everywhere," said another cousin, Fabiola Farnetti, 34, of Palmdale, California.

Around 5 a.m. Tuesday, Melissa's parents positively identified her body.

Farnetti said Melissa had been posting photos from the festival on Instagram and Snapchat. The 2015 graduate of California State University, Bakersfield, Melissa Ramirez worked as a member specialist for an auto insurance company.

"I'm sure she liked country music. I know she was really into music, period," Farnetti said. "I never once saw her in a bad mood or upset about anything. She was always positive. Her smile would just brighten up everyone's day."

WRESTLING COACH SLAIN, TEAM HELPING RAISE MONEY FOR SURVIVORS

Members of the Shippensburg Greyhound Wrestling team in southern Pennsylvania are raising money to help the family of coach Bill Wolfe, who is among the dead in Las Vegas.

A page established to accept donations for Wolfe's family quickly exceeded its goal of \$10,000 after being shared hundreds of times on social media, and team booster club said it also was accepting checks to help with family with unexpected expenses.

Wolfe initially was listed as missing Monday until his death later was confirmed.

As an engineer, Wolfe spent several years working on major projects for a central Pennsylvania engineering firm. There, a colleague remembered him as being personable, easy to work with and a devoted Christian. Company owner Carl Bert said Wolfe was a close friend and "a class act in every way."

The Chambersburg Public Opinion reported that Wolfe and his wife Robyn were celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary in Las Vegas.

'CHEERFUL YOUNG LADY WITH A WARM HEART'

Angela "Angie" Gomez died in the Las Vegas shooting, according to a statement from the Riverside Unified School District in California.

Gomez graduated from Riverside Poly High School in 2015, where she was a cheerleader. School staff remembered her as a "fun-loving young lady with a great sense of humor."

Gomez participated in the Riverside Children's Theater and was involved in choir. The school district said Gomez was a hard worker who "always challenged herself academically."

Friend Lupe Avila wrote in a tribute to Gomez online that she was a "cheerful young lady with a warm heart and loving spirit."

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS REMEMBER 'THE HUB' OF THEIR SCHOOL

Vista Fundamental Elementary in Simi Valley, California, is large as schools go with 681 kindergarteners through sixth graders and receptionist Susan Smith was in the center of it all.

"She's the hub," Simi Valley Unified School District spokeswoman Jake Finch told The Associated Press Tuesday. "She supported the principal, taking care of the many things that happen in the school. She was patient. She was kind, especially with the kids. Even when it was chaotic she would smile."

Smith also was very patriotic, Finch added.

"Today (Tuesday) everyone at the school is wearing red, white and blue in her honor," Finch said.

Smith, 53, of Simi Valley, was office manager at Vista Elementary for the past three years. She had been with the district since 2001.

"She was a big country music fan," said Finch.

'BEAUTIFUL LIFE' CUTE SHORT IN LAS VEGAS

Priscilla Champagne on Tuesday described 42-year-old Rhonda LeRocque to reporters as a kindhearted woman with a "beautiful life."

LeRocque had attended the concert Sunday with her husband and their 6-year-old daughter. LeRocque's daughter was taken back to their hotel before the shooting occurred.

Champagne, who is LeRocque's mother, says LeRocque's husband, Jason, was next to her when she fell. He had thought she was ducking but she did not get up.

Champagne says LeRocque loved cooking, music and her family. She worked at the Cambridge, Massachusetts, office of the design company IDEO.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 29 of 52

LeRocque was from Tewksbury, Massachusetts, a town located about 24 miles northwest of Boston.
'BEAUTIFUL SOUL' AMONG FOUR CANADIANS KILLED

Tara Roe Smith, who was 34 and lived in Okotoks, Alberta, was in Las Vegas with her husband, Zach, for a weekend getaway.

Her aunt, Val Rodgers, says Roe Smith, a mother of two, died when a gunman open fire on the crowd from the window of a hotel on Sunday night.

"She was a beautiful soul. She was a wonderful mother and our family is going to miss her dearly," Rodgers said when contacted at her home in Brandon, Manitoba, on Tuesday.

Two other women from Alberta — Calla Medig and Jessica Klymchuk of Valleyview— also died.

Medig, 28, who grew up in Jasper, had taken time off from her job at Moxie's restaurant in west Edmonton to attend the Route 91 Music Festival in Las Vegas, said her boss, Scott Collingwood.

"This had started to become an annual thing for her. I believe it was her third trip," Collingwood said.

When news broke about the shooting Sunday, Collingwood said he immediately called Medig, It went right to voice mail, and she didn't answer texts or Facebook messages.

"She was kind of a rock and, as of Thursday, she would have been our newest manager," Collingwood said. "A lot of us around here have super heavy hearts and we already miss her."

Klymchuk, 28, was a mother of four who lived the northwestern Alberta town of Valleyview, where she worked as an educational assistant, librarian and bus driver at an area Catholic school.

St. Stephen's School was planning a candlelight vigil for her on Tuesday evening. A family friend has set up a crowdfunding page to support Klymchuk's children.

"Jessica was an amazing mother who worked to provide her children with as best a life as she could," Noella Marie wrote on the GoFundMe page, adding Klymchuk was engaged to the "love of her life", Brent Irla.

Jordan McIldoon, 23, from Maple Ridge, B.C., was also killed.

A relative said McIldoon would have turned 24 on Friday and was a month shy of completing a course to qualify as a heavy-duty mechanic.

VETERAN REMEMBERED AS JOVIAL, HARD WORKING

Christopher Roybal, 28, was described as jovial and fun-loving, despite experiencing intense combat during four tours in the Middle East.

"He is a guy that could always put a smile on your face ... after all the stuff he had been through," said David Harman, who founded a company that owns the Colorado gym where Roybal worked.

Roybal, 28, worked at Crunch Fitness in Corona and Riverside, California, before he moved at the beginning of the year to help open franchises in Colorado Springs.

"He was the guy who if your car broke down in the middle of the night, you could call him and he would come help you," Harman said. "He is that guy who would find solutions, not report on problems."

Harman said Roybal served in Afghanistan and was coping with the loss of a friend who was killed by an improvised explosive device. Roybal adopted his friend's bomb-sniffing dog, Bella, but was devastated when she died of old age.

Roybal mentioned the dog in a July 18 Facebook post that also included a lengthy description of his experience getting shot at in combat.

He ends the post: "What's it like to be shot at? It's a nightmare no amount of drugs, no amount of therapy and no amount of drunk talks with your war veteran buddies will ever be able to escape. Cheers boys."

Roybal's co-worker, Robert Alexander, said he fell asleep with the television on Sunday night and awoke to the sound of gunshots coming from the speaker. When he remembered that Roybal had gone to Las Vegas for his birthday, he immediately called him but no one answered.

He heard Monday morning that his friend had been killed.

"There's been several times I've had to just walk out of the club and have a good cry, go get in my car," Alexander said. "And I just drove down the street this morning, just go have a good cry 'cause it's tough."

Alexander described Roybal as a "goofball" who was full of energy and had an infectious smile.

"I just had such a fun time any time I was able to interact with him. ... Chris had that attraction power.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 30 of 52

He had the ability to make people want to hang around him," Alexander said.

OFF-DUTY OFFICER COACHED KIDS, WAS RESPECTED LEADER

Off-duty Las Vegas police officer and youth football coach Charleston Hartfield was among those killed, two of his friends said.

Hartfield, 34, was known as a selfless, respected leader who brought out the best in his players, said Stan King, whose son played football for Hartfield.

Troy Rhett, another friend of Hartfield's through football, said he knew from social media that Hartfield was attending the Sunday concert. When he heard about the shooting, he texted him, hoping to learn Hartfield was safe. He never heard back, and Rhett said he learned through another friend Monday morning that Hartfield had died.

Hartfield, who also went by "Chuck" or "Charles" or even "Chucky Hart," was also a military veteran and leaves behind a son and a daughter, Rhett said.

Hartfield is also listed as author of a book titled "Memoirs of Public Servant" about his time as a Las Vegas police officer.

Associated Press Writers Corey R. Williams in Detroit; Brady McCombs in Salt Lake City; Julie Watson in San Diego, California; Rob Gillies in Toronto; Mark Scolforo in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Crystal Hill in Boston; Jason Dearen in Gainesville, Florida; Gretchen Ehlke in Milwaukee and Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento, California contributed to this report. Babwin reported from Chicago; Reeves reported from Birmingham, Alabama.

For complete coverage of the Las Vegas shooting, click here: <https://apnews.com/tag/LasVegasmassshooting>

Vegas gunman transferred \$100K, set up cameras at hotel room

By KEN RITTER and MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The Las Vegas gunman transferred \$100,000 overseas in the days before the attack and planned the massacre so meticulously that he even set up cameras inside the peephole of his high-rise hotel room and on a service cart outside his door, apparently to spot anyone coming for him, authorities said Tuesday.

Meanwhile, investigators are taking a harder look at the shooter's girlfriend and what she might have known about the attack at a country music festival, with the sheriff naming her a "person of interest"

The girlfriend, Marilou Danley, 62, returned to the United States from the Philippines on Tuesday night and was met at Los Angeles International Airport by FBI agents, according to a law enforcement official.

The official wasn't authorized to publicly discuss the matter and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Authorities are trying to determine why Stephen Paddock killed 59 people in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

They have been speaking with Danley, who was out of the country at the time of the shooting, and "we anticipate some information from her shortly," Sheriff Joseph Lombardo said hours before she arrived.

Lombardo said he is "absolutely" confident authorities will find out what set off Paddock, a 64-year-old high-stakes gambler and retired accountant who killed himself before police stormed his 32nd-floor room.

Authorities released police body camera video that showed the chaos of the attack as officers tried to figure out the location of the shooter and shuttle people to safety. Amid sirens and volleys of gunfire, people yelled "they're shooting right at us" while officers shouted "go that way!"

Clark County Undersheriff Kevin McMahill said the shooting spanned between nine and 11 minutes.

Paddock transferred \$100,000 to the Philippines in the days before the shooting, a U.S. official briefed by law enforcement but not authorized to speak publicly because of the continuing investigation told The

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 31 of 52

Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Investigators are still trying to trace that money and also are looking into at least a dozen financial reports over the past several weeks that said Paddock gambled more than \$10,000 per day, the official said.

The cameras Paddock set up at the Mandalay Bay hotel casino were part of his extensive preparations that included stockpiling nearly two dozen guns in his room before opening fire on the concert below. McMahon said the cameras included one in the peephole and two in the hallway.

"I anticipate he was looking for anybody coming to take him into custody," Lombardo said.

During the Sunday night rampage, a hotel security guard who approached the room was shot through the door and wounded in the leg.

"The fact that he had the type of weaponry and amount of weaponry in that room, it was preplanned extensively," the sheriff said, "and I'm pretty sure he evaluated everything that he did and his actions, which is troublesome."

Lombardo said the investigation is proceeding cautiously in case criminal charges are warranted against someone else.

"This investigation is not ended with the demise of Mr. Paddock," the sheriff said. "Did this person get radicalized unbeknownst to us? And we want to identify that source."

In addition to the cameras, investigators found a computer and 23 guns with him at the hotel, along with 12 "bump stock" devices that can enable a rifle to fire continuously, like an automatic weapon, authorities said. Nineteen more guns were found at Paddock's Mesquite home and seven at his Reno house.

Video shot outside the broken door of the room shows an assault-style rifle with a scope on a tripod. The sheriff said an internal investigation has been launched to find out how that footage was obtained.

Some investigators turned their focus Tuesday from the shooter's perch to the festival grounds where his victims fell.

A dozen investigators, most in FBI jackets and all wearing blue booties to avoid contaminating the scene, documented evidence at the site where gunfire rained down and country music gave way to screams of pain and terror.

"Shoes, baby strollers, chairs, sunglasses, purses. The whole field was just littered with things," said Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt after touring the site Monday. "There were bloodstains everywhere."

More than 500 people were injured in the rampage, some by gunfire, some during the chaotic escape. At least 45 patients at two hospitals remained in critical condition. All but three of the dead had been identified by Tuesday afternoon, Lombardo said.

As for what may have set Paddock off, retired FBI profiler Jim Clemente speculated that there was "some sort of major trigger in his life — a great loss, a breakup, or maybe he just found out he has a terminal disease."

Clemente said a "psychological autopsy" may be necessary to try to establish the motive. If the suicide didn't destroy Paddock's brain, experts may even find a neurological disorder or malformation, he said.

He said there could be a genetic component to the slaughter: Paddock's father was a bank robber who was on the FBI's most-wanted list in the 1960s and was diagnosed a psychopath.

"The genetics load the gun, personality and psychology aim it, and experiences pull the trigger, typically," Clemente said.

Paddock had a business degree from Cal State Northridge. In the 1970s and '80s, he worked as a mail carrier and an IRS agent and held down a job in an auditing division of the Defense Department, according to the government. He later worked for a defense contractor.

He had no known criminal record, and public records showed no signs of financial troubles, though he was said to be a big gambler.

Nevada's Gaming Control Board said it will pass along records compiled on Paddock and his girlfriend to investigators.

His brother, Eric Paddock, said he was at a loss to explain the massacre.

"No affiliation, no religion, no politics. He never cared about any of that stuff," he said outside his Florida home.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 32 of 52

The FBI discounted the possibility of international terrorism early on, even after the Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack.

Eric Paddock said his brother did show a confrontational side at times: He apparently hated cigarette smoke so much that he carried around a cigar and blew smoke in people's faces when they lit up around him.

Brian Skoloff, Regina Garcia Cano and Sally Ho in Las Vegas; Brian Melley in Los Angeles; and Sadie Gurman and Tami Abdollah in Washington contributed to this report.

For complete coverage of the Las Vegas shooting, click here: —<https://apnews.com/tag/LasVegasmassshooting>.

Once an obscure device, 'bump stocks' are in the spotlight

By LISA MARIE PANE, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The Las Vegas gunman possessed a little-known device called a "bump stock" that was not widely sold — until now.

Originally created with the idea of making it easier for people with disabilities to shoot a gun, the attachments allow a semi-automatic rifle to mimic a fully automatic weapon by unleashing an entire large magazine in seconds. Now the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history has drawn attention to the devices, which critics say flout federal restrictions on automatic guns.

The stocks have been around for less than a decade. The government gave its seal of approval to selling them in 2010 after concluding that they did not violate federal law.

The device basically replaces the gun's shoulder rest with a "support step" that covers the trigger opening. By holding the pistol grip with one hand and pushing forward on the barrel with the other, the shooter's finger comes in contact with the trigger. The recoil then causes the gun to buck back and forth, repeatedly "bumping" the trigger against the finger.

Technically, that means the finger is pulling the trigger for each round fired, keeping the weapon a legal semi-automatic. The rapid fire does not necessarily make the weapon any more lethal — much of that would be dependent on the type of ammunition used. But it does allow the person firing the weapon to get off more shots more quickly.

It's unclear how many have been sold. The industry leader, Slide Force, did not return messages seeking comment. But the Abilene, Texas, company's Facebook page is filled with videos extolling its features, including one in which a woman gushed, "It's so easy because once you slid it forward and leaned into it, it just fires." In another video, a man fires off 58 rounds to celebrate his 58th birthday in just 12 seconds.

Sales for firearms or specific accessories seem to jump after every high-profile shooting. That will likely happen again with bump stocks, said Dr. Garen Wintemute, director of the Violence Prevention Research Program at the University of California, Davis.

"People will go, 'Oh geez, I should get one of those.' The other is that people will be concerned about efforts to ban them," Wintemute said.

Manufacturers tout the stocks, some of which sell for less than \$200, as offering a simple and affordable alternative to automatic weapons without the hassle of a rigorous background check and other restrictions.

Ed Turner, a former police officer who owns a gun shop in Stockbridge, Georgia, said he's already seeing a run on bump stocks since the shooting. He said he would be surprised if he had sold two of them in the past decade, but now he's unable to find any available, even from wholesalers.

Jay Wallace, owner of Adventure Outdoors in Smyrna, Georgia, said soon after most of his customers buy one, "the newness wears off and they put it away and it stays in a closet."

While the stocks allow a gun to quickly spray bullets, gun experts say they also create such a jolt that accuracy is affected. That may not matter to gun owners who just want the thrill of shooting with one,

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 33 of 52

or for those bent on destruction. Stephen Paddock, the 64-year-old gunman, fired hundreds of rounds indiscriminately from his 32nd-floor room at the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino on a music festival outside.

He had 23 guns in the room. Authorities found bump stocks attached to 12 of the weapons, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Special Agent in Charge Jill Schneider said.

At Paddock's home, authorities found 19 more guns, explosives and thousands of rounds of ammunition. Several pounds of ammonium nitrate, a fertilizer that can be turned into explosives, were in his car, authorities said.

The shooting renewed a push by some lawmakers to ban bump stocks. California Sen. Diane Feinstein, a Democrat, said the devices can enable a gun to fire 400 to 800 rounds per minute and "inflict absolute carnage."

The purchase of fully automatic weapons has been significantly restricted in the U.S. since the 1930s. The National Firearms Act was amended in 1986 to prohibit the transfer or possession of machine guns by civilians, with an exception for those previously manufactured and registered.

Numerous attempts to design retrofits failed until bump stocks came on the market.

Erich Pratt, executive director of Gun Owners of America, said the industry is prepared to have the devices scrutinized by lawmakers and gun-control advocates. That happens regularly after a major shooting. But he and others defended their use, suggesting it's unfair to go after firearms when other weapons — trucks and fertilizer, for example — aren't as quickly criticized after deadly attacks.

"Ultimately, when Congress ... looks at this, they'll start asking questions about why anybody needs this, and I think the answer is we have a Bill of Rights and not a Bill of Needs," Pratt said.

Kevin Michalowski, executive editor of Concealed Carry Magazine, agreed.

"If he used fully automatic weapons, he likely got them illegally. If he used aftermarket parts, he used them for illegal activities," Michalowski said. "For whatever reason, this man wanted to kill lots of people. ... Adding extra restrictions to guns, magazines or accessories will not prevent others from committing mass murder."

Associated Press writers Sadie Gurman in Washington and Michael Balsamo in Las Vegas contributed to this report.

For complete all-formats coverage of the Las Vegas shooting, click here: <https://apnews.com/tag/Las-Vegasmassshooting> .

Trump sees 'miracle' Puerto Rico survival, ignores critics

By JILL COLVIN and CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Touring a small slice of Hurricane Maria's devastation, President Donald Trump congratulated Puerto Rico on Tuesday for escaping the higher death toll of "a real catastrophe like Katrina" and heaped praise on the relief efforts of his administration without mentioning the sharp criticism the federal response has drawn.

"Really nothing short of a miracle," he said of the recovery, an assessment at odds with the despair of many still struggling to find water and food outside the capital city in wide swaths of an island where only 5 percent of electricity customers have power back. The governor of Puerto Rico said late Tuesday that the official death toll has been increased to 34 from 16.

In the heart of San Juan, in fact, a few miles from the air base where Trump gave his thumbs-up report on progress, people stacked sewage-fouled clothes and mattresses outside houses and businesses lacking electricity nearly two weeks after the storm. "Nobody's come," said Ray Negron, 38, collecting debris in the Playita neighborhood.

Trump pledged an all-out effort to help the island while adding, somewhat lightly: "Now I hate to tell you, Puerto Rico, but you've thrown our budget a little out of whack because we've spent a lot of money on Puerto Rico. And that's fine. We've saved a lot of lives."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 34 of 52

Known deaths from Maria in the U.S. territory stand at 34. But local officials caution that any accounting of death and destruction is far from complete as people suffer secondary effects from thirst, hunger and extreme heat without air conditioning. As for Katrina, as many as 1,800 people died in 2005 when levees protecting New Orleans broke, a toll in lives and property that took years to understand.

The visit offered fresh evidence of the unconventional path Trump has taken in responding to the one-two-three punch from hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. His effusive praise for federal relief efforts has overshadowed his displays of empathy for those who are suffering. And in Puerto Rico, in particular, his criticism of local people for not doing more to help themselves has struck an off note during a time of crisis.

Trump said his visit was "not about me" but then praised local officials for offering kind words about his administration's recovery effort and invited one to repeat the "nice things" she'd said earlier. Trump also singled out Gov. Ricardo Rossello for "giving us the highest praise."

"Every death is a horror," he said, "but if you look at a real catastrophe like Katrina and you look at the tremendous, hundreds of and hundreds and hundreds of people that died, and you look at what happened here with, really, a storm that was just totally overpowering, nobody has ever seen anything like this." He told local officials "you can be very proud of all your people, all of our people working together."

Trump's most prominent critic in Puerto Rico, San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz, joined other officials at the air base for a briefing with him, shook the president's hand and said afterward she hoped he now understood the gravity of the situation. But his comment implying Maria was not a Katrina-level event left her unsure.

"Sometimes his style of communication gets in the way," she told CNN. "I would hope that the president of the United States stops spouting out comments that really hurt the people of Puerto Rico."

On a more positive note, Cruz said: "I saw a real connection between the reality and the White House staff. I think they finally understood."

Air Force One brought the president, first lady Melania Trump and aides to Puerto Rico for a tour stretching through the afternoon. At least parts of the itinerary seemed drawn to ensure a friendly reception: Trump visited with selected families waiting on their laws on a street lined with debris, including tree limbs and corrugated metal siding. Trump posed for photos, asked the residents what it was like during the storm and pledged his assistance.

"Thank you for being here, it's so good to see you," one man said in Spanish.

Up the road in the upscale Guaynabo neighborhood, one of the fastest to recover, around 200 people cheered Trump's visit to a local church being used to distribute supplies. Many crowded around him for cellphone photos as he handed out flashlights and tossed rolls of paper towels into the friendly crowd.

"There's a lot of love in this room, a lot of love," Trump said. "Great people."

Asked by the AP what he has to say to people still without power, food and water, he spoke of the generators brought to the island and said the electrical grid is being fixed.

"Again, the job that's been done here is really nothing short of a miracle," he said.

Earlier, on approach to the airport, Air Force One descended over a landscape marked by mangled palm trees, metal debris strewn near homes and patches of stripped trees, yet with less devastation evident than farther from San Juan.

For much of his tour, Trump remained focused primarily on drawing praise.

"I appreciate your support and I know you appreciate ours," Trump said. "Our country has really gone all out. It's not only dangerous, it's expensive. But I consider it a great honor."

Large-scale protests against Trump, talked about in advance, failed to materialize by early afternoon, with only a few knots of people gathering around San Juan.

As he headed out from the White House to visit the island, Trump told reporters "it's now acknowledged what a great job we've done."

The trip is Trump's fourth to areas battered by storms during an unusually violent hurricane season that has also seen parts of Texas, Florida, Louisiana and the U.S. Virgin Islands inundated by floodwaters and hit by high winds.

Trump's visit follows a weekend in which he had aggressively pushed back against critics, including Cruz.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 35 of 52

He had responded angrily on Twitter, deriding the "poor leadership ability by the Mayor of San Juan, and others in Puerto Rico, who are not able to get their workers to help."

"They want everything to be done for them when it should be a community effort," he added, scoffing at "politically motivated ingrates" who had criticized the federal work, and insisting that "tremendous progress" was being made.

Cruz had begged the administration to "make sure somebody is in charge that is up to the task of saving lives" and said federal inefficiency was killing people.

Trump and his wife also visited Navy and Marine Corps personnel on the flight deck of the USS Kearsarge, landing on the deck in Marine One.

On the flight back to Washington, Trump told reporters he'd heard no criticism while on the ground. "No, we only heard thank you's from the people of Puerto Rico," he said, adding, "I think it meant a lot to the people of Puerto Rico that I was there."

Even before the storm hit on Sept. 20, Puerto Rico was in dire condition thanks to a decade-long economic recession that had left its infrastructure, including the island's power lines, in a sorry state. Maria was the most powerful hurricane to hit the island in nearly a century and unleashed floods and mudslides that knocked out the island's entire electrical grid and telecommunications, along with many roads.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency said more than 12,000 federal officials are now on the ground on the island, and 45 percent of customers now have access to drinking water. Businesses are also beginning to re-open, with 70 percent of retail gas stations now up and running.

Woodward reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Danica Coto and Michael Weissenstein in San Juan and Catherine Lucey and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar in Washington contributed to this report.

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

APNewsBreak: White House to seek \$29B disaster aid package

By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is finalizing a \$29 billion disaster aid package that combines \$16 billion to shore up the government-backed flood insurance program with almost \$13 billion in new relief for hurricane victims, according to a senior administration official and top congressional aides.

The huge request is expected to be officially sent to Congress on Wednesday, but its outlines were characterized by officials who demanded anonymity because the \$29 billion measure is not yet public.

The request would address two pressing needs. The first is to pump money into the flood insurance program, which is rapidly running out of cash to pay an influx of claims from victims of hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. At the same time, the Federal Emergency Management Agency continues to spend money for disaster relief operations at a high rate and requires more money.

The government-guaranteed flood insurance program is maxing out on a \$30 billion line of credit from Treasury; the upcoming proposal would wipe \$16 billion of that debt off the books to permit the program to pay claims from hurricane victims.

Almost \$13 billion is being requested for FEMA, and federal firefighting accounts would receive \$577 million as well to replenish them after a disastrous season of Western wildfires.

"This is going to be extraordinarily expensive and I think we need to get some money out there," said House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said he had met with lawmakers from Texas and Florida on Tuesday to brief them on the White House request.

"Remember, this is emergency money. You've got to deal with the problem," McCarthy told reporters. "So I think we'll be able to get this done."

The request could prove controversial, especially the huge infusion into the flood insurance program. Conservatives are likely to liken it to a taxpayer bailout, but the program is enormously important to

homeowners in hurricane-ravaged Texas and Florida, as well as other coastal states.

Congress is in the midst of an effort to reauthorize the troubled flood insurance program, which critics say makes taxpayers subsidize properties that have repeatedly flooded. A bipartisan effort to reform the program was enacted in 2012 but was significantly watered down just two years later after widespread complaints of huge premium increases and resulting disruptions in coastal real estate markets.

Congress last month approved a \$15.3 billion aid package that nearly doubled President Donald Trump's request. Senate Republicans added \$7.4 billion in community development block grant rebuilding funds to Trump's request for immediate cleanup, repair and housing costs.

Later this year, the White House is expected to require tens of billions of dollars more in long-term funds that would rebuild infrastructure, help people without insurance restore their homes, and, perhaps, help Puerto Rico reconstitute its shattered electrical grid.

Trump surveyed Hurricane damage in Puerto Rico on Tuesday. He praised his administration's response, even as lawmakers returning from the island say the president is painting far too rosy a picture.

"What you're seeing is a mirage," Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., said of conditions in San Juan, where Trump visited and where many reporters are located. Many mountain towns are cut off, with sick and elderly people trapped. "I saw the video on TV and everybody's friendly and everybody's smiling. You know what? It gave the wrong impression of what's going on in the island."

Einstein proof: Nobel winners find ripples in the universe

By **SETH BORENSTEIN** and **JIM HEINTZ**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For decades astronomers tried to prove Albert Einstein right by doing what Einstein thought was impossible: detecting the faint ripples in the universe called gravitational waves. They failed repeatedly until two years ago when they finally spotted one. Then another. And another. And another.

Three American scientists — including one who initially flunked out of MIT — won the Nobel Prize in physics Tuesday that launched a whole new way to observe the cosmos. Sweden's Royal Academy of Sciences cited the combination of highly advanced theory and ingenious equipment design in awarding Rainer Weiss of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Barry Barish and Kip Thorne of the California Institute of Technology.

"It's a win for the human race as a whole. These gravitational waves will be powerful ways for the human race to explore the universe," Thorne told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

The trio were part of a team of more than 1,000 astronomers who first observed gravitational waves in September 2015. When the discovery was announced several months later, it was a sensation not only among scientists but the general public. These are waves that go through everything — including us — but carry information on them that astronomers could not get otherwise.

"The best comparison is when Galileo discovered the telescope, which allowed us to see that Jupiter had moons. And all of a sudden, we discovered that the universe was much vaster than we used to think about," Ariel Goobar of the Swedish academy said.

Weiss said he hopes that eventually gravitational waves will help science learn about "the very moment when the universe came out of nothingness."

Gravitational waves were first theorized a century ago by Einstein, but he didn't think technology would ever be able to detect the tiny wobbles, smaller than a piece of an atom.

The waves are like "a storm in the fabric of space-time that is produced when two black holes collide," Thorne said. The first detection came from a crash 1.3 billion light-years away. A light-year is about 5.88 trillion miles.

The prize is "a win for Einstein, and a very big one," Barish told the AP.

The waves are detected by a laser device, called an interferometer, which must be both exquisitely precise and extremely stable in a project that cost \$1.1 billion dollars. The first observation involved two of the devices about 1,900 miles (3,000 kilometers) apart — in Hanford, Washington, and Livingston, Louisiana. They came about 7 milliseconds apart, consistent with the speed of light.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 37 of 52

A new detector in Italy went online and helped in the discovery of the fourth wave.

With the technology that the three developed "we may even see entirely new objects that we haven't even imagined yet," said Patrick Sutton, an astronomer at Cardiff University in Wales.

The German-born Weiss, 85, who initially spearheaded the research effort, was awarded half of the 9-million-kronor (\$1.1 million) prize amount. Thorne, 77, a theorist, and Barish, 81, who was a project director, will split the other half.

For decades, the scientists pushed for money to start the massive LIGO project, getting their first National Science Foundation grant in 1992. The first version of the detector went through six long runs looking for gravitational waves, but didn't find them because it wasn't technologically precise enough, Barish said.

And computer programs needed to solve Einstein's equations weren't quite right and "the quest was foundering," said Thorne, who peeled away from the detector work to form another collaboration to get better computing for detection.

Two decades after construction "we finally struck gold," Barish said.

Weiss also overcame failure. After flunking out of MIT, he didn't have anything to do so he offered himself as an electronics technician to a lab at MIT and learned how to solder and deal with people. He returned to school, got his bachelor's and doctorate at MIT and ended up as a professor there.

"There was a person who thought I was OK. I wasn't a complete dope," Weiss said. "I got some confidence out of that."

In a moment of poetry aimed at making the distant and infinitesimal phenomenon understandable to non-experts, the academy announcement said gravitational waves "are always created when a mass accelerates, like when an ice-skater pirouettes or a pair of black holes rotate around each other."

Professor Alberto Vecchio, from the University of Birmingham's Institute of Gravitational Wave Astronomy, said this discovery will produce results for decades to come.

"They have taken me, as well as hundreds of my colleagues, through such an intellectually rewarding and recently adrenaline-packed journey that we could not have even remotely imagined," he said. "The best part is that this is just the beginning of a new roller-coaster exploration of the universe."

For the past 25 years, the Nobel physics prize has been shared among multiple winners.

Last year's prize went to three British-born researchers who applied the mathematical discipline of topology to help understand the workings of exotic matter such as superconductors and superfluids.

The 2017 Nobel prizes kicked off Monday with the medicine prize being awarded to three Americans studying circadian rhythms — better known as body clocks: Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young.

The chemistry prize will be announced Wednesday, the Nobel literature prize on Thursday and the peace prize on Friday. The economics prize, which is not technically a Nobel, will be awarded on Monday.

Heintz reported from Stockholm. David Keyton in Stockholm, Christopher Weber in Pasadena, California, Rodrigue Ngowi in Newtonville, Massachusetts, Collin Binkley in Boston, Massachusetts, Bob Lentz in Philadelphia, Michelle Monroe in Phoenix and Malcolm Ritter in New York contributed to this story.

Follow the AP's coverage on the Nobels here: <https://apnews.com/tag/NobelPrizes>

Iran deal's future may hinge on face-saving fix for Trump

By BRADLEY KLAPPER and MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The future of the Iran nuclear deal may hinge on a face-saving fix for President Donald Trump so he doesn't have to recertify the Islamic republic's compliance every 90 days, according to U.S. officials.

Several officials familiar with internal discussions say the periodic reviews mandated by Congress have become such a source of embarrassment for Trump that his national security aides are seeking ways for him to stop signing off on the seven-nation accord without scuttling it entirely.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 38 of 52

The president has called the agreement one of America's "worst and most one-sided transactions" ever. Officials say what Trump hates most, however, is a provision in a 2015 U.S. law — known as the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act — that requires him to tell Congress every three months if Iran is meeting promises to scale back its nuclear program in exchange for broad international relief from oil, trade and financial sanctions.

Because the U.N. nuclear watchdog has found Iran in compliance, it's difficult for the U.S. administration to say otherwise.

But Trump has said repeatedly that he doesn't want to certify Iranian compliance again after having done so twice already, declaring last month he even had made his mind up about what he'll do next. "Decertification" could lead Congress to reintroduce economic sanctions on Iran that were suspended under the deal. If that happens, Iran has threatened to walk away from the arrangement and restart activities that could take it closer to nuclear weapons.

"Iran is not in material breach of the agreement and I do believe the agreement to date has delayed the development of a nuclear capability by Iran," Gen. Joseph Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday.

Asked if he believed staying in the deal was in America's national security interest, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said, "Yes, senator, I do."

For U.S. officials involved in the decision-making process, the focus on finding a way for Trump to avoid anything looking like approval for the accord has become a source of frustration. Various options are in play to resolve the problem, but none are clean solutions, according to officials who weren't authorized to discuss the private deliberations and demanded anonymity.

The most likely strategy centers on Trump not certifying Iran's compliance when he faces another deadline Oct. 15. Below the president, diplomats and officials would then strive to manage any fallout with Tehran and America's European allies by emphasizing that the U.S. isn't leaving the deal or applying new nuclear sanctions on Iran. After that, Trump wouldn't have to address the certification matter again, officials said.

The State Department and National Security Council declined to comment for this story.

The Iran review law provides a potential out for Trump. The president must determine that Iran is implementing the nuclear deal and hasn't committed a "material breach," or taken action that could advance its nuclear weapons program. It also demands the president's verdict on a fourth question: whether suspending sanctions is "appropriate and proportionate," and if doing so is "vital to the national security interests of the United States."

Mattis hinted his boss may try to decertify without breaking the deal.

"You can talk about the conditions under one of those, and not walk away from the other," he said. "They're two different pieces."

The goal would be to reinforce the administration's argument that Iran's technical compliance — meeting uranium stockpile limits, pouring cement into the core of a plutonium reactor and so on — doesn't mean it's living up to the "spirit" of the agreement. This lofty but ill-defined notion encompasses things not directly covered by the nuclear deal, such as Iran's missile development, threats to America's Middle East allies and support for U.S.-designated terrorist organizations.

While Mattis described the issues of certification and upholding the deal as "different pieces," they overlap.

If Trump declares the nuclear deal isn't in the nation's security interests, how will his administration stick to it? In January, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson must again waive multiple sets of sanctions on Iran, and the national security question is relevant to those decisions.

As a possible solution, officials said the administration is weighing whether to send the question of sanctions back to Congress. But if lawmakers pass new economic penalties on Iran, the same risk to the overall deal applies.

Other alternatives are being weighed, too, according to officials.

One would involve Trump grudgingly certifying Iran's compliance a final time and then persuading Congress to change the law so he wouldn't have to do so again. Officials say this option is unlikely because no

one expects already gridlocked lawmakers to pass anything quickly on so polarizing a topic — even if the objective isn't to save or destroy the deal, but help Trump avoid the discomfort of the certification process.

A further, even more remote possibility, officials said, is Trump not saying anything in 12 days' time. His silence would amount to decertification, but would seem to be the least Trumpian course of action for a president who has loudly and consistently railed against the merits of the deal.

Close observers of the Iran deal, both for and against, say Trump may even deliver a major foreign policy speech outlining his decision.

GOP leaders say no action on gun legislation

By MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican leaders made clear Tuesday that Congress will take no action on gun legislation in the wake of the massacre in Las Vegas. They refused to entertain Democratic demands to expand background checks for gun purchases and tighten restrictions on semi-automatic weapons, but also shelved their own House bill that would have loosened access to gun silencers.

"I think it's premature to be discussing legislative solutions, if there are any," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., told reporters after the mass shooting that killed at least 59 people and wounded hundreds more.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said there is no plan for the House to act soon on the silencer bill, which a Republican-led House committee backed last month. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Jeff Duncan of South Carolina, said it would help hunters protect their hearing.

The silencer bill is "not scheduled right now. I don't know when it will be scheduled," Ryan said.

The congressional inaction underscored the power of the National Rifle Association and the political stakes for lawmakers who maintain their support for the constitutional right to bear arms and fear any challenge to their fealty.

Rep. Chris Collins, R-N.Y., said action on guns after Las Vegas was unnecessary, "We are not going to knee-jerk react to every situation."

Four years ago, after the deadly school shooting in Newtown, a bipartisan bill on background checks failed in the Senate.

The complicated politics of guns was personified by West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, a Democrat up for re-election next year in a state carried overwhelmingly by President Donald Trump.

Manchin, who co-sponsored the failed bill that would have expanded background checks, said Tuesday, "I come from a gun state and I am a protector of Second Amendment rights and I understand these people's fear."

West Virginia residents "cherish the right to be able to go hunting with their family ... sport shooting and all the things we do enjoy," Manchin said, adding that any potential legislation must be based in common sense.

"It's just common sense to say that if a person is such a risk to get on an airplane that they get (put) on the no-fly list, don't you think there should be some concern and prevention from them being able to still buy a gun in America?" Manchin said, adding that any movement on the issue will depend on Trump.

"The president could really take a lead on this. He really could," Manchin said.

Trump has called the Sunday night shooting at an outdoor music festival an "act of pure evil" and declared the nation would unite behind the survivors.

"We'll be talking about gun laws as time goes by," Trump said Tuesday. Asked about silencer bill, Trump said, "We'll talk about that later."

Democrats pressed for a response.

Rep. Judy Chu, D-Calif., said on Twitter: "It's not 'political' to urge action to stop the regular killing of Americans by guns. It's responsibility. Silence is the political choice."

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., warned that the GOP-backed silencer bill could have deadly consequences.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 40 of 52

"One of the few ways the police had to go after this shooter was they could look for the sound, try to hear the sound of where the guns came from," Schumer said on the Senate floor. "Thank God our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have pulled back on this bill."

Schumer and other Democrats noted that Republicans postponed a hearing on the silencer bill in June when House Majority Whip Steve Scalise, R-La., and others were shot at a congressional baseball practice.

"When two mass shootings force you to delay a bill that would make those mass shootings harder to detect and stop, maybe that's a sign you ought to let go of the bill once and for all," Schumer said.

Besides the silencer measure, House GOP leaders had been moving forward with a bill to allow people with concealed-carry permits to take their weapons to other states. A vote on that measure also seemed unlikely.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said he was "open-minded to anything that would shed light on what happened and how to fix it without giving people false hope that we're one law change from fixing things like this."

Associated Press writers Marcy Gordon and Catherine Lucey and video producer Noreen Nasir contributed to this story.

Ties threatened: US orders 15 Cuban diplomats to leave

By JOSH LEDERMAN and MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States expelled 15 of Cuba's diplomats Tuesday to protest its failure to protect Americans from unexplained attacks in Havana, plunging diplomatic ties between the countries to levels unseen in years.

Only days ago, the U.S. and Cuba maintained dozens of diplomats in newly re-opened embassies in Havana and Washington, powerful symbols of a warming relationship between longtime foes. Now both countries are poised to cut their embassies by more than half, as invisible, unexplained attacks threaten delicate relations between the Cold War rivals.

The State Department gave Cuba's ambassador a list Tuesday of 15 names and ordered them out within one week, officials said, in a move that aims to "ensure equity" between each nation's embassy staffing. Last week, the U.S. announced it was withdrawing 60 percent of its own diplomats from Havana because they might be attacked and harmed if they stay.

The dual moves marked a sharp escalation in the U.S. response to attacks that began nearly a year ago and yet remain unexplained despite harming at least 22 Americans — including a new victim identified this week.

Still, U.S. officials emphasized they were not accusing Cuba of either culpability or complicity, merely a failure to stop whatever is happening to Americans working out of the U.S. Embassy in Havana.

Investigators have explored the possibility of a "sonic attack" harming diplomats through sound waves, but have discovered no device and identified no culprit.

"We continue to maintain diplomatic relations with Cuba, and will continue to cooperate with Cuba as we pursue the investigation into these attacks," said Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

Havana blasted the U.S. order, calling it "reckless" and "hasty." Days earlier, Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez had pleaded with Tillerson not to take such a step. His appeals unsuccessful, Rodriguez called a news conference in the Cuban capital to again deny involvement and defend his country's efforts to assist in the U.S. investigation.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly protests and condemns this unfounded and unacceptable decision as well as the pretext used to justify it," Rodriguez said.

He did not announce any retaliatory measures.

The scope of the attacks has continued to grow. The U.S. disclosed Tuesday that 22nd victim was confirmed the day before. In recent weeks the State Department had said there were 21 individuals "medically confirmed" to be affected by attacks that harmed their hearing, cognition, balance and vision, some with

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 41 of 52

diagnoses as serious as brain injury.

The additional victim was attacked in January but wasn't confirmed to have been affected until symptoms prompted a new medical re-evaluation, said the State Department official, who briefed reporters on a conference call on condition of anonymity.

Both the U.S. and Cuba will see their diplomatic staffing in their embassies drop to the lowest levels in years.

Before full diplomatic relations were restored in 2015, Cuba had about two-dozen accredited staffers at what was then the Cuban interests section, according to a State Department list. That number at times climbed as high as more than 50, and the latest edition of the U.S. "Diplomatic List" identifies 26 accredited Cubans at the embassy, almost all accompanied by spouses.

The removal of 15 will reduce the Cuban staffing to roughly a dozen accredited diplomats.

In Havana, the U.S. had roughly 54 diplomats in its embassy until deciding Friday to pull more than half of them out and leave behind only "essential personnel." The departing Americans are expected to have all left Cuba by week's end, officials said.

The Cuban diplomats being expelled will not be deemed "persona non grata," officials said, a designation that would prevent them from ever returning to U.S. soil. The government often uses that designation to expel suspected foreign spies and ensure they can't come back.

Lawmakers who had called on the Trump administration to expel all of Cuba's diplomats applauded the move Tuesday. Sen. Marco Rubio, a Florida Republican and vocal critic of Castro's government, called it "the right decision" in a Twitter post.

Yet U.S. officials said the goal wasn't to punish the communist-run island, but to ensure both countries have a similar number of diplomats in each other's capitals.

Tensions between the two neighbors have been escalating amid serious U.S. concern about the unexplained attacks.

On Monday, The Associated Press reported that U.S. spies were among the first and most severely affected victims. Though bona fide diplomats have also been affected, it wasn't until intelligence operatives, working under diplomatic cover, reported bizarre sounds and even stranger physical effects that the United States realized something was wrong, several individuals familiar with the situation said.

The mysterious "health attacks" started within days of President Donald Trump's election in November, the AP has reported.

Delivering a one-two punch to U.S.-Cuba relations, the U.S. last week also delivered an ominous warning to Americans to stay away from Cuba, a move that could have profound implications for the island's travel industry. The U.S. said that since some workers had been attacked in Havana hotels, it couldn't assure Americans who visit Cuba that they wouldn't suffer attacks.

"Because our personnel's safety is at risk, and we are unable to identify the source of the attacks, we believe U.S. citizens may also be at risk and warn them not to travel to Cuba," the United States said in a formal travel warning.

Two years ago, Castro and former President Barack Obama restored diplomatic ties, ordered embassies re-opened and eased travel and commerce restrictions. Trump has reversed some changes but has broadly left the rapprochement in place.

To medical investigators' dismay, symptoms have varied widely. In addition to hearing loss and concussions, some people have experienced nausea, headaches and ear-ringing. The AP has reported that some now suffer from problems with concentration and common word recall.

The incidents stopped for a time, but recurred as recently as late August.

Associated Press writer Andrea Rodriguez in Havana contributed to this report.

Reach Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP> and Matthew Lee at <http://twitter.com/APDiploWriter>

Kurdish leader Talabani, onetime hope for Iraqi unity, dies

By SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq (AP) — As he stepped into office in 2005 to become Iraq's first Kurdish president, Jalal Talabani told his followers, "I am casting off my Kurdish clothes and wearing Iraqi ones instead. You must accept that." It was a symbolic call for unity: A longtime leader of Kurdish fighters, Talabani became the head of state of what was supposed to be a new Iraq, freed two years earlier from the rule of Saddam Hussein.

Talabani's death on Tuesday was a reminder of how that experiment in unity has frayed nearly to the point of unravelling: Only a week earlier, Kurds voted overwhelmingly in a referendum in support of breaking away from Iraq to form an independent state, sending tensions spiraling with the central government in Baghdad and with Iraq's neighbors, who fear similar Kurdish separatist sentiment on their soil.

At the time of the vote, Talabani had been out of politics for nearly five years after a 2012 stroke left him debilitated and permanently hospitalized. He died in a Berlin hospital at the age of 83 after his condition rapidly deteriorated, according to Marwan Talabani, a relative and senior official in the office of Talabani's son, the deputy prime minister of the Kurdish region.

While in power, Talabani was seen as a unifying elder statesman who could soothe tempers among Iraq's Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds. But the country's centrifugal forces only accelerated after he was hospitalized as Iraq battled the Sunni extremists of the Islamic State group and faced growing demands for Kurdish independence.

The referendum vote, which was led by his longtime Kurdish rival, regional President Masoud Barzani, is not expected to lead to a Kurdish state anytime soon and has further isolated the small land-locked region. Iraq and its neighbors have rejected the vote, and Baghdad has banned international flights and threatened to take control of the autonomous Kurdish region's borders.

"If Talabani had been president of Iraq today for sure the approach would have been different, the balance in Kurdistan would have been different. I don't think it would have come to a referendum in the first place," said Joost Hiltermann, of the International Crisis Group.

"Basically with Talabani's incapacitation (Kurdish) strength in Baghdad diminished and ... the weight shifted decisively to Barzani and the Kurdish region," he said.

Talabani came from a generation of Kurdish leaders who spent decades fighting for self-rule and whose people were often brutally repressed by the central government.

Born in a tiny village north of the city of Irbil on Nov. 12, 1933, Talabani was in his early teens when he joined the Kurdistan Democratic Party, or KDP, the main Kurdish political force at the time trying to carve out an autonomous homeland for Iraq's Kurds.

In the 1960s, he joined the Kurdish uprising against the Iraqi government. When the revolt collapsed in 1975, Talabani broke off from the Barzani-headed KDP to form the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, or PUK. To this day Kurdish politics in Iraq remains dominated by the two families: the Barzanis in Irbil and the Talabanis in Sulaimaniyah.

A year later, Talabani again took up arms against the central government and eventually joined forces with Iran in the Iran-Iraq war. In the late 1980s, Saddam launched the Anfal Campaign, in which more than 50,000 Kurds were killed, many by poison gas attacks.

Iraq's Kurds took their first steps toward autonomy in the early 1990s under the protection of a U.S.-enforced no-fly-zone aimed at halting Saddam's killings. But the Kurds quickly fell into infighting. Pitched battles between forces loyal to Barzani and those who sided with Talabani killed thousands and only subsided when Barzani called on Saddam's army to help him push back Talabani's men.

As the U.S. prepared to oust Saddam in the 2003 invasion, Talabani's PUK worked with the CIA. After Saddam's fall, Talabani and Barzani came together to govern their autonomous region, but ultimately Talabani's high profile took him to Baghdad.

He was chosen by parliament as interim president in April 2005. A year later, parliament made him full president under the new constitution, re-electing him to a second four-year term in 2010.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 43 of 52

Talabani's ascension left Barzani to preside over the Kurdish government alone, an irony that Talabani wryly noted in February 2005. "He personally prefers that I be in Baghdad and he be in Kurdistan," Talabani said.

In Baghdad, Talabani established himself as the voice of the Kurds and was a skilled player in Iraq's sometimes bloody power politics.

Sunni Arabs remained suspicious of Talabani, pointing to his Iranian ties. And Talabani angered many Iraqis in 2011 when he described Kirkuk, a multi-ethnic city claimed by the Kurds and the central government, as a Kurdish Jerusalem.

Still, Talabani sought to cast himself as being above the fray, using the largely ceremonial powers of his post to try to take the edge off conflicts that flared among the country's factions.

"Contrary to all Iraqi politicians, Talabani believes that making concessions to other groups in order to save his country does not represent a humiliation to his personal dignity," said analyst Hadi Jalo.

In a statement, former President George W. Bush praised Talabani's efforts to try to unite his country after Saddam's ouster, saying: "He saw the potential of a free and united Iraq. And he worked tirelessly to deliver peace and liberty to his people."

Long overweight and afflicted by heart problems, Talabani suffered a stroke in December 2012 and was taken to Germany for treatment.

With his departure from political life, Iraq lost one of its few brakes on the divisions among its rival factions and Barzani began dealing with Baghdad directly on behalf of Iraq's Kurds.

Disagreements between Baghdad and the Kurdish region over the sharing of oil wealth and the fate of Kirkuk and other disputed areas simmered for years. But those divisions went largely unaddressed as Iraqi and Kurdish forces battled the Islamic State group after it swept across the country in the summer of 2014.

Barzani, who had already capitalized on a split in Talabani's political party years earlier, saw his power grow as the U.S.-led coalition rushed military aid to his forces to help them battle the extremists. He later spearheaded the independence referendum, which many of his critics saw as a bid to extend his rule.

Talabani never expressed an opinion about the referendum, and his supporters were divided on it.

His absence left a "political vacuum," said Falah Mustafa, the head of the Kurdish region's foreign relations department. But he said Talabani's "legacy for the Kurdish cause will remain a source of inspiration among the people of Kurdistan and beyond."

Talabani is survived by his wife, Hiro Ibrahim Ahmed, and his two sons. One of them is Qubad Talabani, the deputy prime minister of the Kurdish region.

Associated Press writers Adam Schreck and Salar Salim contributed to this report.

Catalans stop work to protest police force during referendum

By ARITZ PARRA and CIARAN GILES, Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Striking workers, students and hundreds of thousands of protesters took to the streets of Barcelona and other Catalan towns Tuesday to protest police violence, adding pressure to Spain's unprecedented political crisis as central authorities mull how to respond to separatists' plans to push ahead with secession.

Separatist leaders in Catalonia have vowed to declare independence in the northeastern region this week following Sunday's disputed referendum.

The central government has declared the vote illegal and invalid, but Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has not disclosed what his response to the independence bid will be, or if he intends to go as far as suspending the region's self-government.

The city's urban guard said that 700,000 people joined Tuesday afternoon's marches in Barcelona, after thousands more took part in scattered protests in the morning.

With protesters still in the streets, Spain's King Felipe VI made a television appearance in the evening and accused authorities in Catalonia of deliberately bending the law and undermining coexistence, adding that the Spanish state has a duty to ensure unity and constitutional order in the country.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 44 of 52

"Today, Catalan society is fractured," Felipe said in his address to the nation, referring to the political crisis as "very serious moments for our democratic life."

Catalan officials say that 90 percent of the 2.3 million people who voted Sunday were in favor of independence. But fewer than half of those eligible to vote turned out. The vote was boycotted by most of Spain's national parties on grounds that it was illegal and lacked basic guarantees, such as transparency, a proper census or an independent electoral governing body.

The king's call for unity and the blame put on the Catalan authorities was interpreted as laying the ground for an upcoming response from Rajoy. The prime minister held talks on Tuesday with national opposition leaders, but no multi-partisan consensus emerged from meetings.

"He made no mention of dialogue, and that's worrying," said Victor Lavagnini, a sports journalist who joined protests at the gates of the National Police headquarters in downtown Barcelona. "He seemed nervous, like everybody is, but showed no sensibility toward the injured."

The strike affected bus and subway services, shops, schools and other businesses, and disoriented tourists scrambled to find open cafeterias to avoid the protests.

There were moments of tension when a handful of picketers forced the closure of shops that had remained open in the city's famed Las Ramblas boulevard, but elsewhere the demonstrations were largely peaceful.

Separatist groups and unions had initially called for strikes to be held in support of Catalan leaders pushing ahead with the independence declaration. But many non-separatists were also drawn to the streets following Sunday's crackdown on the referendum vote.

In Barcelona's Catalonia and University squares, a sea of demonstrators waved flags, most of them "esteladas" embraced by those wishing secession, but also plenty of Spanish national flags.

People are angry, very angry," said Josep Llavina, a 53-year-old self-employed worker who had traveled to Barcelona from a nearby town to participate in the protest outside the regional offices of Spain's National Police.

The building became a focal point for protesters, gathering thousands at midday who shouted that the police were an "occupying force" and urged Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy to resign.

"They brought violence with them," Llavina said. They have beaten people who were holding their hands up. How can we not be outraged?"

The central government in Madrid is blaming Catalan separatist politicians and grassroots groups for the violence, saying they "plotted to break the law" and drew citizens to an unlawful vote.

"Nothing of this would have happened if the (Catalan) government hadn't declared itself in rebellion, breaking the orders of the courts and lying and tricking people," Spain's top official in Catalonia, Enric Millo, told journalists on Tuesday.

Catalan President Carles Puigdemont has said he will present the final results of the disputed referendum to Catalonia's regional parliament, which would trigger the process of breaking away from Spain this week.

The general strike in Catalonia called by pro-independence groups was not fully backed by Spain's two main unions, the UGT and CCOO groups, who invited workers to decide individually whether to halt work to protest police violence, but not in support of secession.

"I disagree with the strike. In fact, at work nobody told me anything about a strike. So I decided to come" to work, said Jose Bolivar, 54, a town hall employee.

Office worker Antonia Cuello, 37, was in two minds about the industrial action.

"On one side it is a hassle to try to get to work in the midst of a strike," she said. "We are suffering this because a few decided to behave in an improper way. On the other hand, I understand the circumstances surrounding the strike."

More than 890 civilians were treated for injuries, most of them not serious, following clashes during Sunday's referendum, according to Catalan regional health authorities. Police using batons, and some firing rubber bullets, cleared protesters hoping to vote. Spain's Interior Ministry says 431 National Police and Civil Guard agents were injured, too.

The police action prompted criticism worldwide although the European Union and most governments backed Spain's stance in what is its most serious political crisis in decades.

Giles contributed from Madrid. Hernan Munoz and Alex Oller in Barcelona contributed to this story.

Kennedy is key to Supreme Court outcome on partisan maps

By MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a case that could reshape American politics, the Supreme Court appeared split Tuesday on whether Wisconsin Republicans gave themselves an unfair advantage when they drew political maps to last a decade.

If Justice Anthony Kennedy, whose vote almost certainly controls the outcome, is prepared to join his liberal colleagues, the court could rule for the first time that districting plans that entrench one party's control of a legislature or congressional delegation can violate the constitutional rights of the other party's voters. That could lead to changes in political maps across the country.

While both parties seek maximum partisan advantage when they can, Republicans controlled more state governments after the 2010 census and aggressively used redistricting to lock in electoral advantages to last for the next 10 years.

Kennedy suggested, as he did in another redistricting case 13 years ago, that courts perhaps could be involved in placing limits on extremely partisan electoral maps.

But he did not tip his hand about whether the Wisconsin map that favors Republicans crossed a constitutional line.

Throughout the session, the justices and lawyers alike appeared to cast their questions and remarks with the hope of attracting Kennedy. He wrote in 2004 that he would be open to ruling for the challengers if the court could be shown a good way to measure and manage excessively partisan districts.

Paul Smith, the same lawyer who failed to get Kennedy's vote and thus a majority 13 years ago, said technology and data analysis had so improved since then that there are good ways to measure when one party gives itself an unfair edge in creating districts.

Without the court's intervention, Smith said on behalf of the Democratic voters, the next round of redistricting after the 2020 census will see far more extreme partisan maps.

"You are the only institution in the United States that can solve this problem just as democracy is about to get worse," Smith said.

"You paint a very dire picture," Justice Samuel Alito replied dryly. He seemed unpersuaded.

The conservative justices were skeptical about striking down the state's map or even involving courts in the inherently political process of redistricting.

Chief Justice John Roberts worried about involving the Supreme Court in a glut of partisan redistricting claims that would follow if the Wisconsin Democrats prevail.

"We'll have to decide in every case whether the Democrats win or the Republicans win," Roberts said, a scenario that he said would damage the court's credibility.

The liberal justices appeared to favor the Democratic voters who challenged the Wisconsin plan. Republicans who controlled the legislature and the governor's office adopted electoral maps that have given themselves a significant advantage in the state Assembly in a state that is otherwise roughly divided between the parties.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said that a decision upholding the Republican-drawn districts in Wisconsin would encourage one party's lawmakers to stack the deck against their opponents when they control the process and reduce the number of legitimately contested elections.

"What becomes of the precious right to vote?" she asked.

Representing Wisconsin, Misha Tseytlin urged the court not to succumb to the other side's "scare tactics about what will happen next."

People waited in line for hours for a chance to view the argument on the second day of the court's term. Roberts turned down a request for live audio of the argument.

The packed house included former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, among a handful of prominent

Republicans who want the court to rein in partisan redistricting.

The Supreme Court has never thrown out a political map because it is too partisan. Courts have struck down districts as racially biased for decades, and other partisan districting lawsuits are moving through the courts in Maryland and North Carolina.

In Wisconsin, a lower court sifted through evidence showing that Republicans packed Democrats into some districts and spread them out across others to maximize gains for the GOP. In one analysis, Democrats captured far fewer state Assembly seats even when they won roughly the same percentage of the statewide vote as Republicans.

The lower court concluded that the districting plans were drawn to discriminate against Democrats, the Republicans' advantage would endure even in the face of a strong Democratic showing at the polls and the plans could not be explained by other, non-partisan reasons.

The state is arguing the justices should put an end to courts' consideration of partisanship in districting plans and cautioning that far from being manageable, a ruling for the Democratic voters would open the door to a flood of lawsuits that would be based on cherry-picked evidence and hard for judges to manage.

Justice Neil Gorsuch, the newest member of the court, likened the court's task in finding a way to measure partisanship with his preparations for grilling steak. "I like my turmeric and other spices, but I'm not going to tell you how much. What's this court supposed to do, a pinch of this, a pinch of that?" Gorsuch asked.

A decision in *Gill v. Whitford*, 16-1161, is expected by spring.

This story has been corrected to show the case number is 16-1161.

Acts of heroism emerge in chaos of Las Vegas shooting

By **AMANDA LEE MYERS** and **JOCELYN GECKER**, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Rob Ledbetter's battlefield instincts kicked in quickly as bullets rained overhead.

The 42-year-old U.S. Army veteran who served as a sniper in Iraq immediately began tending to the wounded, one of several heroes to emerge from the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. Amid the massacre in Las Vegas, which left 59 people dead and more than 500 injured, there were acts of compassion and countless heroics that officials say saved many lives.

There was a man one survivor knows only as Zach who herded people to a safe place. There was a registered nurse from Tennessee who died shielding his wife.

Like many people in the crowd of some 22,000 country music fans Sunday night, Ledbetter heard the pop-pop-popping noise and figured it was fireworks. Then he saw people dropping to the ground. When more booms echoed in the night air, he recognized the sound of automatic weapons fire.

The gunman, identified as Stephen Craig Paddock, a 64-year-old retired accountant from Mesquite, Nevada, created his own sniper's perch inside the 32nd floor room at the Mandalay Bay casino hotel, across from the concert grounds. He appeared to fire unhindered for more than 10 minutes, according to radio traffic, and then killed himself before officers stormed in and found 23 firearms.

"The echo, it sounded like it was coming from everywhere and you didn't know which way to run," said Ledbetter, who was at the concert with seven people including his brother, who was shot and injured, and his wife. They found cover in a VIP area of the concert. Once out of harm's way, he turned to injured strangers.

Thanks to a man who took the flannel shirt off his back, Ledbetter says he put a makeshift tourniquet on a wounded teenage girl, whose face was covered with blood.

"Some random guy, I said, 'I need your shirt,'" said Ledbetter, who is now a mortgage broker and a resident of Las Vegas. "He just gave me the flannel off his back."

Ledbetter said he compressed someone else's shoulder wound, and he fashioned a bandage for a man whose leg was shot through by a bullet.

"There was a guy that looked like he had a through and through on his leg, that we just put a T-shirt around and just did a bandanna tie," said Ledbetter, who was outside University Medical Center on Mon-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 47 of 52

day, where his brother was being treated for a gunshot that went through his arm and into his chest. He is expected to survive.

Ledbetter and others grabbed the injured man, carried him out to Las Vegas Boulevard, put him in the back of a utility truck with five to 10 other people that was headed to the hospital.

Ledbetter said he would have helped more people but couldn't clear the barrage of gunfire.

"I'm saving people, or trying to do my best. But it got to the point, I saw people all over, laying where we used to be standing ... just laying there and nobody getting to them and I couldn't get out there. The shots just kept coming in and bouncing. I would have been in harm's way," he said.

He worries that those unfamiliar with battlefields will suffer what they have survived.

"Everybody there is going to have emotional problems. I know that. There was blood everywhere I went: Excalibur, Luxor, on the Strip, on the street," Ledbetter said. "All these people are going to have PTSD. I feel bad for all of them."

Another concertgoer, Anna Kupchyan, credits a man she knows only as Zach for saving her life and about nine others when he herded them into an outdoor trailer serving as a restroom.

Kupchyan, a 27-year-old law student from Los Angeles, said bullets were raining down on the crowd as she and a horde of others began running in search of a way out of the outdoor venue.

The man, Zach, opened a door and ordered people inside and then joined them and shut the door, Kupchyan said.

They stayed inside as the shooting continued, everyone paralyzed in fear, she said.

"Then security came and they shouted for us to get out, to run," she recalled. Outside the trailer, dead bodies were sprawled on the ground, including a man who had been shot in the head, she said.

She and her best friend Leslie Aguilar, a 26-year-old therapist, eventually jumped in a cab that was driving by and befriended two other women survivors who let them stay in their hotel room until the danger subsided.

Not all of Sunday night's heroes survived.

Sonny Melton, a registered nurse, died in the shooting, according to The Henry County Medical Center in Paris, Tennessee, where he worked.

His wife, Dr. Heather Melton, an orthopedic surgeon who was with him when shots were fired, survived.

She told WZTV in Nashville, Tennessee, that her husband "saved my life and lost his." She said her husband was the most kind-hearted, loving man she ever met.

Associated Press writers Jocelyn Gecker in San Francisco and Anita Snow in Las Vegas contributed to this report.

UN: More should have been done to fight cholera in Yemen

By JAMEY KEATEN, Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The World Health Organization's emergencies chief says the agency could have acted faster and sent more vaccines to fight a massive, deadly surge of cholera cases in war-battered Yemen this year.

Dr. Peter Salama still expressed optimism that "we are turning (the) corner" on the preventable, water-borne disease that has topped 700,000 suspected cases and caused more than 2,000 deaths this year.

Salama spoke to reporters Tuesday as the U.N. agency and its partners laid out ambitious projects to reduce the number of annual cholera deaths by 90 percent by 2030.

The goal is just the latest among WHO's attempts to wipe out or sharply reduce major diseases. Similar efforts already exist for polio, guinea worm, malaria, measles, and AIDS. To date, only smallpox has been eradicated from the planet.

India and countries in sub-Saharan Africa face long-term challenges to fight cholera. Places like war-torn Yemen or Bangladesh, which has taken in more than 500,000 Rohingya Muslim refugees from Myanmar, are facing less predictable situations.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 48 of 52

WHO officials announced plans Friday to send 900,000 doses of cholera vaccine to Bangladesh to help stave off a possible outbreak among the Rohingya Muslims who have fled violence at home. Salama said a vaccination campaign in Bangladesh will start in the next two weeks.

In Yemen, the country's 2-1/2 war has devastated the health system and public services and put the country on the brink of famine. Yemen had been set to receive a million doses of cholera vaccine over the summer but the government opted not to take them.

Salama said the Yemen government said it didn't believe that would be enough.

"Could WHO and the cholera-specific partners have scaled up more quickly the case-management work, and could we have tried to mobilize more doses for cholera vaccine given the very limited supply globally of cholera vaccine? I think so — yes," Salama said.

He added that allowing cholera to persist in poor countries was a "moral" issue, noting that developed countries eliminated the disease a century ago.

But WHO and its partners acknowledged that major problems remain in the fight against cholera, including the poor surveillance for it. Countries are often reluctant to report cholera since it has trade and travel implications.

In addition, the number of people worldwide with access to clean water and sanitation — important tools in the fight against the disease — has gone down rather than up in recent years.

This version corrects Salama's first name to Peter.

Spoils of Brexit: EU cities race to get EU agencies from UK

By RAF CASERT, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — It's a prestigious side effect of Brexit: Two institutions hosted by Britain have to move out when it leaves the European Union and just about every other nation in the bloc wants them.

The competition to relocate the European Medicines Agency and the European Banking Authority hits the home stretch this week with many EU nations still eager to claim one of the organizations, which will bring in top talent, money to the local economy and prestige to the nation.

Eight European cities are seeking to host the banking authority and 19 want to be the home of the medicines agency. Some cities — like Brussels, Warsaw, Vienna and Dublin — are making pitches for both agencies to increase their chances of landing one. No city will get both.

"We have a good chance to go further," Foreign Minister Didier Reynders said Tuesday after he presented Belgium's candidacy for both agencies.

The European Commission already published a non-binding assessment last weekend on the candidate cities and a final decision is set for mid-November at a meeting of EU nations in Brussels.

The EMA is responsible for the scientific evaluation, supervision and safety monitoring of medicines in the EU. It has around 890 staff and hosts more than 500 scientific meetings every year, attracting about 36,000 experts.

The EBA, which has around 180 staff, monitors the regulation and supervision of Europe's banking sector.

The EU cities have been offering lavish benefits to capture such prizes: Frankfurt is offering space in the Westhafen Tower, a new circular skyscraper, for the banking agency, while Prague, the Czech capital, is offering to pay the banking agency's rent for five years.

Milan wants to host the medicines agency in a 31-story skyscraper, the iconic Pirelli building, while Athens has offered to put it in the Keranis Building — a former cigarette factory.

Belgium is bidding for both agencies — but it already hosts the headquarters of the EU Commission, the EU Council, the defense agency and co-hosts the EU Parliament, so any more agencies would further centralize EU business in one place.

One argument for seeking agency headquarters in different cities is to give the EU deeper roots all over the vast bloc that will still have some 446 million citizens after Britain leaves in March 2019.

Locating an agency in Bulgaria, Croatia or Romania would spread the EU further into the Balkans, while

relocating a big important agency to Brussels would further tilt the EU's weight toward its founding member states.

Reynders, of course, lauded the fact of clustering, calling the proposed site in Brussels "such a beautiful location, so close to the European institutions, a location in the center of Europe."

Other candidates like Helsinki have noted their proven track records of already hosting one EU institution. "If hosted by the same city, the two agencies could create considerable synergies," Finnish Health Minister Pirkko Mattila said.

To keep it from turning into a political free-for-all, the European Commission published a list of requirements for the hosts: they must have good transport access, available office space and educational and employment opportunities for the families of staff, among other criteria.

The medicine agency has also noted the challenges of making sure that it would recover from the burden of relocation as soon as possible — and without losing too many of its staff. It said that moving to some EU cities, which it did not name, would cause "permanent damage to the system," possibly from a loss of talented staff who decide not to make the move.

—
Lorne Cook contributed.

White House to seek \$29B disaster aid package

By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is finalizing a \$29 billion disaster aid package that combines \$16 billion to shore up the government-backed flood insurance program with almost \$13 billion in new relief for hurricane victims, according to a senior administration official and top congressional aides.

The huge request is expected to be officially sent to Congress on Wednesday, but its outlines were characterized by officials who demanded anonymity because the \$29 billion measure is not yet public.

The request would address two urgent needs. The first is to pump money into the flood insurance program, which is rapidly running out of cash to pay an influx of claims from victims of hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. At the same time, the Federal Emergency Management Agency continues to spend money for disaster relief operations at a high rate and requires more money.

The government-guaranteed flood insurance program is maxing out on a \$30 billion line of credit from Treasury; the upcoming proposal would wipe \$16 billion of that debt off the books to permit the program to pay claims from hurricane victims.

Almost \$13 billion is being requested for FEMA, and federal firefighting accounts would receive \$577 million as well to replenish them after a disastrous season of Western wildfires.

"This is going to be extraordinarily expensive and I think we need to get some money out there," said House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said he had met with lawmakers from Texas and Florida on Tuesday to brief them on the White House request.

"Remember, this is emergency money. You've got to deal with the problem," McCarthy told reporters. "So I think we'll be able to get this done."

The request could prove controversial, especially the huge infusion into the flood insurance program. Conservatives are likely to liken it to a taxpayer bailout, but the program is enormously important to homeowners in hurricane-ravaged Texas and Florida, as well as other coastal states.

Congress is in the midst of an effort to reauthorize the troubled flood insurance program, which critics say makes taxpayers subsidize properties that have repeatedly flooded. A bipartisan effort to reform the program was enacted in 2012 but was significantly watered down just two years later after widespread complaints of huge premium increases and resulting disruptions in coastal real estate markets.

Congress last month approved a \$15.3 billion aid package that nearly doubled President Donald Trump's request. Senate Republicans added \$7.4 billion in community development block grant rebuilding funds to Trump's request for immediate cleanup, repair and housing costs.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 50 of 52

Later this year, the White House is expected to require tens of billions of dollars more in long-term funds that would rebuild infrastructure, help people without insurance restore their homes, and, perhaps, help Puerto Rico reconstitute its shattered electrical grid.

Trump surveyed Hurricane damage in Puerto Rico on Tuesday. He praised his administration's response, even as lawmakers returning from the island say the president is painting far too rosy a picture.

"What you're seeing is a mirage," Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., said of conditions in San Juan, where Trump visited and where many reporters are located. Many mountain towns are cut off, with sick and elderly people trapped. "I saw the video on TV and everybody's friendly and everybody's smiling. You know what? It gave the wrong impression of what's going on in the island."

Japan, Hong Kong shares follow Wall St higher in quiet trade

By **KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer**

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian shares were mostly higher Wednesday in holiday-thinned trading as investors took their lead from Wall Street's latest advance into record territory.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index edged up 0.3 percent to 20,675.44 a day after closing at its highest in two years. Hong Kong's Hang Seng advanced 0.7 percent to 28,392.77 but Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 0.7 percent to 5,660.40. Stock markets were closed in mainland China, South Korea and Taiwan for holidays.

LOOKING FOR LEADS: With some key Asian markets closed, investors had little to go on for their trading and were awaiting fresh leads elsewhere. They were sitting tight ahead of U.S. data later in the day, including the monthly private ADP payroll report and the ISM non-manufacturing. The figures will provide the latest insights into the world's biggest economy, which could factor into the Federal Reserve's plan to raise interest rates again by the end of the year.

FED: Investors were also awaiting a speech by Fed Chair Janet Yellen as speculation swirls about who President Donald Trump will tap to lead the U.S. central bank when her term ends early next year. The uncertainty has left the dollar in limbo. White House officials said last week Trump has met with former Fed board member Kevin Warsh, and current member Jerome Powell. But Trump has said he could re-nominate Yellen.

QUOTEWORTHY: "The focus may also be brought to the next Fed chair with Fed's Yellen's speech," said Jingyi Pan, market strategist at IG in Singapore. "Although the names on the list may be of little surprise to the market, the conversation is expected to further heat up on this development."

WALL STREET: Major U.S. benchmarks pushed higher to end in record territory. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.2 percent to 2,534.58 for its sixth straight day of gains. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.4 percent to 22,641.67, and the Nasdaq composite rose 0.2 percent to 6,531.71.

ENERGY: Oil futures fell further. Benchmark U.S. crude lost 38 cents to \$50.04 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract dipped 16 cents to settle at \$50.42 per barrel on Tuesday. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, fell 35 cents to \$55.65 per barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar slipped to 112.68 Japanese yen from 112.86 yen late Tuesday. The euro rose to \$1.1776 from \$1.1745.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 4, the 277th day of 2017. There are 88 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Oct. 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite, into orbit. The family sitcom "Leave It to Beaver" premiered on CBS.

On this date:

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 51 of 52

In 1777, Gen. George Washington's troops launched an assault on the British at Germantown, Pennsylvania, resulting in heavy American casualties.

In 1822, the 19th president of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes, was born in Delaware, Ohio.

In 1931, the comic strip "Dick Tracy," created by Chester Gould, made its debut.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini conferred at Brenner Pass in the Alps.

In 1959, the Soviet Union launched Luna 3, a space probe which transmitted images of the far side of the moon.

In 1960, an Eastern Air Lines Lockheed L-188A Electra crashed on takeoff from Boston's Logan International Airport, killing all but 10 of the 72 people on board.

In 1970, rock singer Janis Joplin, 27, was found dead in her Hollywood hotel room.

In 1976, Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz resigned in the wake of a controversy over an obscene joke he'd made that was derogatory to blacks.

In 1982, casino executive Frank "Lefty" Rosenthal survived the bombing of his Cadillac outside a Las Vegas restaurant; the case was never solved.

In 1990, for the first time in nearly six decades, German lawmakers met in the Reichstag for the first meeting of reunified Germany's parliament.

In 1991, 26 nations, including the United States, signed the Madrid Protocol, which imposed a 50-year ban on oil exploration and mining in Antarctica.

In 2002, "American Taliban" John Walker Lindh received a 20-year sentence after a sobbing plea for forgiveness before a federal judge in Alexandria, Virginia. In a federal court in Boston, a laughing Richard Reid pleaded guilty to trying to blow up a trans-Atlantic flight with explosives in his shoes (the British citizen was later sentenced to life in prison).

Ten years ago: Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, defiantly vowed to serve out his term in office despite losing a court attempt to rescind his guilty plea in a men's room sex sting. A former city maintenance worker shot five people in a law office in Alexandria, Louisiana, killing two of them; the gunman was killed by police following a standoff. South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and North Korean leader Kim Jong Il pledged to pursue a peace treaty and end their countries' decades-long standoff.

Five years ago: A day after his first debate with Mitt Romney, which had been widely seen as a victory for Romney, President Barack Obama suggested that his Republican rival hadn't been candid about his policy positions during the faceoff. The Nielsen Co. said an estimated 67.2 million people had watched the debate; it was the biggest TV audience for a presidential debate since 1992.

One year ago: Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine repeatedly challenged Mike Pence during their vice presidential debate, attempting to tie the Indiana governor to some of Donald Trump's most controversial statements about women, immigrants and foreign policy while Trump's running mate maintained a folksy, soft-spoken demeanor as he defended the New York billionaire. Hurricane Matthew slammed into Haiti's southwest peninsula, the first Category 4 storm to hit the country in more than a half century; the Haitian government put the death toll from Matthew at 546.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Leroy Van Dyke is 88. Actress Felicia Farr is 85. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Sam Huff is 83. Author Roy Blount Jr. is 76. Author Anne Rice is 76. Actress Lori Saunders (TV: "Petticoat Junction") is 76. Baseball Hall of Famer Tony La Russa is 73. Actor Clifton Davis is 72. The former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, is 71. Former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel is 71. Actress Susan Sarandon is 71. Blues musician Duke Robillard is 69. Playwright Lee Blessing is 68. Actor Armand Assante is 68. Actor Alan Rosenberg is 67. Actor Christoph Waltz is 61. Actor Bill Fagerbakke (FAY'-guh'-bah-kee) is 60. Music producer Russell Simmons is 60. Actress Kyra Schon (Film: "Night of the Living Dead") is 60. Actress-singer Wendy Makkena is 59. Musician Chris Lowe (The Pet Shop Boys) is 58. Country musician Gregg "Hobie" Hubbard (Sawyer Brown) is 57. Actor David W. Harper is 56. Singer Jon Secada is 56. TV personality John Melendez is 52. Actor-comedian Jerry Minor is 50. Actor Liev Schreiber is 50. Actor Abraham Benrubi is 48. Country singer-musician Heidi Newfield is 47. Singer-guitarist M. Ward (She & Him) is 44. Actress Alicia (ah-LEE'-see-ah) Silverstone is 41. Actress Dana

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Oct, 4, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 087 ~ 52 of 52

Davis is 39. Actor Phillip Glasser is 39. Rock singer-musician Marc Roberge (O.A.R.) is 39. Actor Brandon Barash is 38. Actress Rachael Leigh Cook is 38. Actor Tim Peper is 37. Actor Jimmy Workman is 37. Bassist Cubbie Fink is 35. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jessica Benson (31w) is 30. Actor Michael Charles Roman is 30. Actress Melissa Benoist is 29. NBA All-Star Derrick Rose is 29. Actress Dakota Johnson is 28. Figure skater Kimmie Meisner is 28. Actress Leigh-Anne Pinnock (Little Mix) is 26. Actor Ryan Scott Lee is 21.

Thought for Today: "Knowledge is like a garden: if it is not cultivated, it cannot be harvested." — Guinean saying.