

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 1 of 53

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Reminder of traffic detour
- 1- Frost Construction Ad
- 2- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 3- Farmers Union PSA
- 3- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted
- 3- Groton Area Help Wanted
- 4- MS students at Northwestern MS Music Festival
- 7- Marshall County Land for Sale
- 8- National Teen Driver Safety Week: 6 Rules to Remember
- 9- Dr. Holm's Column
- 10- Weekly Vikings Roundup
- 11- School Surplus Auction
- 12- Today in Weather History
- 13- Today's Forecast
- 14- Yesterday's Weather
- 14- Today's Weather Info
- 14- National Weather Map
- 15- Daily Devotional
- 16- 2018 Community Events
- 17- News from the Associated Press

## Reminder of Traffic Detour

Starting today, access to the west side of Groton will be on 9th Avenue East (north of elementary school), then south to Sixth Avenue West. Also, those gaining access to SD37 on those two avenues will be able to go all the way to US12.

## Monday, Oct. 16

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Groton Community Center

Volleyball at Langford  
7th graders at 4 p.m.  
8th Graders at 5 p.m.  
JV at 6 p.m. followed by Varsity

## Tuesday, Oct. 17

Volleyball in Groton  
7th and C team at 4:30 p.m.  
8th and JV at 6 p.m. followed by Varsity

## Wednesday, Oct. 18

12:30 to 2:50 p.m.: 6th Grade MathCounts at Warner

## Thursday, Oct. 19

1st Round Football Playoffs  
6:30 p.m.: Groton hosts Bennett County

## Saturday, Oct. 21

State Cross Country in Rapid City  
Robotics in Groton  
School Surplus Auction at 1 p.m.

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

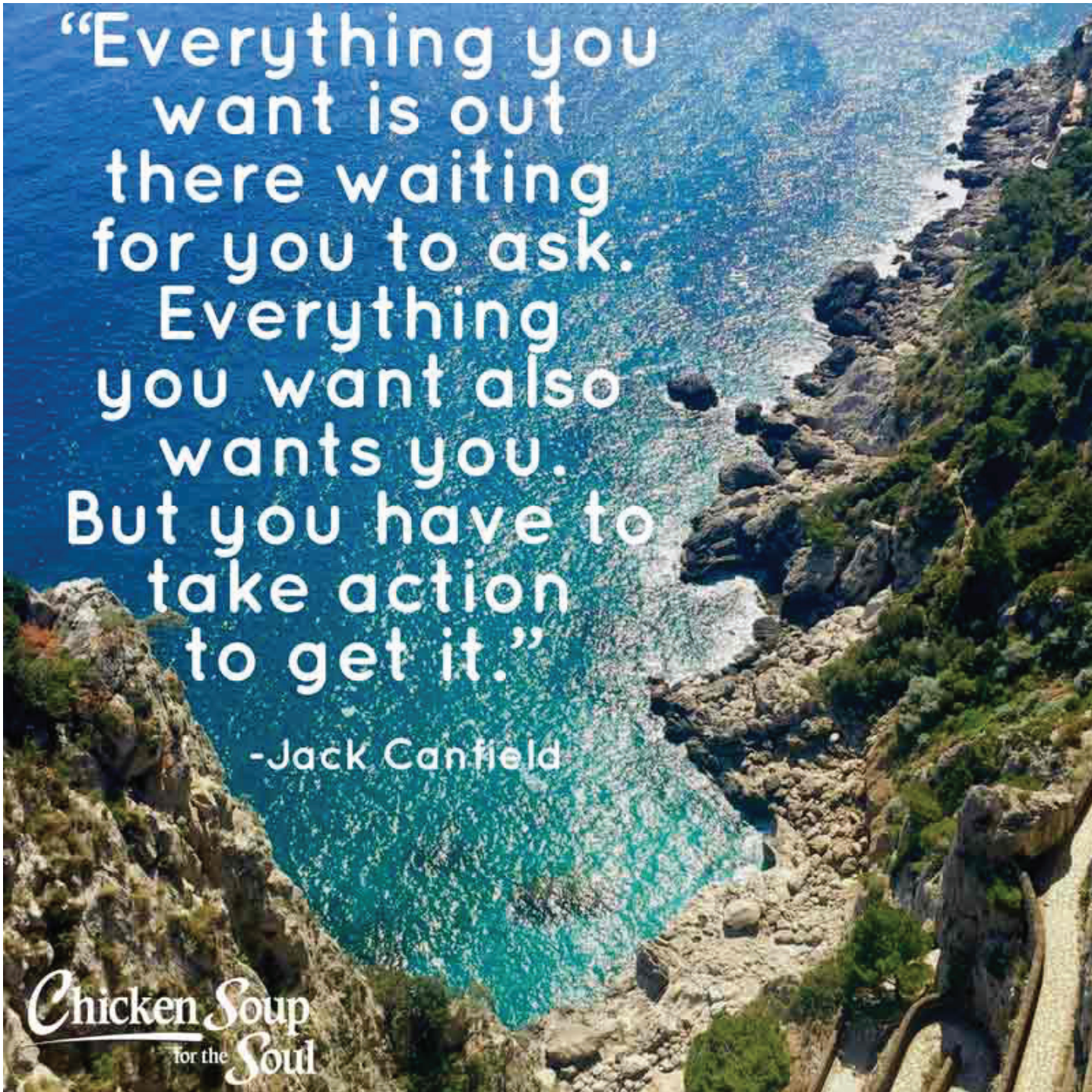
**The cardboard/paper**  
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**



**FROST**  
CONSTRUCTION INC.  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR  
**605.290.1535**  
custom homes | remodels | additions

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 2 of 53



“Everything you  
want is out  
there waiting  
for you to ask.  
Everything  
you want also  
wants you.  
But you have to  
take action  
to get it.”

-Jack Canfield

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 3 of 53



All auto owners!

**Save \$2-\$4 /tank**

& grow your local economy  
by choosing low carbon

**Super Premium E30's**

94 octane, more power,  
same mileage, fewer  
carbon deposits, lower  
maintenance costs,  
slashed benzene & related  
genotoxic, carcinogenic  
tailpipe emissions;

\*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for  
info, E30 prices\locations.

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

## Groton 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](http://www.grotonarea.com). Questions should be directed to Joe Schwan, Superintendent at 605-397-2351.

## 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 MS Students Attend Northwestern MS Music Festival

For the first time twenty-eight junior high students attended the 9th annual Northwestern Middle School Festival in Mellette on October 10th. Guest directors for the event was Groton's very own Mr. Cody Swanson for the choir and Mr. Reid Johnson for the band. Twenty-one students made up Groton's JH Choir and the remaining nine students represented the band.

There is a selected process for the band. Directors in the surrounding areas nominate students for this festival and a committee of directors decide who is accepted. Mrs. Yeigh nominated eleven Groton Band Students and nine of them were selected.

Along with Groton, fourteen other area schools were represented in this festival. The students worked with Mr. Swanson or Mr. Johnson all day to prepare pieces for an evening concert that was open to the public at Northwestern High School.



### Middle School Band Members

Front row from left to right: Ethan Clark-Baritone, Cole Bisbee-Baritone, Caleb Hanten-Trombone, and Andrew Marzahn-Trombone; back row from left to right: Kamryn Flihs-Tenor Sax, Jackson Dinger-French Horn, Mrs. Desiree Yeigh, Mr. Reid Johnson, Cassie Schultz-Trumpet, Ellie Weismantel- Percussion, and Rease Jandel-Bass Clarinet. (Courtesy Photo)

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 5 of 53



## Middle School Choir

Front row from left to right: Porter Johnson, Jackson Bahr, and Jacob Lewandowski; Second row from left to right: Michael Aalseth, Trinity Smith, Cadance Tullis, Ava Tunheim, Jacie Gleason, Nicole Figgora; Back row from left to right: Sarah Jacobs, Stella Meier, Shaylee Peterson, Sierra Ehresmann, Mr. Cody Swanson, Shaylee Peterson, Ava Kramer, Carter Barse, Julianna Kosel, Megan Fliehs, and KayLynn Overacker. (Courtesy Photo)



Here are all of the middle school students that participated at the festival. (Courtesy Photo)

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 6 of 53

**Former GHS Band Director Reid Johnson was the guest conductor at the Middle School Music Festival.** (Courtesy Photo)



**GHS Music Director Cody Swanson was the guest director at the Middle School Music Festival.** (Courtesy Photo)

## **Marshall County, South Dakota PRIVATE LAND SALE - 155 +/- ACRES**

Legal Description: The Northeast Quarter (NE ¼) of Section Nine (9), Township One Hundred Twenty-six (126), Range Fifty-nine (59), West of the 5th P.M., except five acres of said land in the northeast corner of said land which is used for cemetery purposes, Marshall County, South Dakota.

155 acres with the total acres to be determined by survey or the acres used by Farm Service Agency in Marshall County, South Dakota.

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SELLERS: Estate of Nancy L. Wright  
Clark Wright & Elizabeth LaRocque Co- Personal Representatives

ATTORNEY FOR SELLERS: Rick A. Ribstein – Ribstein & Hogan Law Firm, 621 6th Street, Brookings, SD 57006. Phone: (605) 692-1818

REVISED SALE/AUCTION FORMAT: Preliminary written bids will be accepted by Rick A. Ribstein, Attorney for Sellers, until 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Friday, October 20, 2017. Prospective purchasers will be notified by mail that they are invited to a private auction to be held in Amherst, South Dakota, on Friday, November 3, 2017. Sellers reserve the right to reject any or all bids.

PRELIMINARY WRITTEN BID FORMAT: Preliminary written bids may be submitted in the form of a letter mailed or delivered to Seller's Attorney at the address printed above. Preliminary bid letters should include bidder's name and mailing address, the preliminary bid amount, and should be accompanied by a check for a down payment equal to 5% of the preliminary bid amount. Down payment checks should be payable to Ribstein & Hogan Trust Account.

TERMS: 5% down with preliminary written bid. A 10% additional nonrefundable earnest money payment required on the day of sale and balance at closing. Possession will be subject to existing tenant's rights under their current lease and their rights to harvest the 2017 crops, with Fall tillage privileges for a new buyer(s) to be permitted with approval of the current tenants. Cost of owner's policy of title insurance and closing fees split 50/50. Sellers will pay the 2016 taxes due in 2017, and all prior taxes. 2017 taxes will be prorated until the day of closing.

INQUIRIES: Informal packages available upon request from Seller's Attorney. Questions about the real estate or auction format should be directed to Seller's Attorney by mail, or by calling (605) 692-1818. Ask for Rick A. Ribstein, Attorney or Sheila Maffett, Legal Secretary.

## National Teen Driver Safety Week: 6 Rules to Remember

Parents urged to remind teens of ways to avoid crash risks while behind the wheel.

Oct. 15, 2017 – AAA South Dakota joins the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and other traffic safety groups during National Teen Driver Safety Week (October 15-21) to encourage all parents to talk to their teen drivers about the rules of the road.

“Parents have a very strong influence on their teens, even as they grow older and become more independent, and thus can play an important role in helping ensure their teen drivers take smart steps to stay safe on the road,” said Marilyn Buskohl, spokesperson for AAA South Dakota “Parents and caregivers are urged to talk about safe driving behaviors with their teens to address the most dangerous and deadly teen driving behaviors: alcohol, lack of seat belt use, distracted and drowsy driving, speeding, and driving with passengers.”

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in the United States - ahead of all other types of injury, disease or violence. In 2015, 1,972 teen passenger-vehicle drivers (15 to 18 years old) were involved in fatal traffic crashes, resulting in 2,207 deaths nationwide, of which 1,730 were teens, according to NHTSA. An estimated 99,000 teen drivers of passenger vehicles were injured in motor vehicle traffic crashes.

Parents and caregivers are advised to discuss with their teen drivers the basic rules when behind the wheel to help reduce the risks for a crash:

**No Drinking and Driving.** All teens are too young to legally buy, possess, or consume alcohol, but they are still at risk. Nationally in 2015, almost one out of five teen passenger vehicle drivers involved in fatal crashes had been drinking. Remind your teen that driving under the influence of any impairing substance, including illicit and prescription drugs, could have deadly consequences and is strictly enforced.

**Buckle Up—Every Trip, Every Time. Everyone—Front Seat and Back.** Wearing a seat belt is one of the simplest ways for teens to stay safe in a vehicle and it is required in all 50 States. Yet too many teens are not buckling up, and neither are their passengers. In 2015, 531 passengers died in a car, truck, or SUV driven by a teen driver, and 58 percent of those passengers were NOT buckled up at the time of the fatal crash. Even more troubling, in 84 percent of cases when the teen driver was unbuckled, the passengers were also unbuckled. Remind your teen that it’s important to buckle up on every trip, every time, no matter what – front seat and back.

**Eyes on the Road, Hands on the Wheel.** All the Time. Distractions while driving are more than just risky—they can be deadly. In 2015, among teen passenger-vehicle drivers involved in fatal crashes, 10 percent were reported as distracted at the time of the crash. Remind your teen about the dangers of texting and using a phone while driving. Distracted driving isn’t limited to cell phone use; other passengers, audio and climate controls in the vehicle, and eating or drinking while driving are all examples of dangerous distractions for teen drivers.

**Follow the Posted Speed Limit.** Speeding is a critical issue for all drivers, especially for teens. In 2015, almost one-third (29 percent) of teen passenger vehicle drivers involved in a fatal crash were speeding at the time of the crash. Remind your teen to always drive within the speed limit.

**Passengers.** Passengers in a teen’s car can lead to disastrous consequences. According to data analyzed by NHTSA, teen drivers were 2.5 times more likely to engage in one or more potentially risky behaviors when driving with one teenage peer, when compared to driving alone. The likelihood of teen drivers engaging in risky behaviors triples when driving with multiple passengers.

**Avoid Driving Tired.** Teens are busier than ever – studying, extracurricular activities, part-time jobs, and spending time with friends are among the long list of things they do to fill their time. However, with all of these activities, teens tend to compromise something very important: sleep. This is a dangerous habit



that can lead to drowsy driving. Make sure your teen gets a good night's sleep; their grades, their friends, their passengers, and other drivers will thank them because they'll be a safer driver.

Parents can help protect their teen drivers by talking with them about these risks. Surveys show that teens whose parents set firm rules for driving typically engage in less risky driving behaviors and are involved in fewer crashes. Parents can create a parent-teen driving agreement that includes strict ground rules related to distraction while driving and teen passenger limits, as well as other risky behaviors such as speeding. Any violations should result in consequences such as a suspension of driving privileges.

"We hope parents will start the conversation about safe driving during National Teen Driver Safety Week – but then continue the conversations—every day throughout the year—to help keep their teens safe behind the wheel," added Buskohl.

## Comfort, Support, or Service from a Furry Friend



By Richard P. Holm M.D.

If you ask any of the members of my family to describe us, each would likely include our dog in that description. Our current dog Sasha was discovered at the Humane Society by our daughter, Julia. I asked Julia, "Why do you think our dog is good for us?" She quickly came back, "Sasha is playful and joyful, yet calming, soothing, relaxing, and comforting." She said, "Sasha is sad when you're sad and happy when you're happy; a companion that loves you unconditionally; and on top of all that, SHE IS SO CUTE!" Our son Preston points out how the dog protects our home by

bark-warning us of intruders and cleaning the floor of bug-alluring food spilled from the dinner table. Our son Carter referenced how the dog says to us in dog-speak, "Car ride? I wanna go." or, "Family is home, HOORAY!" Carter said, "It has something to do with her innocence, blind faith, and pure enthusiasm."

The four dogs I have loved in my lifetime could each be described by those same descriptors. It doesn't matter whether a person is emotionally devastated or filled with confidence, everyone can use a little companionship and unconditional love, especially during the lonely episodes that we all face, from time to time.

Different than a loving pet is a specially trained service dog. Service dogs are specially trained dogs who help individuals with mental or physical disabilities. Dogs can pull a person in a wheelchair, protect a person having a seizure, remind a person with mental illness to take their medicine, and calm a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack. Service animals are not restricted to just canines. Recently, miniature horses have been helpful for some disabled, and after special training, are being accepted as service animals as well.

Service dogs (and sometimes miniature horses) are allowed in places which serve the public, like restaurants or libraries. To allow this, however, the dogs or horses must be specially trained to perform specific tasks for their handler and be well behaved in public. Separate from these service animals are animals providing emotional support. Along with service animals, emotional support animals are allowed to live in housing that has a 'no pets policy' when a medical professional certifies that the individual has a verifiable disability and that the animal in question provides a benefit. Different from service dogs and miniature horses, comfort and emotional support pets do not need special training, but are often expected to be disciplined and well trained.

No question, our dog Sasha provides plenty of comfort and emotional support.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 10 of 53

## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings are now in first place in the NFC North after defeating the Green Bay Packers 23-10. The Vikings played a good game, but the Packers were without their starting quarterback Aaron Rodgers for much of the game, as he reportedly broke his collarbone in the first quarter. Fans of the Green Bay Packers will say this win doesn't count, but the Vikings entered the game without their top two quarterbacks (Sam Bradford, Teddy Bridgewater), starting running back (Dalvin Cook), and number one wide receiver (Stefon Diggs) - so there are no excuses.

With Sam Bradford still nursing a knee injury, Case Keenum got the start once again. He completed 24 of 38 passes for 239 yards, one touchdown and one interception. Keenum also showed off his mobility on a 16-yard scramble to give the Vikings a first down on 2nd and 7. Jerick McKinnon was the player of the game for Minnesota. McKinnon ran the ball 16 times for 69 yards (4.3 yards per carry) and caught five passes for 30 yards. He did fumble once, but he scored two touchdowns to even it out. The Vikings continue to split carries between McKinnon and Latavius Murray, but once again Murray was unable to get anything going on the ground (15 carries for 28 yards, 1.9 ypc).

With Stefon Diggs not suiting up because of a groin injury, Adam Thielen was clearly the go-to guy and he led the Vikings in receptions (9), receiving yards (97), and targets (13). Kyle Rudolph was getting involved as well, as he was second on the team with five catches on nine targets. Laquon Treadwell was actually second on the team with 51 receiving yards, and he also had the play of the game with a beautiful one-handed catch along the sidelines.

The Vikings defense was doing well against the Packers when Aaron Rodgers was still in the game, and they absolutely dominated once his backup (Brett Hundley) took over, limiting the Packers to only 227 total yards on the day. Three Viking defenders intercepted Brett Hundley - Harrison Smith, Trae Waynes, and Xavier Rhodes. The Vikings also sacked Hundley four times, broke up seven passes, and delivered 13 quarterback hits. All-in-all, it was a great performance by the Vikings defense. The only negative on the day was an injury to Anthony Barr, who didn't play the second half because of a concussion.

The Vikings are 4-2 on the season and lead the NFC North. The team should also be getting some good news this week, as Teddy Bridgewater is now eligible to come off the PUP. It will take Teddy a couple weeks of practice to get back up to game-speed, but he doesn't appear to have had any setbacks in his attempt to come back from a devastating knee injury that occurred last summer. The Vikings bye-week is week 9, and I would imagine we see Teddy under center week 10.

Looking ahead, the Vikings remain at home and welcome the Baltimore Ravens to town on Sunday, October 22. The game will start at noon Central Time. The Ravens are 3-3 this season, and are coming off an overtime loss to the Chicago Bears. The Vikings should be able to run the ball at will against the Ravens, as they have one of the worst run defenses in the league (they just allowed 231 rushing yards to the Bears). The Vikings will enter this game as heavy favorites, and they should have no problems beating Baltimore. Skol!

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 11 of 53

## SCHOOL SURPLUS AUCTION

809 N 6th St, Groton SD (School Bus Barns)  
Saturday, October 21, 2017 - 1:00 PM

### 1995 GMC 47 PASSENGER BLUE BIRD BUS

- 165,367 miles, 5 sp, Diesel Cat 6.6 L model 3116
- Tires 75%, 245/75R 22.5



### OFFICE/CLASSROOM

- Swintec 4000 electric typewriter
- "Jumbo" 160M laminator with 4 wheel cart
- Blue swivel desk chair
- Office type chairs - several
- LaserJet printer
- Metal desks
- Teacher desks - several
- 2-black stools
- Dukane movie projector
- Overhead projectors - several
- Free standing A-frame chalk/bulletin boards - several
- Leapfrog learning system
- Lots of misc. teaching supplies/books etc.

### KITCHEN/HOME

- Icemaker
- Maytag gas range stove with glass front (excellent condition)
- 2-Maytag electric stoves
- Whirlpool microwave
- Panasonic microwave
- Box of cooking pans/cutting boards
- Misc. cooking utensils
- 3- salad bar carts
- Handicapped shower chair
- Room fans - several
- Ceiling fans - several
- Small electric hanging heater
- Room dividers - several
- 6 ft and 8 ft folding tables - several
- 2 sanitizing stations
- Small iron and boards with box of misc.
- Box of sewing templates
- Baby carriers - several
- Realcare baby
- Child's pool/game table
- Assortment of kid's toys
- Playground equipment

### CABINETS

- 2 wire baskets
- Steel and wood storage lockers - several
- Card catalogue storage box
- Circular book rack
- File cabinets - several
- Book cases - assortment of different sizes
- Assortment of wall hanging cabinets
- Storage cabinets on wheels - several
- 4 wheel steel utility carts - several
- Wood shelving and accessories - several
- Assortment of wood/steel doors

### SCOREBOARD/ MAN CAVE SPECIAL

- Old school scoreboard with controller and bonus display



### MUSIC

- "Fender" Amplifier
- "Gallen-Krueger" Amplifier and Speaker
- "Hohner Bass 3" Keyboard
- "Standel" bass amplifier
- "Alesis QS 8.2" keyboard
- AM/FM karaoke machine
- Record player
- Box of music recorders
- 4- music storage units
- Boxes of show choir clothing - several

### MISCELLANEOUS

- 2 frames, matted, and numbered pictures - William Wilson - artist
- Framed/matted wall picture - B. Chipton, artist
- Golf pull-type caddy
- Wood shop clamps
- Several TV sets
- 7.4 fl. Fluorescent light fixtures
- 1- 8 ft fluorescent light fixture (new in box)
- Stage lighting fixtures
- Many misc. items

### Owner: Groton Area School District 06-6

**AUCTIONEERS:** Steve Simon and Gerard Simon  
**SALE DAY CELL PHONE:** Steve: 605-380-8506, Peggy: 605-380-8505  
**CLERK:** Simon Auction Service  
**WEBSITE:** [www.stevesimongroton.com](http://www.stevesimongroton.com)

The auction company, its employees and associates assume no responsibility for typographical or other errors, which may appear herein. Seller and Auctioneer make NO WARRANTIES, express or implied, to anyone about any aspect of any item, except that Seller will provide marketable title.

**TERMS:** Cash or bankable check. All items to be paid for and removed on day of auction. Announcements on sale day take precedence over printed material.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 12 of 53

## Today in Weather History

October 16, 1980: A squall line packing damaging winds developed across portions of central South Dakota and raced into Minnesota on the afternoon and evening. The line of thunderstorms developed around 2 pm CDT and moved east and northeast at over 50 miles an hour. A large portion of southeast South Dakota was belted with winds of 50 to 70 miles an hour. Yankton reported winds of 60 to 70 miles an hour while Sioux Falls was hit with a 62 mile an hour gust. Considerable damage was done in southeast South Dakota to trees, farm structures, and small buildings. Damage estimates were 100 to 200 thousand dollars. By late afternoon the thunderstorms were roaring through southwest Minnesota. Numerous outbuildings and many trees were downed or damaged. In Redwood County two combines and a 24-foot travel trailer were tipped over and damaged.

1913 - The temperature in Downtown San Francisco soared to 101 degrees to equal their record for October. (The Weather Channel)

1937 - An unlikely winter-like storm produced as much as ten inches of snow in Minnesota and Iowa.

1944: The 1944 Cuba – Florida hurricane, also known as the Pinar del Rio Hurricane, struck western Cuba on this day as a Category 4. This storm killed an estimated 300 people in Cuba and nine in Florida. This hurricane is currently the 7th costliest U.S. Atlantic hurricane with an estimated \$46.9 billion (2015 USD) in damages.

1987 - Ten cities in the southeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. The low of 34 degrees at Augusta GA marked their third straight morning of record cold. A cold front brought showers and thunderstorms to parts of the central U.S. Lightning struck a bull and six cows under a tree near Battiest OK. (The National Weather Summary)

1988: An F2 tornado carved a 6 mile long, east-northeast path through a mostly rural area of north-central Indiana. The extremely slow-moving tornado touched down 1.5 miles north of Nappanee, just 300 yards north of a high school, and shortly after that moved through a subdivision where 11 homes sustained damage.

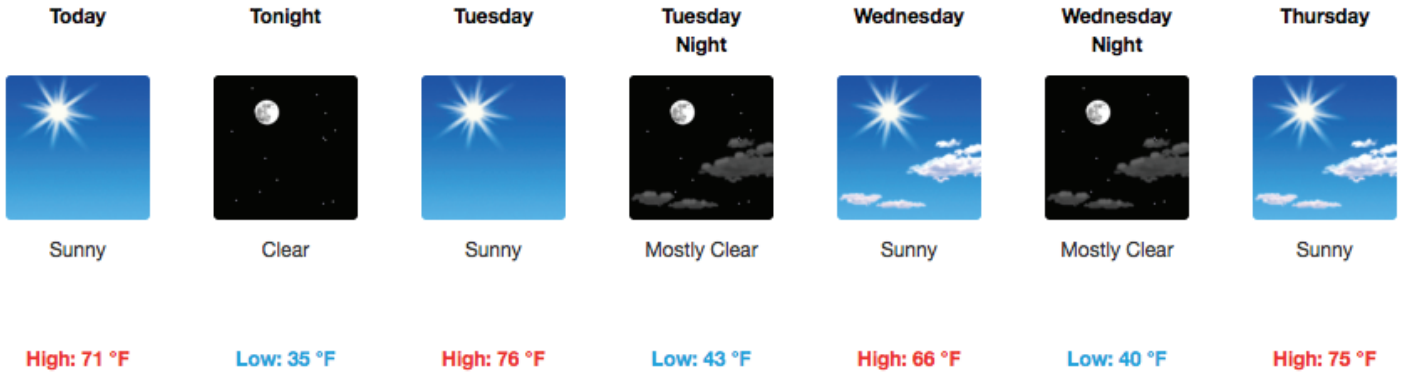
1988 - Late afternoon thunderstorms produced severe weather in southwestern Lower Michigan and northern Indiana. One thunderstorm spawned a tornado north of Nappanee IN which caused half a million dollars damage. Six cities in California reported record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 100 degrees at Red Bluff CA was the latest such reading of record for so late in the autumn season. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Heavy snow blanketed the foothills of Colorado. Up to three inches was reported around Denver. Echo Lake was buried under nineteen inches of snow. Temperatures again warmed into the 80s and lower 90s in the eastern and south central U.S. Thirteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Atlantic City NJ with a reading of 84 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

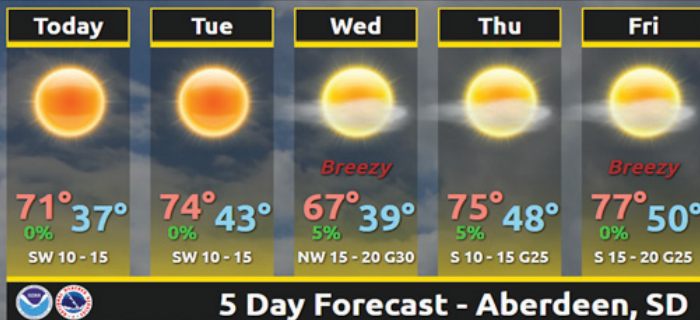
2007: A blinding sandstorm in the high desert north of Los Angeles wreaks havoc with local traffic causing a highway pileup involving dozens of vehicles. Two people die, and 16 are injured as a result of the storm which reportedly raised dust to 1000 foot high.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 13 of 53

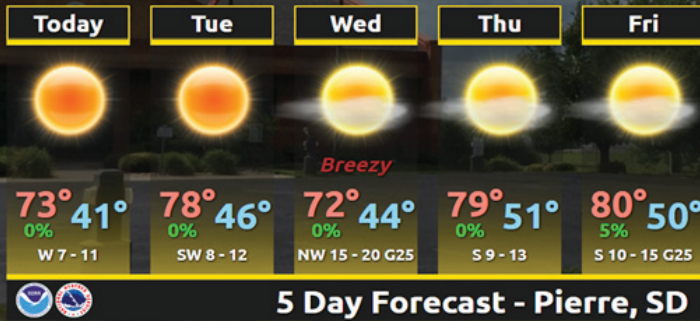


## The Warming Starts Today!



Highs in the 60s and 70s all week long! (mostly 70s)

Dry conditions as well



[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 10/16/2017 at 5:24AM

The warming trend will start today and last all week, with temperatures well above normal through Friday. It could get downright warm at times as conditions also remain dry through the week. Highs will be in the 70s for much of the week, although a few 60s will be found for eastern areas today, then again on Wednesday for northern areas. Central South Dakota could even be flirting with 80 degrees at times this week. Keep in mind that the fire danger over central South Dakota will also be high at times due to low relative humidity and breezy winds. If anyone has outdoor tasks to get completed before the snow and cold temps eventually arrive, this week is the time to do it!

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 14 of 53

## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 59.2 at 4:42 PM

Low Outside Temp: 26.4 at 7:56 AM

High Gust: 21 mph at 4:50 PM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 90° in 1991

Record Low: 19° in 1976

Average High: 58°F

Average Low: 33°F

Average Precip in Oct: 1.16

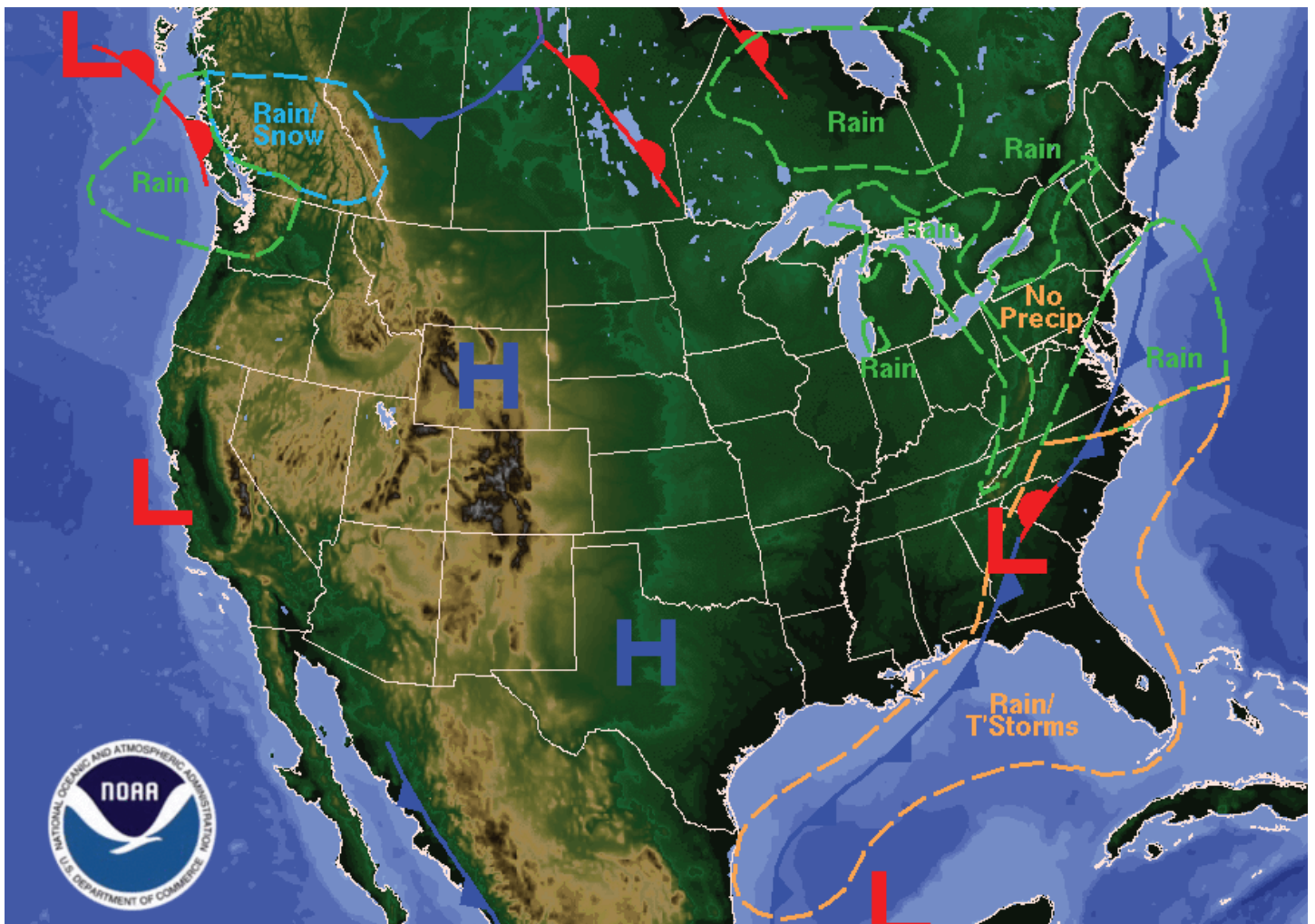
Precip to date in Oct: 0.67

Average Precip to date: 19.64

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 6:45 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:52 a.m.



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Oct 16, 2017, issued 4:16 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

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 15 of 53



## WHAT IS AN AZIMUTH?

He stood before my desk with a set of orders and said, "FTC Nichols reporting for duty, Sir." Not hearing his designator very clearly I asked, "What do you do for the Navy?"

"Sir," he said crisply, "I recently completed a tour of duty on a guided missile frigate. I was the one who was responsible for making certain that the azimuth on each weapon system was operational and accurate, Sir." He certainly had my attention and spoke in a convincing manner. There was no doubt in my mind that he was competent to do his job and that all weapon systems under his control would deliver their missiles to the intended target at the precise moment.

God wants to place His "azimuth" in our hearts. David wrote, "My heart is steadfast O God; My heart is steadfast." So committed was he to the Lord that he emphasized the word "steadfast" by stating it twice. But there is something more.

The word "steadfast" can also be interpreted, even more correctly in this verse, as "confident!" Here we see David finding inner satisfaction in God after following many ill-fated paths. His firm faith resulted in an inner transformation that was now going to be visible by the way he worshiped and served God.

When we completely commit our lives to God, He will give us His guidance system to control the destiny of our lives. His Word will become our "azimuth."

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for Your Word that can be a lamp for our feet and a light for our path to guide us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 57:7 My heart, O God, is steadfast, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music.

## 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 Meat- 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



## News from the Associated Press

### South Dakota synagogue celebrates 100 years

By **KELDA J.L. PHARRIS**, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Like many settlers of the Northern Plains, Jewish immigrants moved west from East Coast landings with sights set on prosperity offered by the Homestead Act of 1862.

"The earliest people from the 1800s were here because of the pogroms in eastern European countries. It was affectively ... ethnic cleansing is the modern term." Jerry Taylor told the Aberdeen American News Pogroms are riots with the intent of persecuting ethnic groups.

"They put pressure on the Jews to leave," he said. "At the time, the United States was trying to fill this vast emptiness of the middle of the country. Here it was, free land. And in the Jewish countries Jews couldn't own land."

Taylor is a member of Aberdeen's Congregation B'nai Isaac. The synagogue is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

The first rabbi to serve Aberdeen and surrounding area was Julius Hess. He arrived in 1914 and was integral to getting a permanent temple for the young Jewish community.

One of the first services for Hanukkah, in December 1916, also celebrated the preliminary plans to build a temple. At the time, the synagogue had 33 charter members with more than 60 people attending the festival of lights.

Ultimately, the temple was not built, but instead purchased from the First Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1917.

Congregation B'nai Isaac was incorporated May 5, 1917, by founders Ben Brussel, Isadore Predemstky, Samuel Calmenson, William Ribnick, Isadore Kraywetz, Maz Anton and Harry Abramsdn, according to American News archives.

Hess gave the dedication in both English and Yiddish. The service also included the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner," according to newspaper accounts.

A number of rabbis served B'nai Isaac into the early 1970s. Lay clergy have conducted ceremonies, holiday gatherings and regular services since, with the occasional visiting rabbi stopping by. For the past several years, the lay clergy duties have been fulfilled by Herschel Premack of Aberdeen. His father came to the area in 1916 at the age of 18.

The wealth of families who were members through the congregation's 100-plus years have left their stamp on the region.

The first efforts to work the prairie didn't come easy to Jewish settlers.

"A lot of the Jews were not farmers and moved on to other occupations," Taylor said.

Premack gave the example of one family running an Army surplus store and eventually growing it into a clothing store. Others ran delis and markets.

"Those were the years where every other block had a grocery store," Premack said. "A lot of them would wind up settling someplace and have a store. Then their kids would spread to other towns and open stores."

A history of those first families has been recorded. Matt Remmich was tasked with the job. He's a graduate student at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. He previously attended a Bible group in the basement of the synagogue while an undergrad student Northern State University. Later he worked with the South Dakota State Historical Society, so the congregation thought he'd be perfectly suited for the task.

Names of now-closed Aberdeen businesses like Feinstein's and Pred's were started by some of the first Jewish families to move to town.

"It's really interesting that a lot of the people in the region will always remember those two iconic stores," Remmich sai. He said several people have told him they had a coat or a family hand-me-down from one of the shops.

The local Jewish community ebbed and flowed through the years. In the 1930s Dust Bowl era, many

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 18 of 53

decided to head farther west to California, Arizona and Nevada.

Then, in 1950, the synagogue building was lifted to have a basement put in. A sign of facility improvement meant stabilization for the previously waning Jewish community.

A number of rabbis had columns or moments of reflection in Aberdeen newspapers. In one, Rabbi Benjamin Mazor warned against the trappings of credit card debt. The rabbis also had posts and leadership roles with various community clubs.

The congregation's religious services evolved with its changing numbers, including going without a full-time rabbi. But the congregation as a whole has always been an active outreach to the community, an advocate for new residents and an educational tool to help people better understand Judaism.

"We've always worked with the diversity committees. When they started several years ago, we were part of that. We've always been available when new people come to town, sometimes even when people are job-searching and want to know if there's a Jewish community here," Bea Premack said. "St. Mary's (Catholic Church, just to the east of the synagogue) invited us to do a Passover Seder a couple years ago."

A Seder is a ritual and ceremonious dinners served during the Passover holiday.

Members of the congregation offer services to Jewish people who find themselves in the hospital. The temple has good relationships with Northern State University and Presentation College, Premack said. Sometimes classes pass through for tours or the congregants will set up informational booths at events.

The now-synagogue is one of the 10 oldest buildings in Aberdeen according to American News archives. It was built in 1886 for the Wesleyan Methodist Church. It's also touted as the oldest synagogue in continuous use in South Dakota, according to a pamphlet printed for the open house.

There are two other synagogues in South Dakota — Synagogue of the Hills in Rapid City and Mount Zion Temple in Sioux Falls.

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

## South Dakota community celebrates new bridge to trail

By TOM GRIFFITH, Rapid City Journal

SAVOY, S.D. (AP) — On a sun-struck Thursday, surrounded by cascading autumn leaves above a stunning waterfall, saviors of Spearfish Canyon gathered to dedicate the newest improvement to a special place that "is being loved to death."

Some 50 representatives of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Spearfish Canyon Foundation, U.S Forest Service and area chambers of commerce celebrated completion of the new Spearfish Falls Trail, the second of a three-phase attempt to preserve and protect the most visited spots in one of the Black Hills' most popular destinations, the Rapid City Journal reported .

The first phase, completed in 2008, targeted Roughlock Falls with upgrades to trails and railings to improve accessibility as well as to protect the environmentally sensitive canyon from continued erosion caused by heavy visitation.

The second phase greatly improved access to Spearfish Falls, added an observation deck which cantilevers over the sides of the falls, and placed interpretive signage and maps along the trail that are intended to educate and engage hikers.

In addition to grant assistance from the federal Recreational Trails Program, the National Guard provided backing during last summer's Operation Golden Coyote by removing an aging bridge that spanned the creek and building a new one, as well as construction of a lower observation deck.

All told, the game, fish and parks department invested about \$400,000 in the project, according to Assistant Director Al Nedved. But Nedved's boss said the project was truly the result of public-private partnerships.

"Today is a celebration of partnerships, first with Homestake/Barrick, then with the Spearfish Canyon Foundation, and finally the commitment of the state of South Dakota to preserve this area that has been loved to death," said Kelly Hepler, secretary of the state game, fish and parks department.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 19 of 53

Custer State Park Director Matt Snyder, who helped oversee the project, praised the foundation for acquiring the land and his department's staff for making the new trail system a reality.

"This is a great day, and a great project coming to completion," Snyder said in remarks made near the Latchstring Inn. He added that, while the project is substantially complete, "there will be some improvements, some tweaks to come. Our work is never done."

Spearfish Canyon Foundation Past President Susan Johnson said her nonprofit organization had raised nearly \$800,000 and worked with local landowners and Barrick over the past decade to acquire properties included in the new trail system.

"This project took passion and patience," Johnson said. "We love being a part of this."

Before heading out on a one-hour guided hike along the new trail with her grandparents, Katie Ceroll, director of the state game, fish and parks department's Division of Parks and Recreation, said she found great satisfaction in witnessing how all of the partners in the project greeted Thursday's dedication.

"The biggest part today was just watching the partners' contentment and seeing the smiles on all of their faces," Ceroll said. "The true experience resulting from this partnership revolves around families and providing a multigenerational opportunity to recreate together."

A third-phase project in Spearfish Canyon, projected for completion next summer, will include a trail network linking Roughlock Falls, Spearfish Falls and the Savoy pond, located about two miles southwest of the Spearfish Canyon Lodge, according to Shannon Percy, district park supervisor for GF&P.

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

## Vikings D takes down Rodgers, dismantles Packers 23-10

By DAVE CAMPBELL, AP Pro Football Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers arrived at the Super Bowl site for this season, with a realistic goal of returning to Minnesota in four months for a crack at another championship.

Their chance of returning in February took an awfully big hit when Rodgers broke his collarbone .

Harrison Smith led Minnesota defense in a thorough dismantling of the Packers after Rodgers left the field on a cart, taking a big piece of Green Bay's title aspirations with him and paving the way for a 23-10 victory by the Vikings on Sunday at U.S. Bank Stadium that transformed the trajectory of the NFC North race.

The Packers said Rodgers could be done for the season.

"I love playing against him. He's a competitor," said Vikings defensive end Everson Griffen, who had one of four sacks of backup Brett Hundley after Rodgers fell on his throwing shoulder after being taken down by Anthony Barr during an incompletion on the second drive for the Packers.

"I wish him the best, but we went out there and won the game under any circumstances. As for the game plan, we stuck with it."

Smith had 1½ sacks on safety blitzes, a diving interception and two pass breakups, helping the Vikings (4-2) limit the injury-depleted Packers to a season-low 227 yards. The Packers had five first downs and 102 yards over the first three quarters.

"It's a tricky situation, especially when the starting quarterback goes down and you're just in there," said Hundley, who completed 18 of 33 passes for 157 yards and his first career touchdown, to Davante Adams , but threw three interceptions.

"I've been preparing for this moment for a long time now. Obviously, we didn't get the job done today. But we'll be better."

Barr, who later left with a concussion, was not penalized for the hit on Rodgers. The Packers didn't make a fuss, clearly more concerned about trying to recover from the emotional setback and bring Hundley up to speed with the rest of the offense as quickly as possible.

"I know Anthony Barr personally," Hundley said of his former UCLA teammate. "I wouldn't imagine he's a dirty player."

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 20 of 53

Vikings backup Case Keenum made his fourth start and finished for the fifth time in place of Sam Bradford, who's been waylaid by wear and tear in his twice-repaired left knee.

The drop-off from Bradford to Keenum hasn't been nearly as steep for the Vikings as what the Packers are facing without the two-time NFL MVP. Coach Mike McCarthy dismissed a question about signing a free agent quarterback.

"It's a big deal, you know?" Adams said. "We suffered a lot of injuries, lost the game, and a lot of guys in this locker room aren't OK with things like that. But at the same time, we have a lot of faith in Brett Hundley, and it's up to us to do our part."

Keenum went 24 for 38 for 239 yards without top wide receiver Stefon Diggs, who was out with a groin injury. He threw 13 times to Adam Thielen, completing nine for 97 yards.

Keenum was intercepted for the first time this season, but he connected with Jerick McKinnon on a screen pass for a touchdown and again gave the Vikings a confident, energetic presence in the huddle. He wasn't sacked.

"I felt very comfortable out there," Keenum said, adding: "I just have to keep doing my job."

Here are some other key developments from the game:

## PACKERS SECONDARY, A PRIMARY CONCERN

McCarthy said he was concerned about his defense entering the game, with three starters, cornerbacks Davon House and Kevin King and strong safety Morgan Burnett, ruled out with injuries. Then another cornerback, Quinten Rollins, hurt his ankle and didn't return.

"We'll just continue to work through it," McCarthy said.

## QUIET RETURN

The Packers had Ty Montgomery back at tailback after missing the previous game because of broken ribs, but he was limited to 28 yards on 10 carries. Aaron Jones gained 41 yards on 13 attempts. Montgomery made a juggling catch at the goal line that was ultimately ruled incomplete by replay review reversal, forcing a short field goal instead and keeping the Vikings in front 14-10 right before halftime.

## SO MUCH FOR THAT

For the first time in six games this season, the Packers had their entire starting offensive line intact. That lasted about half the game. Right tackle Bryan Bulaga was removed because of a concussion, and left tackle David Bakhtiari's hamstring flared up again after he missed the previous four games with the injury. Left guard Lane Taylor also departed with injuries to his ankle and knee.

"We have to keep weathering that storm," Bakhtiari said.

## STEPPING UP

The Vikings have benefited from quality depth beyond just Keenum. With tailback Dalvin Cook done for the season because of a torn ACL in his left knee, McKinnon has raised his productivity. He has 245 total yards and three touchdowns on 43 touches over the past two games, making up for a lost fumble that Clay Matthews returned 63 yards to set up Hundley's touchdown pass.

"He makes us look good," left guard Jeremiah Sirles said.

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and [http://www.twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Officials open to addressing initiative campaign finance gap

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota voters last year rejected a push by a Georgia-based car title lender to amend the state constitution to allow unlimited interest rates after the company spent more than \$1.8 million on the campaign.

Almost all of that money — over \$1.5 million — went to collecting thousands of signatures just to get the amendment on the ballot, but the company's contributions didn't become public until months after voters signed on and their names had been submitted to the state.

A new batch of ballot measure campaigns — on everything from government ethics to marijuana laws

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 21 of 53

— are now collecting signatures before next month's submission deadline to get on the 2018 ballot. And campaign finance rules still don't require them to reveal who is paying for the push until next year.

But several South Dakota officials have said recently they're open to more financial reporting requirements for initiatives earlier in the election cycle, while supporters are in the vital stage of shopping their causes before voters. One state senator, after being contacted by The Associated Press, said he is having legislation drafted and would solicit feedback from other lawmakers before next year's legislative session.

"It would inform citizens so they would have some chance of knowing who is actually paying for a ballot committee's work before they sign the petition," said Democratic Sen. Reynold Nesiba, who helped lead a successful 2016 initiative to cap payday loan interest rates.

Nesiba plans to run idea past other members of a legislative panel that met this year to weigh changes to South Dakota's ballot question process. A different campaign finance task force is to meet Monday at the Capitol, and Chairman Jordan Youngberg, a Republican senator, said he's open to discussing the issue.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard's chief of staff, Tony Venhuizen, said in an email that the governor hasn't reviewed a bill on the topic, but "thinks the argument for this makes sense."

Republican officials have frequently complained about out-of-state interests experimenting with South Dakota's laws and constitution and have discussed changes to the state's ballot question system.

House Speaker Mark Mickelson said he has no objections to addressing the issue, but said it's not at the top of his list of desired changes to the ballot measure process. Mickelson is currently pursuing two measures of his own: One would ban out-of-state political contributions for ballot questions, and the other would raise tobacco taxes to improve tech school affordability.

The 2016 election season featured 10 ballot questions and more than \$10 million from out-of-state sources, including Alpharetta-based car title lender Select Management Resources LLC, which also funded opposition to the short-term lending interest rate cap that voters passed. CEO Rod Aycox hasn't returned telephone messages requesting comment from The AP since June 2015, while constitutional amendment sponsor Lisa Furlong largely avoided speaking publicly about the campaign.

Records filed when a campaign organizes do list a committee chair and treasurer. And some initiative campaigns voluntarily discuss funders with the public.

For example, a national nonprofit in August publicly pledged \$140,000 to help supporters gather signatures for a constitutional amendment that would move South Dakota to an open primary system for many political races.

More than 10 initiatives proposed for 2018 have been approved to circulate. Initiated measures need nearly 14,000 valid signatures, while constitutional amendments require almost 28,000 names.

"I'd like to know who is funding the marijuana petition, who is funding the tobacco tax," Nesiba said. "That'd be useful to know, and it'd be useful to know now."

## Sioux Falls library to offer free Lakota language classes

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The man who oversees a Lakota language program at Sioux Falls public schools is now offering Lakota classes to the public.

Tim Easter will teach one-hour classes one Sunday a month at the Downtown Library in Sioux Falls until January, the Argus Leader reported.

"If we can somehow get families feeling connected to culture and the community, then I think it could be the start of good things happening," Easter said.

Easter is Oglala Sioux and said his mother would speak Lakota during his childhood. He decided to learn more about the language and become certified to teach it to the next generation of speakers.

"Hearing the things that my mom used to say, you know, hearing her talk with my aunts and my uncles," Easter said. "Even as a kid, I was already interested in it."

Less than 10 percent of Lakota people speak the language, and most of them are elders. Easter says the language was "pretty much forbidden" for years, with Native American children sent to federal boarding schools where speaking Lakota was a punishable offense.

Easter said that even after being marginalized and repressed for decades, there has been a resurgence of interest in the Lakota language.

"The pendulum has gone the other way," he said.

He said there's now a strong interest in preserving the language at reservation schools and in South Dakota communities, especially in the western half of the state.

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

## Small South Dakota towns work to save stores

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Some small towns in southeast South Dakota are seeking ways to keep area stores alive after a grocer says he might have to close those stores down at the end of the year.

Grocer R.F. Buche said he's committed to his stores in Tripp, Scotland and Tyndall, but can't afford to stay in operation at the current sales level. Buche's stores are the only grocery in each community, the Yankton Press & Dakotan reported.

"We either need twice the number of customers at the same level of spending, or our current customers have to spend twice as much as they do now," Buche said.

The grocer said he's willing to run the three stores on little profit or break-even.

"I'm absolutely fine with that," he said. "I'll work for that (level) if it means they will have grocery stores that we can keep going."

Buche has met with leaders in the three communities to make them aware of the situation and seek answers. Tripp officials said they plan to hold a community meeting to get the word out.

"I think the mayor is calling a meeting in about a week," said Bob Just, a resident of Tripp. "We have young (residents) who are really trying to create extra support for the store. They realize what needs to be done. They're trying to round up the community and get everybody on the same page."

Buche said he remains committed to keeping the stores open at least another month before making a final decision.

"We'll definitely hold on until after Christmas, until the first of the year," he said. "After that, we'll see how it goes."

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

## Did he or didn't he? No clarity on Catalan independence bid

By ARITZ PARRA, Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — A Monday morning deadline came and went without the president of the Catalonia region clarifying whether he had declared independence from Spain, and the Spanish government says he now has until Thursday to backtrack on any steps the region has taken toward secession.

Catalan President Carles Puigdemont and Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy exchanged letters but made no headway in the conflict, one of the deepest political crises the country has faced in the four decades since democracy was restored.

Responding to a demand from Spain's central government to state explicitly whether he had declared independence, Puigdemont instead sent a four-page letter seeking two months of negotiations and mediation.

"The priority of my government is to intensively seek a path to dialogue," Puigdemont said in his letter. "We want to talk ... Our proposal for dialogue is sincere and honest."

Rajoy's response came less than two hours later. The conservative prime minister lamented that Puigdemont had declined to answer the question and said that he has until Thursday morning to fall in line.

Otherwise, he faces the possibility of Spain activating Article 155 of the Constitution, which would allow the central government to rescind some of the powers that Catalonia has to govern itself. The wealthy northeast region, which includes Barcelona, is home to 7.5 million people and contributes a fifth of Spain's

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 23 of 53

1.1 trillion-euro (\$1.3 trillion) economy. Polls have shown about half of the people there don't want to secede.

"To extend this situation of uncertainty is only favoring those who are trying to destroy civic concord and impose a radical and impoverishing project in Catalonia," Rajoy wrote in his letter.

"It wasn't very difficult to say yes or no," Rajoy's number 2, deputy prime minister Soraya Saenz de Santamaria, told reporters in Madrid. "That was the question that was asked and the response shouldn't be complicated."

Saenz de Santamaria said that Puigdemont's call for dialogue is "not credible" and that Spain's national parliament is the place to talk.

Spain has repeatedly said that it's not willing to sit down with Puigdemont if calls for independence are on the table, or to accept any international mediation at all.

The new deadline gives him till Thursday to either say he didn't declare independence or to show he's taking action to cancel the declaration if he did.

Puigdemont held a banned independence referendum on Oct. 1. Those who voted were overwhelmingly in favor of the wealthy northeast region seceding from the rest of the country, but fewer than half of those eligible turned out to cast ballots.

Based on the referendum, Puigdemont made an ambiguous declaration of independence last week, then immediately suspended it to allow time for talks and mediation.

In Monday's letter, he called on Spanish authorities to halt "all repression" in Catalonia, referring to a police crackdown during the referendum that left hundreds injured.

He said the Spanish government should also end its sedition case against two senior Catalan regional police force officers and the leaders of two pro-independence associations. All four, including Catalan police chief Josep Lluís Trapero and Jordi Sanchez, the head of the Catalan National Assembly, were due at a hearing Monday in Spain's National Court in Madrid.

Officials are investigating the roles of the four in Sept. 20-21 demonstrations in Barcelona. Spanish police arrested several Catalan officials and raided offices in a crackdown on referendum preparations.

The four were released after questioning Oct. 6, but the court said they would be recalled once it reviewed new police evidence relating to the referendum.

Trapero and Sanchez arrived separately to the court and were greeted by shouts of "traitors" by one or two protesters.

Sanchez and Jordi Cuixart, leader of the pro-secession Omnium Cultural group who is also under investigation, were greeted by several dozen supporters from pro-independence Catalan parties who chanted "you are not alone" as the two entered the court together amid heavy security.

Court officials said it wasn't immediately known if the fourth suspect, Catalan police Lt. Teresa Laplana, would testify by video conference from Barcelona.

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Associated Press writers Ciaran Giles in Madrid and Frank Griffiths in London contributed to this report.

## **Iraqi forces drive Kurds from disputed areas near Kirkuk**

**By BALINT SZLANKO, Associated Press**

KIRKUK, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi Kurdish officials said early Monday that federal forces and state-backed militias have launched a "major, multi-pronged" attack aimed at retaking Kirkuk, as fighting erupted just outside the disputed northern city.

Kurdish forces appeared to be pulling back, abandoning fortified positions around the airport as large numbers of civilians fled the northern city ahead of a feared assault. The multi-ethnic city, home to some 1 million Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen and Christians, is claimed by autonomous Kurdish authorities as well as the central government in Baghdad.

The conflict pits two close U.S. allies against each other, potentially undermining the unfinished war against the Islamic State group.

The Kurdistan Region Security Council said in a statement that the Kurdish forces, known as the pesh-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 24 of 53

merga, destroyed at least five U.S.-supplied Humvees being used by Iraq's state-sanctioned militias following the "unprovoked attack" south of the city.

Brig. Gen. Bahzad Ahmed, a spokesman for Kurdish forces, said federal forces have seized an oil and gas company and other industrial areas south of Kirkuk in fighting with Kurdish forces that caused "lots of casualties," without providing a specific figure.

He said Iraqi forces have "burnt lots of houses and killed many people" in Toz Khormato and Daquq, south of the disputed city. His claims could not be independently verified.

Iraq's Interior Ministry said in a brief statement that federal forces have taken control of a power plant, a police station and industrial areas near Kirkuk. It provided no further details on the fighting or casualties in what it referred to as Operation Impose Security on Kirkuk.

Tensions have soared since the Kurds held a non-binding referendum last month in which they voted for independence from Iraq. The central government, along with neighboring Turkey and Iran, rejected the vote.

The United States has supplied and trained Iraqi federal forces and the peshmerga, both of which are fighting the Islamic State group. The U.S. also opposed the referendum, and has urged both sides to remain focused on defeating the extremists.

U.S. Army Col. Ryan Dillon, a spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition, tweeted that it was "closely monitoring sit. near Kirkuk; urge all sides to avoid escalatory actions. Finish the fight vs. #ISIS, biggest threat to all." ISIS is another acronym for the Islamic State group.

The central government and the autonomous Kurdish region in the north have long been divided over oil revenues and the fate of disputed territories like Kirkuk that are controlled by Kurdish forces but are outside their self-ruled region.

The Kurds assumed control of Kirkuk, in the heart of a major oil-producing region, in the summer of 2014, when IS militants swept across northern Iraq and the country's armed forces crumbled.

Iraq has since rebuilt its armed forces with considerable U.S. aid, and they are battle-hardened and flush with victory after driving IS from most of the territory it once held. Fighting alongside the armed forces are tens of thousands of state-sanctioned militiamen, mainly Shiite Arab fighters backed by Iran, whom the Kurds view as an instrument of demographic change.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi had vowed that the militias, known as the Popular Mobilization Forces, would remain outside the city, but an Associated Press reporter saw them taking up posts that had been abandoned by Kurdish forces in western Kirkuk.

The Kurdish security council said the assault launched late Sunday was aimed at entering the city and retaking the K-1 military base and nearby oil fields.

State-run Al-Iraqiya TV had earlier reported that federal forces rolled into parts of the countryside outside Kirkuk without facing resistance. However, some residents of the city and an Iraqi militia commander reported shelling.

Al-Iraqiya carried a statement from al-Abadi's office saying he had ordered federal forces to "impose security in the city in cooperation with the inhabitants and the peshmerga," indicating he was willing to share administration.

A commander of the local Kurdish police force said his forces remained in control of the province's disputed oil wells. "There's been no agreement to hand over the wells until now. As for the future, I don't know," said Bahja Ahmad Amin.

Ercuman Turkman, a PMF commander, said shortly before forces began moving in that he expected orders to move on Kirkuk's oil wells, its airport and the nearby K-1 military base, but not the city. Haytham Hashem, another PMF commander, reported shelling on his position in Toz Khormato, 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the edge of Kirkuk city.

Baghdad has been turning the screws on the Kurdish region since the September referendum, pushing Kurd leaders to disavow the vote and accept shared administration over Kirkuk.

Iraq's government barred international flights to and from the region and asked neighboring Turkey and Iran to close their borders. Iran closed its three official crossings with the Kurdish region Sunday, Kurdish



media reported. It also froze currency transfers to four banks operating in the Kurdish region.

Al-Abadi has demanded shared administration over Kirkuk. His Cabinet said Sunday that fighters from Turkey's Kurdish insurgency, the PKK, were beginning to appear in Kirkuk, and declared that would be tantamount to an act of war.

Associated Press writers Emad Matti in Irbil, Iraq, and Philip Issa in Baghdad contributed to this report.

## Somalia truck bombing toll over 300 as funerals continue

By **ABDI GULED, Associated Press**

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — The death toll from Saturday's truck bombing in Somalia's capital is now over 300, the director of an ambulance service said Monday, as this country reeled from the deadliest single attack it's ever experienced.

More people have died of their wounds in the past few hours, said Dr. Abdulkadir Adam of Aamin Ambulance. Funerals have continued and the government said the death toll is expected to rise.

Saturday's truck bombing targeted a crowded street in Mogadishu, and about 300 others were injured. Somalia's government is blaming the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group, which has not commented.

More than 70 critically injured people were being airlifted to Turkey for treatment on Monday as international aid began to arrive, said officials. Nervous relatives stood on the tarmac at the airport, praying for the recovery of their loved ones.

Overwhelmed hospitals in Mogadishu were struggling to assist other badly wounded victims, many burned beyond recognition.

The attack was one of the worst in the world in recent years. It is one of the deadliest attacks in sub-Saharan Africa, larger than the Garissa University attack in Kenya in 2015, in which 148 died, and the U.S. Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998, in which about 219 were killed.

In addition to Turkey, Kenya and Ethiopia have offered to send medical aid in response to what Somali's government has called a "national disaster," said Information Minister Abdirahman Osman.

Al-Shabab, Africa's deadliest Islamic extremist group, often targets high-profile areas of Mogadishu. Earlier this year, it vowed to step up attacks after both the Trump administration and Somalia's recently elected president announced new military efforts against the group.

The country's Somali-American leader, President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, has declared three days of mourning and joined thousands of people who responded to a desperate plea by hospitals to donate blood.

"This is really horrendous, unlike any other time in the past," said Dr. Mohamed Yusuf, the director of Medina hospital.

Exhausted doctors struggled to keep their eyes open, while screams from victims and newly bereaved families echoed through the halls.

Mogadishu, a city long accustomed to deadly bombings by al-Shabab, was stunned by the force of Saturday's blast. The explosion shattered hopes of recovery in an impoverished country left fragile by decades of conflict, and it again raised doubts over the government's ability to secure the seaside city of more than 2 million people.

The United States has condemned the bombing, saying "such cowardly attacks reinvigorate the commitment of the United States to assist our Somali and African Union partners to combat the scourge of terrorism." It tweeted a photo of its charge d'affaires in Somalia donating blood. But the U.S. Africa Command said U.S. forces had not been asked to provide aid.

The U.S. military has stepped up drone strikes and other efforts this year against al-Shabab, which is also fighting the Somali military and over 20,000 African Union forces in the country.

Saturday's blast occurred two days after the head of the U.S. Africa Command was in Mogadishu to meet with Somalia's president, and two days after the country's defense minister and army chief resigned

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 26 of 53

for undisclosed reasons.

The United Nations special envoy to Somalia called the attack "revolting." Michael Keating said the U.N. and African Union were supporting the Somali government's response with "logistical support, medical supplies and expertise."

## 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. 'MAJOR, MULTI-PRONGED' ATTACK NEAR KIRKUK

Iraqi Kurdish officials say that federal forces and state-backed militias have launched an assault aimed at retaking the disputed northern city.

### 2. DEATH TOLL EXCEEDS 300 IN SOMALIA TRUCK BOMBING

This is the deadliest single attack the Horn of Africa nation has ever experienced, which Mogadishu is blaming on the al-Shabab extremist group.

### 3. WHAT SPAIN IS SAYING ABOUT CATALAN LEADER

The deputy prime minister says Carles Puigdemont didn't give an adequate response in his letter about the Catalonia's independence and has until Thursday to comply with the country's laws.

### 4. COLLINS: TRUMP SHOULD BACK EFFORT TO RESUME HEALTH SUBSIDY

The moderate Republican senator from Maine says the president's move threatens millions of Americans who could now face rising premiums and lost health care coverage.

### 5. FINALLY, RAY OF HOPE IN CALIFORNIA

With winds dying down, fire officials say they have apparently "turned a corner" against the wildfires that have devastated the state's wine country and other sections.

### 6. WHOSE MEETING WILL BE CLOSELY WATCHED

There'll likely be a chill in the air when Trump meets with Senate Majority Leader McConnell at the White House, given their rocky relationship.

### 7. WHERE HARVEY IS CHANGING SOME MINDS

In flood-devastated Jefferson County, Texas, some Republicans who live there believe Trump should no longer deny the threat of climate change, AP finds.

### 8. BOWE BERGDAHL HAS DATE WITH MILITARY JUDGE

The Army sergeant is expected to plead guilty to charges that he endangered comrades by walking away from a remote post in Afghanistan in 2009.

### 9. WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM TRUMP'S TAX PLAN

With a repeal of the federal estate tax paid by people who inherit multimillion-dollar estates, art collectors would.

### 10. TURNER'S HOMER GIBSON-ESQUE

On the 29th anniversary of Kirk Gibson's celebrated pinch-hit homer in the 1988 World Series, Justin Turner's three-run drive gives the Dodgers a 2-0 lead in the NLCS against the Cubs.

## White House: \$4,000 more for families with business tax cuts

By JOSH BOAK, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — By slashing corporate tax rates, the Trump administration said Monday, the average U.S. household will get an estimated \$4,000 more a year.

This stunning 5 percent increase is likely to be met with skepticism from tax experts and Democratic lawmakers. Spread across every U.S. household, the White House analysis claims it would generate "conservatively" an income jump totaling \$504 billion, or about \$200 billion more than the revenues currently generated by the corporate income tax.

With this new report, the White House is making a populist argument for its proposal to cut the 35 percent corporate tax rate to 20 percent. Trump has pitched his tax plan as supporting the middle class

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 27 of 53

even though the details point to major companies and the wealthy as the biggest winners. Polls suggest that voters generally frown upon the idea of cutting taxes for businesses — essentially rewarding these firms for avoiding taxes by exploiting loopholes and keeping profits overseas.

The analysis by Kevin Hassett, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, said that the considerably lower rate would spur more investment by companies, which would then boost hiring and worker productivity. The average income gains from the reduced rate would range from \$4,000 to as high as \$9,000, the administration said. Those figures, however, rely on research arguing that workers — rather than investors — would primarily benefit from the lower corporate rates.

Separate studies, including a 2012 Treasury Department analysis, found that the vast majority of any savings would go to investors, making it unlikely to push up wages as much as the administration has argued. The administration removed the 2012 analysis from the Treasury Department's website after re-leasing its tax framework last month with Republican congressional leaders.

Stocks surged after Trump's election last year on the prospect of business tax cuts, but wage gains have been relatively tepid. Hassett said in a phone call with reporters that he expects salaries to begin climbing if the proposed tax overhaul is passed.

For individuals and families, the Trump plan would reduce the number of tax brackets to three from seven and double the standard deduction. But it would also remove the personal exemption and possibly much of the deduction for state and local taxes — changes that could possibly increase taxes for many families. A preliminary analysis by the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center estimated that the proposal would cut business taxes by \$2.65 trillion over a decade while increasing the tax burden on families and individuals by \$471 billion.

Hassett criticized those findings in a speech this month as a "fiction" that is "scientifically indefensible" because critical details of the proposal remain unknown. But Hassett said enough details are now known about the plan to support his conclusion that it would lead to income gains and stronger economic growth.

## As crews gain ground, California fire victims return home

By SUDHIN THANAWALA and BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) — With the winds dying down, fire crews gained ground as they battled the wildfires that have devastated California wine country and other parts of the state over the past week, and thousands of people got the all-clear to return home.

While the danger from the deadliest, most destructive cluster of blazes in California history was far from over, the smoky skies started to clear in some places. People were being allowed to go back home in areas no longer in harm's way, and the number of those under evacuation orders was down to 75,000 from nearly 100,000 the day before.

Many began to take the first steps toward rebuilding their lives.

"This is my home I'm going to come back without question," said Howard Lasker, 56, who returned Sunday with his daughter to view their torched house in Santa Rosa. "I have to rebuild. I want to rebuild."

The blazes were blamed for at least 40 deaths and destroyed some 5,700 homes and other structures. The death toll could climb as searchers dig through the ruins for people listed as missing. Hundreds were unaccounted for, though authorities said many of them are probably safe but haven't let anyone know.

In hard-hit Sonoma County, Sheriff Rob Giordano said authorities have located 1,560 of the more than 1,700 once listed as missing. Many of those names were put on the list after people called from out of state to say they couldn't reach a friend or relative.

Authorities said they will not let people return home until it is safe and utilities are restored. Pacific Gas and Electric Company said it expects to restore power and gas to the area by late Monday.

Many evacuees grew increasingly impatient to go home — or at least find out whether their homes were spared. Others were reluctant to go back or to look for another place to live.

Juan Hernandez, who escaped with his family from his apartment Oct. 9 before it burned down, still had his car packed and ready to go in case the fires flared up again and threatened his sister's house, where

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 28 of 53

they have been staying in Santa Rosa.

"Every day we keep hearing sirens at night, alarms," Hernandez said. "We're scared. When you see the fire close to your house, you're scared."

At the Sonoma fairgrounds, evacuees watched the San Francisco 49ers play the Redskins on television, received treatment from a chiropractor and got free haircuts.

Michael Estrada, who owns a barber shop in neighboring Marin County but grew up in one of the Santa Rosa neighborhoods hit hard by the blazes, brought his combs, clippers and scissors and displayed his barbering license in case anyone doubted his credentials.

"I'm not saving lives," he said. "I'm just here to make somebody's day feel better, make them feel normal."

Lois Krier, 86, said it was hard to sleep on a cot in the shelter with people snoring and dogs barking through the night.

She and her husband, William Krier, 89, were anxious to get home, but after being evacuated for a second time in a week Saturday, they didn't want to risk having to leave again.

"We're cautious," she said. "We want to be safe."

Nearly 11,000 firefighters were still battling 15 fires burning across a 100-mile swath of the state.

In the wooded mountains east of Santa Rosa, where a mandatory evacuation remained in place, a large plume of white smoke rose high in the sky as firefighters tried to prevent the fire from burning into a retirement community and advancing onto the floor of Sonoma Valley, known for its wineries.

Houses that had benefited from repeated helicopter water drops were still standing as smoke blew across surrounding ridges. A deer crossed the highway from a burned-out area and wandered into a vineyard not reached by the flames.

Those who were allowed back into gutted neighborhoods returned to assess the damage and, perhaps, see if anything was salvageable.

Jack Daniels had recently completed a year-long remodel of his Napa house near the Silverado Country Club and watched it go up in flames last week as he, his wife, 7-year-old grandson and two pugs backed out of the driveway.

His neighbors, Charles Rippey, 100, and his wife, Sara, 98, were the oldest victims identified so far in the wildfires.

Daniels, 74, a wine importer and exporter, said he lost everything left behind, including his wife's jewelry and 3,000 bottles of wine in his cellar.

"It's heartbreaking," the 74-year-old said. "This was going to be our last house. I guess we've got one more move. But we're fortunate. We got away. Most things can be replaced. The bank didn't burn down."

Melley reported from San Francisco. Associated Press writers Ellen Knickmeyer in Santa Rosa and Janie Har and Daisy Nguyen in San Francisco contributed to this report.

Follow the AP's complete wildfire coverage here: <https://apnews.com/tag/Wildfires>

## Collins: Trump should back effort to resume health subsidy

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A key moderate Republican is urging President Donald Trump to support a bipartisan Senate effort to reinstate insurer payments, calling his move to halt the subsidies an immediate threat to millions of Americans who could now face rising premiums and lost health care coverage.

"What the president is doing is affecting people's access and the cost of health care right now," said Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, who has cast pivotal votes on health care in the narrowly divided Senate. "This is not a bailout of the insurers. What this money is used for is to help low-income people afford their deductibles and their co-pays."

"Congress needs to step in and I hope that the president will take a look at what we're doing," she added.

Her comments Sunday came amid rising attention on the bipartisan bid led by Sens. Lamar Alexander,

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 29 of 53

R-Tenn., and Patty Murray, D-Wash., to at least temporarily reinstate the payments.

Congressional Republicans are divided over the effort. And White House budget director Mick Mulvaney has suggested that Trump may oppose the agreement unless he gets something in return — such as a repeal of former President Barack Obama's health care law or funding of Trump's promised wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

The insurer payments will be stopped beginning this week, with sign-up season for subsidized private insurance set to start Nov. 1.

"The president is not going to continue to throw good money after bad, give \$7 billion to insurance companies unless something changes about Obamacare that would justify it," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who golfed with Trump Saturday at the Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, Virginia.

"It's got to be a good deal," Graham said.

In his decision last week, Trump derided the \$7 billion in subsidies as bailouts to insurers and indicated he was trying to pressure Democrats into negotiating an Obamacare repeal, a bid that repeatedly crashed in the GOP-run Senate this summer.

The subsidies are designed to lower out-of-pocket costs for insurers, which are required under Obama's law to reduce poorer people's expenses — about 6 million people. To recoup the lost money, carriers are likely to raise 2018 premiums for people buying their own health insurance policies.

Alexander and Murray have been seeking a deal that the Tennessee Republican has said would reinstate the payments for two years. In exchange, Alexander said, Republicans want "meaningful flexibility for states" to offer lower-cost insurance policies with less coverage than Obama's law mandates.

On Sunday, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., described Trump's demand for a sit-down with congressional Democratic leaders as "a little far down the road," noting that nothing in Trump's proposals to repeal Obamacare indicates what would replace it. Pelosi pointed to the bipartisan effort in the Senate and said ultimately it will be up to a Republican-controlled Congress and executive branch whether the federal government can avert a shutdown by year's end.

The government faces a Dec. 8 deadline on the debt limit and government spending.

"We're not about closing down government. The Republicans have the majority," Pelosi said. "In terms of the health care, we're saying 'Let's follow what Sens. Murray and Alexander are doing.'"

"They're trying to find common ground, and that should be encouraged," she added.

The scrapping of subsidies would affect millions more consumers in states won by Trump last year, including Florida, Alabama and Mississippi, than in states won by Democrat Hillary Clinton. Nearly 70 percent of the 6 million who benefit from the cost-sharing subsidies are in states that voted for the Republican.

Republican Gov. John Kasich of Ohio said Sunday his state had anticipated that the insurer payments would be halted, but not so quickly. He called for the payments to be reinstated right away, describing a hit to Ohio — a state also won by Trump last November — for at least the "first two or three months."

"Over time, this is going to have a dramatic impact," Kasich said. "Who gets hurt? People. And it's just outrageous."

Nineteen Democratic state attorneys general have announced plans to sue Trump over the stoppage. Attorneys general from California, Kentucky, Massachusetts and New York were among those saying they will file the lawsuit in federal court in California to stop Trump's attempt "to gut the health and well-being of our country."

Collins appeared on ABC's "This Week" and CNN's "State of the Union," Pelosi spoke on ABC, Graham appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation," and Kasich was on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Follow Hope Yen on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/hopeyen1>

## Dodgers' dominant bullpen is baffling foes in NL playoffs

By GREG BEACHAM, AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Just a year ago, Dodgers manager Dave Roberts was attempting to get through the late innings of tight playoff games with long appearances by closer Kenley Jansen, a hodgepodge of veteran relievers and one desperate bailout from ace Clayton Kershaw.

One October later, Los Angeles' bullpen is downright dominant as the team steamrolls toward the World Series.

After excelling in the unbeaten Dodgers' three-game NL Division Series sweep of Arizona, those relievers have retired 24 of 25 batters without allowing a hit or a run in the NL Championship Series against the Chicago Cubs.

The bullpen hasn't allowed a hit in its last 8 2/3 innings of work overall, giving the Dodgers extraordinary faith in their relievers heading into Wrigley Field for Game 3 on Tuesday night.

"They're just executing pitches, and they're ready when called upon, and they're competing," Roberts said after his bullpen threw four hitless innings in Los Angeles' 4-1 victory in Game 2 Sunday night. "It's a close-knit group down there. ... Those guys know exactly what they want to do, and they're going out there and executing."

The Dodgers' domination has come from everywhere in the bullpen — not just Jansen, who remains among the top closers in baseball. Jansen has three saves, a victory and 10 strikeouts in six innings, appearing in all five games and allowing just one unearned run.

Jansen is still getting multiple-inning saves for Roberts. This year, it's out of desire rather than utter necessity.

"We've got a really good bullpen in the postseason," Jansen said. "I'm not just trying to be a hero, but whatever the team needs me to do, and whatever Doc (Roberts) wants me to do, I'm going to be ready to put myself in that position to win ballgames."

The Dodgers won 104 games in the regular season with a deep lineup and a talent-packed rotation, but their bullpen has been largely outstanding all year long, easily leading the NL with a 3.38 ERA.

In October, the relievers have been even better — particularly against the Cubs, who are still waiting for their first hit against the group.

After starter Rich Hill was pulled for a pinch-hitter in the fifth inning of Game 2, first-year Dodgers right-hander Brandon Morrow faced six Cubs and retired them all, needing only 18 pitches.

The Cubs got their only baserunner of the series against the bullpen when Jansen hit Anthony Rizzo on the hand in the ninth inning of Game 2. The closer calmly got two more outs to set the stage for Justin Turner's walk-off homer.

"I've never had a bad feeling with our bullpen before, but I think at the same time we're realizing that it's one of our strengths of our team," Kershaw said after the bullpen backed him with four perfect innings in the Dodgers' Game 1 victory over Chicago on Saturday. "You still want to go as deep as you can in the game, but I guess handing the ball off to those guys makes it a little easier."

Last year, the Dodgers didn't have the same array of bullpen talent. They relied heavily on Jansen, Kershaw and Roberts' creativity, with some nights working out better than others.

Roberts was praised for his innovative use of his pitching staff last season, but he has said he doesn't want to use Kershaw as a reliever this October, preferring to keep his recently injured ace on a regular schedule.

So far, he hasn't even been tempted.

Last season's bullpen got problematic postseason appearances from Grant Dayton, who is out for the season with an elbow injury, and Joe Blanton, now with Washington. Pedro Baez, the hardworking right-hander who has been a target of Dodgers fans' ire for years, was left off the current NLCS roster.

Ross Stripling also had troubles last October, but he is still in the Dodgers' bullpen, although he has yet to pitch in this postseason. Josh Fields is back and better than last season, while the imposing Morrow has appeared in all five games this month, yielding only one run to Arizona.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 31 of 53

The Dodgers added two key relievers in midseason trades, picking up eighth-inning setup man Tony Watson and left-hander Tony Cingrani. Both settled in quickly with the Dodgers, and they've combined to yield only two runs in seven postseason appearances.

And this month, the bullpen got Kenta Maeda, the Japanese right-hander who went 13-6 with a 4.22 ERA in 25 starts this season.

With no spot for him in the postseason rotation, Maeda willingly took a role as the bullpen's specialist against right-handed batters. He has been dominant, retiring all nine batters he has faced in three innings of work.

"Kenta just accepted how deep our roster is," Jansen said. "He could easily be a starter for us in the postseason, but he understood it's going to take little things for us to win. It's going to help us tremendously down the road."

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

## Venezuelan socialists claim victory as opposition cries foul

By **FABIOLA SANCHEZ** and **CHRISTINE ARMARIO**, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's National Electoral Council proclaimed candidates with the socialist movement founded by the late President Hugo Chavez won a vast majority of the 23 governorships at stake in Sunday's election, results the opposition immediately rejected and which threatened to further divide the nation.

An hour before results were announced, the opposition's command centers had been filled with smiles and jubilation. Leader Ramon Guillermo Avelo told a room filled with journalists and supporters that while he couldn't share the preliminary results, they showed a victory of "historic dimensions" for the Venezuelan people.

But shortly before Tibisay Lucena, president of the government-stacked council, declared the results, opposition mayor Gerardo Blyde came out to warn that leaders believed the official count would be off.

"We have already alerted the international community and we are alerting the country," he said.

According to the CNE, socialist party candidates won 17 of the 22 races in which the outcomes were considered irreversible. One race was still too close to call a victor. In all, 61 percent of the nation's 18 million voters participated in the election, far higher than many people had anticipated in a country where many have grown disenchanted and apathetic.

Lucena and others praised the vote as an example of Venezuela's democracy but Blyde claimed fraud.

"Neither the Venezuelan people nor the world buy that story," he said of the results.

The disputed result threatened to heighten an already tense standoff between the government and opposition.

The election comes during one of the most turbulent years in recent Venezuelan history. Four months of anti-government protests that began in April left at least 120 people dead, mostly young men in their 20s and 30s. In August, a new pro-government constitutional assembly was installed, ruling with virtually unlimited powers after an election that was boycotted by the opposition and that electoral officials were accused of manipulating by more than 1 million votes.

Maduro said he had "absolute faith" in the CNE's results but would ask the constitutional assembly to request an audit in order to extinguish any doubts that the results were inaccurate.

"A triumphant victory for chavismo!" he proclaimed, referring to the name used for his predecessor's movement.

The regional elections were originally scheduled to take place last December, but the electoral council postponed the vote after polls indicated socialist candidates were widely slated to lose. They were repeatedly delayed for a variety of reasons, including a requirement for political parties to "renew" their status with electoral authorities.

Then in May, during the height of opposition protests, Lucena announced the elections were being

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 32 of 53

scheduled for December, after a vote for delegates to a constitutional assembly in July.

Opposition leaders blankly refused to participate in the July vote, choosing instead to mount street protests in hopes of pressuring Maduro into canceling the vote. The vote continued as planned and CNE rectors proclaimed that more than 8 million Venezuelans participated in the election for delegates. International voting software company Smartmatic came out days later to assert that Venezuelans electoral officials had deliberately altered turnout results.

The new assembly charged with rewriting Venezuela's constitution quickly removed the nation's outspoken chief prosecutor and declared itself superior to all other branches of government.

Assembly delegates also decided to move up the delayed gubernatorial elections to October.

Projections by independent pollsters showed opposition candidates would win a majority, if not nearly all offices, while socialist party contenders were expected to claim a small handful of victories.

Still, opposition candidates vying for votes proved to have their work cut out with them. Many young supporters who had participated in the street protests are upset at leaders they perceived and disorganized and unable to unite behind a single strategy on how to loosen Maduro's grip from power. Others were skeptical any change might happen at the ballot box, given the electoral council's repeated favoring of the ruling party and accusations of fraud.

Meanwhile, pro-government candidates like Hector Rodriguez waged competitive campaigns, trading the polarizing red shirts identified with the socialist party for neutral colors. Rodriguez's campaign focused largely on resolving the daily problems of Venezuelans and healing the divisions that have come to define the nation.

It was a message that resounded with voters like Sergio Camargo, a private security guard who backed Rodriguez.

"I hope that after this vote, the people against the government of President Nicolas Maduro are more sensible and let him govern," he said before getting on a bus to vote Sunday.

Electoral experts voiced repeated concern at several changes made by the CNE in the lead-up to the vote, though many believed that the vote count was likely to be accurate. Unlike the July vote, opposition parties would be on site to compare paper print-out tallies with the electronic ones in the final tally. The CNE was also slated to use Smartmatic software utilized in the 2015 legislative race, the last national electoral faceoff between the government and opposition.

The CNE did not allow the opposition to remove several candidates who lost in a September primary, despite an electoral law permitting political parties to substitute contenders up until 10 days before the vote. Less than three days before voting, the council also announced it was moving more than 200 voting centers, predominantly in opposition strongholds.

Council officials defended the relocations as a security measure in areas where violent protests took place in July.

Opposition-arranged buses transported voters to the new sites Sunday — some of which were nearly an hour away. Other voters from middle-class neighborhoods were sent to vote in poor communities where crime is high.

Susana Unda, a homemaker who voted for Carlos Ocariz, the opposition's candidate in populous Miranda state surrounding Venezuela's capital, used her truck to transport voters whose polling sites were relocated.

"I was born in a democracy and I want to die in a democracy," she said.

Lucena said earlier Sunday the election was proceeding with the lowest number of reported irregularities that Venezuela had seen in an election, but the independent Venezuelan Electoral Observatory reported several incidents of voter intimidation.

Luis Lander, the group's director, said those incidents included reports of pro-government supporters on motorcycles threatening voters gathered at polling sites. He said the number of voting centers that opened late was also higher than in previous elections.

Attention is now likely to shift to any impact such irregularities might have had.

"There is a wide disparity between the poll numbers and the results which show that these elections were not free and fair and don't reflect the will of the people," said Michael Shifter, president of the Inter-



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 33 of 53

American Dialogue.

The opposition called for an audit and urged Venezuelans to mobilize on the streets Monday in support. Government supporters called on detractors to respect the results and said the count is proof that the movement started by Chavez remains alive and well, despite Maduro's low approval ratings.

"The cradle of the revolution doesn't surrender," said Argenis Chavez, the late president's brother and declared winner of the race in Barinas, where Hugo Chavez spent his early years.

Armario reported from Bogota, Colombia.

## Turner homers in 9th, Dodgers top Cubs 4-1 for 2-0 NLCS lead

By GREG BEACHAM, AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Justin Turner savored every last stride as he followed in Kirk Gibson's famous footsteps at Dodger Stadium.

The red-bearded slugger from Southern California knew all about the history attached to this home run trot.

On the 29th anniversary of Gibson's celebrated pinch-hit homer that shocked Oakland in the 1988 World Series opener, Turner added another landmark shot to Los Angeles Dodgers postseason lore.

Turner hit a three-run drive with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, and the Dodgers beat the Chicago Cubs 4-1 on Sunday to take a 2-0 lead in the NL Championship Series.

"One of my earliest baseball memories was being at my grandma's house and watching that game in '88 and seeing Gibby hit that homer," said Turner, who wasn't quite 4 years old at the time. "So yeah, it feels pretty cool. I thought about doing the fist-pump around the bases, but we'll wait until we get to the World Series for that, hopefully."

The dominant Dodgers are two wins away after Turner drove in all four runs in Game 2 to keep Los Angeles unbeaten in the postseason.

He delivered a tying single in the fifth before sending a long shot to center field off John Lackey in the ninth. Completing the poetry of the moment, a fan wearing a blue Dodgers jersey took a few steps onto a walkway and gracefully caught the ball in his glove on the fly.

"It's very cool, and J.T., we were talking about it in there after the game," Los Angeles manager Dave Roberts said. "Twenty-nine years to the day. It was special. Our guys feel it."

Another generation of Dodgers fans now has its own historic homer, and these Dodgers are growing increasingly confident they can earn their first trip to the World Series since 1988.

Turner got swallowed up at home plate by another pack of ecstatic Dodgers, just as Gibson did. Unlike Gibson, Turner spiked his batting helmet after rounding third, allowing his unruly red hair to go as wild as the crowd.

"What's not to enjoy about it?" Turner asked. "We have an opportunity to bring a championship back to LA. It's been a long time."

Game 3 in the best-of-seven series is Tuesday night at Wrigley Field in Chicago. Midseason acquisition Yu Darvish starts for the Dodgers against Kyle Hendricks.

Yasiel Puig drew his third walk of the game leading off the ninth, and Charlie Culberson bunted him to second. After losing pitcher Brian Duensing struck out pinch-hitter Kyle Farmer, Chicago manager Joe Maddon went to the bullpen for the 38-year-old Lackey, who pitched on consecutive days for the first time in his 15-year career.

Lackey got the call over All-Star closer Wade Davis, and the veteran starter walked Chris Taylor on six tense pitches. Maddon said he wanted to save Davis for a potential save on the road, and Lackey would have pitched the 10th inning as well if the Cubs did not have a lead.

"Nobody is a really great matchup against Turner, so it just did not work out," Maddon said.

Turner stepped up and ended it with his fourth career playoff homer. After taking a slight free-agent discount to stay with the Dodgers last winter, he had another solid season before excelling again in October.

The All-Star third baseman is batting .377 with 22 RBIs in his postseason career. He is 13 for 18 with

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 34 of 53

runners in scoring position (.722), including 6 for 8 this year.

And after a collective offensive effort drove the Dodgers to a 5-2 win in Game 1, Turner did it all in Game 2. He has 10 RBIs in the Dodgers' five postseason games, getting five in the playoff opener against Arizona.

Addison Russell homered in the fifth for the Cubs, who are down early in this rematch of the 2016 NLCS. Chicago won that series in six games after splitting the first two.

Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen got the win with a hitless ninth despite hitting Anthony Rizzo on the hand with a one-out pitch. That ended the Los Angeles bullpen's impressive streak of 22 straight Cubs retired to begin the NLCS, but the Dodgers have thrown eight hitless and scoreless innings of relief in the NLCS.

Jon Lester yielded three hits and five walks while failing to get out of the fifth inning in the shortest start of his long postseason career, but the Dodgers couldn't take advantage of a rare shaky night by the Cubs' star left-hander.

Rich Hill struck out eight in five more impressive innings for the Dodgers, but he was pulled for pinch-hitter Curtis Granderson in the fifth in a debatable decision by Roberts.

Russell was off to a 4-for-22 start in the postseason with nine strikeouts before the slugging shortstop put a leadoff homer into the short porch in left field.

Turner tied it moments later by poking a two-out single to right after a leadoff double by Culberson, the Dodgers' improbably successful replacement for injured All-Star shortstop Corey Seager.

The Dodgers chased Lester with two outs in the fifth, but reliever Carl Edwards Jr. came through after several recent postseason struggles, striking out pinch-hitter Chase Utley and then pitching a strong sixth.

Lester was the co-MVP of last season's NLCS, winning Game 5 at Dodger Stadium and yielding two runs over 13 innings in the series. He had nothing near the same success against the Dodgers' revamped lineup in this one, issuing four walks in the first four innings and repeatedly escaping jams.

Dodgers third base coach Chris Woodward held up Turner in the third when it appeared he could have scored from first on Cody Bellinger's double to the left-center gap.

Javier Baez, the other co-MVP of last season's NLCS for Chicago, got to third base in the third with one out, but also was stranded.

UP NEXT

Cubs: Hendricks dominated Chicago's playoff opener with seven scoreless innings against the Nationals, but yielded four runs in four innings during the team's wild Game 5 victory in Washington. He is starting on normal rest.

Dodgers: Darvish was outstanding in Game 3 against the Diamondbacks, earning his first career postseason victory with seven strikeouts over five innings of two-hit ball. He was acquired from Texas precisely for these moments, and he starts on seven days of rest.

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

## Son believes his father was deep asleep when fires came

By The Associated Press

At least 40 people have died in the deadliest week of wildfires in California history. The victims include a couple who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, a 14-year-old boy whose parents and older sister were severely burned, and a woman born with a spinal defect who worked to help others despite her own troubles.

A look at some of those who were killed in the blazes:

A FATHER'S LOVE

Daniel Southard, 71, a retired fitness trainer and high school football coach, sent a text message to his son Derek a little after midnight to ask if he was having a good time at a wedding in Monterey.

The two were close — Derek's mother died when he was 2 years old, his father raised him on his own — and kept close tabs on each other.

When Derek woke up to news that the wildfires tore through Santa Rosa about an hour after his father

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 35 of 53

texted, he had a feeling his dad and the family dog, Sadie, didn't escape the flames.

"I know he has trouble sleeping. I'm thinking he took his sleeping pill after texting me and went to bed," Derek said.

When he returned to Santa Rosa, Derek spent days searching for his father in evacuation shelters. He held out hopes his father was alive. But by Saturday, authorities who searched the family home confirmed what Derek had suspected: Daniel's body was found in his bedroom.

"My neighbor said the fire came so fast they barely made it out," Derek said. "If he had made it out, the first thing he would have done was to get a hold of me."

"He loved me a lot," Derek said.

He said his father loved fitness and football, and he pursued his passions by working as a personal trainer and co-owner of a Gold's Gym in downtown Santa Rosa. He also worked as the assistant football coach at Derek's high school.

"He was a kind-hearted man; very generous," the son said. "He didn't always have much. But what he had he'd give to you if he thought you needed more."

## VISITING AREA THAT REFUELED HIS ENERGY

Michael Dornbach, 57, a retired longshoreman from Southern California, was in the area to find a small piece of land where he could put a cabin and go to fish, garden and be outdoors.

He was visiting relatives at their mountain home outside Calistoga when the fire broke out last week.

His 18-year-old nephew and others pleaded with him to evacuate, but he was looking for his keys and didn't want to leave without his new pickup truck, said his sister, Laura Dornbach, who lives in Calistoga.

Others evacuated. His body was found the next day in the driveway.

"It has devastated us," she said. "He was beautiful. He was strong and Italian and stubborn."

His mother, Maria Trilegi, said he had saved up money and was meeting with a real estate agent to find a piece of land in the surrounding Napa region where he could move.

"He'd go up there to fuel his energy," Laura Dornbach said. "That was one of his favorite places in the world. He loved the country. He loved the outdoors."

Dornbach lived in a little house next door to his mother's home in San Pedro, California, and he would come to her house every day to have coffee.

"He had such a big heart," his mother said. He would bring clothes and food to homeless people, and often asked her over Thanksgiving to save a dish or two so he could bring it to others.

He fished on the Pacific Ocean, and he loved looking at the mountains and the stars a night, his sister said.

## LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

Arthur Grant, 95, and Suiko Grant, 75, and their small dog took refuge in the wine cellar of their Santa Rosa home for 45 years.

They died there on Monday on property filled fruit trees and vineyards, their daughter Trina Grant told the San Francisco Chronicle .

She says her father met her mother in Honolulu while working as a pilot for Pan American World Airways. "It was a true love-at-first-sight story," she says. "He found the most beautiful gal in the world to marry."

Arthur grew up as one of 13 kids on a dairy farm in Point Arena. He joined the U.S. Navy during World War II and trained as a fighter pilot. But the war ended before he flew in combat. He retired as a Navy lieutenant. He flew with Pan Am for 25 years before retiring as a captain.

She was born in China and raised in Sapporo, Japan. She went to work for a Japanese company in Hawaii after graduating from Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo. That's where she met the pilot who was dating her roommate at the time.

## VERY GENEROUS OF SPIRIT

LeRoy and Donna Halbur, both 80, had just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, and for years Leroy delivered food for the needy three times a week.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 36 of 53

They had no chance to flee a wildfire that destroyed their Santa Rosa home early Monday, said their eldest son, Tim Halbur.

"The winds came up pretty quickly. It was all countryside behind them," Tim Halbur said. "My mom was found in the car in the garage. My dad was somewhere on the driveway. He probably had gotten her into the car, and he went outside to check on conditions."

Tim Halbur said his parents were devoted to community, friends and family. An avid world traveler, LeRoy Halbur was an usher at Resurrection Catholic Church in Santa Rosa. He volunteered with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Sonoma County, delivering meals right up to the week before the fires.

Donna Halbur wrote children's books and was a former elementary school teacher.

"What I want you to know is that they were very generous of spirit, and they carried that spirit to the community," their son said.

## DOING GOOD BY OTHERS

Roy Howard Bowman, 87, and his wife, Irma Elsie Bowman, 88, lived a life quietly doing good for others.

The Mendocino County couple provided money to help launch a Spanish-speaking ministry at the Assembly of God church in Ukiah, recalled Sylvia McGuire Nickelson, who met the Bowmans at church.

"They both were beautiful, inside and out," Nickelson told the San Francisco Chronicle. "I just loved them."

"Anybody who needed a second chance, the Bowmans were their advocate," said Felice Lechuga-Armadillo, who with her siblings would host the Bowmans for Sunday dinners. "Anyone who needed help, they stepped forward — but quietly."

The couple were found in the fire-ravaged remnants of their home in the remote Redwood Valley, about 60 miles (95 kilometers) north of Santa Rosa, on Monday.

Roy Bowman was a U.S. Navy veteran and former federal employee. Irma Bowman loved to bake and "would tell us to speak well of other people," said Lechuga-Armadillo.

Roy Bowman had a stroke earlier this year. Irma Bowman told Lechuga-Armadillo's mother that if he had another, she wanted to have one as well — "because she didn't want to be on this Earth without him," Lechuga-Armadillo said.

## 'THE HORSE LADY'

Valerie Lynn Evans had a fierce love of animals.

Evans, 75, kept horses, goats, dogs, a mule and a steer at her Santa Rosa home. She'd sometimes lead the mule down the street, allowing folks to feed it, said her longtime neighbor, Tracy Long.

"We knew her as the horse lady," Long told the San Francisco Chronicle.

As flames approached their homes late Sunday, Brian Strehlow, a neighbor across the street, offered to help.

"She said, 'We got this,'" Strehlow said.

Evans died while trying to save her dogs.

Evans' neighbors said they believed that her husband, son and a daughter-in-law were able to escape, but that they hadn't been able to reach them since the fire.

Evans kept a large collection of books on horses. Long, whose home was damaged by fire, said she occasionally sees pages from Evans' library blowing along the street.

## TIMID AND GIGGLY

At 14, Kai Shepherd was among the youngest victims of the wildfires.

After flames swept over a mountain, the Shepherds had tried to drive down to escape. Their neighbor Paul Hanssen found their two charred vehicles blocking the road, doors still ajar from when they had apparently abandoned them and fled on foot.

Hanssen found the mother, Sara Shepherd, and her 17-year-old daughter, Kressa, lying on the ground, more than half their bodies burned. Kai Shepherd was further down the mountain and did not survive.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 37 of 53

First responders found Kai's father, Jon Shepherd, separately, on the mountain. He was also badly burned but alive. Kai Shepherd's parents and sister are being treated at burn centers.

His sister, Kressa Shepherd, a Ukiah High School junior, had to have both legs amputated beneath her knees.

Family friend Irma Muniz remembers Kai Shepherd was timid and giggly after she met him last year while shooting a Christmas card photo of the family posing in the woods of Redwood Valley, a community of about 1,800 roughly 70 miles (113 kilometers) north in Mendocino County

## 'SHE WAS MY LIFE'

George Powell woke to a wall of fire already bearing down on his Santa Rosa home and immediately yelled to his 72-year-old wife, Lynne Anderson Powell: "Get out!"

Lynne Powell grabbed her border collie, Jemma, which always slept next to her, a laptop and asked for the best way to get off their mountain before jumping in her car.

George Powell left 15 minutes later after fetching his three dogs. George Powell now realizes when he raced down the mountain he drove past his wife's car that had gone off the road and into a ravine in the heavy smoke.

After searching for her all night and the next day, a detective called to tell him a body burned beyond recognition was found steps from her car. Inside was a dog also burned to death.

"If I had known, I would have gone down there with her, even if it meant I would have died with her," George Powell, 74, said. "I don't know how I'm going to cope. She was my life." He repeated: "She was my life."

The couple had been married for 33 years. He was a photojournalist and she was a professional flutist, spending much of her career playing for the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, which operated until 2011.

The two met while she was on vacation in Los Angeles, where George Powell freelanced for newspapers. He said it was "love at first sight" and he moved to New Mexico to be with her. After they retired, they settled in northern California so his wife could take care of her aging parents.

The two shared a love of border collies and entered in agility runs with their dogs. She was an avid quilter. The fire took everything, including her quilts and his life's photo archive.

Lynne Powell did not want a memorial service or obituary. But George Powell said he may hold a special lunch with friends to celebrate her life.

"I don't think I ever felt unloved or uncared for any second of my life with her," he said.

## TOGETHER IN LIFE AND DEATH

Charles Rippey, 100, and his wife, Sara, 98, are the oldest victims of the wine country wildfires identified so far.

Their bodies were found by one of their sons who had made his way past security and found the home in Napa where they had lived for 35 years completely gone. Only two blackened metal chairs, a porcelain tea set of white and soft washes of blue and other small remnants remained to testify to the couple's long life together.

Charles Rippey — who was known by his nickname "Peach" since he was a toddler — appeared to be heading to the room of his wife, who had had a stroke in recent years.

Mike Rippey said his father would have never left his mother. The couple met in grade school and recently celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary with their five children.

"Those of us in the family always would, you know, wonder what would happen if one of them died and the other one was still left because we knew that, you know, there's no way they would ever be happy whoever was the last one and so they went together," Rippey, 71, said as he stood among the charred ruins of their home.

The couple attended the University of Wisconsin and married in 1942 before Charles Rippey served as a U.S. Army engineer in World War II. He then became an executive with the Firestone tire company.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 38 of 53

## DEDICATED TO HELPING OTHERS

Christina Hanson, 27, used a wheelchair and spent her life dedicated to helping others despite her own hardships, her family said.

Kelsi Mannhalter had posted on social media asking people to search for her cousin after the fire Monday ravaged Santa Rosa where Hanson lived.

Mannhalter later confirmed on Facebook that Hanson did not survive when the flames consumed her home.

"Just surreal," Mannhalter posted. "I love you so much and am going to miss you sweet cousin. I can't say it enough."

Her father was found collapsed on the street in front of his home with third-degree burns and was taken to a hospital in San Francisco. Hanson had tried unsuccessfully to reach him as flames surrounded her apartment around 1:30 a.m. Monday, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

Hanson was born with a spinal defect and lost her mother at 9 to lupus.

Still, her focus was always on others, her stepmother, Jennifer Watson, told the newspaper, describing her as "a very happy, social and positive person."

Hanson volunteered two days a week at an Alzheimer's residential care facility in Santa Rosa, where she would entertain residents.

She also taught herself sign language and interpreted for the hearing impaired.

"She loved helping people and loved her family," said Watson, who was with her stepdaughter the day before she died.

Her family wrote in an online obituary that Hanson "was granted her angel wings."

## DIED IN HER HUSBAND'S ARMS

In the 55 years they were married, Carmen Caldentey Berriz had spent countless hours in her husband Armando's arms.

In his arms was where the 75-year-old took her last breath on Monday, as he held her afloat in a swimming pool as walls of fire burned around them, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

Carmen had known Armando was the one since she was 12, and the two dated for years before marrying in 1962. By the time Carmen turned 75, their family had grown to include two daughters, a son, their children's spouses and seven grandchildren.

The Berrizes were three days into a vacation at a Santa Rosa rental house with family when son-in-law Luis Ocon woke early Monday morning and saw the fire begin to overtake the neighborhood.

They fled to their cars.

Luis, Monica Ocon, and their daughter made it through the thick smoke and flames and pulled over, watching for Carmen and Armando's car to emerge behind them. It never came.

Armando Berriz's car had gotten stuck on a fallen tree. He told his wife they had to run back to the house to take shelter in the backyard pool.

As flames melted the chaise lounges a few feet away, Carmen clung to Armando, who kept them both afloat by hanging onto the brick sides of the pool.

Armando Berriz held on for hours, even as the brick burned his hands, even as his wife stopped breathing. He let go only after the flames had burned out, laying Carmen on the steps of the pool with her arms carefully crossed over her chest.

He walked 2 miles to find firefighters.

"Everything they did was as a team," daughter Monica Ocon said. "They had this bond and this strength that literally lasted a lifetime."

## ONE LAST PHONE CALL

Linda Tunis moved from Florida to the Journey's End Mobile Home Park in Santa Rosa to be closer to her family. When the northern California wildfires quickly overtook the park, the 69-year-old woman phoned her daughter.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 39 of 53

She was trapped, she told her daughter, Jessica Tunis. She was surrounded by fire, and going to die. Jessica Tunis screamed at her mom to run to safety, to flee the burning home.

"I was telling her I love her when the phone died," Jessica Tunis told the San Francisco Chronicle.

After three days of hope and dread, Jessica's brother Robert Tunis found his mother's remains in the debris where her house once stood.

Linda Tunis was spunky and sweet, Jessica Tunis said Wednesday. She was also fiercely independent, an attitude that wasn't dampened by her health problems. She had failing memory because of a stroke, and had lost the sight in one of her eyes because of high blood pressure.

She loved bingo and the beach, choosing to move California mostly because it brought her nearer to her close-knit family, Jessica Tunis said.

"My mother's remains have been found at her home at Journey's End. May she rest in peace, my sweet Momma," Jessica Tunis posted on Facebook earlier this week.

## Iraqi forces enter territory disputed with Kurds

By PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi federal forces entered disputed territory held by Kurds early Monday, seeking to end a nearly month-old political fight over areas taken under control by Kurdish militias three years ago to defend the oil city of Kirkuk against the Islamic State group.

The Iraqi army and federal anti-terrorist and police units rolled into parts of the countryside outside the city without facing resistance from Kurdish peshmerga forces, Al-Iraqiya state TV said. However, some residents of the city and an Iraqi militia commander reported shelling.

Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi's office said in a statement carried on Al-Iraqiya that Iraq's leader ordered federal forces to "impose security in the city in cooperation with the inhabitants and the peshmerga," indicating he was willing to share administration of the city with the Kurdish autonomous region that neighbors Kirkuk province.

The move came three weeks after Kurds voted for independence in a controversial but symbolic referendum that Baghdad has so refused to acknowledge. It says the vote organized by the country's regional Kurdish authority was unconstitutional.

A commander of the local Kurdish police force said his forces remained in control of the province's disputed oil wells. "There's been no agreement to hand over the wells until now. As for the future, I don't know," said Bahja Ahmad Amin.

Kurdish forces deployed into the now disputed areas after Iraqi federal defenses crumbled during an advance by Islamic State fighters in 2014. Baghdad has insisted the Kurds return control of the areas ever since.

Inside Kirkuk city, which is home to more than 1 million people, residents shuttered themselves in homes and reported hearing sporadic booms they said sounded like shelling and rocket fire.

Iraq's state-sanctioned Popular Mobilization Militias were ordered to stay out of the city, according to Abadi's office, and instead keep positions in the countryside. They are viewed with deep suspicion by Kurdish residents, who see them as beholden to Iran rather than Iraq's central government. The predominantly Shiite militias are sponsored and guided by Tehran.

Ercuman Turkman, a PMF militia commander, said shortly before forces began moving in that he expected orders to move on to Kirkuk's oil wells, its airport and the nearby K-1 military base, but not the city. Haytham Hashem, another PMF commander, reported shelling on his position in Toz Khormato, 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the edge of Kirkuk city.

Baghdad has been turning the screws on the Kurdish region since the September referendum, pushing Kurd leaders to disavow the vote and accept shared administration over Kirkuk.

Iraq's government barred international flights to and from the region and asked neighboring Turkey and Iran to close their borders. Iran closed its three official crossings with the Kurdish region Sunday, Kurdish media reported. It also froze currency transfers to four banks operating in the Kurdish region.

Abadi has demanded shared administration over Kirkuk. His Cabinet said Sunday that fighters from Turkey's Kurdish insurgency, the PKK, were beginning to appear in Kirkuk, and declared that would be tantamount to an act of war.

Associated Press stringer Emad Matti in Kirkuk contributed to this report.

## California firefighters say they finally 'turned a corner'

By SUDHIN THANAWALA and BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) — With the winds dying down, fire officials said Sunday they have apparently "turned a corner" against the wildfires that have devastated California wine country and other parts of the state over the past week, and thousands of people got the all-clear to return home.

While the danger from the deadliest, most destructive cluster of blazes in California history was far from over, the smoky skies started to clear in some places.

"A week ago this started as a nightmare, and the day we dreamed of has arrived," Napa County Supervisor Belia Ramos said.

People were being allowed to go back home in areas no longer in harm's way, and the number of those under evacuation orders was down to 75,000 from nearly 100,000 the day before.

Fire crews were able to gain ground because the winds that had fanned the flames did not kick up overnight as much as feared.

"Conditions have drastically changed from just 24 hours ago, and that is definitely a very good sign," said Daniel Berlant, spokesman for California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, who noted that some of the fires were 50 percent or more contained. "It's probably a sign we've turned a corner on these fires."

The blazes were blamed for at least 40 deaths and destroyed some 5,700 homes and other structures. The death toll could climb as searchers dig through the ruins for people listed as missing. Hundreds were unaccounted for, though authorities said many of them are probably safe but haven't let anyone know.

In hard-hit Sonoma County, Sheriff Rob Giordano said authorities have located 1,560 of the more than 1,700 once listed as missing. Many of those names were put on the list after people called from out of state to say they couldn't reach a friend or relative.

Sonoma County officials said they will not let people return home until it is safe and utilities are restored. Crews have been working around the clock to connect water and power, in some cases putting up new poles next to smoldering trees, the sheriff said.

Many evacuees grew increasingly impatient to go home — or at least find out whether their homes were spared. Others were reluctant to go back or to look for another place to live.

Juan Hernandez, who escaped with his family from his apartment Oct. 9 before it burned down, still had his car packed and ready to go in case the fires flared up again and threatened his sister's house, where they have been staying in Santa Rosa.

"Every day we keep hearing sirens at night, alarms," Hernandez said. "We're scared. When you see the fire close to your house, you're scared."

Evacuation orders were lifted for the city of Calistoga, the Napa Valley city of 5,000 known for its mud baths, mineral spas and wine tastings. The city was cleared out Wednesday as winds shifted, but homes and businesses were spared.

At the Sonoma fairgrounds, evacuees watched the San Francisco 49ers play the Redskins on television, received treatment from a chiropractor and got free haircuts.

Michael Estrada, who owns a barber shop in neighboring Marin County but grew up in one of the Santa Rosa neighborhoods hit hard by the blazes, brought his combs, clippers and scissors and displayed his barbering license in case anyone doubted his credentials.

"I'm not saving lives," he said. "I'm just here to make somebody's day feel better, make them feel normal."

Lois Krier, 86, said it was hard to sleep on a cot in the shelter with people snoring and dogs barking through the night.



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 41 of 53

She and her husband, William Krier, 89, were anxious to get home, but after being evacuated for a second time in a week Saturday, they didn't want to risk having to leave again.

"We're cautious," she said. "We want to be safe."

Nearly 11,000 firefighters were still battling 15 fires burning across a 100-mile swath of the state.

In the wooded mountains east of Santa Rosa, where a mandatory evacuation remained in place, a large plume of white smoke rose high in the sky as firefighters tried to prevent the fire from burning into a retirement community and advancing onto the floor of Sonoma Valley, known for its wineries.

Houses that had benefited from repeated helicopter water drops were still standing as smoke blew across surrounding ridges. A deer crossed the highway from a burned-out area and wandered into a vineyard not reached by the flames.

Those who were allowed back into gutted neighborhoods returned to assess the damage and, perhaps, see if anything was salvageable.

Jack Daniels had recently completed a year-long remodel of his Napa house near the Silverado Country Club and watched it go up in flames last week as he, his wife, 7-year-old grandson and two pugs backed out of the driveway.

His neighbors, Charles Rippey, 100, and his wife, Sara, 98, were the oldest victims identified so far in the wildfires.

Daniels, 74, a wine importer and exporter, said he lost everything left behind, including his wife's jewelry and 3,000 bottles of wine in his cellar.

"It's heartbreaking," the 74-year-old said. "This was going to be our last house. I guess we've got one more move. But we're fortunate. We got away. Most things can be replaced. The bank didn't burn down."

Melley reported from San Francisco. Associated Press writers Ellen Knickmeyer in Santa Rosa and Janie Har and Daisy Nguyen in San Francisco contributed to this report.

Follow the AP's complete wildfire coverage here: <https://apnews.com/tag/Wildfires>

## Richard Wilbur, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, dies at 96

By HILLEL ITALIE

Richard Wilbur, the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and translator who intrigued and delighted generations of readers and theatergoers through his rhyming editions of Moliere and his own verse on memory, writing and nature, died. He was 96.

Wilbur died Saturday night in Belmont, Massachusetts, with his family by his side, according to friend and fellow poet, Dana Gioia.

The U.S. poet laureate in 1987-88, Wilbur was often cited as an heir to Robert Frost and other New England writers and was the rare versifier to enjoy a following beyond the poetry community. He was regarded — not always favorably — as a leading "formalist," a master of old-fashioned meter and language who resisted contemporary trends. Wilbur was also known for his translations, especially of Moliere, Racine and other French playwrights. His playful, rhyming couplets of Moliere's "Tartuffe" and "The Misanthrope" were often called the definitive editions of those classic 17th-century satires.

"Moliere has had no better American friend than the poet Richard Wilbur," The New York Times' Frank Rich wrote in 1982. "Mr. Wilbur's lighter-than-air verse upholds the idiom and letter of Moliere, yet it also satisfies the demands of the stage."

Wilbur's expertise in French literature eventually brought him to Broadway as a lyricist for Leonard Bernstein's production of Voltaire's "Candide," which premiered in 1956. Numerous other writers, including Dorothy Parker and James Agee, had been unable to get along with the demanding team of Bernstein and Lillian Hellman.

"Lillian had heard about my translation of Moliere's 'The Misanthrope' and wanted to have a look at it," Wilbur told The Associated Press in 2006. "She decided that if I could translate one witty Frenchman, I

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 42 of 53

might be able to do another.”

He received numerous literary honors, including the National Book Award and two Pulitzer Prizes, for “Things of This World,” released in 1956, and for “New and Collected Poems,” which came out in 1989. Upon announcing in 1987 that Wilbur would serve as poet laureate, Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin called him “a poet for all of us, whose elegant words brim with wit and paradox.”

Handsome and athletic into his 90s, with a warm, clear voice ideal for readings, he had an unusual quality for a major poet: happiness. His Christian faith was unbroken by the influence of campus leftists at Amherst College, his wartime service on the front lines in Europe or his acquaintance with such self-destructive peers as Sylvia Plath, whom he remembered in his poem “Cottage Street 1953” as “the pale, slumped daughter” of her “frightened” mother.

“I think many people associate happiness with shallowness,” Wilbur told the AP. “What people don’t want is someone who is complacent. And I know that I am not a complacent man.”

Plath was among his admirers, praising the “witty rhymes” and “sparkling style” of his translation of “The Misanthrope” and finding his poetic style “congenial” to hers.

Wilbur’s poems were often brief, subtle, temperate, reflecting upon childhood, family, nature and the creative process. In “Mind,” he likened the mind to “some bat/That beats about in caverns all alone/Contriving by a kind of senseless wit/Not to conclude against a wall of stone.” A connoisseur of riddles, he loved constructing poems in which the meaning is not revealed until the end, like a well-delivered punchline.

Wilbur married Charlee Ward, a Smith College student, while he was nearby at Amherst, in 1942. They had four children. Charlee Ward Wilbur died in 2007.

Richard Wilbur, an 11th-generation American and son of a commercial artist, was born in New York in 1921 and moved two years later to rural New Jersey, where his family lived in a colonial-era stone house on 400 acres of land, much room for a young poet and his thoughts. As a teenager, his poem about a nightingale was published in John Martin’s Magazine. He was paid \$1.

Kicked out of the Signal Corps at the start of World War II — he was classified as “Suspected of Disloyalty” because of his college friends — he was transferred to the front lines in the 36th Infantry. He recalled jotting down verse in moments of spare time because it was the most practical way of expressing himself. “In a fox hole, you can write a poem, but you cannot paint a picture,” he observed.

Studying at Harvard University after the war, Wilbur befriended French poet Andre du Bouchet. When Wilbur’s wife, Charlee, confided that her husband had a hidden stash of work, du Bouchet demanded to see it. He welcomed Wilbur as a fellow poet by kissing him on both cheeks and helping him get a publisher.

“It was the most painless, positive experience of getting a book published that I could imagine,” Wilbur recalled.

His first book, “The Beautiful Changes and Other Poems,” came out in 1947. He also wrote children’s books and translated many European poets, including Baudelaire, Anna Akhmatova and Joseph Brodsky. His lyrics for “A Stable-Lamp is Lighted” were adapted into a popular hymn.

In 2004, his “Collected Poems, 1943-2004” was published to great acclaim and helped solidify a reputation that had varied over the years, with Wilbur often dismissed during the 1960s and 1970s as tame and insulated.

“Like his face, his poems show no deterioration over time,” critic Phyllis Rose wrote in Poetry Magazine in 2005. “The later poems are as elegant and intricate, as devoted to musical pleasures, as fully achieved, as the earliest.”

For much of his adult life, Wilbur wrote every day, in longhand, then transcribed his work on a manual typewriter. Just as poetry and translation called for very different talents, so they also made different demands on his daily life.

“When I’m translating a play ... I write obsessively all day,” he told the AP in 2006. “Even when I’m taking a nap, there are lines working in my mind.

“As for poems, one doesn’t set a poem aside until it’s done.”

## 'I'm intact,' Tillerson says, brushing off drama with Trump

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Sunday ducked, danced and sidestepped the question of whether he truly called President Donald Trump a “moron,” dismissing the brouhaha as the “petty stuff” of Washington. Though they keep coming, Tillerson insisted the persistent queries aren’t hindering his mission as the nation’s top diplomat.

Asked about a leading GOP senator’s comment — “You cannot publicly castrate your own secretary of state” — Tillerson would have none of it. “I checked. I’m fully intact.”

Again and again, Tillerson declined in a news show interview to attest to the accuracy of the report about his use of the word “moron” to describe the commander in chief.

Tillerson said he was “not dignifying the question with an answer,” reprising his response from earlier this month, the morning the story broke, when he used an extraordinary televised statement to insist he had nothing but respect for Trump.

“I’m not making a game out of it,” Tillerson said Sunday on CNN’s “State of the Union.” Asked once more, he replied: “I’m not playing.”

Yet Tillerson has let others play it on his behalf. He previously dispatched State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert to flatly deny he ever called the president a “moron.”

It was unclear why Tillerson was unwilling to repeat what his spokeswoman has said on his behalf. But the continuing questions have brought his strained relationship with the president into renewed focus.

Tillerson insisted the relationship is solid, and that the continuing public focus on whether he’s being undermined by the president has not impeded his ability to succeed in his role. As the drama has played out, Tillerson has brushed it off as meaningless Washington-centric noise that he says he doesn’t understand as an outsider. The Texan and former Exxon Mobil CEO never served in government or politics before becoming secretary of state.

“I know the appearance of it certainly looks like there’s sometimes disunity,” Tillerson said on CBS’ “Face the Nation.” “There’s no confusion among the people that matter.”

Questions about Trump’s tensions with his secretary of state come as the U.S. faces a series of international crises, including the threat posed by North Korea and fate of the Iran nuclear deal.

Tillerson’s critics, including a growing list of foreign policy experts, have questioned whether he can effectively lead American diplomacy if he’s perceived by foreign leaders as being at odds with the true decision-maker: Trump.

Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker, a Republican who has become a vocal critic of the president, made the castration analogy last week to The Washington Post.

“At the end of the day, he makes decisions,” Tillerson said of the president. “I go out and do the best I can to execute those decisions successfully.”

Despite Tillerson’s attempts to show he’s in lockstep with the president, the NBC News report of his “moron” comment infuriated Trump, who privately bashed his secretary of state to associates and publicly challenged Tillerson to an IQ test.

“And I can tell you who is going to win,” Trump told Forbes magazine. The White House later said he was joking.

The White House did not immediately respond to Tillerson’s CNN interview. Trump visited his Virginia golf course for the second consecutive day on Sunday.

People close to Trump say the president has grown increasingly dissatisfied with Tillerson, whom Trump views as holding a conventional view of America’s role in the world and lacking star power. Tillerson, meanwhile, is said to have grown weary of Trump contradicting his public pronouncements and of becoming increasingly isolated in a capital to which he has never warmed.

Tillerson has been painted by some “America First” forces as a publicity-shy, slow-moving “globalist” who did not grasp the nationalist platform of Trump’s campaign. Trump himself has been irked by Tillerson’s advocacy of staying in both the Paris climate deal and the Iran nuclear pact, and has complained to as-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 44 of 53

sociates that he does not like how Tillerson candidly voices his disapproval to the president in meetings, according to White House officials and outside advisers.

They men also disagreed on the nation's Afghanistan strategy, which was discussed in the July Pentagon meeting, though Trump was persuaded by Tillerson and Secretary of Defense James Mattis to maintain the United States' presence in the region. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said Sunday that was proof the relationship could work.

"Well, at the end of the day, I think Secretary Tillerson gave a good overview of the relationship," Graham told CBS. "I'm not here to beat up on Bob (Corker). I'm here to tell you that the president has changed his opinions when it came to Afghanistan by listening to the best national security team I've seen in 20 years.

Trump empowered his son-in-law, senior adviser Jared Kushner, to spearhead the administration's efforts at Middle East peace, stripping the State Department of what is usually a major priority. Trump also grew annoyed with what he perceived as Tillerson's go-it-alone approach to diplomacy with North Korea, declaring in a scorching recent tweet that the secretary of state was "wasting his time trying to negotiate with Little Rocket Man," Trump's nickname for Kim Jong Un.

The president was also angry with Tillerson's remarks after Trump declared there were "fine people" on both sides of the clashes in Charlottesville, Virginia, between white supremacists and anti-racist demonstrators that left one person dead, according to two people familiar with the Trump's beliefs but not authorized to discuss private conversations.

"The president speaks for himself," Tillerson said at the time.

Lemire reported from Sterling, Virginia. Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire> and Josh Lederman at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>

## Collins urges Trump to back effort to restore health subsidy

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A key moderate Republican urged President Donald Trump on Sunday to back a bipartisan Senate effort to shield consumers from rising premiums after his abrupt decision to halt federal payments to insurers. Sen. Susan Collins called the move "disruptive" and an immediate threat to access to health care.

"What the president is doing is affecting people's access and the cost of health care right now," said Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, who has cast pivotal votes on health care in the narrowly divided Senate. "This is not a bailout of the insurers. What this money is used for is to help low-income people afford their deductibles and their co-pays."

"Congress needs to step in and I hope that the president will take a look at what we're doing," she added.

Her comments reflected an increasing focus Sunday on the bipartisan Senate effort led by Sens. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., and Patty Murray, D-Wash., to at least temporarily reinstate the payments to avoid immediate turmoil in the insurance market, even as Trump signaled he wouldn't back a deal without getting something he wants in return.

The payments will be stopped beginning this week, with sign-up season for subsidized private insurance set to start Nov. 1.

"The president is not going to continue to throw good money after bad, give \$7 billion to insurance companies unless something changes about Obamacare that would justify it," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who golfed with Trump Saturday at the Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, Virginia.

"It's got to be a good deal," Graham said.

In his decision last week, Trump derided the \$7 billion in subsidies as bailouts to insurers and suggested he was trying to get Democrats to negotiate and agree to a broader effort to repeal and replace former President Barack Obama's health care law, a bid that repeatedly crashed in the GOP-run Senate this summer.

The payments seek to lower out-of-pocket costs for insurers, which are required under Obama's law to

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 45 of 53

reduce poorer people's expenses — about 6 million people. To recoup the lost money, carriers are likely to raise 2018 premiums for people buying their own health insurance policies.

Alexander and Murray have been seeking a deal that the Tennessee Republican has said would reinstate the payments for two years. In exchange, Alexander said, Republicans want "meaningful flexibility for states" to offer lower-cost insurance policies with less coverage than Obama's law mandates.

Still, congressional Republicans are divided over that effort. White House budget director Mick Mulvaney has suggested that Trump may oppose any agreement unless he gets something he wants — such as a repeal of Obamacare or funding of Trump's promised wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

On Sunday, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., described Trump's demand for a sit-down with congressional Democratic leaders as "a little far down the road." She noted the bipartisan effort in the Senate and said ultimately it will be up to a Republican-controlled Congress and executive branch whether the federal government can avert a shutdown by year's end.

The government faces a Dec. 8 deadline on the debt limit and government spending.

"We're not about closing down government. The Republicans have the majority," Pelosi said. "In terms of the health care, we're saying 'Let's follow what Sen. Murray and Alexander are doing.'"

Collins praised the Senate effort so far, which included public hearings by the Senate health and education committee. Still, she acknowledged a potentially tough road in reaching broader agreement.

"I hope we can proceed, but Democrats will have to step up to the plate and assist us," said Collins, who is a member of the committee. "It's a two-way street."

The scrapping of subsidies would affect millions more consumers in states won by Trump last year, including Florida, Alabama and Mississippi, than in states won by Democrat Hillary Clinton. Nearly 70 percent of the 6 million who benefit from the cost-sharing subsidies are in states that voted for the Republican.

Republican Gov. John Kasich of Ohio said Sunday his state had anticipated that the insurer payments would be halted but not so quickly. He called for the payments to be reinstated right away, describing a hit to Ohio — a state also won by Trump last November — for at least the "first two or three months."

"Over time, this is going to have a dramatic impact," Kasich said. "Who gets hurt? People. And it's just outrageous."

Nineteen Democratic state attorneys general have announced plans to sue Trump over the stoppage. Attorneys general from California, Kentucky, Massachusetts and New York were among those saying they will file the lawsuit in federal court in California to stop Trump's attempt "to gut the health and well-being of our country."

Collins appeared on ABC's "This Week" and CNN's "State of the Union," Pelosi also spoke on ABC, Graham appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation," and Kasich was on NBC's "Meet the Press."

## 276 killed in deadliest single attack in Somalia's history

By ABDI GULED, Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — The most powerful bomb blast ever witnessed in Somalia's capital killed 276 people with around 300 others injured, the country's information minister said early Monday, making it the deadliest single attack in this Horn of Africa nation. The toll was expected to rise.

In a tweet, Abdirahman Osman called the attack "barbaric" and said countries including Turkey and Kenya had already offered to send medical aid. Hospitals were overwhelmed a day after a truck bomb targeted a crowded street near key government ministries, including foreign affairs.

As angry protesters gathered near the scene of the attack, Somalia's government blamed the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group for what it called a "national disaster." However, Africa's deadliest Islamic extremist group, which often targets high-profile areas of the capital, had yet to comment.

Al-Shabab earlier this year vowed to step up attacks after both the Trump administration and Somalia's recently elected president announced new military efforts against the group.

The Mogadishu bombing is one of the deadliest attacks in sub-Saharan Africa, larger than the Garissa University attack in Kenya in 2015 and the U.S. Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 46 of 53

Doctors at Mogadishu hospitals struggled to assist badly wounded victims, many burned beyond recognition. "This is really horrendous, unlike any other time in the past," said Dr. Mohamed Yusuf, the director of Medina hospital.

Inside, bleary-eyed nurses transported a man whose legs had been blown off. He waited as surgeons attended to another badly injured patient. Exhausted doctors struggled to keep their eyes open, while screams from victims and newly bereaved families echoed through the halls.

"Nearly all of the wounded victims have serious wounds," said nurse Samir Abdi. "Unspeakable horrors." The smell of blood was strong.

A teary-eyed Hawo Yusuf looked at her husband's badly burned body. "He may die waiting," she said. "We need help."

Ambulance sirens echoed across the city as bewildered families wandered in the rubble of buildings, looking for missing relatives. "In our 10 year experience as the first responder in #Mogadishu, we haven't seen anything like this," the Amin Ambulance service tweeted.

Grief overwhelmed many.

"There's nothing I can say. We have lost everything," wept Zainab Sharif, a mother of four who lost her husband. She sat outside a hospital where he was pronounced dead after hours of efforts by doctors to save him.

The country's Somali-American leader, President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, declared three days of mourning and joined thousands of people who responded to a desperate plea by hospitals to donate blood. "I am appealing all Somali people to come forward and donate," he said.

Mogadishu, a city long accustomed to deadly bombings by al-Shabab, was stunned by the force of Saturday's blast. The explosion shattered hopes of recovery in an impoverished country left fragile by decades of conflict, and it again raised doubts over the government's ability to secure the seaside city of more than 2 million people.

"They don't care about the lives of Somali people, mothers, fathers and children," Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire said of the attackers. "They have targeted the most populated area in Mogadishu, killing only civilians."

Rescue workers searched for survivors trapped under the rubble of the largely destroyed Safari Hotel, which is close to Somalia's foreign ministry. The explosion blew off metal gates and blast walls erected outside the hotel.

The United States condemned the bombing, saying "such cowardly attacks reinvigorate the commitment of the United States to assist our Somali and African Union partners to combat the scourge of terrorism." It tweeted a photo of its charge d'affaires in Somalia donating blood.

But the U.S. Africa Command said U.S. forces had not been asked to provide aid. A spokesman told The Associated Press that first responders and local enforcement would handle the response and "the U.S. would offer assistance if and when a request was made."

The U.S. military has stepped up drone strikes and other efforts this year against al-Shabab, which is also fighting the Somali military and over 20,000 African Union forces in the country.

The United Nations special envoy to Somalia called the attack "revolting," saying an unprecedented number of civilians had been killed. Michael Keating said the U.N. and African Union were supporting the Somali government's response with "logistical support, medical supplies and expertise."

In a tweet, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was "sickened" by the attack, and his spokesman urged all Somalis to unite against extremism and work together to build a "functional" federal state.

Saturday's blast occurred two days after the head of the U.S. Africa Command was in Mogadishu to meet with Somalia's president, and two days after the country's defense minister and army chief resigned for undisclosed reasons.

Amid the chaos, the stories of victims began to emerge. Amino Ahmed said one of her friends, a female medical student, was killed on the eve of her graduation. The explosion also killed a couple returning from a hospital after having their first child, said Dahir Amin Jesow, a Somali lawmaker.

"It's a dark day for us," he said.

Associated Press video journalist Mohamed Sheikh Nor in Mogadishu, Somalia contributed.

## Hopes and plans destroyed overnight by deadly wildfires

By SUDHIN THANAWALA AND MARTHA MENDOZA

SONOMA, Calif. (AP) — It was just another Sunday night. Sure, the wind was kicking up, but for hundreds of thousands of people in California's wine country, their minds were on the week ahead: school and homework, jobs and email, dinner plans and movie nights.

Overnight, those winds brought flames, devastation and changes to countless lives. Some permanent, others temporary.

So many busy lives have now slipped off track, grossly interrupted by a weeklong complex of historically destructive wildfires that killed dozens of people and destroyed more than 5,000 homes and other structures.

Santa Rosa Junior College student body president Batel Silimon, 19, no longer has homework looming — classes were cancelled all week. She has bigger problems now: Her family lost their home and they are crowded into a battered recreational vehicle.

Santa Rosa auto mechanic Ernest Chapman's work is gone. Five motorcycles and a Land Cruiser he was restoring burned, along with his home and tens of thousands of dollars' worth of tools.

Medical records clerk Sheri Laugero was given the entire week off. Her mobile home was saved by a neighbor who spent all night spraying it with a hose, but the unexpected time is hardly respite. She's been staying with friends, barred from returning home by an evacuation order, her life on hold.

Fall is harvest time in Northern California. And while some are gathering the last grapes from vineyards, others are searching for lost loved ones or planning memorial services for those who died.

"Everything changed, everything came to a stop," said Christine Tye, who lost her Sonoma home early Monday, as flames ripped through her neighborhood.

A week ago Tye went to bed excited about her upcoming trip to Guadalajara, Mexico. She'd be judging Labradors at a national dog show, an honor and adventure for the American Kennel Club judge who has raised her own champions.

It was 2:30 a.m. when she awoke and realized her house was completely surrounded by flames. Outside, her tractor and Mercedes sedan were on fire, but her SUV between them seemed drivable. She heaved her black labs Frankie and Truffle, inside crates, into the vehicle, along with her cat Marshmallow.

Two other cats, Soy and Ashley, had bolted from her bed. Her husband, recovering from shoulder surgery, jumped in.

"Life changes fast," she said. She was wearing a T-shirt and flip flops. Within hours she was cancelling her trip to Guadalajara. Soy and Ashley are still missing.

California Gov. Jerry Brown and U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein seemed shocked Saturday after touring areas wiped out by the blazes.

"This is truly one of the greatest, if not the greatest, tragedies that California has ever faced," said Brown. "The devastation is just unbelievable. It's a horror that no one could have imagined."

The closing of most businesses in and around fire areas, and the wide-scale relocation of townspeople has interrupted the simplest of daily routines.

In Sonoma, a CVS pharmacy was one of just a handful of businesses open through the week, and staffers who could make it to work filled prescriptions for the few customers still coming in.

"If any one's going out for coffee, I haven't had one yet," said a clerk filling drug orders.

Her colleagues broke the news to her: All the coffee places they knew of in town were closed due to the fire. How about this one? That one? The clerk asked. Closed too, they said.

Evacuees Barbara Chiado, 65, and her husband Randy, 67, were having a tough time Saturday at their temporary home — the Sonoma-Marin fairgrounds, where they're waiting to be allowed to go home.

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 48 of 53

Barbara said she missed her bed, her kitchen and television.

"Privacy," her husband chimed in.

The couple would be spending the night with other evacuees in a room set up with cots.

"It's like jail," he said.

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AP reporters Ellen Knickmeyer in Sonoma and Paul Elias in Santa Rosa contributed to this story.

## AP Top 25: Penn State up to 2 behind unanimous No. 1 Alabama

By RALPH D. RUSSO, AP College Football Writer

Penn State has climbed to No. 2 in The Associated Press College football poll behind unanimous No. 1 Alabama after a wild weekend of upsets gave the Top 25 a major makeover.

A season-high seven ranked teams, including four in the top 10, lost to unranked teams on Friday and Saturday. Defending national champion Clemson and defending Pac-12 champion Washington were the highest ranked teams to lose.

Penn State, which was idle, took advantage. The Nittany Lions moved up a spot to No. 2, 15 points ahead of No. 3 Georgia. Penn State has its best ranking since Oct. 31, 1999, when the Nittany Lions were No. 2. Alabama, which has been No. 1 since the preseason, received all 61 first-place votes for the first time this year.

TCU is No. 4, Wisconsin is No. 5 and Big Ten rival Ohio State is sixth.

Clemson dropped five spots to seventh. Miami, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State round out the top 10.

### POLL POINTS

#### IN REVIEW

Clemson started the weekend's weirdness on Friday night at Syracuse. The Tigers lost a three-point game to the three-touchdown underdogs. Washington State followed that up with a little Pac-12 After Dark, getting routed at California later Friday.

On Saturday, the strangeness continued: No. 10 Auburn lost at LSU, which would qualify as the least surprising of the weekend's unexpected results if not for Auburn leading 20-0 in the second quarter.

No. 19 Michigan, No. 8 Miami and No. 9 Oklahoma all barely dodged the upset bug during the afternoon and No. 11 Southern California rallied to beat Utah at night. Then came maybe the biggest stunner of all: Washington lost at Arizona State, scoring seven points against a team that had not given up fewer than 30 since last season.

Add to that, Texas Tech lost at West Virginia after blowing an 18-point fourth-quarter lead and Navy and San Diego State each lost for the first time this season.

#### THE FALLOUT

##### DOWN

— No. 12 Washington and No. 15 Washington State each dropped seven spots.

— No. 21 Auburn fell 11 spots after getting tagged with its second loss of the season.

##### UP

— No. 16 North Carolina State moved up four spots into a tie with South Florida and has its best ranking since Sept. 7, 2003, when it was No. 14.

##### OUT

— San Diego State, Texas Tech and Navy all fell out of the rankings.

##### IN

— West Virginia and LSU moved back into the rankings. The Mountaineers have been yo-yoing in and out of the bottom of the Top 25 all season.

— Memphis moved in for the first time since 2015 after beating Navy.

#### CONFERENCE CALL

Big Ten — 5



# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 49 of 53

ACC — 4

SEC — 4

Big 12 — 4

Pac-12 — 4

American — 3

Independent — 1

RANKED vs. RANKED

Last week there were no games matching ranked teams and things got crazy. The big games are back this week.

— No. 19 Michigan at No. 2 Penn State. The last regular-season loss for Penn State was at Michigan last season, a 49-10 drumming that seems like a lifetime ago.

— No. 11 USC at No. 13 Notre Dame. The rivals have not played when both were ranked since 2009 and have not both been in the top 15 when they played since 2006, when the Irish were No. 6 and the Trojans were third.

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Follow Ralph D. Russo at [www.Twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP](http://www.Twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP)

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More college football coverage: <http://collegefootball.ap.org> and [www.Twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](http://www.Twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## More than just wine country is burning in California

By PAUL ELIAS, Associated Press

REDWOOD VALLEY, Calif. (AP) — Mendocino County is 70 miles north of California's fabled wine country of Napa and Sonoma counties, now under siege from wildfires. But it's a world away in mood, attitude and, especially, prominence.

That helps explain why some residents feel ignored as they deal with their own catastrophic wildfires.

"We have been hit just as hard as anyone," said Sonya Campbell, who lost her house to the fires. "I don't get why we aren't getting any attention."

On Saturday, there was a mixture of anger and resignation in McCarty's Bar here to Mendocino County's fire taking a publicity backseat to the others.

Thousands were evacuated and hundreds lost their homes. Eight have died here, including 14-year-old Kai Shepherd, whose parents and sister suffered severe burns.

The county is only about an hour's drive north of Santa Rosa, where thousands of homes have been destroyed. But it is dramatically different.

Santa Rosa is home to 175,000 residents and hosts numerous hotels and vacation rentals catering to tourists.

The population of Mendocino County is about half that, and its popular tourist spots are on the coast. Few visit the inland hamlets east of U.S. Highway 101 where the fire hit the hardest.

Among the most ravaged communities is Redwood Valley, a tight-knit town of retirees, urban refugees and locals nestled along the Russian River. It is home to multiple-acre lots of horse owners, goat farmers and folks seeking the quiet life. Many identify as "redneck hippies."

The state fire station anchors the civic center, where a grocery store, gas station and bar are also located. The two bars in the community are where many residents get their news: from the television or from word-of-mouth.

There is some disappointment that Sonoma and Napa counties have received the lion's share of attention.

"I'm so tired of hearing about the wineries," said James Younger, who fled his Redwood Valley home Monday morning and watched the television coverage of Northern California's fires at McCarty's. "There was a sense that no one cared about us. But that's OK. We're self-reliant."

Chuck Bartelson lost his home of 20 years. He sat at the bar at McCarty's and was sanguine.

"What can you do?" he asked rhetorically. He said he wasn't bothered by the attention Sonoma and

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 50 of 53

Napa counties were receiving.

"I realize that there was devastation there, too," he said.

In all, some 7,000 residents in Mendocino County and nearby Lake County have been evacuated.

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office warned that the death toll may climb as they search dozens of homes cool enough to approach.

Meanwhile, McCarty's continued to serve as a clearinghouse of information Saturday, and was acting as a de facto evacuation shelter. Residents were picking up supplies that had been dropped there.

Bartender Crystal Maples opened the bar Monday at about 2:30 a.m. after a harrowing escape from the fire that forced her to leave her car, crawl under downed power lines and hitch a ride in the back of a pickup with a random motorist who she asked to drop her off at work.

Maples said she turned on the lights and television, put on coffee and opened the doors. Soon, the place was overflowing with desperate evacuees. Horse owners tied up their animals in the beer garden. Nobody slept that first night and everyone was glued to the television.

Come Monday, Maples sent her daughter to buy air mattresses, and firefighters began bringing supplies, which remain stacked nearly to the ceiling on the bar's dance floor. Dozens slept under pool tables, on the dance floor and outside in their cars and recreational vehicles.

By Saturday, the horses had left McCarty's beer garden. Most who slept there this week have found other accommodations — or were allowed to return to their homes.

"We are resilient here," said Karen McCarty, owner of McCarty's. "We'll get through. We always do."

Follow the AP's complete wildfire coverage here: <https://apnews.com/tag/Wildfires> .

## Nearly 3 decades later, Anita Hill sees the needle moving

By JOCELYN NOVECK, AP National Writer

It's been 26 years since Anita Hill, soft-spoken and deliberate in her bright blue suit, sat before a Senate panel and detailed the lurid sexual harassment charges that would transfix a nation. Clarence Thomas went on to the Supreme Court, but Hill's testimony was a watershed moment that raised awareness in incalculable ways.

Will the sordid Harvey Weinstein scandal be recalled as another one of those watershed moments, its reverberations spilling out of Hollywood into the everyday workplace? Hill is one of those who think it will.

"I absolutely think we needed something to push the needle, and this has done it," Hill said in an interview from Brandeis University, where she has led a quiet academic life since 1998.

All along, Hill says, there have been bits and pieces that have moved that needle a bit. But the Weinstein story, with its ever-growing cascade of disturbing revelations, reminds her of her own ordeal. "I think one of the reasons 1991 was so impactful was how public it was — people had faces and voices, and it was almost like a long conversation about how these things play out. This Weinstein story feels like a long conversation too, with different parts getting developed and different people being brought into it."

Since the story broke more than a week ago, some 30 women, from lesser-known names to megastars like Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow, have emerged to recount disturbing experiences with Weinstein, who has issued a blanket denial of nonconsensual sexual conduct. (In just the latest accusation, actress Eva Green said Saturday she once had to physically "push off" the powerful producer in a meeting.) Simultaneously, a growing chorus of public figures has been denouncing him.

One of the latest high-profile figures to weigh in: Gloria Steinem. In an email message to the Associated Press, Steinem said: "I hope and believe all the attention to Harvey Weinstein will encourage many more women — and men — to tell the firsthand truth about sexual assault, harassment and bullying. I remind the media and prosecutors that people who come forward in these cases are likely to be telling the truth because there is so little reward — and often punishment — for doing so. Please believe the accusers and investigate!"

But Steinem added that not everyone should be expected to have known of Weinstein's alleged mis-

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 51 of 53

deeds. "My one worry is that this case is being made to seem too obvious, with blame for people who didn't know," she said. "In fact, Weinstein also made great movies with and about powerful women he did not sexually harass, because like so many sexual abusers, he exploited powerlessness." (Weinstein was among 425 donors to a chair in feminist studies at Rutgers University named after Steinem; Rutgers says it will keep that donation.)

While Hill, now 61 and a professor of social policy and gender studies, has been buoyed by the attention being paid to sexual harassment in light of the Weinstein story, she cautioned that progress is always incremental: "This case may be bigger than some in the past, but I think we're kidding ourselves if we think that everything is going to change overnight from one episode, even as big as this one."

A key problem, she said, is that so many women still fear retaliation or that they won't be believed if they come forward. "When a person is a big Hollywood star, it's easier for that person to be embraced and not feel the repercussions of speaking out," she said. "But when they're young ... they have their lives to think about."

And so, many sexual harassment cases are never reported, Hill and others note, which makes it difficult to gauge the scope of the problem. Even when they are, many cite the huge role that both confidential settlements and mandatory arbitration play in keeping cases hidden from view.

"It's secrecy on secrecy," says Gretchen Carlson, the former Fox News Channel anchor whose allegations brought down late Fox chief Roger Ailes. Carlson says she's now lobbying on Capitol Hill against mandatory arbitration clauses — in which employees, as a condition of employment, agree to resolve claims via arbitration, not the judicial system. "These clauses are one reason we don't ever know about this, why it stays in the shadows," she says. "And guess what else happens: the woman gets fired from her job and the perpetrator gets to stay in the workplace, and nobody knows about it. It's outrageous!"

"It's a terrible system," concurs Washington lawyer Debra Katz, who specializes in sexual harassment law. "It conceals what happens ... and you're denied the opportunity to have your day in court with a jury of your peers." She adds that arbitration strongly favors employers, "because the arbitrators want to be rehired."

Meanwhile, most cases that do reach the legal system end in settlements, which almost always involve confidentiality clauses. Some, like Carlson, say this further contributes to the veil of secrecy around sexual harassment. Others, like Katz, say it's more complicated: Some women just want to move on, and fear their careers will be threatened if it's known they filed a claim.

Even Hill is conflicted about the issue of confidentiality. On one hand, she says, it often benefits the perpetrator; Weinstein likely benefited from agreements "that allowed him to continue to behave badly, with no accountability." On the other, when women do make complaints, the fact that they've made them can follow them. "And the reality is, most institutions and people in power aren't looking positively on a person who has filed a complaint," Hill says. "So there's still a negative public reaction, even though we say it's wrong."

Despite all this, Carlson feels change afoot. "I feel more buoyed than I have in the last 15 months about cultural change," she says, pointing not just to Weinstein, but to harassment cases at Uber, at tech firms, at venture capitalist firms, and at Amazon Studios. "I feel like this is a tipping point, where women are saying we're not putting up with this crap anymore."

As for Hill, who has said many of her young students don't even know about her 1991 ordeal in which she testified Thomas had sexually harassed her — allegations he vehemently denied before being narrowly confirmed by the Senate — she notes wryly: "I certainly didn't think this is what I would be talking about 26 years later."

"I have to say that I didn't appreciate how complicated it was, how entrenched it was," she adds. "And we're going to have to just keep pushing it and engaging a new generation of people to bring their own sense of what's right and wrong. I'm confident that inch by inch, we will make some change."

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 52 of 53

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Oct. 16, the 289th day of 2017. There are 76 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 16, 1987, a 58-1/2-hour drama in Midland, Texas, ended happily as rescuers freed Jessica McClure, an 18-month-old girl trapped in a narrow, abandoned well.

On this date:

In 1793, during the French Revolution, Marie Antoinette, the queen of France, was beheaded.

In 1859, radical abolitionist John Brown led a group of 21 men in a raid on Harpers Ferry in western Virginia. (Ten of Brown's men were killed and five escaped. Brown and six followers were captured; all were executed.)

In 1916, Planned Parenthood had its beginnings as Margaret Sanger and her sister, Ethel Byrne, opened the first birth control clinic in Brooklyn, New York.

In 1934, Chinese Communists, under siege by the Nationalists, began their "long march" lasting a year from southeastern to northwestern China.

In 1942, the ballet "Rodeo" (roh-DAY'-oh), with music by Aaron Copland and choreography by Agnes de Mille, premiered at New York's Metropolitan Opera House.

In 1946, ten Nazi war criminals condemned during the Nuremberg trials were hanged.

In 1957, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip began a visit to the United States with a stopover at the site of the Jamestown settlement in Virginia.

In 1968, American athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos sparked controversy at the Mexico City Olympics by giving "black power" salutes during a victory ceremony after they'd won gold and bronze medals in the 200-meter race.

In 1978, the College of Cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church chose Cardinal Karol Wojtyla (voy-TEE'-wah) to be the new pope; he took the name John Paul II.

In 1991, a deadly shooting rampage took place in Killeen, Texas, as a gunman opened fire at a Luby's Cafeteria, killing 23 people before taking his own life.

In 1995, a vast throng of black men gathered in Washington, D.C. for the "Million Man March" led by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

In 1997, author James Michener died in Austin, Texas, at age 90.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush welcomed the Dalai Lama to the White House for a half-hour meeting. Libya won a seat on the U.N. Security Council. Actress Deborah Kerr (kahr) died in Suffolk, England, at age 86. Barbara West Dainton, believed to be the next-to-last survivor from the sinking of the RMS Titanic in 1912, died in Camborne, England, at age 96.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama and Republican nominee Mitt Romney met for their second debate; during the town-hall-style encounter in suburban Hempstead, New York, Obama accused Romney of favoring a "one-point plan" to help the rich at the expense of the middle class while Romney countered by saying "the middle class has been crushed over the last four years." The Detroit Tigers beat the New York Yankees 2-1 to go up 3-0 in the American League Championship Series.

One year ago: Joy, jubilation and dancing erupted when a group of Nigerian parents were reunited with 21 schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram 2 1/2 years earlier and freed in the first negotiated release organized by the government and the Islamic extremist group. The 15-year-old daughter of Olympic sprinter Tyson Gay, Trinity Gay, was fatally shot outside a restaurant in Lexington, Kentucky. The Los Angeles Dodgers evened the National League Championship Series with a 1-0 win over the Chicago Cubs. Singer Randy Travis, fiddler Charlie Daniels and producer Fred Foster were inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Angela Lansbury is 92. Actor Peter Bowles is 81. Actor-producer Tony Anthony is 80. Actor Barry Corbin is 77. Sportscaster Tim McCarver is 76. Rock musician C.F. Turner (Bachman-Turner Overdrive) is 74. Actress Suzanne Somers is 71. Rock singer-musician Bob Weir is 70. Producer-director

# Groton Daily Independent

**Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 099 ~ 53 of 53**

David Zucker is 70. Record company executive Jim Ed Norman is 69. Actor Daniel Gerroll is 66. Actor Morgan Stevens is 66. Actress Martha Smith is 65. Comedian-actor Andy Kindler is 61. Actor-director Tim Robbins is 59. Actor-musician Gary Kemp is 58. Singer-musician Bob Mould is 57. Actor Randy Vasquez is 56. Rock musician Flea (Red Hot Chili Peppers) is 55. Movie director Kenneth Lonergan is 55. Actor Christian Stolte is 55. Actor Todd Stashwick is 49. Jazz musician Roy Hargrove is 48. Actress Terri J. Vaughn is 48. Singer Wendy Wilson (Wilson Phillips) is 48. Rapper B-Rock (B-Rock and the Bizz) is 46. Rock singer Chad Gray (Mudvayne) is 46. Actor Paul Sparks is 46. Actress Kellie Martin is 42. Singer John Mayer is 40. Actor Jeremy Jackson is 37. Actress Caterina Scorsone is 37. Actress Brea Grant is 36.

Thought for Today: "What is time? The shadow on the dial, the striking of the clock, the running of the sand, day and night, summer and winter, months, years, centuries — these are but arbitrary and outward signs, the measure of Time, not Time itself. Time is the Life of the soul." — Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, American poet (1807-1882).