

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 1 of 35

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Harry Implement Ad
- 1- GROW SD Awarded Grant to Address Veterans and Homelessness
- 2- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 3- Farmers Union PSA
- 3- Groton Care & Rehap Help Wanted
- 3- Groton Area Help Wanted
- 4- Traditions Remain Strong for South Dakota's Pheasant Hunting Opener
- 5- Rev. Snyder's Column
- 7- Gov. Daugaard's weekly column
- 8- Dog Obedience training
- 8- Roslyn 4-Plex for sale
- 9- Thune's Weekly Column
- 10- Marshall County Land for Sale
- 11- Today in Weather History
- 12- Today's Forecast
- 13- Yesterday's Weather
- 13- Today's Weather Info
- 13- National Weather Map
- 14- Daily Devotional
- 15- 2018 Community Events
- 16- News from the Associated Press

GROW SD Awarded Grant to Address Veterans and Homelessness

GROW South Dakota has recently been awarded a grant through the Bring Them HOMES Veterans Initiative of the National Equity Fund for a pilot program to support low-income veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness in South Dakota with various housing-related services. The grant was funded by the Citi Community Development.

Under the pilot program, GROW SD will focus on two general areas: home improvements for low-income veterans and emergency services grants for low-income veterans and those at risk of homelessness. The funding will assist approximately five veteran homeowners in rehabilitating their homes to make them safer, healthier, and more energy efficient. This funding will also assist approximately 40 veterans who face crisis situations and have an urgent need for assistance with past due rent or utility bills, security deposits, food as well as other needs. Currently, GROW SD has a waiting list for veterans needing assistance with home improvements.

In order raise awareness of the need for the program, GROW SD is reaching out to a wide range of organizations in the state that support and provide services for veterans and that seek to address homelessness among veterans, including fraternal organizations as well as local and state Veterans Affairs service officers. "As a pilot project, we intend to learn while we provide needed services," said Marcia Erickson, GROW SD CEO. "We will find out what kinds of services are most needed and how we can best provide them. It's important for us to work with a variety of agencies and organizations across the state." The results from the pilot project will guide future planning and fundraising.

GROW South Dakota is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. It has served South Dakota communities since 1966. The organization provides housing, community, and economic development to 10,000 customers annually.

Harry Implement
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"



(605) 395-6421

Ferney

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**

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 2 of 35



“Autumn
is a second
spring when
every leaf is
a flower.”

-Albert Camus

Chicken Soup
for the Soul

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 3 of 35



All auto owners!
Save \$2-\$4 /tank
& grow your local economy
by choosing low carbon
Super Premium E30's
94 octane, more power,
same mileage, fewer
carbon deposits, lower
maintenance costs,
slashed benzene & related
genotoxic, carcinogenic
tailpipe emissions;
*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for
info, E30 prices\locations.

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

Groton Area Help Wanted

The Groton Area School District is seeking qualified applicants for a part-time Assistant Business Manager. Job description and application materials can be found under the employment tab at www.grotonarea.com. Questions should be directed to Joe Schwan, Superintendent at 605-397-2351.

Help Wanted

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

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

0913.1006

Traditions Remain Strong for South Dakota's Pheasant Hunting Opener

PIERRE, S.D. – Communities across South Dakota rolled out the orange carpet for pheasant hunters today, the third Saturday in October, for the 2017 pheasant hunting season opener.

“The pheasant hunting opportunities in South Dakota continue to be the best in the country,” said South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Secretary Kelly Hepler. “Traditions around the South Dakota pheasant opener are special. Whether it’s a first-time hunter harvesting their first rooster, or an avid outdoorsman meeting up with long-time friends and sharing a hunt, this is what we live for and why visitors flock to our state.”

Reports from the fields across the state indicate the following:

Central Region, Ross Scott, GFP Regional Game Manager
Average bird count: 1 bird per hunter.
Most hunted area in region: Lyman, Gregory and Brule counties.

Northeast Region, Nick Rossman, GFP Regional Game Manager
Average bird count: 0.5 bird per hunter.
Most hunted area in region: Day, McPherson and Edmunds counties.

Southeast Region, Brad Baumgartner, GFP Regional Game Manager
Average bird count: 1 bird per hunter.
Most hunted area in region: Aurora, Jerauld and Davison counties.

Western Region, Trenton Haffley, GFP Regional Game Manager
Average bird count: Less than 1 bird per hunter.
Most hunted area in region: Perkins, Bennett, Haakon and Harding counties.

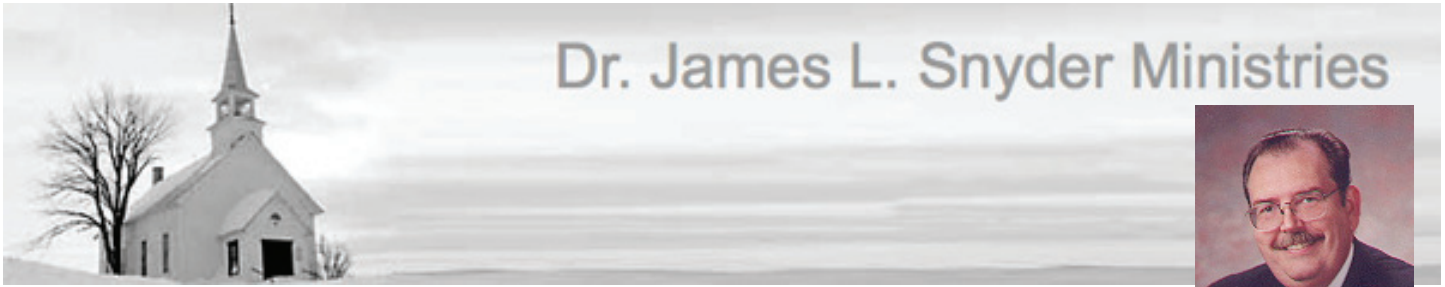
Over 8,000 new acres have been enrolled in the Walk-In Area hunting access program within the pheasant range, noted Secretary Hepler; adding to over 1 million acres of existing publicly owned and privately leased land open for public hunting in South Dakota’s the primary pheasant range.

South Dakota’s traditional statewide pheasant hunting season began today and runs through Jan. 7, 2018. If individuals have yet to purchase their hunting license, they can do so online or at any local licensing agent. For more information, visit <http://gfp.sd.gov/hunting/small-game/pheasants.aspx> or <http://gfp.sd.gov/licenses/general-hunt-fish/default.aspx>.

Hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts are encouraged to take part in the tradition – not just in the field but online – by sharing their photos and videos with GFP by using #SDintheField.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 5 of 35



Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



Have You Seen My Glasses? And Other Trick Questions

The only person who asks more questions than a lawyer is the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I am not saying that questions are bad, at least not all of them. What I am saying is, some questions can be trick questions.

To know the difference between a legitimate question and a trick question takes years of practicing being a husband. If the husband learns anything in his marriage, it is this.

I know people ask questions in order to get information. Not all people ask a question in order to get information. Some people ask questions in order to trick somebody into saying something that is compromising.

Of course, we all know the old joke about Honest Abe and his wife when she asked him, "Does this dress make me look fat?"

What does a person do in a situation like that? If a person is honest and tells the honest truth, it may not fare too well with him. It is not so much the question being asked as it is the answer that goes along with that question.

It is the smart husband who is an expert in this "answer" scenario. How he answers his wife's questions will determine the quality of his life. To ignore the question is only going to induce more questions and what husband really wants that?

The art of answering a trick question is the only thing that keeps some people on the positive side of marital bliss. If, for one moment, the husband thinks his wife is simply seeking an answer, he is in for a lot of trouble and heartache.

I certainly would not have liked to have been in Honest Abe's shoes if he ever was presented with such a question from Mrs. Lincoln. Personally, I would have loved to hear how he dealt with that question, after all he was known as Honest Abe.

This past week I was presented with such a question, it caught me a little bit off guard, and I did not know how to deal with it.

I noticed my wife was walking through the house looking at everything. It made me curious, but I tried to keep out of that situation.

Finally, she came to me and said quite sincerely, "Have you seen my glasses?"

It sounds like a very simple question and it should deserve a straightforward answer. But I did not know what to say. What kind of trouble would I be in if I told her where her glasses were?

I stuttered a little bit, and she being very nervous at the time, turned and started searching the house again. What do you do in situations like this?

I knew that her glasses were very important to her, but I was in a position where I did not know if this was a trick question or if I was in serious trouble.

Trying to do the right thing, I said to her, "No, I don't know where your glasses are? Where did you have them last?"

I thought if I said that it would solve the problem and I could go on with a very happy afternoon.

Looking at me, she said rather smartly, "If I knew that I wouldn't have to ask you where my glasses are."

That sorted cued me in to the reality of the situation. I was rather sure this was a trick question and I knew I needed to play this very carefully. One wrong word from me, and my boat was sunk for the day.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 6 of 35

She came back into the room and I looked at her and smiled very cheerfully, hoping that that would kinda solve the problem. She looked at me and said, "What are you smiling about?"

Now I was a bit confused. Are we facing a real situation here, or, is this a trick to see if I am really on board? I could not understand any of this at this point.

I thought to myself, "Can a person live with another person as long as we have and not know what's going on?"

Finally, I looked at her and rolled my eyes up and down, hoping that she would take the hint. However, it was a useless gesture.

"Have you seen my glasses? I need them right now."

At this point, it was all I could do to keep from laughing hysterically. I knew if I did that sort of thing, I would be in a lot of trouble. How can you keep from laughing when the situation before you is of hysterical proportions?

My wife stood in front of me both hands on her hips and then she lifted her right hand to scratch her head and discovered her glasses were on top of her head.

"Oh," she said as she spun around to leave, "here they are on the top of my head."

Now what do I do with that? Do I laugh or pretend I do not know what happened? Then, she turned around and looking at me said, "You better not laugh."

It reminded me of a verse in the Bible. "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known" (1 Corinthians 13:12).

Sometimes what we are looking for is right in front of us, but we can't see it.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 7 of 35



South Dakota Governor
Dennis Daugaard



Putting New Transportation Revenue To Good Use

In a rural state like South Dakota, roads are our lifeline. We depend upon the 82,000 miles of roadway in our state to get to work, school, church and the grocery store. Farmers, ranchers, manufacturers and other businesses need adequate roads in order to continue their livelihoods.

Maintaining our roads is a fundamental function of government, which is why in 2015 I signed a comprehensive road funding bill into law. Legislators from both sides of the aisle came together to pass this legislation, which generates \$85 million in new annual revenue. The measure raised the gas tax by six cents per gallon, and increased the motor vehicle excise tax and license plate fees in order to fund improvements for state and local roads and bridges. I don't like tax increases, but it's much cheaper to maintain a good road than to repair a bad road. By investing this money now, we avoid spending even more money down the road.

I'm happy to report that the new money is being put to good use and making a difference. Since the road funding bill was enacted, the state has awarded 298 construction contracts amounting to \$750 million. These projects have encompassed work on 6,078 miles of state highway and 172 bridges, many of which would not have been repaired without this new revenue.

This week state and local officials gathered in Davison County to celebrate the completion of the first local Bridge Improvement Grant project, which was made possible by the 2015 law. It was a fitting location for such a celebration as Mitchell is the hometown of former state Sen. Mike Vehle, who led the transportation funding effort two years ago. Vehle attended the event and was joined by Lt. Gov. Matt Michels, SD DOT Secretary Darin Bergquist, Davison County Commission Chair Brenda Bode and other officials. To date, 137 other local bridge projects are underway thanks to the \$19 million worth of funding awarded thus far. All of these projects are expected to be complete by 2020.

An additional \$9 million in Bridge Improvement Grants will be awarded in April 2018. In order to apply for a grant, counties must have a five-year transportation plan and levy a wheel tax. Counties and cities are required to provide a minimum of 20 percent financial match to the grant. Eligible bridges must serve multiple residences, farms, ranches, or a multi-lot development and be located on a fully maintained public roadway.

When President Ronald Reagan proposed a gas tax increase in 1982, he said, "The bridges and highways we fail to repair today will have to be rebuilt tomorrow at many times the cost." President Reagan was exactly right. I'm proud we tackled this issue in 2015, instead of kicking the can down the road. Two-and-a-half years into implementation, South Dakotans can rest assured the funding is being used as intended and their money is being put to good use.

ROSLYN, SOUTH DAKOTA

4-PLEX FOR SALE

The following real estate is for sale:

Lots Seven (7), Eight (8) and Nine (9), Block Twenty-two (22), Original Plat, Roslyn, Day County, South Dakota;

A/k/a 716 1st Street, Roslyn, South Dakota; st Consisting of lots and 4-plex apartment house, currently unoccupied and has been for five (5) years. Property is to be sold "AS IS". Apartment units have electric baseboard heat and electric hot water heaters. Apartment units also include electric ranges, refrigerators, and washers/dryers.

No warranties are being offered on the appliances ("AS IS").

Interested parties should submit sealed bids to Law Office of Danny R. Smeins, P.C., 506 Main Street, Webster, SD 57274, or hand delivered to the same address prior to 5:00 p.m. on the 14th day of November, 2017. Bids will be opened after the bid deadline, and Seller will identify the bidders that will be invited to raise their bid on the 17 day of November, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at the Law Office of Danny R. Smeins, P.C. in Webster, South Dakota. Not all bidders will be invited to raise their bid.

Successful bidder will be required to execute a standard Purchase Agreement and make an earnest money deposit.

SELLER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS.

Direct all inquiries, questions or requests for real estate information to Danny R. Smeins, Attorney at Law, at (605) 345-4875 or (605) 448-5964 or Ray Lardy, Roslyn Homes, Inc., at (605) 228-1597 or Richard Galbraith at (605) 229-0180.

2 day Day Dog Obedience Training



Seminar

Friday October 27th 6-pm -9p.m.
Saturday October 28th 9am -11 am

Held at (A & S Hardware Hank and Rental)

Junction Hwy 12-25 in Webster, SD

K-9 Classics Dog Obedience hosting

Friday: Basic: Sit, Stay, Come & Down.

Saturday: Behavioral Issues

Why does my dog do that?

Q&A

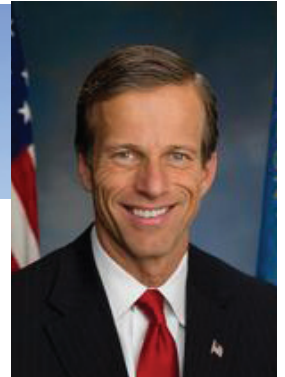
Great information, Great fun

\$100 per dog

Pre register-A&S Hardware Hank and Rental

345-3821 K-9 Classics 880-1779

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



In Washington, There's a Tax for Every Occasion

Death should not be a taxable event. Surprisingly, though, the idea that it would be such an occasion has become a political issue that can pit family-run farms and ranches against Washington's political elite who think certain Americans, including some farm and ranch owners, should be taxed two or three times on their wealth. I simply disagree.

I don't need to tell the hard-working farm and ranch families across South Dakota that they're in a land-rich and cash-poor business. They know the assets on the business' balance sheet far exceed the earnings that end up in the family checkbook. But for too many lawmakers in Washington, they just don't seem to care.

The case against the death tax, which can hit families at the worst possible moment, is pretty straightforward. As everyone knows, an individual's wages are taxed when they are earned. Interest, dividends, and capital gains from wages that are saved are then taxed again. When the owner of those assets passes away, the death tax can hit his or her earnings yet again – for a second or third time. It's this extra assessment on previously taxed assets that folks, myself included, find so objectionable.

Wealth isn't only measured by the amount of money a person has in his or her bank account. It's also measured by non-liquid assets, like land or other property. That can spell trouble for a land-rich South Dakota family-run farm or ranch if the death-tax collector shows up at the door, particularly now, after the U.S. Department of Agriculture says cropland values have increased by 400 percent over the last 15 years. Remember, growth in land value doesn't always translate into growth in cash from those assets.

For supporters of the death tax, their favorite talking point is that it hits a small number of family-owned businesses, farms, and ranches each year, as if that somehow justifies a confiscatory tax on a larger swath of Americans. What they conveniently fail to mention is the large expense – both in time and money – that farmers and ranchers invest during their lives to avoid being a death tax statistic. Too often, these folks have to hire costly lawyers, accountants, and estate planners, all of which can cost well over one hundred thousand dollars, to develop an effective estate plan. They can also spend tens of thousands of dollars each year in life insurance premiums – again, all just to avoid being a victim of the death tax.

Don't take my word for it, though. A South Dakota rancher and estate planner recently wrote, "My brothers and I own an 8,000-head cattle feeding and finishing operation that will be threatened by the death tax if nothing changes ... Repeal of the death tax means farmers, ranchers, and small business owners like me can stop wasting money on a tax that threatens our family's future. That extra money can be spent more wisely in our local economy, which helps our community grow through increased jobs, wages, and purchasing."

I get it. Many of my Democrat colleagues who support the death tax see it as an opportunity to raise revenue and spend it on other federal programs. They don't think many farmers and ranchers pay the death tax, and for those who are fortunate enough avoid it, the tens of thousands of dollars they shell out to do so are just a mere inconvenience. In effect, they are punishing success by demanding another big tax at death. To those lawmakers, I'd say you need to meet more farmers and ranchers.

In my opinion, one family-run operation that's forced to sell because of the death tax is one too many. Now is the time to bury the death tax once and for all, and I'll continue my years-long fight to do so in the tax reform bill I'm working on in the Senate.

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.

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.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 11 of 35

Today in Weather History

October 22, 1992: Record heat occurred on this date. Temperatures rose into the upper 70s to the mid-80s across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. The record highs were 79 degrees at Mobridge and Timber Lake, 80 degrees at Sisseton, 82 degrees at Aberdeen, 83 degrees at Wheaton, and 85 degrees at Pierre. Although not a record high, Kennebec rose to 87 degrees on this date in 1992.

1884: A drought which began in August, extended through September and continued until the last week October brought hardship to Northern, Central, and Eastern Alabama. The 22nd was the first day of general showers, and gentle rains fell from the 26th to the 29th.

1965 - The temperature soared to 104 degrees at San Diego, CA. Southern California was in the midst of a late October heat wave that year. Los Angeles had ten consecutive days with afternoon highs reaching 100 degrees. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1985 - A guest on the top floor of a hotel in Seattle, WA, was seriously injured while talking on the phone when lightning struck. Several persons are killed each year when the electrical charge from a lightning bolt travels via telephone wiring. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Yakutat, AK, surpassed their previous all-time yearly precipitation total of 190 inches. Monthly records were set in June with 17 inches, in September with 70 inches, and in October with more than 40 inches. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987) Twenty-two cities in the eastern U.S., most of them in the southeast states, reported record low temperatures for the date. Morning lows of 30 degrees at Athens GA, 28 degrees at Birmingham AL, and 23 degrees at Pinson AL, were the coldest of record for so early in the season. (The National Weather Summary) Showers produced heavy rain in southern California, with amounts ranging up to five inches at Blue Jay. Flash flooding resulted in two deaths, ten injuries, and more than a million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A "nor'easter" swept across the coast of New England. Winds gusted to 75 mph, and large waves and high tides caused extensive shoreline flooding. A heavy wet snow blanketed much of eastern New York State, with a foot of snow reported in Lewis County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1989 - A storm system moving out of the Gulf of Alaska brought rain to the Northern and Central Pacific Coast Region, with snow in some of the mountains of Oregon, and wind gusts to 60 mph along the Oregon coast. Six cities in Florida reported record low temperatures for the date, including Tallahassee with a reading of 34 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


1997: Game 4 of the World Series between the Cleveland Indians and the Florida Marlins was the coldest game in World Series history. The official game-time temperature was 38 degrees at Jacobs Field in Cleveland. Wind chills as low as 18 degrees was reported during the game.

1998: Tropical Depression Thirteen formed on October 22 over the southwestern the Caribbean Sea. By the 24th, this tropical depression became Hurricane Mitch. This hurricane would rapidly intensify over the next two days, reaching Category 5 strength on the 26th. Hurricane Mitch would end up being the second deadliest hurricane in the history of the Atlantic Ocean.


Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 12 of 35


Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Showers	Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 66 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 57 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 53 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 61 °F




Gusty Winds Ahead



FIRE DANGER



Today




64 to 71°

Breezy

Isolated shower tonight

Monday




55 to 62°


Windy

Gusts of 30 to 45 mph

National Weather Service

weather.gov/Aberdeen

 National Weather Service Aberdeen

 @NWSAberdeen

Published on: 10/22/2017 at 4:53AM

Gusty Winds Ahead! Winds and clouds will be on the increase this afternoon, ahead of a cold front that will sink across the region tonight and bring a few light showers to the area. Behind the front, windy conditions will develop with gusts out of the northwest of 30 to 45 mph Monday. The winds will combine with our dry air to elevate fire weather concerns today, and especially Monday over central South Dakota.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 13 of 35

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 68.5

Low Outside Temp: 43.8

High Gust: 31

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 82° in 1992

Record Low: 8° in 1895

Average High: 55°F

Average Low: 30°F

Average Precip in Oct: 1.55

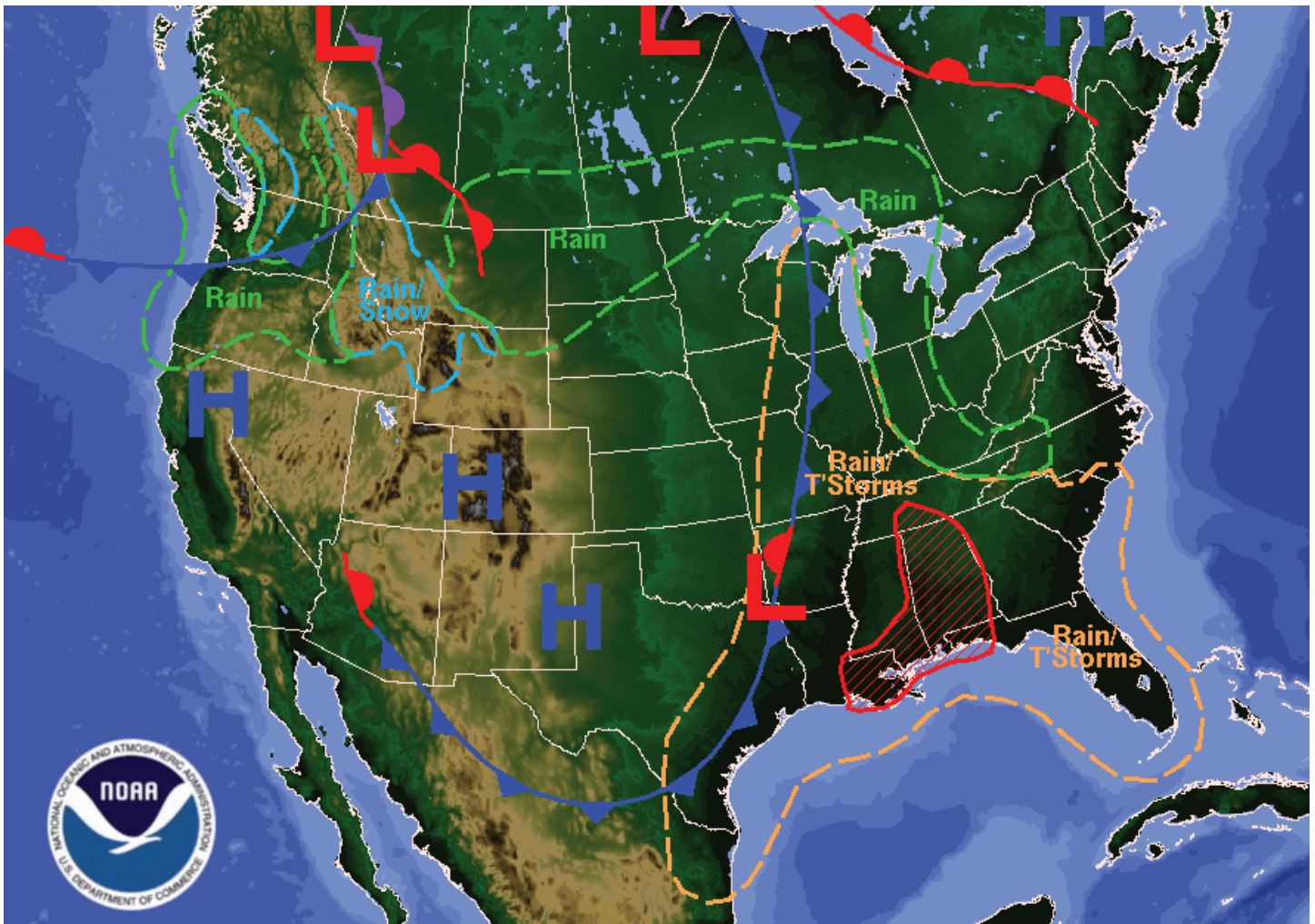
Precip to date in Oct: 0.67

Average Precip to date: 20.03

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 6:35 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:01 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Oct 22, 2017, issued 4:47 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Santorelli 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

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 14 of 35



GIVE UP? WHY NOT!

People are like weather reports: they change frequently and are not always reliable. Over the years the prescription for predicting the weather has changed dramatically. Now, when weather persons make their reports it is usually in "percentages." They are always correct because they leave room for variations in their predictions as to what may or may not happen.

God is not that way. If He declares it, we can depend on it. "Trust in Him," said David. We have all trusted in family and friends only to be disappointed. Not that they intended to deceive us or disrupt our lives, it's just that they are as human as we are and have the potential as well as the probability to be wrong. "People are still people," Dean Edwards often said. "They are as human today as they were in Eden."

Our ability to trust, however, fluctuates. It seems to come and go depending on the situation. That's why he added "at all times." Our trust in God is to be constant and continual, not casual and conditional. Some of us have a fair-weather faith. If we do not get the answers we want when we want them we usually rely on our own strengths and strategies and the results are usually second best rather than God's best.

We prove to Him that we trust in Him when we pour our hearts out to Him in faith believing that we can trust Him! It's like emptying a jar of water by turning it upside down and letting every drop fall to the ground. We must "let go and let God" have all of our wishes and wants, our sighs and sorrows.

Prayer: Lord, give us courage to trust in You at all times for all things in all situations without hesitancy. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 62:8 Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 16 of 35

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
10-13-19-22-24
(ten, thirteen, nineteen, twenty-two, twenty-four)
Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Hot Lotto
06-08-21-40-42, Hot Ball: 18
(six, eight, twenty-one, forty, forty-two; Hot Ball: eighteen)
Estimated jackpot: \$11.89 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$25 million

Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$191 million

Saturday's Scores

By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Brookings def. Brandon Valley, 17-25, 25-22, 23-25, 25-20, 15-12
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. Standing Rock, N.D., 19-25, 25-10, 25-14, 25-7
Rapid City Stevens def. Sioux Falls O'Gorman, 25-17, 25-20, 25-17
Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Rapid City Central, 25-11, 25-22, 25-15
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Rapid City Stevens, 22-25, 25-14, 25-23, 25-9
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Rapid City Central, 25-16, 25-7, 25-21
Watertown def. Pierre, 25-17, 25-18, 25-12

Southeast South Dakota Conference Tournament

Pool Play

Pool A

Bon Homme def. Gregory, 25-8, 25-18
Gregory def. Scotland, 21-25, 25-15, 25-20
Parkston def. Scotland, 25-17, 25-20

Pool B

Chamberlain def. Winner, 25-15, 25-20
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Chamberlain, 25-14, 25-15
Platte-Geddes def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-20, 20-25, 25-16
Wagner def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-22, 23-25, 25-21
Wagner def. Chamberlain, 25-15, 25-9
Wagner def. Platte-Geddes, 25-11, 25-15
Wagner def. Winner, 25-15, 25-20
Winner def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-17, 25-22

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 17 of 35

Winner def. Platte-Geddes, 25-9, 25-19
Semifinal
Burke/South Central def. Winner, 25-14, 13-25, 25-20
Wagner def. Parkston, 25-14, 25-23
Championship
Wagner def. Burke/South Central, 25-20, 25-15

Illinois State powers past South Dakota for 37-21 win

NORMAL, Ill. (AP) — James Robinson ran for a career-high 193 yards and two touchdowns, Spencer Schnell had seven catches for a career-best 191 yards and two more TDs, and Illinois State handed South Dakota its first loss of the season 37-21 on Saturday.

Robinson had 19 carries and both of his touchdowns came in the second half, a 14-yarder late in the third quarter and a career-long 87-yard dash to make it 34-21 with 5:42 left. Schnell also scored from long distance, hauling in a 64-yard touchdown throw from Jake Kolbe for the first points of the game and snagged a 5-yard scoring toss 10 minutes later.

Illinois State (5-2, 3-1 Missouri Valley Football Conference) also got three field goals from Sean Slattery, including a 45-yard score with 1:36 left.

South Dakota (6-1, 3-1) tied the game at 14-all in the second quarter when Chris Streveler connected with Aaron Ramsey for a 2-yard touchdown, and later cut the gap to 24-21 with Kai Henry's 12-yard TD run with 13:30 to play.

Streveler finished 39-of-63 passing for 440 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions.

More AP college football: <http://collegefootball.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_Top25

Christion helps South Dakota State beat Missouri St 62-30

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — Taryn Christion went 14 of 19 for 323 yards with two touchdowns and South Dakota State ran away from Missouri State 62-30 on Saturday.

The Jackrabbits (5-2, 2-2 Missouri Valley Conference) outscored the Bears (1-6, 0-4) 28-3 in the second half.

SDSU's Brady Mengarelli rushed 11 times for 115 yards with two touchdowns — including a 57-yard rush, and Christion added 59 yards with a TD on eight carries. Dallas Goedert grabbed eight passes for 170 yards with a touchdown, and Cade Johnson hauled in a 7-yard TD reception.

Peyton Hulsig led Missouri State with 123 yards rushing on 16 carries and went 17 of 24 for 189 yards with a touchdown pass and an interception. Deion Holliman returned a punt 63 yards for a first-quarter touchdown and Jason Randall busted a 68-yard touchdown run.

Authorities identify man who died in rollover near Deadwood

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol has identified a man who died in a single-vehicle crash in Lawrence County.

The patrol says 49-year-old Michael Manderfeld, of Lead, was driving a pickup truck that went out of control on U.S. Highway 385 and rolled several times about 4 miles south of Deadwood. The crash scene was discovered Tuesday morning.

Authorities say Manderfeld was ejected from the vehicle. He was not wearing a seat belt.

3 small earthquakes recorded in northern Oklahoma

RENFROW, Okla. (AP) — The U.S. Geological Survey reports three small earthquakes have been recorded in northern Oklahoma.

The most recent of the quakes recorded late Friday and early Saturday was a magnitude 2.5 at 11:03

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 18 of 35

a.m. Saturday near Renfrow, 103 miles (166 kilometers) north of Oklahoma City. The agency initially rated the temblor at 3.2.

No injuries or damage are reported.

The survey also recorded a magnitude 2.7 quake near Byron at 7:54 a.m. Saturday and a magnitude 2.6 temblor at 11:51 p.m. Friday northwest of Guthrie.

Thousands of earthquakes have been recorded in Oklahoma in recent years, with many linked to the underground injection of wastewater from oil and natural gas production operations. Oklahoma regulators have directed oil and gas producers to close some wells and reduce injection volumes in others.

North Dakota Native American student graduation rate lagging

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Native American students in North Dakota are struggling in school despite the state's overall high school graduation rate remaining high.

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction held a Dropout Prevention and Re-engagement Summit on Oct. 1, The Bismarck Tribune reported. The summit was scheduled after teachers of Native American students across the state requested to know more information about dropout prevention strategies.

The total graduation rate was nearly 90 percent for the 2015-16 school year, the most recent data available. But the rate for Native American students was at about 65 percent.

State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler said that since the No Child Left Behind Act was enacted in 2002 achievement gaps for all subgroups have gone down, except for Native American students.

"That is not OK, and it keeps me up at night. Obviously, what we were doing for 15 years was not working. We have to re-examine that, and we have to do things differently," said Baesler.

She also said that the replacement for No Child Left Behind will help with these efforts.

Sandy Addis is the keynote speaker and director of the Clemson University's National Dropout Prevention Center. She said the state is "significantly ahead of the nation," in terms of its high school graduation rate.

Addis said while there has been some progress among Native American students, there's much more room to improve. She notes that low-income student graduation rates continue to fall behind.

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

Former South Dakota surgeon to surrender medical license

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A retired South Dakota surgeon who is now a patient advocate will surrender his medical license rather than participate in a revocation hearing.

The South Dakota Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners was set to hold a hearing Oct. 27 to revoke Dr. Lars Aanning's medical license after accusing him of committing "moral turpitude," the Argus Leader reported.

Aanning, 78, admitted last year to lying on behalf of another physician during a medical malpractice lawsuit nearly 20 years ago. He said he was coached by the doctor's lawyers on what to say and how to answer questions.

The statute of limitations for perjury has passed, but the board accused Aanning of violating the public's trust by damaging the faith in doctors to be truthful. But Aanning said it is commonplace for doctors to protect their colleagues when medical errors occur.

Aanning said the board pursued his license because he helped expose shoddy medicine in a separate case.

"I can't help but feel that this is an attempt to curtail my investigative activities," he said.

Aanning helped expose Dr. Allen Sossan, a convicted burglar-turned-spine surgeon who practiced in Yankton. Sossan fled the U.S. after being sued by dozens of patients after botching several surgeries that in some cases led to the deaths of patients. A grand jury indicted Sossan for lying on his medical license by not disclosing his previous conviction.

"Almost 10 years ago, I reported Alan Sossan to the SDBMOE for harming — even killing — patients, and the SDBMOE never lifted a finger to prevent him from inflicting more harm on South Dakotans," Aanning

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 19 of 35

said. "My complaint does not appear to have even been investigated by the SDBMOE. The license of this doctor was never restricted or suspended and when his license finally elapsed, nothing further was done to protect patients in other states."

Margaret Hansen, the board's executive director, said the board still needs to accept the surrender of Aanning's license.

"It's in their hands," Aanning said. "I'm not going to go to any hearing."

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

Artists to submit designs for gateway to Mount Rushmore

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Artists are being invited to submit potential designs artwork that could be seen by motorists on a road that's considered the gateway to the Black Hills and Mount Rushmore.

The Rapid City Arts Council has teamed up with a landscape architect in a second call for regional artist submissions of designs for artwork to be placed at either end of Mount Rushmore Road, the Rapid City Journal reported .

An earlier call for submissions didn't result in enough suitable responses, requiring a second call, said Lisa Modrick, a councilwoman who's part of a planning group overseeing beautification along the major traffic corridor.

"I think we're all very excited that a local artist is going to be displayed for probably the next five decades," Modrick said.

The Arts Council is asking for designs that will make use of or replace already existing obelisks set into medians along the road as part a three-year, \$30 million reconstruction project.

"Rather than a dark, brown slab that says 'Rapid City,' can we be more creative, can we make a grand statement on a grand roadway about Rapid City?" said Pepper Massey, director of the Arts Council.

Artists who submit work must live in western South Dakota, within a 150-mile radius of Rapid City. The submissions should be the artist's original artwork.

The chosen artist will receive a commission from funds already budgeted for beautification projects connected with reconstruction of the road.

The submission deadline is Dec. 15. Once an artist has been chosen, work should be under contract by Jan. 26 so that installation can occur in late spring.

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

Tribe: Public safety on Minnesota reservation worsened

ONAMIA, Minn. (AP) — Leaders of a Native American tribe say public safety on their central Minnesota reservation worsened last year when a nearby county terminated an agreement that allowed tribal police to provide law enforcement.

Mille Lacs County's decision to terminate the agreement with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe ended 25 years of cooperation between the tribe and county sheriff's office, Minnesota Public Radio reported . County officials said they ended the agreement because the relationship had ceased to be cooperative and the band was exercising law enforcement authority outside of its jurisdiction.

Without the agreement, tribal officers don't have authority under state law to act as peace officers and pursue investigations, leaving those functions to the county sheriff's office. Tribal police can arrest suspects but must turn them over to the sheriff's office.

Interim tribal Police Chief Sara Rice said it's a frustrating situation.

"All the officers know that they can at least make a dent in this," Rice said. "It's never going to go away completely. But you can help to deter it in some way, or hold people accountable for what they're doing and what they're bringing here."

But Mille Lacs County Attorney Joe Walsh disputes that law enforcement on the reservation has gotten

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 20 of 35

lax since the agreement was revoked. He said the county hired about 10 new deputies and is providing equal coverage as before.

The move came amid a growing problem of opioid abuse in the area. The tribe says it's had nearly 50 overdoses this year, including a few deaths.

"It's drug dealers, drug users, just the criminal element that's here," said Pete Nayquonabe, a resident on the reservation. "You can see it and feel it. And there's just a feeling of not being safe anymore."

Rice said opioid addiction has led to an increase in burglaries, thefts and elder abuse.

"They're being taken advantage of, or stuff's missing from their houses," she said. "It's all to get the next high."

Gov. Mark Dayton urged the county and the band to work out a new agreement in mediation.

Information from: Minnesota Public Radio News, <http://www.mprnews.org>

US-allied force takes Syria's largest oil field from IS

By SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The U.S.-led coalition said allied fighters captured Syria's largest oil field from the Islamic State group on Sunday, marking a major advance against the extremists in an area coveted by pro-government forces.

With IS in retreat, the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces and the Syrian government have been in a race to secure parts of the oil-rich Deir el-Zour province along the border with Iraq.

The SDF, with air support from the U.S.-led coalition, said Sunday it captured the Al-Omar field in a "swift and wide military operation." It said some militants have taken cover in oil company houses nearby, where clashes are underway. The U.S.-led coalition confirmed the SDF had retaken the oil field.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said pro-government forces retreated from the area around Al-Omar field after coming under heavy fire from IS. The SDF said government forces are three kilometers (two miles) away from the fields.

Syrian troops, backed by Russian warplanes and Iranian-sponsored militias, have retaken nearly all of the provincial capital of Deir el-Zour, as well as the town of Mayadeen, which is across the Euphrates River from the Al-Omar field.

The SDF have focused their operations in rural Deir el-Zour on the eastern side of the river, and have already seized a major natural gas field and other smaller oil fields.

Omar Abu Layla, a Europe-based activist from Deir el-Zour who monitors the fighting through contacts there, said SDF forces have seized control of the oil field but are still clashing with militants in the adjacent housing complex.

IS captured Al-Omar in 2014, when the group swept across large areas in Syria and neighboring Iraq. The field was estimated to produce around 9,000 barrels a day, making it a key source of revenue for the extremists. Its current potential is unknown, following a series of strikes on IS-held oil facilities by the U.S.-led coalition.

The government lost the al-Omar field to other insurgents in 2013.

Al-Manar TV, operated by Lebanon's Hezbollah, said the fight for Al-Omar was still underway and denied the SDF's claim to have captured it. The militant group is fighting alongside Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces.

The official Syrian news agency said troops have regained full control of Khosham, a town on the eastern side of the Euphrates River that they lost a day earlier to IS. The Observatory said parts of the town remain contested.

It's not clear how Syrian troops will respond to the SDF's seizure of Al-Omar. Assad has vowed to eventually bring all of Syria back under government control.

The two sides have accused each other of firing on their forces in Deir el-Zour province, but a rare face-to-face meeting of senior U.S. and Russian military officers last month appeared to have calmed tensions.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 21 of 35

IS has suffered a series of major setbacks in recent months, including the loss of the Syrian city of Raqqa, once the extremists' self-styled capital, and the Iraqi city of Mosul. Most of the territory the group once held has been seized by an array of Syrian and Iraqi forces.

Exit polls show win for Japanese PM Abe's ruling coalition

TOKYO (AP) — Exit polls indicated Sunday that Japanese voters have returned Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling coalition to power in national elections.

Japanese media projected shortly after polls closed that Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and its junior partner Komeito would win a clear majority and might even retain their two-thirds majority in the lower house of parliament.

Abe dissolved the lower house less than a month ago, forcing the snap election. Up for grabs are 465 seats in the more powerful chamber, which chooses the prime minister.

An election victory would boost Abe's chances of winning another three-year term next September as leader of the Liberal Democratic Party. That could extend his premiership to 2021, giving him more time to pursue his longtime goal of revising Japan's postwar constitution.

Analysts initially thought that a new opposition party launched by populist Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike could put a dent in the ruling coalition's majority.

But Japanese public broadcaster NHK projected that Koike's Party of Hope would win just 38 to 59 seats in the 465-seat lower house.

Koike called the results "very severe" in a televised interview from Paris, where she is attending a conference of mayors. She said some of her remarks might have been taken negatively by voters, and that she would take the blame.

Fox renewed O'Reilly contract despite knowing of allegations

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The parent company of the Fox News Channel says it knew a news analyst planned to file a sexual harassment lawsuit against Bill O'Reilly when it renewed the popular personality's contract in February.

The New York Times reported Saturday the company renewed O'Reilly's contract after he reached a \$32 million settlement with the analyst, Lis Wiehl.

In a statement, 21st Century Fox defended its decision because it said O'Reilly had settled the matter personally. It also said O'Reilly and Wiehl had agreed the financial terms would be kept confidential.

The company says O'Reilly's new contract had added protections that allowed Fox to dismiss him if other allegations surfaced.

O'Reilly was ousted months later when it was revealed Fox had paid five women a total of \$13 million to keep quiet about harassment allegations.

Mark Fabiani, a spokesman for O'Reilly, said in a statement Saturday that after 21st Century Fox fired founding CEO Roger Ailes in 2015 following harassment charges, dozens of women accused scores of male employees at Fox News Channel of harassment. The 77-year-old Ailes died in Palm Beach, Florida, last May.

21st Century Fox paid out close to \$100 million dollars to settle all the cases, Fabiani said, adding that in O'Reilly's 20 years working at the channel not one complaint was filed against him by a co-worker, even on an anonymous hotline.

Wiehl's allegations included repeated harassment, a nonconsensual sexual relationship and the sending of gay pornography and other sexually explicit material to the woman, according to people briefed on the matter who spoke to The New York Times.

As part of the terms of their agreement, she signed an affidavit, dated Jan. 17 and obtained by the newspaper, stating that the two sides had resolved their dispute and that she had no claims against O'Reilly concerning any of the allegations in the draft complaint. All photos, text messages and other communica-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 22 of 35

tions between the two would be destroyed, the newspaper reported.

The Associated Press emailed Wiehl on Saturday seeking comment.

The settlement was by far the largest of a half dozen deals made by O'Reilly or the company to settle harassment allegations against the host, according to the newspaper.

It was reached in January. A month later, 21st Century Fox granted O'Reilly a four-year extension on a \$25 million-a-year contract. In April, it fired him.

Fabiani said the newspaper's account was false and taken out of context. The New York Times said it stands by its reporting.

"Mr Fabiani addresses everything but what the story actually says. This article, like our previous reporting on the subject, is accurate and deeply reported and we welcome any challenge to the facts," the newspaper said in a statement to The Associated Press on Saturday.

The most-watched figure in cable TV, O'Reilly has called his firing from the Fox News Channel a "political hit job" and that his network's parent company made a business decision to get rid of him. O'Reilly also has said his conscience was clear in how he dealt with women.

The company said it has taken numerous steps to change its workplace environment.

"21st Century Fox has taken concerted action to transform Fox News, including installing new leaders, overhauling management and on-air talent, expanding training, and increasing the channels through which employees can report harassment or discrimination," Fox said in a statement emailed to the AP. "These changes come from the top, with Lachlan and James Murdoch personally leading the effort to promote civility and respect on the job, while maintaining the company's long-held commitment to a diverse, inclusive and creative workplace."

O'Reilly hosts his "No Spin News" podcast on his website, www.billoreilly.com, contributes to Glenn Beck's radio program on TheBlaze and continues to write books in his best-selling series of historical "Killing" books, including his newest release, "Killing England: The Brutal Struggle for American Independence."

This story has been corrected to say Ailes died in Palm Beach, Florida, not Los Angeles.

Astros reach World Series, top Yankees 4-0 in Game 7 of ALCS

By KRISTIE RIEKEN, AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Jose Altuve embraced Justin Verlander as confetti rained down. An improbable thought just a few years ago, the Houston Astros are headed to the World Series.

Charlie Morton and Lance McCullers Jr. combined on a three-hitter, Altuve and Evan Gattis homered and the Astros reached the World Series for only the second time by blanking the New York Yankees 4-0 Saturday night in Game 7 of the AL Championship Series.

Next up for the Astros: Game 1 against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Tuesday night. Los Angeles opened as a narrow favorite, but Verlander, the ALCS MVP, and fellow Houston ace Dallas Keuchel will have plenty of rest before the World Series begins at sweltering Dodger Stadium.

"I love our personality," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said. "We have the right amount of fun, the right amount of seriousness, the right amount of perspective when we need it. This is a very, very unique group. To win 100 games and still be hungry is pretty remarkable."

The Astros will try for their first World Series title, thanks in large part to Altuve, the diminutive second baseman who swings a potent bat, and Verlander, who switched teams for the first time in his career to chase a ring.

Four years removed from their third straight 100-loss season in 2013, the Astros shut down the Yankees on consecutive nights after dropping three in a row in the Bronx.

The only previous time the Astros made it this far, they were a National League team when they were swept by the Chicago White Sox in 2005.

Hinch's club has a chance to win that elusive first crown, while trying to boost a region still recovering from Hurricane Harvey.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 23 of 35

"This city, they deserve this," McCullers said.

Clutch defensive plays by third baseman Alex Bregman and center fielder George Springer helped Houston improve to 6-0 at Minute Maid Park in these playoffs and become the fifth team in major league history to capture a seven-game postseason series by winning all four of its home games.

Morton bounced back from a loss in Game 3 to allow two hits over five scoreless innings. Starter-turned-postseason reliever McCullers limited the Yankees to just one hit while fanning six over the next four. A noted curveballer, McCullers finished up with 24 straight breaking pitches to earn his first major league save.

Combined, they throttled the wild-card Yankees one last time in Houston. Aaron Judge, Gary Sanchez and their New York teammates totaled just three runs in the four road games.

"I know people are going to talk about how we didn't win many games on the road. There were some other teams that haven't won many games on the road, either. We just happened to run into a very good team that just beat us," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said.

The Astros also eliminated New York in the 2015 postseason, with Keuchel winning the AL wild-card game at Yankee Stadium.

CC Sabathia entered 10-0 with a 1.69 ERA in 13 starts this season after a Yankees loss. But he struggled with command and was gone with one out in the fourth inning.

Houston was up 2-0 in fifth when former Yankees star Brian McCann came through for the second straight game by hitting a two-run double. He snapped an 0-for-20 skid with an RBI double to give Houston its first run on Friday night in a 7-1 win.

The Yankees, trying to reach the World Series for the first time since 2009, lost an elimination game for the first time this season after winning their first four in these playoffs. New York went 1-6 on the road this postseason.

After going 0 for 5 with runners in scoring position through the first three innings, the Astros got on the board with no outs in the fourth with the 405-foot shot by Gattis.

Altuve launched a ball off Tommy Kahnle into the seats in right field with one out in the fifth for his fifth homer this postseason. It took a while for him to see that it was going to get out, and held onto his bat until he was halfway to first base before flipping it and trotting around the bases as chants of "MVP" rained down on him.

Altuve finished 8 for 25 with two homers and four RBIs in the ALCS after hitting .533 with three homers and four RBIs in the ALDS against Boston.

Carlos Correa and Yuli Gurriel hit consecutive singles before Kahnle struck out Gattis. McCann's two-strike double, which rolled into the corner of right field, cleared the bases to push the lead to 4-0. Gurriel slid to avoid the tag and remained on his belly in a swimming pose at the plate for a few seconds after he was called safe.

It was just the second Game 7 in franchise history for the Astros, who lost to the Cardinals in the 2004 NLCS exactly 13 years earlier.

Sabathia allowed five hits and one run while walking three in 3 1/3 innings. He wasn't nearly as sharp as he was in a Game 3 win and just 36 of the 65 pitches he threw were strikes.

Morton got into trouble in the fifth, and the Yankees had runners at the corners with one out. Bregman fielded a grounder hit by Todd Frazier and made a perfect throw home to allow McCann to tag Greg Bird and preserve Houston's lead. McCann held onto the ball despite Bird's cleat banging into his forearm. Chase Headley grounded out after that to end the inning.

A night after Springer kept Frazier from extra-bases with a leaping catch, Judge returned the favor on a ball hit by Yuli Gurriel. Judge sprinted, jumped and reached into the stands to grab his long fly ball before crashing into the wall and falling to the ground for the first out of the second inning.

Springer had another nifty catch in this one, jumping in front of Marwin Gonzalez at the wall in left-center to grab a ball hit by Bird for the first out of the seventh.

With McCullers in charge, the Astros soon closed it out.

"It's not easy to get here. And I don't take any of this for granted. And this is what we play for," Verlander said. "These are the experiences that you remember at the end of your career when you look back, win-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 24 of 35

ning these games, just playing the World Series. Hopefully winning the World Series.”

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

Hot World Series on deck: Altuve, Astros vs Kershaw, Dodgers

By **BEN WALKER**, AP Baseball Writer

Big-time aces Clayton Kershaw and Justin Verlander. Playoff boppers Jose Altuve and Justin Turner.

A pair of 100-win teams for the first time in nearly a half-century. Hollywood Walk of Fame vs. Texans who wear the star. A little extra Magic, plus Nolan back in the fast lane.

This is one hot World Series — the Houston Astros, fresh off a Game 7 victory over the Yankees, taking on the narrowly favored Los Angeles Dodgers, well rested after a postseason romp.

Could be real steamy, too. It's supposed to be almost 100 degrees at Dodger Stadium for the opener Tuesday night, maybe the hottest temperature ever at a World Series game.

“Now we chase the ultimate prize,” Astros manager A.J. Hinch said. “There's two teams standing. It's a race to four wins now. At the start there's a race to 11, we've got seven of them down.”

At least the familiar October chill that makes players and fans shiver shouldn't be an issue outdoors in sun-baked California or under the retractable roof at Minute Maid Park.

Not that young stars Cody Bellinger and Carlos Correa would mind, nor would old pros Carlos Beltran and Chase Utley, nor top starters Dallas Keuchel and Yu Darvish.

Because a chance to win a ring doesn't come very often — these teams that have already played more than 700 games against each other over the years already know that.

The Astros have never won the crown. They're playing for a whole region, with the Houston Strong patches on their uniforms representing an area hit hard by Hurricane Harvey.

“There's a lot of people that are really hurting right now in this city,” said Verlander, the ALCS MVP. “And it gives the city something to rally around and gives people something to cheer for that otherwise may not have a lot to be hopeful for.”

The Dodgers haven't been in the World Series since 1988, when Kirk Gibson's bat, Orel Hershiser's arm and Tommy Lasorda's moves outdid Oakland for the crown.

Now with Lakers great Magic Johnson as a part-owner, this LA team that led the majors with 104 wins is hoping to bring back the glory days that began in Brooklyn.

“I just want to win a World Series,” Kershaw said after the Dodgers dethroned the Chicago Cubs in Game 5 of the NL Championship Series. “I know more than anybody how hard it is to get there. So, I'm definitely not taking this one for granted.”

Said mercurial outfielder Yasiel Puig: “The trophy's coming soon.”

The Astros, the major leagues' highest-scoring team this year, have never even won a World Series game. They only time they made it this far was 2005, when a club that included Jeff Bagwell, Craig Biggio, Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte got swept by the White Sox.

In fact, a World Series prize is the one piece of hardware missing from the trophy case from the Lone Star State. Texas teams have won the Super Bowl and championships in the NBA, NHL, college football and men's and women's basketball, but never in baseball.

Under the leadership of executive Nolan Ryan, the Texas Rangers came within one strike in 2011 before losing to St. Louis. The Ryan Express, who once pitched a no-hitter for Houston against the Dodgers, is currently an Astros exec.

The Astros posted 101 wins this year — not since Baltimore (108) and Cincinnati (102) in 1970 has the World Series matched teams who reached triple-digits.

These teams last met in 2015, when the Astros swept a three-game series at home. But they'd seen a lot of each other in the past.

Overall, the Dodgers are 388-323 vs. the Astros. Houston debuted as the Colt .45s as a National League

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 25 of 35

expansion team in 1962, beat the Dodgers in a one-game playoff for the NL West championship in 1980 and eventually moved to the AL in 2013.

That first year in the AL, the young Astros got pounded and lost 111 times. But with smart drafts and player development, Houston emerged as a power. Hinch's club capped its rise by beating Boston in the AL Division Series, then stopping the Yankees 4-0 Saturday night in Game 7 of the ALCS.

The Dodgers, with a major league-high \$226 million payroll, won their fifth straight NL West title this year, then 7-1 in the playoffs against the Diamondbacks and Cubs under manager Dave Roberts.

The result? Their first pennant since 1988 — the year Kershaw was born.

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

Japan votes for lower house; Abe's party seen headed for win

By MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Voting in a general election started Sunday that would most likely hand Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's right-wing ruling coalition a victory and possibly close to a two-thirds majority in parliament.

Abe dissolved the lower house less than a month ago, forcing the snap election. He judged the timing was ripe for his ruling Liberal Democratic Party, or at least better than waiting until the end of its term next year.

Up for grabs are 465 seats in the more powerful lower house, which chooses the prime minister.

Media polls have indicated voters are passively choosing Abe's government despite its railroading of unfavorable bills and cronyism scandals, seeing it as a safer choice over an opposition with little or unknown track records.

Scare over North Korea's missile and nuclear development is also seen contributing to voters' conservative choice. Media surveys also predicted Abe's coalition to win around 300 seats though they said it could lose some ground from the current 318 due to scandals.

Hiroshi Yamada, 82, said his vote was based on "the issues such as (a possible) war and foreign affairs," suggesting his support for the LDP coalition amid growing concerns over North Korea. "I am supporting the political party which presents feasible policies amid the current situation."

Makiko Yamada, who's unrelated to the other voter, said she was bothered by Abe's cronyism scandals. "I saw reports showing people who would help (Abe) were given high positions. It made me think twice."

Voters were casting ballots early, apparently worried by an approaching powerful typhoon. Vote counting at a few locations in southwestern Japan may be delayed due to the weather, NHK public television reported.

Abe says he is seeking a mandate on his government's tougher stance to defend Japan against the North's threat and his proposed increase in the consumption tax, but experts say it's an election about securing his rule.

An election victory would boost Abe's chances to head LDP for another three years at the party's convention next September. It would extend his premiership possibly to 2021 and eventually achieve his long-time goal of revising Japan's war-renouncing postwar constitution.

In a speech in Tokyo wrapping up the 12-day campaigning Saturday night, Abe said, "We will protect Japan at all costs for the future of this country."

Support for Abe's Cabinet has recovered thanks to the absence of parliamentary debates over political scandals during a recess.

The main opposition force, the Democratic Party, was in more disarray after a leadership change and a key member was slammed by an extramarital affair. Holding off on an election would only give Abe's potential rival, Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike, more time to organize a challenge.

Koike hastily launched a new party to contest the vote, though she ended up not running. Her Party of Hope attracted a slew of defectors from the Democrats who converted to her populist platform including phasing out nuclear energy by 2030, and freezing of a consumption tax hike due in 2019. The initial

excitement for her party has waned as Koike's nationalist stance and policies were seen similar to those of Abe's LDP.

The Democratic Party had imploded and its more liberal members, led by former top government spokesman Yukio Edano, launched yet another group, the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, whose focus on grassroots democracy, pacifist principles and calls for "decent" politics is now outpolling the Party of Hope.

Abe's victory would likely mean a continuation of the policies he has pursued in the nearly five years since he took office in December 2012 — a hard line on North Korea, close ties with Washington, including defense, as well as a super-loose monetary policy and push for nuclear energy.

With a possible backing from the conservative opposition, he may get the two-thirds majority he needs in parliament to propose a constitutional amendment, though any change also needs approval in a public referendum.

Associated Press writer Ken Moritsugu contributed to this report.

Former presidents call for unity at hurricane aid concert

By WILL WEISSERT, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The five living former presidents put aside politics and appeared together for the first time since 2013 at a concert on Saturday to raise money for victims of devastating hurricanes in Texas, Florida, Louisiana, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Democrats Barack Obama, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter and Republicans George H.W. and George W. Bush gathered in College Station, Texas, home of Texas A&M University, to try to unite the country after the storms.

Texas A&M is home to the presidential library of the elder Bush. At 93, he has a form of Parkinson's disease and appeared in a wheelchair at the event. His wife, Barbara, and George W. Bush's wife, Laura, were in the audience.

Grammy award winner Lady Gaga made a surprise appearance at the concert that also featured country music band Alabama, Rock & Roll Hall of Famer 'Soul Man' Sam Moore, gospel legend Yolanda Adams and Texas musicians Lyle Lovett and Robert Earl Keen.

The appeal backed by the ex-presidents has raised \$31 million since it began on Sept. 7, said Jim McGrath, spokesman for George H.W. Bush.

President Donald Trump offered a video greeting that avoided his past criticism of the former presidents and called them "some of America's finest public servants."

"This wonderful effort reminds us that we truly are one nation under God, all unified by our values and devotion to one another," Trump said in the greeting, played during the concert.

Four of the five former presidents — Obama, George W. Bush, Carter and Clinton — made brief remarks that did not mention Trump. The elder Bush did not speak but smiled and waved to the crowd. They appealed for national unity to help those hurt by the hurricanes.

"The heart of America, without regard to race or religion or political party, is greater than our problems," said Clinton.

The last time the five were together was in 2013, when Obama was still in office, at the dedication of George W. Bush's presidential library in Dallas.

There is precedent for former presidents joining forces for post-disaster fundraising. George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton raised money together after the 2004 South Asia tsunami and Hurricane Katrina the next year. Clinton and George W. Bush combined to seek donations after Haiti's 2011 earthquake.

"It's certainly a triple, if not a home run, every time," said Brandon Rottinghaus, a political science professor at the University of Houston. "Presidents have the most powerful and prolific fundraising base of any politician in the world. When they send out a call for help, especially on something that's not political, they can rake in big money."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 27 of 35

Amid criticism that his administration was initially slow to aid ravaged Puerto Rico, Trump accused island leaders of "poor leadership," and later tweeted that, "Electric and all infrastructure was disaster before hurricanes" while saying that Federal Emergency Management Agency, first-responders and military personnel wouldn't be able to stay there forever.

But Rottinghaus said ex-presidents are seen as less polarizing than the current president.

"They can't get away from the politics of the moment," he said of current White House occupants. "Ex-presidents are able to step back and be seen as the nation's grandfather."

Hurricane Harvey slammed into Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast as a Category 4 hurricane on Aug. 25, unleashing historic flooding in Houston and killing more than 80 people. Shortly thereafter, all five ex-presidents appeared in a commercial for a fundraising effort known as "One America Appeal." In it, George W. Bush says, "People are hurting down here." His father, George H.W. Bush, then replies, "We love you, Texas."

Hurricane Irma subsequently hit Florida and Hurricane Maria battered Puerto Rico, while both devastated the U.S. Virgin Islands.

A website accepting donations, OneAmericaAppeal.org, was created with 100 percent of proceeds pledged to hurricane relief.

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

Funeral held for US soldier at center of Trump fight

By TERRY SPENCER, Associated Press

COOPER CITY, Fla. (AP) — Mourners Saturday remembered not only a U.S. soldier whose combat death in Africa led to a political fight between President Donald Trump and a Florida congresswoman but his three comrades who died with him.

Some of the 1,200 mourners exiting the church after the service said the portrait of Sgt. La David Johnson, 25, was joined on stage by photographs of his slain comrades. The four died Oct. 4 in Niger when they were attacked by militants tied to the Islamic State. Johnson's family asked reporters to remain outside for the service.

"We have to remember that one thing: that it wasn't just one soldier who lost his life," said Berchel Davis, a retired police officer who has six children in the military. He said the preacher and Rep. Frederica Wilson both made that a part of their talks. "That was a good gesture on everyone's part."

He and others said the fight between Trump and Wilson was never mentioned during the service.

Staff Sgt. Bryan C. Black, 35, of Puyallup, Washington; Staff Sgt. Jeremiah W. Johnson, 39, of Springboro, Ohio; and Staff Sgt. Dustin M. Wright, 29, of Lyons, Georgia, were killed along with La David Johnson in Niger.

La David Johnson's pregnant widow, Myeshia, had held the arm of an Army officer as she led her two young children and her family, dressed in white, into the Christ the Rock Community Church in suburban Fort Lauderdale. The modern hymn "I'm Yours" could be heard coming from inside.

Johnson's sister, Angela Ghent, said after the service that "it don't feel real" that her brother was killed.

"It hasn't hit me yet, I haven't had time to grieve," said Ghent, who last spoke to her brother a few weeks before he died. She said she was glad mourners got to hear about her brother's love for bikes and cars, not just his military service.

The fight between Trump and Wilson had taken the focus off Johnson, whose widow is due to have a daughter in January. Sgt. Johnson told friends she will be named La'Shee. The couple, who were high school sweethearts, already had a 6-year-old daughter, Ah'Leeya, and 2-year-old son, La David Jr. An online fundraiser has raised more than \$600,000 to pay for the children's education.

Johnson's mother died when he was 5; he was raised by his aunt. His family enrolled him in 5000 Role Models, a project Wilson began in 1993 when she was an educator where African-American boys are

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 28 of 35

paired with mentors who prepare them for college, vocational school or the military.

"We teach them to be a good man, a good husband and a good father. Sgt. Johnson typified all of those characteristics," said mourner Carlton Crawl, a public school consultant who is one of the program's mentors.

In 2013, a year before he enlisted, Johnson was featured in a local television newscast for his ability to do bicycle tricks, earning the nickname "Wheelie King." He said he learned his tricks by going slow.

"Once you feel comfortable, you could just ride all day," he told the interviewer.

The war of words between the president and Wilson began Tuesday when the Miami-area Democrat said Trump told Myeshia Johnson in a phone call that her husband "knew what he signed up for" and didn't appear to know his name, a version later backed up by Johnson's aunt. Wilson was riding with Johnson's family to meet the body and heard the call on speakerphone. She was principal of a school Johnson's father attended.

Trump tweeted Wilson "fabricated" his statement and the fight escalated through the week. Trump in other tweets called her "wacky" and accused her of "SECRETLY" listening to the phone call.

Trump's chief of staff, John Kelly, entered the fray Thursday. The retired Marine general asserted that the congresswoman had delivered a 2015 speech at an FBI field office dedication in which she "talked about how she was instrumental in getting the funding for that building," rather than keeping the focus on the fallen agents for which it was named. Video of the speech contradicted his recollection.

Wilson, who is black, fired back Friday when she told The New York Times: "The White House itself is full white supremacists."

The retorts persisted Saturday morning, with Trump tweeting: "I hope the Fake News Media keeps talking about Wacky Congresswoman Wilson in that she, as a representative, is killing the Democrat Party!"

Spanish PM aims to take over Catalan govt; residents aghast

By ARITZ PARRA, Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Spain announced an unprecedented plan Saturday to sack Catalonia's separatist leaders, install its own people in their place and call a new local election, using previously untapped constitutional powers to take control of the prosperous region that is threatening to secede.

Catalonia's president responded by making a veiled independence threat, telling lawmakers to come up with a plan to counter Spain's "attempt to wipe out self-government."

Even moderate Catalans were aghast at the scope of the move, greeting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's announcement with banging pots and honking cars in the streets of Barcelona, the regional capital.

In a televised address late Saturday, Catalan President Carles Puigdemont called Rajoy's plans to replace him and his cabinet an "attempt to humiliate" Catalonia and an "attack on democracy." He called on the regional parliament to "debate and decide on the attempt to wipe out our self-government and our democracy, and act accordingly."

Puigdemont called Rajoy's move the "the worst attack" on Catalan people and institutions since Gen. Francisco Franco's abolishment of Catalonia's regional government in 1939.

Barcelona mayor Ada Colau, who opposes independence without a valid referendum, called Rajoy's measures "a serious attack" on self-government in Catalonia. Others went further. Catalan parliament speaker Carme Forcadell accused Spain's central authorities of carrying out a coup.

"Mariano Rajoy has announced a de facto coup d'état with the goal of ousting a democratically elected government," Forcadell said, calling it "an authoritarian blow within a member of the European Union."

After a special Cabinet session to derail Catalonia's independence movement, Rajoy said he wants the country's Senate to allow central ministers to take over the jobs of all senior members of the Catalan government, including control over the regional police, finances and the public media.

Rajoy is also seeking the Senate's approval to assume the power to call a regional election — something that only Catalonia's top leader can do now.

The vice president of the Senate says a session next Friday will vote on the measures. Conservative senator Pedro Sanz told reporters a special commission of 27 senators will make a first assessment of

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 29 of 35

the measures Tuesday. He said Puigdemont can appeal the moves by appearing before the commission before noon Thursday or by sending an envoy.

Rajoy's ruling Popular Party has an absolute majority in the chamber and is expected to receive wide support from opposition senators for measures to protect Spanish unity.

In response, protesters wrapped in red-and-yellow Catalan flags flooded the streets of central Barcelona on Saturday, holding up signs calling for freedom.

About 450,000 people joined the protest, according to police, although an anti-secession group put the number at 85,000. The demonstration had originally been called to protest the detention of two pro-independence activists who are awaiting possible sedition charges, but it turned into an outcry over Rajoy's takeover move.

"We are here because the Spanish government made a coup without weapons against the Catalan people and their government institutions," said Joan Portet, a 58-year-old protester.

Rajoy said he is using Article 155 of the Spanish Constitution in order to "restore normalcy" in the country, which faces its most grave institutional crisis in decades with Catalonia's independence movement. He said a new regional election in Catalonia should be held in the next six months.

"There is no country in the world ready to allow this kind of situation within its borders," Rajoy said. "It is my wish to call an election as soon as normality is restored."

Article 155 allows central authorities to intervene when one of Spain's 17 autonomous regions fails to comply with the law. It's never been applied since the 1978 Constitution was adopted.

The slow-burning constitutional crisis over secession escalated this month when regional government officials held a disputed independence referendum on Oct. 1. They then declared that the result — strongly in favor of independence — gave them a legal basis for separating from Spain even though the vote itself had numerous problems.

The country's Constitutional Court has so far ruled against all moves toward secession, including the Catalan referendum.

Albert Rivera, head of the pro-business Citizens party, said he backed Rajoy's measures because Catalonia needs to restore legal security so companies can remain in the region. Hundreds of companies have transferred their registered headquarters out of Catalonia to other areas in Spain, fearing the chaos that independence — or the fight over it — could bring.

Basque nationalists and the far-left Podemos party were among those in Madrid opposing the government's move.

"We are in shock about the suspension of democracy in Catalonia," said Podemo's Pablo Echenique, vowing to work to oust Rajoy and his conservative Popular Party.

Barcelona resident Rosa Isart said the Spanish government's determination to prevent Catalonia from leaving reminded her of Franco's dictatorship decades ago.

"It seems unbelievable that I have to see this again, because of the incompetence of these politicians who don't know how to speak to each other," Isart said.

Others were sympathetic to Rajoy's plan. Barcelona resident Carlos Assensio agreed with Madrid, given the separatists' refusal to abide by Spain's laws.

"If we don't respect the law, this could be a total anarchy," said the 65-year-old.

Pietro DeCristofaro and Vicente Marquez in Barcelona contributed.

This story has been corrected to say Pedro Sanz instead of Pedro Blanco.

After Raqqa, Trump says US shifts to 'new phase' in Syria

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

STERLING, Va. (AP) — President Donald Trump is portraying the Islamic State group's ouster from its Syrian stronghold as a milestone in the U.S. fight against terrorism and a step toward a political transition and lasting peace in Syria.

That assessment, in a statement released Saturday, runs counter to warnings in recent days from his national security aides that the militants remain fully capable of striking American interests. And there are no signs of an impending political transition, with Syrian President Bashar Assad's government newly strengthened.

Kurdish-led forces on Friday declared victory in Raqqa, the extremists' self-declared capital, where they had terrorized the population for four years.

Trump called it "a critical breakthrough in our worldwide campaign to defeat ISIS and its wicked ideology" and said "the end of the ISIS caliphate is in sight."

He cited his efforts to empower U.S. military forces on the ground, and repeated his claim that more had been done to defeat the group in recent months "than in the past several years."

The U.S. "will soon transition into a new phase" in Syria, Trump said, and offer support to local security forces. He said the U.S. will back diplomatic negotiations to end the violence, allow refugees to return safely home, and "yield a political transition that honors the will of the Syrian people."

There is no indication, however, that a political transition will come any time soon.

U.N.-led talks have shown no serious signs of picking up steam. The ouster of IS forces from Raqqa and other parts of Syria has overlapped with the increased influence of Iran and Russia in the country and a stronger hand for Assad, dimming prospects even further for the type of political solution the U.S. has long wanted to see.

Most Raqqa residents fled long ago and are now scattered across refugee camps or abroad, and there is little for them to return to. The once vibrant metropolis on the Euphrates River has largely been reduced to rubble and is littered with land mines and booby traps.

So far, the Trump administration has shown little appetite for longer-term engagement or involvement in nation-building in Iraq and Syria. While it will work to clear Raqqa of mines and restore basic services like water and electricity, Washington has made it evidence that it has no intention of playing the leading role in rebuilding the city.

National security officials, including CIA director Mike Pompeo, have warned that just because IS has been evicted from Raqqa, it doesn't mean the group won't be able to carry out attacks against the United State.

The U.S. military this past week estimated that 6,500 IS fighters remain in eastern Syria and western Iraq, many concentrated along the Euphrates River valley straddling the border. Those fighters pose an insurgent threat in both countries and an ideological threat globally.

Associated Press writer Josh Lederman in Washington contributed to this report.

Trump has no plans to block scheduled release of JFK records

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says he doesn't plan to block the scheduled release of thousands of never publicly seen government documents related to President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

"Subject to the receipt of further information," he wrote in a Saturday morning tweet, "I will be allowing, as President, the long blocked and classified JFK FILES to be opened."

The National Archives has until Thursday to disclose the remaining files related to Kennedy's 1963 assassination. The trove is expected to include more than 3,000 documents that have never been seen by the public and more than 30,000 that have been previously released but with redactions.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 31 of 35

Congress mandated in 1992 that all assassination documents be released within 25 years, but Trump has the power to block them on the grounds that making them public would harm intelligence or military operations, law enforcement or foreign relations.

"Thank you. This is the correct decision. Please do not allow exceptions for any agency of government," tweeted Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics and author of a book about Kennedy, who has urged the president to release the files. "JFK files have been hidden too long."

The anticipated release has had scholars and armchair detectives buzzing. But it's unlikely the documents will contain any big revelations on a tragedy that has stirred conspiracy theories for decades, Judge John Tunheim told The Associated Press last month. Tunheim was chairman of the independent agency in the 1990s that made public many assassination records and decided how long others could remain secret.

Sabato and other JFK scholars believe the trove of files may, however, provide insight into assassin Lee Harvey Oswald's trip to Mexico City weeks before the killing, during which he visited the Soviet and Cuban embassies. Oswald's stated reason for going was to get visas that would allow him to enter Cuba and the Soviet Union, according to the Warren Commission, the investigative body established by President Lyndon B. Johnson, but much about the trip remains unknown.

Longtime Trump friend Roger Stone, who wrote a book alleging that Johnson was the driving force behind Kennedy's assassination, had personally urged the president to make the files public, he told far-right conspiracy theorist and radio show host Alex Jones this past week.

"Yesterday, I had the opportunity to make the case directly to the president of the United States by phone as to why I believe it is essential that he release the balance of the currently redacted and classified JFK assassination documents," Stone said, adding that "a very good White House source," but not the president, had told him the Central Intelligence Agency, "specifically CIA director Mike Pompeo, has been lobbying the president furiously not to release these documents."

"Why? Because I believe they show that Oswald was trained, nurtured and put in place by the Central Intelligence Agency. It sheds very bad light on the deep state," he said.

After the president announced his decision, Stone tweeted: "Yes ! victory !"

The files that were withheld in full were those the Assassination Records Review Board deemed "not believed relevant," Tunheim said. Its members sought to ensure they weren't hiding any information directly related to Kennedy's assassination, but there may be nuggets of information in the files that they didn't realize were important two decades ago, he said.

"There could be some jewels in there because in our level of knowledge in the 1990s is maybe different from today," Tunheim said.

The National Archives in July published online more than 440 never-before-seen assassination documents and thousands of others that had been released previously with redactions.

Among those documents was a 1975 internal CIA memo that questioned whether Oswald became motivated to kill Kennedy after reading an AP article in a newspaper that quoted Fidel Castro as saying "U.S. leaders would be in danger if they helped in any attempt to do away with leaders of Cuba."

54 Egyptian police killed in ambush, say officials

By MENNA ZAKI, Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — At least 54 policemen, including 20 officers and 34 conscripts, were killed when a raid on a militant hideout southwest of Cairo was ambushed, officials said Saturday. The ensuing firefight was one of the deadliest for Egyptian security forces in recent years.

Two police officials told The Associated Press that the exchange of fire began late Friday in the al-Wahat al-Bahriya area in Giza province, about 135 kilometers (84 miles) southwest of Cairo.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media.

The firefight began when security forces acting on intelligence moved against a militants' hideout in the area. Backed by armored personnel carriers and led by senior counterterrorism officers, the police contingent drew fire and rocket-propelled grenades, according to the officials.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 32 of 35

The officials said what happened next is not clear, but added that the force likely ran out of ammunition and that the militants captured several policemen and later killed them.

The officials said the police force appeared to have fallen into a carefully planned ambush set up by the militants. The death toll could increase, they added.

Those killed included two police brigadier-generals, a colonel and 10 lieutenant colonels.

Egypt's Interior Ministry, which is in charge of police, announced a much lower death toll, saying in a statement read over state television that 16 were killed in the shootout. It added that 15 militants were killed or injured, later releasing photos of some of them.

The last time Egypt's security forces suffered such a heavy loss of life was in July 2015 when militants from the extremist Islamic State group carried out a series of coordinated attacks, including suicide bombings, against army and police positions in the Sinai peninsula, killing at least 50. However, the army said only 17 soldiers and over 100 militants were killed.

An official statement issued Saturday said Friday's incident would be investigated, suggesting that the heavy death toll may have been partially caused by incompetence, intelligence failures or lack of coordination. The officials said prosecutors will look into whether the police's counterterrorism agents failed to inform the military of the operation or include them.

Two audio recordings purportedly by policemen who took part in the operation circulated online late Friday. One policeman, apparently using a two-way radio, was heard in the nearly two-minute recording pleading for help from a higher-ranking officer.

"We are the only ones injured, sir," the policeman said. "We were 10 but three were killed. After their injury, they bled to death, sir."

"They took all the weapons and ammunition," he added, "We are now at the foot of a mountain."

The second recording was purportedly by a policeman warning others. "I can't identify any direction. Only planes can see us. Take care every one," he was heard saying, adding that militants were pursuing them.

The authenticity of the recordings could not be immediately verified.

The heavy loss of life will likely lead to the restructuring and streamlining of the country's counterterrorism effort, the officials said, with better coordination between the police, military and security agencies high on the list of objectives.

It's also likely to be cited by government critics as a vindication of their long-held argument that suppressing freedoms, jailing opponents and cracking down on civil society does not, as the pro-government media insists, help in the war against terror.

No militant group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which bore all the hallmarks of the Islamic State group. A local affiliate of the extremist group is spearheading an insurgency whose epicenter is in the Sinai Peninsula, which borders Israel and the Gaza Strip.

The United States condemned the attack in a statement issued by State Department, offering "profound condolences to the families of the deceased and the government and people of Egypt... at this difficult time."

The incident comes a few days after militants staged a brazen daylight attack in the heart of el-Arish, the largest city in the Sinai Peninsula, attacking a church and a nearby bank and reportedly making away with some \$1 million. Seven were killed in the Monday attack.

Attacks by militants have significantly increased since the 2013 ouster by the military of an Islamist president, who was freely elected but whose one-year rule proved divisive. Attacks have also spread outside Sinai and into the country's mainland and areas close to the porous Libyan border to the west.

The country has been under a state of emergency since April, following a spate of suicide bombings targeting minority Christians that have killed more than a 100 since December. The attacks were claimed by IS.

Egypt blamed the attacks on the Christians on militant cells trained and armed in neighboring Libya, where mostly Islamist militias, including extremist groups like IS, control territory or maintain a foothold in the vast, oil-rich nation. In response, Egypt has stepped up security along its desert border with Libya, where it supports an eastern-based army general fighting militant groups.

In July 2014, gunmen armed with rocket-propelled grenades attacked a border guard post in Egypt's

western desert in a brazen assault that killed 21 troops deployed close to the Libyan border. Associated Press writer Thomas Strong in Washington D.C. contributed to this report.

Unforgiving wildfires affect vineyard workers and owners

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. (AP) — When the wildfires ignited, vineyard workers stopped picking grapes and fled for their lives. Some vineyard owners decided to stay and fight back, spending days digging firebreaks and sleeping among their vines for safety.

As the danger drew closer, grape pickers spread word of the threat and helped neighbors pack their homes. The owner of an elite golf resort abandoned his home to try to save his golf course.

The deadliest and most destructive wildfires in California history imperiled both the low-wage workers who harvest the nation's most valuable wine grapes and the wealthy entrepreneurs who employ them. Vintners were suddenly plunged into the same desperate struggle as their laborers, with everyone fighting to preserve the things most precious to them — families, belongings and businesses.

On the public beach campgrounds where hundreds of evacuees escaped the flames, the affluent slept alongside migrant workers and combed through donated supplies.

"We had people in Mercedes and Lexuses showing up" with soot on their faces after losing everything, said Patty Ginochio, a volunteer who helped feed, house and clothe evacuees. Even some of the well-off "had nothing but the clothes on their back. It's humbling."

If anything, the fires seemed to target the affluent, blackening leafy suburban developments and hilltop estates more than the flatlands where many farm workers and middle-class families live.

Winery owners with multiple houses will take vastly different roads to recovery than the grape pickers who lost the only rental home they could hope to afford. But for a short time, fire was the great leveler in a region where the wealthiest 1 percent of people makes 20 times more than the rest.

Everybody thinks the winery owners are "rich guys and rich families, and they're above everything," said Adam Mariani, a fourth-generation farmer whose family runs the Scribe Winery in Sonoma. "But the truth is people are completely bootstrapping here" and worried about the effect of the fires on their livelihood.

The harvest was winding down on Oct. 8 as Gonzalo Jauregui worked an overnight grape-picking shift intended to protect workers and the fruit from the heat of the day. Around 10 p.m., a gale blew into the vineyard outside of Sonoma with a strength that the 45-year-old had never seen before.

"We saw the power lines bouncing against each other and trees losing their branches and sparks flying," Jauregui recalled. The grape harvesters ran to their cars.

Dozens of other blazes were erupting at the same time across wine country, and Jauregui "could see the fire coming down the mountain."

At the Scribe Winery, the winds disrupted a dinner among the vines, upending table settings. Diners who had hoped to linger over their meals were driven inside. Kelly Mariani, one of the family members there, recalled the ominous rattle of rattlesnakes in dry grass as the wind rose.

By midnight, flames had burned a neighbor's home and were creeping down an oak ridge toward the winery buildings and family homes.

"There were hurricane winds. The house was rattling. The dog was barking," said Adam Mariani, whose family has worked for a decade to rebuild the winery, which was eradicated during Prohibition and turned into a turkey farm.

As fires came over ridge after ridge above the wine valleys, Manuel Contreras lingered for days at a Sonoma apartment complex housing mostly migrant workers like him. He helped neighbors pack belongings and find transportation and shelters.

"I want to be the last person out," he said.

While he spoke, firefighters and sheriff's deputies went house to house and business to business to warn people that the flames were expected to arrive within hours. But, Contreras said, authorities never came to tell the Spanish-speaking workers.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 34 of 35

"We were waiting for them to come to tell us" it was finally time to go, he said. The grape workers finally joined the evacuation when they saw streams of cars racing out of town.

At Napa's championship Silverado golf resort, former PGA master Johnny Miller climbed to the roof of the white-pillared country club with a garden hose to save the clubhouse himself. He taped other hoses to the rails of balconies to spray water down on embers.

In one of the mansions near the course was Tim Wall, whose businesses include Rug Doctor carpet-cleaning and the golf resort. He made sure his family and animals were safe and left his home to its fate. Then he fought to save the golf course.

"I hadn't thought of it that way," Wall said of his decision to choose the course over his home. "If the house burned down, it wouldn't be near the impact, economically or otherwise, to myself or other people." The home survived.

In Sonoma County, Jauregui and his co-workers and neighbors sped home through smoke. They woke their families, then pounded on doors of their apartment building to wake others.

Adam Mariani, with help from a changing cast of relatives, friends, neighbors and passing crews of firefighters, used shovels and tractors to gouge firebreaks in the dirt.

Mariana and his brother figured their homes were lost, but they fought to save the winery's restored hacienda, a landmark from the days of California's first wine makers in the 1850s. When Adam needed to rest, he drove his car to the middle of the vineyards, where the live rows would resist fire.

The firebreaks, along with helicopter water drops from a reservoir maintained by the Gundlach-Bundschu winery and the vineyards themselves, helped crews finally turn the corner on the wildfires a week after the blazes began. In all, more than 100,000 acres burned in Napa, Sonoma and Solano counties, and more than 100,000 people evacuated.

Even as the flames eased, winery employees and owners alike faced economic fears. Many had gone more than a week without work, and months of rebuilding lay ahead. Shelters, soup kitchens and donation centers opened. Near Jauregui's home, 2,500 returned evacuees lined up last Wednesday for free lunches.

That day, he knocked on the doors of a bakery and other businesses to ask for work.

Scribe employees returned Wednesday, many for the first time. The green and gold landscape was etched with dark char lines. Blackened trees surrounded the winery on three sides. But the old hacienda, the homes and the winery buildings still stood.

Winery workers came back with red eyes. Adam Mariani enfolded them in his arms.

"It's all here," he said.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Oct. 22, the 295th day of 2017. There are 70 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 22, 1962, in a nationally broadcast address, President John F. Kennedy revealed the presence of Soviet-built missile bases under construction in Cuba and announced a quarantine of all offensive military equipment being shipped to the Communist island nation.

On this date:

In 1746, Princeton University was first chartered as the College of New Jersey.

In 1797, French balloonist Andre-Jacques Garnerin (gahr-nayr-AN') made the first parachute descent, landing safely from a height of about 3,000 feet over Paris.

In 1836, Sam Houston was inaugurated as the first constitutionally elected president of the Republic of Texas.

In 1926, Ernest Hemingway's first novel, "The Sun Also Rises," was published by Scribner's of New York.

In 1928, Republican presidential nominee Herbert Hoover spoke of the "American system of rugged individualism" in a speech at New York's Madison Square Garden.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 105 ~ 35 of 35

In 1934, bank robber Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd was shot to death by federal agents and local police at a farm near East Liverpool, Ohio.

In 1953, the Franco-Lao Treaty of Amity and Association effectively made Laos an independent member of the French Union.

In 1964, Jean-Paul Sartre was named winner of the Nobel Prize in literature, even though the French writer had said he would decline the award.

In 1979, the U.S. government allowed the deposed Shah of Iran to travel to New York for medical treatment — a decision that precipitated the Iran hostage crisis. French conductor and music teacher Nadia Boulanger died in Paris.

In 1981, the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization was decertified by the federal government for its strike the previous August.

In 1991, the European Community and the European Free Trade Association concluded a landmark accord to create a free trade zone of 19 nations by 1993.

In 2014, a gunman shot and killed a soldier standing guard at a war memorial in Ottawa, then stormed the Canadian Parliament before he was shot and killed by the usually ceremonial sergeant-at-arms.

Ten years ago: A federal jury in Kansas City, Missouri, convicted Lisa Montgomery of killing expectant mother Bobbie Jo Stinnett, cutting the baby from her womb and taking the infant home (four days later, the jury recommended that Montgomery receive the death penalty). China's Communist Party gave President Hu Jintao a second five-year term. Marie Osmond fainted onstage during ABC's live broadcast of "Dancing With the Stars" after performing a samba with partner Jonathan Roberts.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama sharply challenged Mitt Romney on foreign policy in their final campaign debate, held in Boca Raton, Florida, accusing him of "wrong and reckless leadership that is all over the map"; the Republican coolly responded, "Attacking me is not an agenda" for dealing with a dangerous world. In a verdict that sent shock waves through the scientific community, an Italian court convicted seven experts of manslaughter for failing to adequately warn residents of the risk before an earthquake struck central Italy in 2009, killing more than 300 people. (The verdicts were later overturned.) San Francisco closed out Game 7 of the NL championship series, routing the St. Louis Cardinals 9-0. American Indian activist Russell Means, 72, died in Rapid City, South Dakota.

One year ago: Republican Donald Trump vowed to sue every woman who accused him of sexual assault or other inappropriate behavior, calling them "liars" whose allegations he blamed Democrats for orchestrating. The Chicago Cubs won their first pennant since 1945, beating the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-0 in Game 6 of the NL Championship Series.

Today's Birthdays: Black Panthers co-founder Bobby Seale is 81. Actor Christopher Lloyd is 79. Actor Derek Jacobi is 79. Actor Tony Roberts is 78. Movie director Jan (yahn) de Bont is 74. Actress Catherine Deneuve is 74. Rock musician Leslie West (Mountain) is 72. Former Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour is 70. Actor Jeff Goldblum is 65. Rock musician Greg Hawkes is 65. Movie director Bill Condon is 62. Actor Luis Guzman is 60. Actor-writer-producer Todd Graff is 58. Rock musician Cris Kirkwood is 57. Actor-comedian Bob Odenkirk is 55. Olympic gold medal figure skater Brian Boitano is 54. Christian singer TobyMac is 53. Singer-songwriter John Wesley Harding is 52. Actress Valeria Golino is 51. Comedian Carlos Mencia is 50. Country singer Shelby Lynne is 49. Reggae rapper Shaggy is 49. Movie director Spike Jonze is 48. Rapper Tracey Lee is 47. Actress Saffron Burrows is 45. Actress Carmen Ejogo is 44. MLB player Ichiro Suzuki is 44. Actor Jesse Tyler Ferguson is 42. Christian rock singer-musician Jon Foreman (Switchfoot) is 41. Actor Michael Fishman is 36. Talk show host Michael Essany is 35. Rock musician Rickard (correct) Goransson (Carolina Liar) is 34. Rock musician Zac Hanson (Hanson) is 32. Actor Corey Hawkins is 29. Actor Jonathan Lipnicki is 27. Actress Sofia Vassilieva (vas-ihl-lee-A'-vuh) is 25.

Thought for Today: "Forgiveness is the final form of love." — Reinhold Niebuhr, American clergyman and author (1892-1971).