

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 1 of 45

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Treeline Tree Service Ad
- 1- SD37 will be open soon!
- 2- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 3- Farmers Union PSA
- 3- Kiwanis Club News
- 3- Groton Care & Rehap Help Wanted
- 3- Groton Area Help Wanted
- 4- 6th Grade MathCounts take first at Warner
- 5- Gov. Daugaard's Weekly Column
- 6- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column
- 7- Rep. Noem's Weekly Column
- 8- Today in Weather History
- 8- Roslyn 4-Plex for sale
- 9- Today's Forecast
- 10- Yesterday's Weather
- 10- Today's Weather Info
- 10- National Weather Map
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12- 2018 Community Events
- 13- News from the Associated Press

## SD37 to open soon!

The weekly meeting with the South Dakota Department of Transportation and Webster Scale was the last one for the project. The outline of the final week of work was outlined.

The grass has been planted. The next project will be on Monday when Muth Electric will be erecting the street lights on SD37. They will also be charged up Monday evening.

The striping on SD37 will be done and the signs erected. Highway 37 will be opened on Thursday. There was discussion that it could be as early as Wednesday; however, the one-calls for the signs may delay the opening until Thursday.

Then what remains is the lighting for US12. The poles are expected to arrive in January and once they arrive, Muth Electric will get them up.



Sperry Stump Removal Tyler: 605/216-8431

Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!

TJ: 605/380-7915 TreeLine Tree Service

**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

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 2 of 45

“Nothing in  
life is to be  
feared. It is  
only to be  
understood.”

-Marie Curie



Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 3 of 45



All auto owners!

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

& grow your local economy  
by choosing low carbon

**Super Premium E30's**

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

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

**\*Farmers Union's**

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

## Groton Area Help Wanted

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

## Help Wanted

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

0913.1005



## 6th grade MathCounts in Warner take first

Groton team got overall first place. The team is Bradin Althoff, Michael Dinger, Claire Heinrich, and Bryson Wambach.



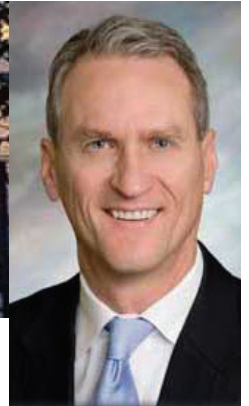
Claire Heinrich is also pictured in getting overall first place in the individual competition.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 5 of 45



South Dakota Governor  
Dennis Daugaard



## Get Serious About Tackling Opioid Abuse

This week President Trump declared the opioid epidemic a public health emergency. According to the White House, in our country, drug overdose deaths now outnumber fatal crashes and gun-related deaths, with 175 Americans dying each day. An estimated 11.5 million people self-reported misusing opioids in 2016. And the numbers of infants born drug-dependent and children placed in foster care because of parental drug abuse have both increased substantially.

Fortunately, South Dakota's prescription drug overdose death rate remains relatively low. Still, every one of these deaths is a tragedy, and for too many South Dakota families, opioid addiction hits close to home.

Jeff and Maureen Deutscher of Sioux Falls experienced something no parent should when, in July of 2015, they lost their son Nick after his battle with addiction. An active, athletic student, Nick was on the high school football team. After he sustained a football injury and was prescribed prescription drugs by his physician, Nick became addicted.

Since their son's tragic death, the Deutschers have become advocates for preventing opioid abuse. They are a part of a statewide advisory committee which has been meeting over the past year to address this problem in our state.

The committee also includes health care professionals, law enforcement, policymakers and state government officials. Together, this group has developed a strategic plan to address opioid abuse in South Dakota. The plan identifies four key areas of focus: prevention and early identification; treatment and recovery; reducing illicit supply; and emergency response to opioid abuse and misuse.

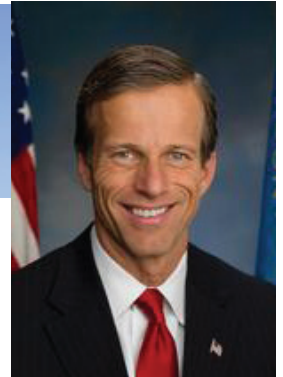
To address this problem, systemic changes are required. For instance, earlier this year I signed a bill into law which requires doctors to enter painkiller prescriptions into a statewide database within 24 hours. Also, health care providers are providing additional guidance to their physicians on when to prescribe these drugs.

Addressing the issue will also require action on an individual level. That's why one of the advisory council's key strategies is to promote the disposal of unused or unwanted drugs, so they don't fall into the wrong hands. Law enforcement agencies across the state promoted Saturday, Oct. 28, as National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. This gives South Dakotans the opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

If Take Back Day has passed by the time you read this or you can't make it to one of the locations, check with your local pharmacist or law enforcement for additional disposal options available year-round. In the near future, the Board of Pharmacy hopes to establish these permanent take back sites throughout the state.

With the problem escalating at the national level, now is the time to get serious about tackling opioid abuse. We need all hands on deck. Health care providers, governments, communities and individuals all have a role to play. We owe it to the Nicks out there who are struggling with addiction, and to the Jeffs and Maureens who are fighting for their loved one, not to wait another day.

**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## **My Top Priority for Tax Reform: Middle-Income South Dakotans**

The American people have had a rough time over the past few years. Fifty percent of Americans consider themselves to be living paycheck to paycheck, while almost a third of voters say they are just \$400 dollars away from a financial crisis. That's not acceptable. Fortunately, there are things we can do about it, starting with comprehensive tax reform.

Comprehensive tax reform is perhaps the single most important thing we can do to provide financial relief to American families and get our economy back on the path to long-term health. That's why Republicans in Congress have spent several months working with the Trump administration on a tax reform framework that we believe will lead to more jobs, fairer taxes, and bigger paychecks, and why the tax-writing committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives are currently hard at work drafting legislation.

Our tax reform framework prioritizes tax relief for middle-income Americans by ensuring working families receive a much-needed increase in take-home pay. To start with, our plan will lower income-tax rates for hardworking families around the country. We will also double the standard deduction to \$12,000 for single filers and \$24,000 for married couples who file jointly. While all Americans will benefit from this provision, it will particularly benefit the low-income families who need help the most. Under our tax plan, a family making \$24,000 or less per year will not have to pay a dime in federal income taxes.

There is no denying that raising a family in the United States is getting more and more expensive. That's why we will also help working families by increasing the size of the child tax credit. This will free up money that families can use for anything from dentist bills to college savings. And for low-income families who won't pay income tax under our plan, up to \$1,000 of this new, larger child tax credit will be refundable.

In addition to direct relief for working families, our tax plan will also provide for the kind of economic growth needed to give hardworking Americans access to new jobs and opportunities and increase their take-home pay. To start with, our plan will lower tax rates for small businesses and family farms and ranches.

Small and medium-size businesses are an important engine of economic growth, but our tax code makes things more difficult for these job creators by saddling them with high tax rates — at times even exceeding those paid by some large corporations. By lowering tax rates for these businesses, we can help them reinvest more of their earnings into their operations. The Republican tax plan will also allow small and medium-size businesses to recover their costs more quickly, which will also help free up money they can use to grow their business and create new jobs. This is good news for the American worker.

Americans have spent too much of the past decade struggling with high taxes, stagnant wages, and a lack of opportunity. It's time to give them relief. Right now, we have a unique opportunity to implement pro-growth tax reform policies that will provide more jobs, fairer taxes, and bigger paychecks for hardworking individuals and middle-income families across the country. As we move through the legislative process, I will continue to work with President Trump, my fellow members of the Senate Finance Committee, and leadership in the House to ensure that comprehensive tax reform makes it to the president's desk for his signature.

KRISTI NOEM  
REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA



## Questions from My Latest Town Hall

It often goes unreported, but the House has passed more than 250 bills this year, many following through on the conservative priorities I've been discussing for nearly a decade. These 250 House-passed bills include the repeal and replacement of Obamacare, resources for President Trump's border wall proposal, protections for unborn children, VA reform, and a rollback of numerous Obama-era regulations.

More than 50 of these bills have become law, including many regulatory repeals and national-security legislation I wrote to bring more women into peace negotiations. Others, such as Obamacare repeal, continue to be debated in the Senate. This was the opening report I gave at a recent town hall in Mobridge – one in a series of town halls and telephone town halls I've done in recent months.

After that initial report came questions. The first was from Carson, a senior at Mobridge-Pollock High School. He wanted to know what had been done on the issue of abortion. I talked to him about how I helped introduce legislation that would define life as beginning at conception. While we haven't had the opportunity to vote on that specific provision yet, the House did recently pass the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which bans abortions after 20 weeks (the point at which studies indicate babies can feel pain). We were also able to get legislation signed into law this year that would empower states to withhold family-planning funds from organizations like Planned Parenthood.

The next question came from Jayden, who was wondering what I thought of President Trump. I explained that I was pleased the president was strong on national security, which is his number one job. President Trump also campaigned on building a wall on the southern border, repealing Obamacare, and reforming the tax code – all of which are priorities that I share. Additionally, he put a pro-life Supreme Court justice on the bench, which was a huge accomplishment.

Then, a Navy veteran from the area asked about the inefficiency that happens in many government-run agencies. I'm incredibly grateful for this man's service and believe his concerns are well founded. I've fought this kind of inefficiency and waste many times, including through my CUFF Act. This legislation, which has passed the House and is awaiting action in the Senate, would stop certain Social Security benefits from going to people wanted for felonies and parole violations.

The grand finale question came from a young woman interested in my thoughts on unions. South Dakota is a "Right to Work" state, which means individuals can't be required to join unions or be forced to pay for union dues as a condition of employment (something that's required in other states). I think "Right to Work" is the right approach.

I was grateful to everyone who made it to my town hall in Mobridge, and I hope to either see you at one in the near future or talk with you during one of my upcoming telephone town halls. In the meantime, don't hesitate to visit one of my offices, give us a call, or send me an email. To get the location of the office nearest you, please visit my website: [noem.house.gov](http://noem.house.gov)

## Today in Weather History

October 28, 1989: The season's first snowfall brought much-needed moisture to the Black Hills and portions of western South Dakota as up to nearly a foot of snow fell in the higher elevations. The storms caused motorists some problems. A build-up of ice and slush in combination with blowing snow prompted the State Highway Patrol to close the portion of Interstate-90 from Rapid City to Wall. Numerous multiple vehicle accidents were reported.

October 28, 1993: Very strong northwest winds gusting to 50 to 60 mph raked South Dakota. A new

### 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.

home under construction southwest of DeSmet collapsed in the winds. Reported peak winds included 56 mph at Huron, 55 mph at Rapid City, and 52 mph at Sioux Falls.

1846: In the spring of 1846, a group of nearly 90 emigrants left Springfield, Illinois, and headed west to California. The Donner party arrived at the Great Salt Lake and still needed to cross the Sierra Nevada Mountains late in the season. On this day, a heavy snowfall blocked the pass, thus trapping the emigrants. Only 45 of the original 89 emigrants reached California the following year.

936 - The temperature at Layton, NJ, dipped to 9 above zero to establish a state record for the month of October. (The Weather Channel)

1971 - A severe early season blizzard raged across the Plateau Region and Rocky Mountain Region. Heavy snow blocked railroads and interstate highways, and record cold accompanied the storm. Lander WY received 27 inches of snow, and the temperature at Big Piney WY plunged to 15 degrees below zero. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Thunderstorms over the San Joaquin Valley of California produced three-quarters of an inch of rain in thirty minutes at Placerville, and caused numerous power outages due to lightning. Rain began to diminish in the northeastern U.S., but some flooding continued in Vermont, eastern New York and northern New Jersey. One inch rains in Vermont clogged culverts and sewers with fallen leaves, resulting in erosion of dirt roads. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)



1988 - Arctic cold invaded the north central U.S. Valentine, NE, dipped to 8 degrees, and Cutbank, MT, reported a morning low of one degree above zero. The temperature at Estes Park CO dipped to 15 degrees, but then soared thirty degrees in less than thirty minutes. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - A storm crossing the western U.S. produced 10 to 20 inches of snow across northern and central Wyoming, with 22 inches reported at Burgess Junction. Seven cities in the Lower Ohio Valley and the Upper Great Lakes Region reported record high temperatures for the date as readings again warmed into the 70s. Alpena MI reported a record high of 75 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 9 of 45

This Afternoon	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Chance Rain	Rain Likely and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy and Blustery then Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 46 °F	Low: 33 °F	High: 51 °F	Low: 30 °F	High: 38 °F	Low: 17 °F	High: 39 °F



## Warmer This Weekend

Highs Today And Sunday 40 to 55°F

Turning Colder and Windy on Monday

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Updated: 10/28/2017 5:22 AM Central

Published on: 10/28/2017 at 5:26AM

Tranquil weather conditions can be expected today with highs in the 40s and lower 50s. Light rain will be possible Sunday morning, mainly in northeastern South Dakota and western Minnesota.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 10 of 45

## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 37.8

Low Outside Temp: 20.7

High Gust: 39

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 82° in 1937

Record Low: -6° in 1919

Average High: 51°F

Average Low: 28°F

Average Precip in Oct: 1.86

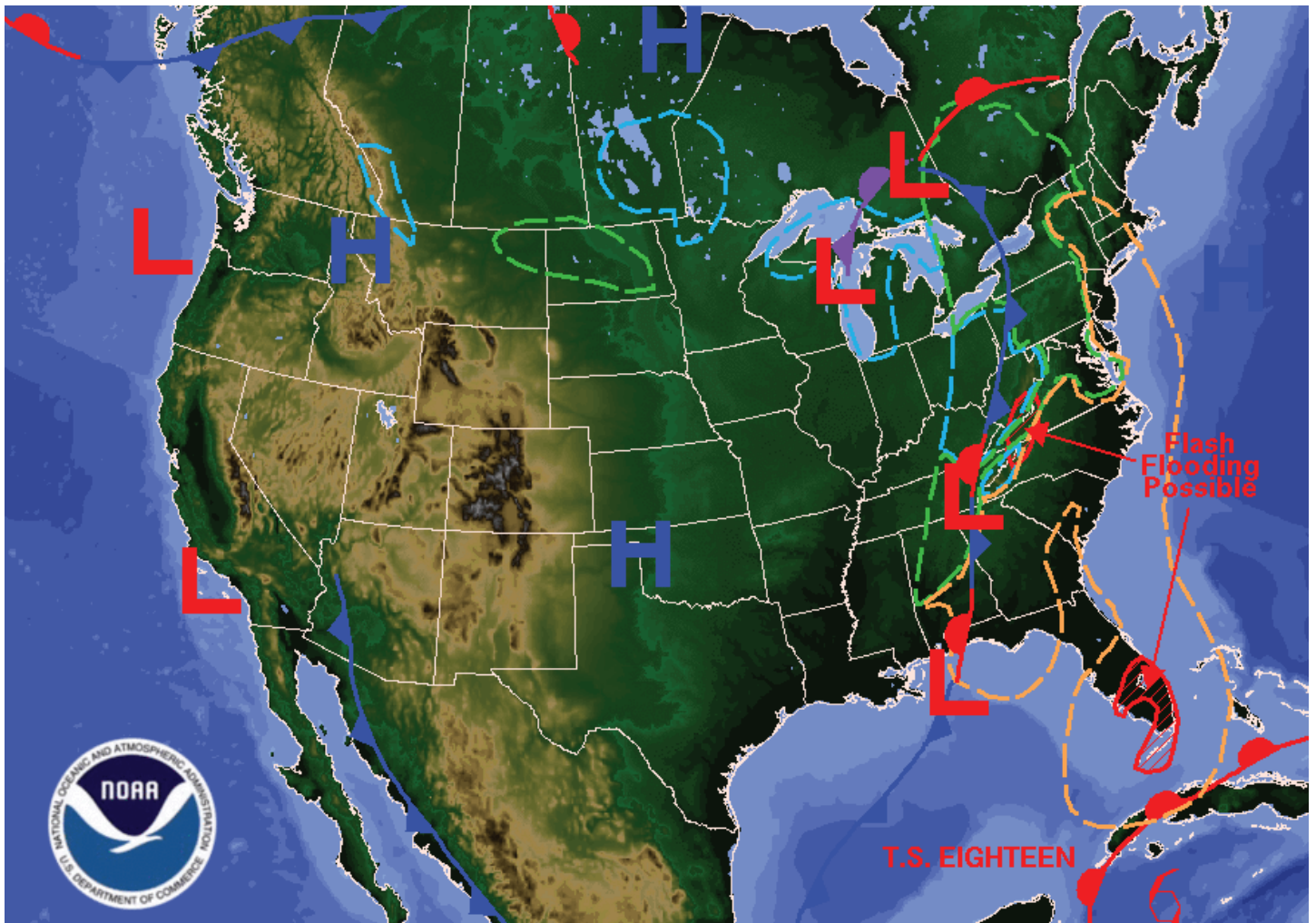
Precip to date in Oct: 0.67

Average Precip to date: 20.34

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 6:26 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:09 a.m.



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Oct 28, 2017, issued 5:12 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Kong 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

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 11 of 45



## FOLLOW THE LEADER

Getting lost is something that comes naturally to me. At times I feel as though I was born with no sense of direction or the ability to use a compass.

Once, while driving my sons to a birthday party, they could sense I didn't know where I was going. As I looked at the slip of paper in my hand that contained an address, I looked from side to side at a four-way stop sign, not knowing what to do next. My youngest son said, "Are we lost yet, Dad?" He knew if I wasn't I soon would be. His confidence was inspiring!

Fortunately, a police officer on a motorcycle saw me looking at the piece of paper and offered to help me. With compassion he asked, "May I help you, Sir?" Of course I said, "Yes," and with a great sign of relief gave him the address of the party. He gave me careful and complete instructions. Then, looking at me and realizing I had no idea what he was talking about said with great compassion, "Never mind. Follow me, I'll get you there."

And it worked. In a few moments I looked at the name and address on the mail box and knew that I had arrived at my destination safely.

In the maze of life with its constant confusion and complex choices we often need help. David said, "I cling to You; Your right hand upholds me." Jesus, realizing our lost condition said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. Follow me."

God keeps those safe who follow His directions.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for the directions we find in Your Word that provide us a map for life's journey. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 63:8 I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.

## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

## News from the Associated Press

### **2 accidents involving schoolkids worry Rapid City officials**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Two accidents involving children have school officials and police in Rapid City looking both ways.

Cars hit two children six days apart in front of Rapid City elementary schools this month. The Rapid City Journal reports minor injuries resulted in the accidents at Wilson Elementary on Wednesday and at Robbinsdale Elementary last week.

Police Lt. Brian Blenner calls it “a big blip on the radar.”

Officials feel fortunate to have dodged two tragedies. But police have now concentrated patrols around school zones during drop-off and pickup times. And school officials have asked principals to redouble their scrutiny of safety plans.

Both accidents happened when students exited vehicles on a far curb and crossed toward the school, entering traffic from behind other vehicles. Neither accident happened at a crosswalk.

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

### **Kansas woman rides horses for cancer awareness**

SOLOMON, Kan. (AP) — A central Kansas woman is riding horses in an effort to raise cancer awareness. Brook Wallace, 22, of Solomon has ridden more than 50 times this month. She dedicates the rides to individuals who have cancer, survived cancer or died of cancer, the Salina Journal reported .

“Everyone I’ve dedicated to has been so overjoyed. It makes me feel so good to be able to bring some light into their day,” Wallace said. “Many are survivors and some are still fighting. It means a lot to anyone who has had cancer to be thought of. They went through and may still be going through a lot and that will never leave them.”

Wallace has ridden a different horse for each dedication. For each ride, she takes the horse through different patterns including lead changes, backing and pivots.

Many of the people Wallace has been dedicating rides to are family members, friends of family and members of her church.

“Oh my goodness, I am very touched, because when you’re told you have cancer, your life changes dramatically at that moment,” said Sandy Muths, a cancer survivor who Wallace honored. “What she’s doing is making people more aware and it really warms my heart that she has this passion for people with cancer.”

Wallace hopes to dedicate 80 rides this month, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Wallace, whose mother died from ovarian cancer, intends to make the dedication rides an annual event.

“The idea will be to honor a different form of cancer each year. This year’s dedications have been geared more toward breast cancer,” she said. “My mom loved kids, so next year I may dedicate rides to children with cancer. This has given me so much happiness. I love to make people feel better and help put a smile on their faces.”

Information from: The Salina (Kan.) Journal, <http://www.salina.com>

### **Elders teach schoolchildren about life in rural Alaska**

**By AMANDA BOHMAN, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner**

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP) — Ida Ross laid out eight bars of Ivory soap on blue plastic plates on a table in front of her.

The soap was for the schoolchildren visiting Ross in the Alaska Room at Anne Wien Elementary School on Tuesday.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 14 of 45

The children keep their hands busy carving an animal from the soap, while Ross tells stories about her early life growing up in Kubuk, a tiny village northwest of Fairbanks, in the 1940s.

Ross is one of nine elders who teach students at the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District about Alaska history, particularly the Alaska Native people.

The 82-year-old has been doing this job — she works two days a week — for nearly 30 years. She is the oldest and the longest-serving elder working in the Alaska Room, a mini museum with art, textiles, tools and artifacts representing Alaska's tribes.

"I am used to working," Ross said. "I was 9-years-old when I started working."

A swarm of students from Boreal Sun Charter School, all wearing borrowed kuspuks sewn by Ross, took their seats. Ross instructed them to choose an animal to carve — a walrus, seal, whale or polar bear. Most chose the polar bear.

"My grandma taught me how to sew, how to make mukluks, how to tan skin and my grandpa taught me how to set the trap line," Ross told the students.

When she was a girl, she liked to sit on top of a sled laden with gear and listen to the crunch of snowshoes breaking trail.

Once, she fell off the sled and no one noticed. When they finally saw that Ross was gone, they turned back. Ross said she laid in the snow sleeping.

She went to school until the third grade. Some mornings, she went to school hungry and the teachers provided oatmeal, she said. But the teachers were mean. They beat the native children if they spoke Inupiaq.

"They spanked us if we were wrong. They got the willow," Ross said. "Teachers could do anything to us and nobody could do anything."

Ross picked up a butter knife and sliced the soap, demonstrating a carving technique sort of like peeling an apple.

"You don't go like this," she said, making a chopping motion.

When Ross was 9, her father died in an accident while moving some logs on a sled with a team of dogs.

Ross had to leave school and help take care of her younger sister. She also started her first job in the village, she said. It was at the store. The pay was \$1 a day.

"They let me mop the floor. I would be on my knees and mop the floor."

Ross also dusted the canned goods.

A boy had whittled his Ivory soap to a nub. Ross laughed.

"I need to do surgery on the polar bear," she teased.

In the summer, Ross and her family went to the mountains to pick berries to put away for the winter, she told the children.

She talked about how in the wintertime, she was discouraged from going out alone.

"In Kobuk, when it gets stormy, it's blowing," Ross said.

When she was 18, she moved to Kotzebue.

"My friends, they get married, they have children," Ross said. "Nobody chose me because I love to fight the boys."

Ross smiled and paused a moment to take in her audience's reaction.

She did domestic work for relatives, she said. She came to Fairbanks on a small plane after a cousin invited her to be his first passenger. It was the month of September. Ross said her cousin took a nap and she got to fly the plane for a while.

She stayed with relatives and helped with domestic work, she said.

Every time she needed a cab, the same driver came. His name was Kenneth.

"He was a nice-looking man," Ross said.

They married and raised two adopted children and multiple foster children. Ross said he died of cancer in 1987.

"I love kids," she said.

Ross admired a boy's carving. "Hey, that's a nice one."

When it was time to say goodbye, another boy said: "Each time when I wash my hands with soap, I

am going to remember this.”

Information from: Fairbanks (Alaska) Daily News-Miner, <http://www.newsminer.com>

## Grandchildren inspire farmer to grow giant pumpkins

By JENNIFER GARDNER, Charleston Gazette-Mail

FORT GAY, W.Va. (AP) — Six-year-old Max Shilot has a lot of faith in his grandpa, faith much bigger than a pumpkin seed — for that matter, bigger than your average pumpkin. It’s the kind of faith that breaks state records.

In 2014, when Max visited the West Virginia Pumpkin Festival, he zeroed in on several prized, orange bundles of joy — the giant pumpkin display.

Though his grandfather, Robert Cyrus, had never actually grown a giant pumpkin, Max knew beyond the shadow of all doubt that he could. He was so sure of it, Max convinced a grower at the festival to send him the giant pumpkin seeds.

In February 2015, the giant gourd seeds arrived and Cyrus, never one to disappoint his family, began his research on how to grow them. He spoke to as many giant pumpkin growers as he could, and took notes of their methods.

“You find out quickly that everyone has a different opinion of how to grow them,” Cyrus said. “I thought ‘I’ll try some of them and see what works.’”

In April 2015, he planted those first seeds and in October, the results proved Max was right. Cyrus’ 1,061-pound pumpkin took first place at the West Virginia Pumpkin Festival in Milton.

For a lot of folks, that’s where this story would end. But Robert Cyrus is a bit of a perfectionist. So he went home, pondered what worked and what didn’t, and began the process all over again. There was some unfortunate trial and error involved — more on that in a moment. But first, the good news.

Last month he not only won first place at the 2017 Pumpkin Festival, but his massive 1,407-pound entry also set a state record.

His pumpkins create a sense of wonder, but he said, “there’s no secret to growing them.” There is, however, some low-tech science involved.

Once Cyrus pots the pumpkin seeds, he is careful to protect the plants from pollination by the wrong fruit — a small pumpkin. He covers the bloom of the pumpkin with a styrofoam cup and hand pollinates them, crossing female and male blooms.

Then, “it will take off and you’re on your way.”

Cyrus babies the giant gourds. He waters, prunes and sprays them, but says he doesn’t do anything unique to help them grow fast. There’s fertilizer involved, they’re protected by a tarp on rainy days and he monitors them several times throughout the week, watching for rotten spots to develop. In the hottest months, Cyrus’ pumpkins will grow 25 pounds a day before he carefully chooses when to cut them from the vine.

Last year, he did not compete in the Pumpkin Festival because his giant pumpkin broke — it developed a crack that grew and split the gourd wide open. This can happen when the pumpkin grows too fast. This year, he cut his record-breaker from the vine in September because the vine was developing an infection. Cyrus estimates it weighed about 1,400 pounds at the time, and better than just big, it was also a bright, beautiful color. That’s not always the case.

“I would say I got lucky on the orange part,” Cyrus said. “There wasn’t anything I could have done to make it do that.”

Were it not for the infection, Cyrus said, the gourd would have grown even bigger.

Before the festival, he hauled the pumpkin to a weigh-off in Guston, Kentucky. That was no easy task — he wrapped eight straps around the gourd, joined them by a chain, and with the chain attached to a tractor bucket, he lifted and set it onto a trailer. The beauty weighed in at 1,421.5 pounds. It won third place and the “Howard Dill Award” for being the prettiest pumpkin.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 16 of 45

By the time his pumpkin competed in the West Virginia Pumpkin Festival, it had lost weight through dehydration and was down to 1,407 pounds.

Still, it won first place, and Max was filled with pride and joy.

Jerry Stout of Weston purchased Cyrus' pumpkin for \$1,000 and now displays it at his produce stand on Route 33.

"He took it up there to let people enjoy it," Cyrus said. "I couldn't have thought of anything better than to see it go up there."

Unlike most giant pumpkin growers, Cyrus' competitive edge is not what drives him to grow a bigger and better pumpkin each year.

His grandkids, especially Max, are amazed by the "larger than life" gourds.

"The leaves were taller than them. Barefoot and walking through there, they said, 'Pap, it's a rainforest,'" Cyrus laughed. "They get a big kick out of that, which is why I do it."

Max claimed one of the pumpkins out of the patch this year. His weighed in at 1,064 pounds and won third place at the Pumpkin Festival.

"He was tickled," Cyrus grinned.

---

Information from: The Charleston Gazette-Mail, <http://wvgazette.com>.

## Plan keeps most of Sonoran Desert monument open to shooters

By JOEL T. VERNILE, Cronkite News

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bureau of Land Management has recommended closing 53,300 acres of the Sonoran Desert National Monument to recreational shooting, but keeping the remaining 443,000 open to shooters.

It is the latest twist in a yearslong legal and administrative fight that saw federal officials at one point trying to prohibit shooting over the entire monument, only to reverse course and propose shooting throughout the site. That decision was subsequently halted by a federal court, which allowed shooting over much of the monument while ordering a bureau review.

The latest plan, posted Oct. 20 in the Federal Register, calls for making 11 percent of the monument's land off-limits to shooting. Hunting is not affected by any of the proposals considered by the bureau, and would be allowed anywhere in the monument with the proper permits.

Gun groups that were contacted declined comment on the latest proposal because they had not seen it.

But an official with the Sierra Club worried that increased shooting could harm plants and wildlife in the monument and questioned the need for more shooting spaces given the huge amounts of open land in the area already.

Sandy Bahr, director of the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter, said that in addition to recreational shooting presenting a public safety hazard, there has been "well documented" damage to the environment, as people have used cactus and monument rocks for targets. Cultural sites and vegetation have been disrupted, she said.

Bahr said the original proposal was to ban shooting throughout the monument, and that officials "made a strong case for it." But after groups like the National Rifle Association got involved, she said the bureau started backing off.

"It's not an undue burden," Bahr said of proposals to limit shooting in the monument. "We think it's necessary to protect resources."

The Sonoran Desert National Monument was created in 2001 by President Bill Clinton, who called it a "magnificent example of untrammelled Sonoran desert landscape." His proclamation establishing the monument said that, in addition to archeological and historic sites, it is the "most biologically diverse of North American deserts" and is home to endangered species as well as forests of iconic saguaro cacti.

The latest decision on shooting in the monument comes just one month after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke issued a directive that ordered agencies to increase opportunities for hunting, fishing and shooting



on public lands where possible.

After considering a series of options that ranged from allowing wide-open shooting to banning it entirely, the bureau chose an option the middle that leaves most of the monument open to recreational shooting. The decision is in line with Zinke's directive, while protecting resources and public safety in the monument, the notice said.

Oct. 20 started a 30-day protest period for the public to voice concerns or support for the proposal, as well as a 60-day legal review by the governor, said Adam Eggers, a spokesman for the BLM Arizona.

"This is by no means the end of the process," Eggers said.

After the protest period is over, the bureau will review all public comment before making a decision. Eggers said the notice was just another stop in a long process, a process that will "zero value" if it does not have input from as many different groups as possible.

"Nothing has been finalized," he said.

## South Dakota man helps veterans through hunting program

By VICTORIA LUSK, Aberdeen News

HECLA, S.D. (AP) — Alex Russo grew up knowing he'd give back to his country.

But he never imagined it'd be in the way he is now.

"I was medically separated from the Marines, but that didn't end my service," he told the Aberdeen American News. "My mission now is to reach out to (veterans) and say, 'You are not left behind. We're going to pick you up, and you're going to get the appreciation you deserve.'"

Last week, Russo and his family hosted five veterans at Flatland Flyways near Hecla. This is the third year the lodge partnered with Freedom Hunters, said Russo's wife, Megan.

The lodge also hosts the hunters in the spring. Alex Russo estimates that between 50 and 60 veterans have visited northeast South Dakota through hunts coordinated by the organization's founder, Anthony Pace.

Freedom Hunters is a military outreach program that honors individuals from all branches of the military by taking active duty and combat veterans on outdoor adventures. There is one hold up with the program as in, Russo said: South Dakota is one of the only states that has a lottery draw for out-of-state waterfowl licenses.

"It's hard to call a vet, some of which are still active, and say, 'Well, you might be able to come, but you might not,'" he said.

Russo said he fought for legislation this year that would've changed that. It's something he plans to do again when the state has a new governor. He thinks more licenses will lead to economic development and get more people to hunt in South Dakota.

The Freedom Hunts are all-inclusive. The only expenses for the hunters are travel costs and the cost of a waterfowl license.

"We accept no form of payment. Pretty much they show up and the lodge is theirs for three days," Russo said.

The Russos and other staff make all meals and handle the cleaning. Russo and other hunting guides take veterans hunting every morning and again in the afternoon, if needed.

There's a trap range out back for the hunters to get in some extra shooting. There's time for camaraderie — to talk about service, deployments, injuries and life in general.

"I called Anthony Pace and said I wanted guys that were wounded, that had ... Purple Hearts, Bronze (Star) Medals," Russo said.

Of the last five, three had been injured in the line of duty. Most had medals and multiple deployments, but they all had the kind of bond of military family, Russo said.

An Aberdeen native, he enlisted in the Marines after graduating from Central High School in 2010.

He met Megan online after Facebook suggested her as a friend while he was deployed thousands of miles away — even though she lived in Bowdle. The couple met in person after his eight-month deployment to Afghanistan ended in 2012.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 18 of 45

In 2013, Russo noticed some back pain and tingling in his toes while completing physical fitness screenings. At the time, he was working in masonry and serving in a Marine Reserve unit based in Wahpeton, North Dakota. The findings of the screenings were life-changing. He said he had two discs that were herniated so bad his nerves were wrapped around his vertebrae, which required surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. That ended his time in the Marines.

Russo had always worked in construction, but it was that time his dad had the idea of charging for hunts. The first year, there were only two paying groups, Russo said. But then his dad had another idea.

"Dad said, 'If you really think you can do this, let's build a lodge,'" Russo said.

The lodge opened in 2014.

While the business is growing, providing a place to hunt is about more than making money for Russo. It's about giving back.

"The thing is, the majority of Americans support the military and police and that's a message I'm very serious about. If you like it, come hunt. If you don't, there are other places you can hunt," he said.

In the past, he said there was an instance when he turned away a group of 10 people who had booked the lodge when one of the 10 didn't want to share it with two Vietnam veterans who later inquired.

"If you don't support the troops, don't come," Russo said. "I don't settle for money. I settle for people who want to be here for our country, our vets and our youth."

Freedom Hunts are scheduled for three nights and three days. The final handshake goodbye after the final morning's hunt isn't always the last time the Russos hear from the soldiers. Many of them send pictures of their children or other hunts they take with friends — things Russo said makes their lives continue together like a little family.

"No matter what, no matter if I served with them or not," Russo said. "We're all brothers and sisters in arms."

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

## South Dakota family has built roads for generations

By DILLON DWYER, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — With more than 100 years of combined experience paving roads, three generations of one family have worked on nearly every road in Yankton County.

Harry Luurs, Karen Mahan and Tom Mahan have road construction built in their genes. Their connection to the occupation has its genesis in Luurs' father.

"When I was a little kid, like 7- or 8-years old, I used to go out with my dad and ride on the equipment with him every once in a while," Luurs told the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan. "He spent about 44 years of his life building roads and dams."

Harry Luurs, the grandfather of Tom Mahan, also has more than four decades of experience working as an engineer and equipment operator in the road construction business. After completing a stint as an engineer for the United States Marines, Luurs was convinced into doing county road work before returning home.

"When I got out of the Marines, my dad picked me up in Sioux City," Luurs said. "We stopped in Platte on the way home and had a beer. A county commissioner was there and he talked about how they had gotten a new loader and scraper and needed someone to run them. He wanted me to do it, but I wasn't going to work for 89 cents an hour. However, he did end up buying me enough beer for me to agree to run it until he could find somebody else, but he never did. I ended up running equipment like that for the better part of the next 40 years. I was also able to work my way up to becoming a supervisor and foreman during that time."

Karen Mahan, the mother of Tom Mahan, followed in her father's footsteps as a young girl and during her time in college.

"My dad used to take my sisters and I surveying with him when we lived in Perkins County," she said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 19 of 45

"He was usually short help, so he took us girls and taught us how to survey."

Karen Mahan might have only earned pop and candy while surveying with her father, but the skills she gained ended up helping her support herself through college. Being knowledgeable in surveying and road construction, it wasn't hard for her to obtain a job in the construction field. Her status as a minority in the occupation made her a desirable hire for many of the companies looking to meet their quota of minority workers.

"I began working for the state highway department and a construction company during my summers in college," she said. "When I was with the Highway Department, we worked on Highway 50 from the river west toward Gayville. I did what they called blue tops, where we graded the road to a certain height to make sure it was all level. I also did some flagging and pulled a compactor behind a tractor. When I worked for the other construction company, we did Highway 50 from Broadway to Avera in Yankton, but that was mostly just flagging."

Tom Mahan might not have had the opportunity to learn how to survey or pave roads directly from his grandfather, but he was nonetheless inspired by the type of work his family had been known for doing.

"I just remember when I was a little kid that my grandpa would drive around in these big trucks," he said. "I had so much respect for him and the work he did. It was what made me want to get into the construction business."

Tom Mahan got into the construction business working for D&G Concrete, which was owned by family friends. One of the owners, Denise Branaugh worked for Tom Mahan's grandfather with the county's transportation department during the 1960s. Tom started out operating a shovel and sledge hammer before working his way toward operating a saw and making precision cuts in finished concrete. He is currently working on Highway 50.

"I take a lot of pride in my work and making sure that everything lines up straight," Tom Mahan said.

Both Tom Mahan and Karen Mahan have worked directly on Highway 50. It's one of the only roads in Yankton County that Luurs hasn't touched. He has worked on the part of the road north of Platte that Highway 50 runs into, but not the actual highway itself. While they have never worked on the same road at the same time, the family is extremely proud of the lessons they have learned and the work they have done in the Yankton area and beyond.

"There are a few things I've learned from my dad while working construction," Karen Mahan said. "I developed a need for closure on projects. When I start something, I have to see it through to the end. I also learned about providing a service to others by watching my dad work for the county and build roads for the community. My dad's goal was always to pave as many roads as he could during his lifetime."

While the technology for paving roads might have advanced, the connection to the work still remains for Luurs and his family. The current generation might enjoy the speed and accuracy of GPS technology and laser leveling, but the process remains much the same. It's still dangerous and hard work, but it's an occupation that binds the generations of Luurs' family together with pride.

"My dad was in the construction business for 44 years, and I've done it just as many years, and my family is still doing it," Luurs said. "I certainly feel a strong connection to it. I couldn't imagine myself doing something else."

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

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

17-27-41-51-52, Mega Ball: 13, Megaplier: 5

(seventeen, twenty-seven, forty-one, fifty-one, fifty-two; Mega Ball: thirteen; Megaplier: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$30 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

## Ousted Catalan leader vows peaceful resistance to Spain

By ARITZ PARRA, Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Catalonia's fired leaders will continue "working to build a free country," its ousted separatist president said Saturday, as he called for peaceful opposition to Spain's imposition of direct rule in the region.

Carles Puigdemont's comments, made in a recorded televised address that was broadcast as he sat in a cafe in his hometown of Girona, were a veiled refusal to accept his Cabinet's dismissal as ordered by central authorities.

They came after one of the most tumultuous days in Spain's recent history, as Catalan lawmakers in Barcelona passed a declaration of independence for the prosperous northeastern region, and the national parliament in Madrid approved unprecedented constitutional measures to halt the secessionist drive.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy also dissolved the regional parliament and called a new regional election to be held on Dec. 21.

In his televised statement, Puigdemont said only the regional parliament can elect or dismiss the Catalan government, vowing to "continue working to build a free country."

"The best way we have to defend the achievements to date is the democratic opposition to the application of Article 155," Puigdemont said in reference to the constitutional clause that gave Madrid direct control of affairs in Catalonia.

Despite his defiant tone and the use of the official Catalan government emblem, the Catalan and European Union flags but no sign of the Spanish one, some political commentators saw his mention of "democratic opposition" as laying the groundwork for political campaigning for the regional election in less than two months.

"Our will is to continue working to fulfill the democratic mandates and at the same time seek the maximum stability and tranquility," Puigdemont said. Separatists argue that a controversial victory in a banned Oct. 1 referendum legitimizes them to split from Spain.

Andrew Dowling, a specialist in Catalan history at Cardiff University in Wales, said the statement was "vague and imprecise, certainly not like the president of a new country."

"They have led 2 million Catalans to believe in independence, so it's a big problem to tell them now that it's actually difficult to build a state when Spain has the upper hand of the law on its side," Dowling said. "They are trapped by their own rhetoric."

After Spain's central authorities made the takeover official early Saturday, Puigdemont and the 12 members who until Saturday made up the Catalan Cabinet are no longer paid.

Spain's government has said they could be charged with usurping others' functions if they refuse to obey, which could throw the region into further turmoil by prolonging a monthlong standoff.

In comments that were met late Friday with jeers and whistles of disapproval by secession supporters in Barcelona, Rajoy said the declaration of independence "not only goes against the law but is a criminal act."

Spanish prosecutors say top Catalan officials could face rebellion charges as soon as Monday.

Refusing to comment on Puigdemont's televised address, Rajoy's office said on Saturday that his actions will be a judicial affair from now on and that the Dec. 21 election would be the way "to return dignity to the Catalan institutions."

It's not clear at all whether a new election would solve Spain's problems with separatists in Catalonia. Polls suggest pro-independence parties would likely maintain their slim advantage in parliamentary seats but wouldn't get more than 50 percent of the vote.

Beyond any possible resistance from top Catalan officials, it's unclear how Rajoy's government in Madrid

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 21 of 45

will be able to exert its control at lower levels of Catalonia's vast regional administration.

Catalonia had secured the ability to govern itself in many areas, including education, health and policing, since democracy returned to Spain following the death of dictator Gen. Francisco Franco in 1975.

Some among Catalonia's roughly 200,000 civil servants have said they will refuse to obey orders from Madrid. They risk being punished or even fired under the special powers granted to central authorities by the nation's Senate on Friday.

Spanish Deputy Prime Minister Soraya Saenz de Santamaria will be Rajoy's point person in running Catalonia until the new regional election. She will coordinate other ministries that take over functions of Catalonia's regional departments, including finances and security, and appoint officials to implement orders from Madrid.

In one of the first moves, Spain's Interior Ministry published an order to demote Josep Lluís Trapero from his position as head of the regional Mossos d'Esquadra police in Catalonia. He was allowed to remain as commissar, but he later released a statement saying he was resigning from the force.

Trapero became a divisive figure as the public face of the police response in mid-August to deadly extremists' attacks in and near Barcelona. He was praised for effectiveness but also criticized for coordination problems with other national police forces.

Spain's National Court is also investigating him as part of a sedition probe related to the banned Oct. 1 independence referendum, when the regional police were seen as acting passively — not aggressively — to halt the vote deemed illegal by a top Spanish court.

Trapero's boss, regional police director Pere Soler, said in a statement that he accepted his firing by central authorities in Madrid.

## 13 dead, more than 16 wounded in Mogadishu hotel blast

By ABDI GULED, Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — A suicide car bomb exploded outside a popular hotel in Somalia's capital on Saturday, killing at least 13 people and wounding more than 16, and gunfire continued as security forces pursued the attackers inside the building, police said. Two more blasts were heard, one when an attacker detonated a suicide vest.

Speaking to The Associated Press by telephone from the scene, Capt. Mohamed Hussein said more than 20 people, including government officials, were thought to be trapped as security forces battled extremists holed up on the top floor of the Nasa-Hablod hotel, close to the presidential palace. Two of the five attackers were killed on the first floor, Hussein said. The others hurled grenades and cut off the building's electricity as night fell.

Saturday's blasts came two weeks after more than 350 people were killed in a massive truck bombing on a busy Mogadishu street in the country's worst-ever attack.

Al-Shabab, Africa's deadliest Islamic extremist group, quickly claimed responsibility for Saturday's attack and said its fighters were inside the hotel. As night fell, sporadic gunfire could be heard as soldiers responded.

A senior Somali police colonel and a former lawmaker were among the dead, Hussein said.

Mohamed Dek Haji said he survived the bombing as he walked beside a parked car that was largely destroyed by the explosion. He said he saw at least three armed men in military uniforms running toward the hotel after the suicide bombing at its gate.

"I think they were al-Shabab fighters who were trying to storm the hotel," he said, lying on a hospital bed. He suffered small injuries on his shoulder and skull from flying glass.

Witnesses in some previous attacks have said al-Shabab fighters disguised themselves by wearing military uniforms.

Al-Shabab often targets high-profile areas of Mogadishu. It has not commented on the massive attack two weeks ago; experts have said the death toll was so high that the group hesitated to further anger

Somali citizens as it pursues its insurgency.

Since the blast two weeks ago, President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed has visited regional countries to seek more support for the fight against the extremist group, vowing a "state of war." He also faces the challenge of pulling together regional powers inside his long-fractured country, where the federal government is only now trying to assert itself beyond Mogadishu and other major cities.

A 22,000-strong multinational African Union force in Somalia is expected to withdraw its forces and hand over the country's security to the Somali military by the end of 2020. U.S. military officials and others in recent months have expressed concern that Somali forces are not yet ready.

The U.S. military also has stepped up military efforts against al-Shabab this year in Somalia, carrying out nearly 20 drone strikes, as the global war on extremism moves deeper into the African continent.

## Power of anti-Trump resistance in question in Virginia race

By **NICHOLAS RICCARDI and ALAN SUDERMAN, Associated Press**

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia's gubernatorial election stands as a test for the anti-Donald Trump resistance, and whether it can energize voters and donors for the less glamorous races featuring traditional Democratic politicians.

The Nov. 7 contest pits Democratic Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam, a physician, Army veteran and former state senator, against Ed Gillespie, onetime aide to President George W. Bush and former head of the Republican Party. The current governor, Democrat Terry McAuliffe, is term-limited.

The stakes in Virginia are immense: Though Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton won the state by five percentage points in 2016, Republicans typically are more likely to turn out in off-year statewide elections. Northam has led in most polls, but the race is close. A loss would be devastating after Democrats failed to capture any GOP-held seats in contested special congressional elections earlier this year that galvanized anti-Trump activists.

The next Virginia governor also will have a major say in the state's next congressional redistricting. A Republican wave in statehouse elections around the country in 2010 — just prior to the last redistricting — has helped the GOP maintain a firm grip on the House.

Former President Barack Obama highlighted the importance of the Virginia race last week at his first large political rally since leaving office, urging Democrats not to get "a little sleepy" in the off-year election.

"I think that it's great that you hashtag and meme," the former president told a crowd in Richmond, "but I need you to vote."

Northam bested former Rep. Tom Perriello, a populist favorite of the resistance who was backed by Sen. Bernie Sanders, in the Democratic primary. Sanders' political operation, Our Revolution, recently endorsed six Democrats running for the state House of Delegates, but did not endorse Northam. Diane May, a spokeswoman for the group, said it can only endorse candidates recommended by local members and none in Virginia recommended Northam.

Some activists say it's obvious that the liberal wing of the party isn't as engaged in the governor's race.

"We absolutely want to see them win, but that's the difference between inspiring and driving a Democratic base to get out there for you and someone who you just want to win," said Charles Chamberlain, executive director of the group Democracy For America. "If he doesn't win, this will be why."

Fundraising underscores some ambivalence.

Northam has raised \$8 million more than Gillespie through September. He had \$5.7 million cash on hand at the end of last month compared with Gillespie's \$2.5 million.

But Northam's fundraising advantage is due largely to his in-state fundraising efforts, not to out-of-state activists pouring money in. Northam and Gillespie have each raised about \$2.5 million from out-of-state contributors, not including Washington-based donors like the Democratic Governors Association and its GOP equivalent, according to nonprofit money tracker the Virginia Public Access Project.

And Northam hasn't reported any donations from Democratic super donors like billionaires George Soros and Donald Sussman who largely funded his primary opponent's campaign.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 23 of 45

Still, others in the resistance say they're working hard in the governor's race and see no lack of enthusiasm. The prominent anti-Trump group Indivisible has sent three paid staffers to Virginia and recently asked its chapters across the country to organize phone banks to help Northam and Democrats in the Virginia state legislative races.

"We have folks who are clamoring to make the calls from across the country," said Isaac Bloom, the group's organizing director.

Northam spokesman David Turner said the campaign just came off a record-breaking voter canvassing last weekend and "there's a lot of enthusiasm and excitement on the ground in Virginia." He said Obama's visit has helped highlight to out-of-state activists the importance of this race, particularly when it comes to redistricting.

Act Blue, which channels small-dollar donations to Democratic candidates, says that more than triple the number of people have donated to Virginia races this year as did in all of 2013. Democrats have gained six state legislative seats in special elections in Oklahoma, Florida and New Hampshire even as they lost the more headline-drawing congressional elections.

"We're just seeing people plain engaged," Act Blue Executive Director Erin Hill said.

The group Flippable has targeted five House of Delegate races in the state and expects to net as many donations as it did for Democrat Jon Ossoff in the Georgia special congressional election he lost earlier this year. Co-founder Catherine Vaughan said Democrats need to re-learn the importance of state elections after losing more than 1,000 state legislative seats and several governor's races during the Obama years.

"Democrats kind of dropped the ball there," Vaughan said, adding she worries that in the rush to win back the House in 2018, activists could lose sight of the importance of state-level wins again.

Michael Casentini, 41, a small business owner in Los Angeles, was devastated by Trump's election and desperate for ways to fight back. In May, he wrote a \$215 check to Ossoff as that race became a rallying cry for the anti-Trump resistance.

Casentini obsessively follows the news, so he knows there's a tight race for Virginia governor next month. But he didn't know the name of the Democratic candidate.

"People are tired, people are exhausted," Casentini said in an interview.

But after talking about the Virginia race with a reporter, he said he realized he should make a donation to Northam. "That's another one we liberals need to jump on," Casentini said.

Riccardi reported from Denver.

## Trump dossier research triggered by website with GOP ties

By **STEVE PEOPLES** and **ZEKE MILLER**, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A conservative website with strong ties to the Republican establishment triggered the investigation into Donald Trump's past that ultimately produced the dossier that alleged a compromised relationship between the president and the Kremlin.

The Washington Free Beacon on Friday confirmed it originally retained the political research firm Fusion GPS to scour then-candidate Trump's background for negative information, a common practice known as "opposition research" in politics. Leaders from the Free Beacon, which is funded largely by Republican billionaire Paul Singer, insisted none of the early material it collected appeared in the dossier released later in the year detailing explosive allegations, many uncorroborated, about Trump compiled by a former British spy.

"During the 2016 election cycle we retained Fusion GPS to provide research on multiple candidates in the Republican presidential primary, just as we retained other firms to assist in our research into Hillary Clinton," wrote the site's editor-in-chief, Matthew Continetti, and chairman Michael Goldfarb. They continued: "The Free Beacon had no knowledge of or connection to the Steele dossier, did not pay for the dossier, and never had contact with, knowledge of, or provided payment for any work performed by Christopher Steele."

Earlier in the week, reports revealed that the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee

continued funding Fusion's work after the original GOP source lost interest.

Trump this week called it a "disgrace" that Democrats had helped pay for research that produced the document. But the original source of the research remained a secret.

The president himself hinted that he knew the Republican source earlier in the week, but he refused to share it. The White House had no immediate comment Friday night about the Free Beacon's involvement.

The Washington Free Beacon was initially founded as a project of the conservative nonprofit group Center for American Freedom, as an alternative to liberal news sites run by progressive nonprofits. The Center for American Freedom was organized as a 501(c)4 and did not reveal its donors, but Singer was the sole funder of the site as recently as 2014, according to a Republican political veteran familiar with the site. The veteran spoke on condition of anonymity to detail the newspaper's financial background.

The Free Beacon first retained Fusion to investigate Trump in the fall of 2015 and ended its relationship after Trump secured the Republican presidential nomination in late spring of 2016, according to a person close to Goldfarb, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share private discussions.

The website and its leaders have strong ties throughout the Republican establishment. Goldfarb was deputy communications director on John McCain's presidential campaign. Singer was backing Florida Sen. Marco Rubio's presidential bid at the time of the Free Beacon's involvement. And one of Singer's closest associates, Republican operative Dan Senor, served as Speaker Ryan's chief adviser during the 2012 president campaign.

A representative to Singer did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Rubio denied any knowledge of the Fusion research or the dossier this week.

"As far as whether it was my campaign, it wasn't and I'll tell you why," he told CNN. "I was running for president. I was trying to win. If I had anything against Donald Trump that was relevant and credible and politically damaging, I would've used it. I didn't have it."

The document, compiled by former British spy Christopher Steele, emerged this year as a political flashpoint in the broader debate over Trump's ties to Russia.

A person close to Singer said the billionaire was not aware of Steele's involvement or the dossier until earlier this year when it was published. The person was not authorized to share internal discussions.

Law enforcement officials have worked to corroborate the dossier's claims. James Comey, FBI director at the time, advised Trump about the existence of the allegations, and Steele has been questioned as part of an ongoing probe into possible coordination between Russia and the Trump camp.

The U.S. intelligence community has determined that Russia meddled in the 2016 U.S. election. Special counsel Robert Mueller is investigating the Russian interference and whether it was tied to Trump's campaign.

The House Intelligence Committee will help verify whether the Free Beacon had any involvement with Steele or his dossier, according to Jack Langer, a spokesman for House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes.

"The Beacon has agreed to cooperate with the House Intelligence Committee to help the Committee verify this assertion," Langer said.

---

Miller reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Chad Day, Mary Clare Jalonick, Stephen Braun and Tom LoBianco in Washington contributed to this report.

## **Pentagon chief says North Korea engages in 'outlaw' behavior**

**BY ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The threat of nuclear missile attack by North Korea is accelerating, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Saturday, accusing the North of illegal and unnecessary missile and nuclear programs and pledging to repel any strike.

In remarks in Seoul with South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo at his side, Mattis said North Korea engages in "outlaw" behavior and that the U.S. will never accept a nuclear North.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 25 of 45

The Pentagon chief added that regardless of what the North might try, it is overmatched by the firepower and cohesiveness of the decades-old U.S.-South Korean alliance.

"North Korea has accelerated the threat that it poses to its neighbors and the world through its illegal and unnecessary missile and nuclear weapons programs," he said, adding that U.S.-South Korean military and diplomatic collaboration thus has taken on "a new urgency."

"I cannot imagine a condition under which the United States would accept North Korea as a nuclear power," Mattis said.

As he emphasized throughout his weeklong Asia trip, which included stops in Thailand and the Philippines, Mattis said diplomacy remains the preferred way to deal with the North.

"With that said," he added, "make no mistake — any attack on the United States or our allies will be defeated, and any use of nuclear weapons by the North will be met with a massive military response that is effective and overwhelming."

Mattis' comments did not go beyond his recent statements of concern about North Korea, although he appeared to inject a stronger note about the urgency of resolving the crisis.

While he accused the North of "outlaw" behavior, he did not mention that President Donald Trump has ratcheted up his own rhetoric. In August, Trump warned the North not to make any more threats against the United States, and said that if it did, it would be met with "fire and fury like the world has never seen."

Song said at the news conference that he and Mattis agreed to further cooperation on strengthening Seoul's defense capabilities, including lifting warhead payload limits on South Korean conventional missiles and supporting the country's acquisition of "most advanced military assets." He offered no specifics and refused to answer when asked whether the discussions included nuclear-powered submarines.

Some South Korean government officials have endorsed the nation getting nuclear-powered submarines amid calls for more military strength. There's a growing concern among the South Korean public that North Korea's expanding nuclear weapons arsenal, which may soon include an intercontinental ballistic missile that could target the U.S. mainland, would undermine Seoul's long alliance with Washington.

South Korea's conservative politicians have also called for the United States to bring back tactical nuclear weapons that were withdrawn from the Korean Peninsula in the 1990s. But Mattis and Song were strongly dismissive of the idea.

"When considering national interest, it's much better not to deploy them," said Song, adding that the allies would have "sufficient means" to respond to a North Korean nuclear attack even without placing tactical nuclear weapons in the South. Mattis said current U.S. strategic assets are already providing nuclear deterrence and that the South Korean government has never approached him with the subject of tactical nuclear weapons.

Trump entered office declaring his commitment to solving the North Korea problem, asserting that he would succeed where his predecessors had failed. His administration has sought to increase pressure on Pyongyang through U.N. Security Council sanctions and other diplomatic efforts, but the North hasn't budged from its goal of building a full-fledged nuclear arsenal, including missiles capable of striking the U.S. mainland.

If Trump sticks to his pledge to stop the North from being able to threaten the U.S. with a nuclear attack, something will have to give — either a negotiated tempering of the North's ambitions or a U.S. acceptance of the North as a nuclear power.

The other alternative would be U.S. military action to attempt to neutralize or eliminate the North's nuclear assets - a move fraught with risk for South Korea, Japan and the United States.

Mattis touched off unease in South Korea last month when he told reporters at the Pentagon that the United States has military options for North Korea that doesn't put Seoul at risk. At Saturday's briefing, Mattis didn't offer a direct answer to what those options are or how and when they would be used.

"Our military options as I mentioned are designed to buttress the diplomats' efforts to maintain a deterrence stance and denuclearize the Korean Peninsula," he said. While the allies are committed to deterring North Korea, they also need "many different military options that would realistically reduce that threat as

low as possible," Mattis said.

"And yes, we do have those options," he said.

The North says it needs nuclear weapons to counter what it believes is a U.S. effort to strangle its economy and overthrow the Kim government.

This was Mattis's second visit to South Korea since taking office in January. He made a point of going to Seoul and Tokyo on his first overseas trip in February, saying he wanted to emphasize the importance he places on strengthening alliances and partnerships.

## North Korean 'masterminds' evade Kim Jong Nam murder trial

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — At a trial that could send two Southeast Asian women to the gallows, Malaysian prosecutors are shining a light on several men at large they say masterminded and played crucial roles in carrying out the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong's Un's estranged half brother.

The lone defendants at the Shah Alam High Court — Siti Aisyah, 25, of Indonesia and Doan Thi Huong, 29, of Vietnam — say they are innocent, duped by the men into participating in February's attack at Kuala Lumpur's international airport, which they say they thought was a harmless prank for a TV show.

If found guilty, they face a mandatory death sentence. In Malaysia, that means they would be hanged.

But since the trial began on Oct. 2, the alleged role of the four missing suspects has come to dominate the proceedings. Both the prosecutors and the defense team say a lot more is going to be revealed in the weeks ahead about the men, who outside of court they acknowledge are believed to be North Korean citizens.

The prosecution this week also stressed that authorities reserve the right to take more formal action against the four if they can gather enough evidence.

A look at what's come out so far about the missing men, who are referred to officially in court only by their aliases, and what's known about their actions:

### HANAMORI

Police are now calling him the "mastermind."

According to chief investigating officer Wan Azirul Nizam Che Wan Aziz, this man, who sometimes went by the nicknames "Grandpa" and "Uncle," orchestrated the operation on the ground.

Wan Azirul said airport security video shows that he arrived at the terminal in the same vehicle with two of the three other suspects about 90 minutes ahead of the Feb. 13 attack. Security cameras then captured him meeting both of those men and the third suspect, all separately, at an airport cafe before the attack.

Police say Hanamori, who initially wore a purple shirt but changed after the attack, not only came to the airport with two of the suspects but he met with all three just before the plan was put into action. He then left after the attack in a vehicle with two of the three and was seen later that day — and for the last time — with two of them in the departure hall of the main terminal.

### JAMES

He allegedly recruited Aisyah.

Aisyah's lawyer, Gooi Soon Seng, told reporters before the trial that she was recruited in early January by this man, who was known to her only as James, to star in what he said was a video prank show. The lawyer said James and Aisyah went to malls, hotels and airports, where she would rub oil or pepper sauce on strangers' faces. James recorded the encounters on his phone and paid Aisyah between \$100 and \$200 for each prank.

Police official Wan Azirul testified in court that James was seen heading to the Sama Sama airport hotel, which is in the terminal not far from where the attack took place. Wan Azirul said security videos show James entering the hotel room, but quickly checking out.

He said James is later seen at the departure hall of the main airport terminal, where the other three

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 27 of 45

suspects went. What his role was on the day of the hit isn't yet clear — an examination of the airport security camera footage in court Thursday was cut short when Judge Azmi Ariffin ruled more time was needed to digest the information.

The prosecution is expected to return to the videos in the next session, scheduled for Nov. 6.

## CHANG

He put the liquid poison on Aisyah's hands, according to Wan Azirul's testimony.

On the morning of the killing, Chang met up with Aisyah at the same cafe where he had earlier met with Hanamori. Wan Azirul said Chang handed Aisyah an airport taxi voucher during their short meeting and he was believed to have later applied the deadly VX nerve agent poison to her hands just before the attack, which happened at about 9 a.m.

The bespectacled Chang wore a dark baseball cap and carried a backpack and a white plastic bag. But after the hit, he ditched his belongings, changed his shirt and even managed to shave off his goatee. He was seen instead carrying an orange plastic bag.

Defense lawyer Gooi has said before the trial it was Chang who had pointed Kim out to Aisyah as the target and put a substance in her hand.

## MR. Y

Prosecutors claim he put the poison on Vietnamese defendant Huong's hands.

On the day of the killing, after arriving with Hanamori and the others, he was seen walking around the airport with a woman prosecutors claim was Huong near the area where Kim was attacked. He also wore a baseball cap and had a backpack and water bottle.

Video footage shows that after the attack, Mr. Y also changed his shirt and discarded his belongings. Police say he then left the budget terminal in the same vehicle with Chang and Hanamori.

Not much else about him has been revealed.

## THE ESCAPE?

Police say the four suspects flew out of the country the day of the killing and are believed to have made their way back to Pyongyang.

At Malaysia's request, Interpol has issued a "red notice" — the closest equivalent it has to an arrest warrant — for four North Koreans wanted in connection with the killing: Ri Ji Hyon, 33; Hong Song Hac, 34; O Jong Gil, 55; and Ri Jae Nam, 57. But it is not entirely clear if they are the same four whose actions are now being detailed in the court testimony.

Help from Pyongyang is highly unlikely.

North Korea has denied any involvement. And it's not a member of Interpol.

Associated Press writer Eileen Ng contributed to this report.

Talmadge has been AP's Pyongyang bureau chief since 2013. He's on Twitter @EricTalmadge and Instagram @erictalmadge.

## Sailboat survivors recount doomed Pacific voyage

By CALEB JONES, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Trapped on a storm-battered boat in the middle of the Pacific Ocean for months, Jennifer Appel and Tasha Fuiava were just about out of food and beginning to believe they were completely out of luck when they finally saw it: a U.S. Navy ship chugging toward them.

"When I saw the gray ship on the horizon, I was just shaking," Appel told reporters Friday. "I was ready to cry, I was so happy. I knew we were going to live."

On Wednesday the pair, followed by their dogs, Zeus and Valentine, boarded the USS Ashland, all four

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 28 of 45

looking remarkably fit for having been lost at sea for nearly six months.

They had been drifting aimlessly across the Pacific since the end of May and had sent out unanswered distress calls for 98 consecutive days before crew members aboard a passing Taiwanese fishing boat saw them on Tuesday and notified the Navy.

They had left Honolulu on May 3 aboard Appel's 50-foot vessel the Sea Nymph for what was to be an 18-day journey to Tahiti, followed by months of leisurely cruising the South Pacific before returning home.

Disaster struck almost immediately when a storm battered their boat with 50- to 70-mile-per-hour winds for three days as they left Hawaii. They continued on anyway, thinking the vessel wasn't that badly damaged.

By the end of the month another storm had flooded their boat's engine, however, and they discovered its sails and mast had been damaged enough earlier that they could no longer generate adequate wind power to keep the vessel on course.

They were 900 miles off the coast of Japan, and thousands of miles in the wrong direction, when a Taiwanese fishing vessel found them and started to tow them.

As the fishing vessel was attempting to tow the Sea Nymph, the 100-ton steel ship was damaging the much smaller sailboat as it pulled it through the open ocean.

"We incurred incredible damage," Appel said of the 24-hours under tow that were the scariest of the trip. It didn't help that the women only spoke English, a language not spoken on the fishing vessel.

"We had a really tough time communicating with them that they were going to sink us within the next 24 hours," she said.

Eventually she was able to swim to the fishing vessel and use their radio to make a mayday call.

The Navy ship showed up Wednesday, the next morning. When it just as quickly appeared to pass them by, they panicked momentarily once more.

"Ok, we're going to make it," Appel told herself after sailors radioed from the Ashland's bridge assurances that they did indeed see them.

Their boat, deemed no longer seaworthy, was allowed to drift away after their rescue, although Appel says she hopes she might eventually retrieve and repair it.

She and Fuiava acknowledged that until the Navy arrived they began to wonder if they really would survive.

Appel credited their survival in part to the veteran sailors in Hawaii who had warned them to prepare well for their journey.

"They said pack every square inch of your boat with food, and if you think you need a month, pack six months, because you have no idea what could possibly happen out there," Appel said. "And the sailors in Honolulu really gave us good advice. We're here."

They thought they had packed enough to last a year but with the six-month mark approaching they discovered they had gone through 90 percent of it. The dogs' food had run out and they were sharing theirs with them.

"The dogs turned out to really like human food," Appel said.

"A lot," Fuiava added.

One of their water purifiers had also broken but they managed to fix it.

One night, a group of tiger sharks began attacking their vessel, and the next morning, a shark returned and rammed the boat again, Appel said. "We were just incredibly lucky that our hull was strong enough to withstand the onslaught," she said in a video interview provided by the Navy.

Although Appel has been sailing the Hawaiian islands for 10 years and spent two years preparing for this voyage, she acknowledged she and Fuiava, a novice sailor, may not have prepared as well as they could have.

They said they tried without success to hail a number of ships and fired off 10 signal flares. One of their cellphones had been washed overboard early in the voyage, but they were out of cell range anyway.

They carried two GPS units; one failed and they had to rely on the hand-held model for the entire voyage, Appel said in a phone interview from the USS Ashland Friday.

They also had a new VHF radio, a ham radio, a weather satellite and a radio telephone. She says none worked, and they apparently had a communications failure with their new antenna.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 29 of 45

She says they had six ways to communicate with multiple backups, and none of them worked. That, she said, "exceeds Murphy's Law."

They even carried a satellite phone that she said never seemed to connect.

The two women became fast friends a few years back when Appel was working on her boat and Fuiava was a security guard at the boat facility.

Appel invited her on the sailing adventure south of the equator.

"I've never been there, and I don't know what's going to happen," Appel said. "She said, 'OK, It sounds like an adventure.'"

Meanwhile, loved ones had no idea where they were. Appel's mother said she contacted the Coast Guard when she hadn't heard from her a week and a half into the voyage, and records show the Coast Guard put out a message on June 7 noting the vessel was missing.

As months passed and Appel's mother heard nothing she said she never gave up hope.

"She is very resourceful and she's curious, and as things break she tries to repair them," Joyce Appel, 75, of Houston, said of her daughter. "She doesn't sit and wait for the repairman to get there. "So I knew the same thing would be true of the boat."

She finally got a call from her daughter early Thursday.

"She said, 'Mom?'" and I said, 'Jennifer!?' because I hadn't heard from her in like five months," she said. "And she said, 'Yes, Mom,' and that was really exciting."

Despite the ordeal, Appel says she's far from done with the sea. If she can find and fix her boat she'll be ready to take it out again.

"Well, you got to die sometime," she said. "You may as well be doing something you enjoy when you're doing it, right?"

---

Associated Press writers John Rogers in Los Angeles; Mark Thiessen and Rachel D'Oro in Anchorage, Alaska; Becky Bohrer in Juneau, Alaska; and Ken Moritsugu in Tokyo contributed to this story.

## Astros start fast, top Dodgers 5-3 for 2-1 World Series lead

By **BEN WALKER, AP Baseball Writer**

HOUSTON (AP) — A perfect fit in their own place, the Houston Astros are halfway home.

George Springer and the Astros broke out the bats early this time to keep up their unbeaten October run at spirited Minute Maid Park, beating the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-3 Friday night for a 2-1 lead in the World Series.

"We're very comfortable here," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said.

You can say that again.

Houston moved two wins from its first championship, but the game also included this: Yuli Gurriel made a racist gesture shortly after homering off Japanese star Yu Darvish. Major League Baseball will follow up, and punishment is possible.

The ballpark was booming hours earlier, with cheers, chants and a train whistle echoing beneath the closed roof.

Deep in the heart of football country, a sellout crowd stood much of the evening. And with every Houston batter getting a hit or walk, fans enjoyed the Friday Night Sights.

"The energy in the building is second to none," Hinch said. "It's loud. They're loud from the very beginning."

Coming off a dramatic rally to win Game 2 at Dodger Stadium, the Astros improved to 7-0 at home this postseason. Jose Altuve & Co. have dominated, too, outscoring the Red Sox, Yankees and Dodgers 36-10 in that span.

Gurriel homered to begin a four-run burst in the second inning that sent Darvish to the shortest start of his career.

Back in the dugout, Gurriel put his fingers to the side of his eyes and said "chinito" — a derogatory Spanish term that translates literally to "little Chinese." Gurriel, from Cuba, previously played in Japan.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 30 of 45

"I feel bad and I apologize for anybody who got offended," Gurriel said through a translator.

Darvish, through a translator, said, "Acting like that, you just disrespect all the people around the world."

Astros curveballer Lance McCullers Jr. wobbled, but protected the lead into the sixth. Brad Peacock rose to the occasion with 3 2/3 innings of hitless relief for his first pro save.

With every pitch by Peacock in the ninth, the decibel level increased.

"To tell you the truth, when I was out there a couple of times, I got the chills from them screaming so loud," he said.

Springer lined a leadoff double in the first and the Astros went on to win a home game for the first time in the World Series. They were swept by the White Sox in 2005, and this win left them two victories from a most elusive championship.

Game 4 will be Saturday night when Charlie Morton starts for Houston. Left-hander Alex Wood pitches for the Dodgers, facing a lineup that has put at least one runner on in 14 straight innings.

"Obviously, this crowd is into it. Very educated, very enthusiastic," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "They've got some confidence over there, that team."

McCullers left in the sixth as Los Angeles scored twice to cut into a 5-1 deficit.

Peacock followed, and shouldered the load for a shaky bullpen. The right-hander was nearly perfect, walking one and striking out four.

"It was awesome," said Peacock, who made 21 starts and 13 relief appearances during the regular season. "I've never experienced anything like that in my life."

Coupled with four shutout innings from McCullers to finish off the Yankees in Game 7 of the AL Championship Series, the unconventional Astros became the first team to have two saves of three-plus innings in one postseason.

On a night when a lot went right for Houston, also credit third base coach Gary Pettis, who's been having quite a postseason. He boldly sent Josh Reddick careening home on a wild throw by reliever Tony Watson for a two-out run in the fifth.

The Astros rode the momentum of a thrilling victory Wednesday night in Los Angeles, where Marwin Gonzalez hit a tying homer in the ninth on an 0-2 pitch from star closer Kenley Jansen, and Houston went deep three times in extra innings before hanging on to win 7-6 in 11 on Springer's two-run shot.

Dodgers rookie Cody Bellinger almost won that game with a drive that was caught on the warning track in the ninth. He fanned all four times up in Game 3, leaving him 0 for 11 with seven strikeouts in the Series.

"I think he's just in that funk right now where he's chasing balls out of the strike zone," Roberts said.

This game wasn't nearly as dramatic as the previous one, not that the home crowd minded.

Fans were revved up from the start when injured Houston Texas defensive end J.J. Watt — who has raised more than \$37 million for relief efforts after Hurricane Harvey — hobbled out to the mound on crutches to throw the first ball.

Soon, it was time for the Houston hitters to take over.

Gurriel homered into the Crawford Boxes in left to begin the second — he became the 12th hitter already to homer in this Series. Reddick followed with a double and Evan Gattis, the designated hitter with the game in an American League park, drew a walk.

Gonzalez launched a drive off the wall in left-center and wound up with an RBI single when Gattis held at second, seeing if the ball would be caught. Brian McCann singled home another run with one of his three hits, and Alex Bregman's sacrifice fly made it 4-0.

When Altuve doubled, Darvish was done after 1 2/3 innings. He threw 49 pitches and the Astros swung and missed only once.

Darvish had done well at Minute Maid, going 4-1. That included a 2013 start when he was one out from a perfect game for the Rangers before Gonzalez singled.

"The fastball command wasn't there, and the slider was backing up. So he just really didn't have the feel and couldn't get any type of rhythm going," Roberts said.

Last month, Darvish and several Dodgers players wore Houston Strong T-shirts to raise money for hurricane relief. The four-time All-Star who previously played in Texas also contributed to the relief efforts.

On Thursday, Darvish kidded that maybe his goodwill would lead to good luck. "Since I made that donation, maybe I can use a ball that doesn't have much pop in it," he said through a translator.

Nope, didn't quite work out that way.

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

## **Mattis says threat of nuclear attack by N.Korea accelerating**

**BY ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Saturday the threat of nuclear missile attack by North Korea is accelerating.

In remarks in Seoul with South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo at his side, Mattis accused the North of illegal and unnecessary missile and nuclear programs — and vowed to defeat any attack.

Mattis said North Korea engages in "outlaw" behavior and that the U.S. will never accept a nuclear North.

He added that regardless of what the North might try, it is overmatched by the firepower and cohesiveness of the decades-old U.S.-South Korean alliance.

"North Korea has accelerated the threat that it poses to its neighbors and the world through its illegal and unnecessary missile and nuclear weapons programs," he said, adding that U.S.-South Korean military and diplomatic collaboration thus has taken on "a new urgency."

"I cannot imagine a condition under which the United States would accept North Korea as a nuclear power," he said.

As he emphasized throughout his weeklong Asia trip, which included stops in Thailand and the Philippines, Mattis said diplomacy remains the preferred way to deal with the North.

"With that said," he added, "make no mistake — any attack on the United States or our allies will be defeated, and any use of nuclear weapons by the North will be met with a massive military response that is effective and overwhelming."

Mattis' comments did not go beyond his recent statements of concern about North Korea, although he appeared to inject a stronger note about the urgency of resolving the crisis.

While he accused the North of "outlaw" behavior, he did not mention that President Donald Trump has ratcheted up his own rhetoric. In August, Trump warned the North not to make any more threats against the United States, and said that if it did, it would be met with "fire and fury like the world has never seen."

Song, the South Korean minister, told the news conference that he and Mattis agreed to further cooperation on strengthening Seoul's defense capabilities, including lifting warhead payload limits on South Korean conventional missiles and supporting the country's acquisition of "most advanced military assets." He offered no specifics and refused to answer when asked whether the discussions included nuclear-powered submarines.

Some South Korean government officials have endorsed the nation getting nuclear-powered submarines amid calls for more military strength. There's a growing concern among the South Korean public that North Korea's expanding nuclear weapons arsenal, which may soon include an intercontinental ballistic missile that could target the U.S. mainland, would undermine Seoul's decadeslong alliance with Washington.

South Korea's conservative politicians have also called for the United States to bring back tactical nuclear weapons that were withdrawn from the Korean Peninsula in the 1990s, which they say would make clearer the U.S. intent to use nukes in a crisis. But Mattis and Song were strongly dismissive of the idea.

"When considering national interest, it's much better not to deploy them," said Song, adding that the allies would have "sufficient means" to respond to a North Korean nuclear attack even without placing tactical nukes in the South. Mattis said current U.S. strategic assets are already providing nuclear deterrence and that the South Korean government has never approached him with the subject of tactical nukes.

Also discussed in the meeting were the conditions under which South Korea would be given wartime operational control of its forces. Currently, if war with the North broke out, the South's forces would oper-

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 32 of 45

ate under the U.S.-led U.N. Command.

Trump entered office declaring his commitment to solving the North Korea problem, asserting that he would succeed where his predecessors had failed. His administration has sought to increase pressure on Pyongyang through U.N. Security Council sanctions and other diplomatic efforts, but the North hasn't budged from its goal of building a full-fledged nuclear arsenal, including missiles capable of striking the U.S. mainland.

If Trump sticks to his pledge to stop the North from being able to threaten the U.S. with a nuclear attack, something will have to give — either a negotiated tempering of the North's ambitions or a U.S. acceptance of the North as a nuclear power.

The other alternative would be U.S. military action to attempt to neutralize or eliminate the North's nuclear assets - a move fraught with risk for South Korea, Japan and the United States.

At his Seoul news conference, Mattis said the North is, in effect, shooting itself in the foot.

"If it remains on its current path of ballistic missiles and atomic bombs, it will be counterproductive, in effect reducing its security," he said.

Mattis touched off unease in South Korea last month when he told reporters at the Pentagon that the United States has military options for North Korea that doesn't put Seoul at risk. At Saturday's briefing, Mattis didn't offer a direct answer to what those options are or how and when they would be used.

"Our military options as I mentioned are designed to buttress the diplomats' efforts to maintain a deterrence stance and denuclearize the Korean Peninsula," he said. While the allies are committed to deterring North Korea, they also need "many different military options that would realistically reduce that threat as low as possible," Mattis said.

"And yes, we do have those options," he said.

The North says it needs nuclear weapons to counter what it believes is a U.S. effort to strangle its economy and overthrow the Kim government.

This was Mattis's second visit to South Korea since taking office in January. He made a point of going to Seoul and Tokyo on his first overseas trip in February, saying he wanted to emphasize the importance he places on strengthening alliances and partnerships.

On Friday he visited the Demilitarized Zone that forms an official buffer between the two Koreas. He appeared there with Song in what they both called a show of solidarity.

U.S. government officials for decades have confidently but mistakenly predicted the approaching collapse of North Korea, given its economic and political isolation.

Twenty years ago, Mattis's predecessor five times removed, William Cohen, said as he peered into North Korea from inside the DMZ that its communist system was "decaying and dying." His view was widely shared in Washington, but, like others, he underestimated the resilience of Pyongyang's family dynasty, which began with Kim Il Sung. The current ruler assumed control of the country shortly after his father, Kim Jong-Il, died in December 2011, and has accelerated the country's nuclear and missile programs.

## **Botulism pills, the CIA, the Mob and the JFK assassination**

**By LAURIE KELLMAN and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Botulism pills. Conspiracy theories. What the government might have known and still won't say about Lee Harvey Oswald.

The release of thousands of records relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy hasn't settled the best-known, real-life whodunit in American history. But the record offered riveting details of the way intelligence services operated at the time and are striving to keep some particulars a secret even now.

"The Kennedy records really are an emblem of the fight of secrecy against transparency," said Peter Kornbluh, senior analyst at the private National Security Archive research group in Washington. "The 'secreaucrats' managed to withhold key documents and keep this long saga of secrecy going."

The 2,800 records released on Thursday night include some that had dribbled out over the years but



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 33 of 45

are getting renewed attention from being in this big batch.

Some highlights:

## HOOVER, WORRIED

Just a few hours after Lee Harvey Oswald was killed in Dallas, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover dictated a memo saying the government needed to issue something "so we can convince the public" that Oswald killed President John F. Kennedy.

The memo was in the latest trove of Kennedy assassination files released late Thursday. The FBI director composed the memo on Nov. 24, 1963 — two days after Kennedy was killed and just hours after nightclub owner Jack Ruby fatally shot Oswald in the basement of the Dallas police station.

Hoover said that the FBI had an agent at the hospital in hopes of getting a confession from Oswald, but Oswald died before that could happen. Hoover said he and a deputy were concerned about "having something issued so we can convince the public that Oswald is the real assassin."

Hoover laments how Kennedy's successor, President Lyndon B. Johnson, was considering appointing a presidential commission to investigate the assassination. Hoover said he suggested that the FBI give an investigative report to the attorney general complete with photographs, laboratory work and other evidence. That report, he thought, could be given to Johnson and he could decide whether to make it public.

"I felt this was better because there are several aspects which would complicate our foreign relations," Hoover wrote. He said Oswald wrote a letter to the Soviet Embassy in Washington, which the FBI intercepted, read and resealed. Hoover said the letter had been addressed to the Soviet Embassy official "in charge of assassinations and similar activities on the part of the Soviet government. To have that drawn into a public hearing would muddy the waters internationally," Hoover wrote.

Besides, Hoover said, the letter was unrelated proof that Oswald committed the murder.

## LBJ's THEORY

Everyone has their theories, including even President Lyndon B. Johnson. According to one document released on Thursday, Johnson believed Kennedy was behind the assassination of the South Vietnamese president weeks before his death and that Kennedy's murder was payback, the newly released documents say.

U.S. Director of Central Intelligence Richard Helms said in a 1975 deposition that Johnson "used to go around saying that the reason (Kennedy) was assassinated was that he had assassinated President (Ngo Dinh) Diem and this was just justice."

"Where he got this idea from I don't know," U.S. Director of Central Intelligence Richard Helms said in a 1975 deposition.

Diem and his brother were killed on Nov. 2, 1963 after a coup by South Vietnamese generals.

This isn't the first time Johnson's theory has been aired. He was also quoted in Max Holland's book, *The Kennedy Assassination Tapes*, as saying that Kennedy died because of "divine retribution."

"He murdered Diem and then he got it himself," Johnson reportedly said.

Kennedy's position on Diem's assassination is still debated, said Ken Hughes, a historian at the University of Virginia's Miller Center.

A month before Diem's assassination, the south Vietnamese generals planning the coup told the CIA that they would overthrow the government if they could be assured that American aid would continue and Kennedy told them it would, Hughes said.

But a dispute remains over whether Kennedy insisted that Diem go unharmed or whether the president left it up to the South Vietnamese generals to decide what to do, said Hughes, who is writing a book on the subject.

One of the files that could shed light on that question is a CIA report on the U.S. government's involvement in the Diem coup. The record was supposed to be released Thursday but was among the hundreds that Trump blocked from becoming public.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 34 of 45

## KGB's THEORY

The former Soviet Union's intelligence agency allegedly claimed it had information tying Johnson to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The allegation was contained in long-secret files released Thursday.

In a 1966 letter to a presidential assistant, Hoover wrote that an FBI source reported KGB officials claimed to have information in 1965 "purporting to indicate" Johnson had a role in the assassination.

The source had "furnished reliable information in the past," the letter states. The source said the KGB residency in New York received instructions from Moscow in September 1965 to "develop all possible information" on Johnson, who was considered "practically an unknown" to the Soviet government at the time.

Those instructions contained the assertion that the KGB had information tying Johnson to an assassination plot, according to the source.

Johnson has long been a focus of some conspiracy theorists, but no credible information has been revealed linking him to the assassination.

## CASTRO, THE CIA AND A MOBSTER'S MISTRESS

A 1975 document described the CIA's \$150,000 offer to have Cuban leader Fidel Castro assassinated — but the mob insisted on taking the job for free.

The underworld murder-for-hire contract was detailed in a summary of a May 1962 CIA briefing for then-Attorney General Robert Kennedy. By then, the Kennedy White House had launched its unsuccessful Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba and several assassination attempts against Castro had failed.

At least two efforts to kill Castro were made with CIA-supplied lethal pills and organized crime-made muscle in early 1961, according to the document. The CIA's mob contacts included John Rosselli, a top lieutenant to Chicago mob boss Sam Giancana, who weren't told but guessed the CIA was behind the offer. The pair, later victims of mob hits, said they want no part of any payment — but still, \$11,000 in payments were made for expenses.

The mobsters came to the attention of the CIA a year earlier when Giancana asked a CIA intermediary to arrange for putting a listening device in the Las Vegas room of an entertainer he suspected of having an affair with Giancana's mistress. The task was handed off to a private investigator named Arthur Balletti, who put the listening device in a phone in the hotel room. "The CIA reportedly did not know of the specific proposed wiretap."

Told later about "everything," Kennedy was "unhappy, because at that time he felt he was making a very strong drive to try to get after the Mafia.

"So his comment was to us that if we were going to get involved with the Mafia, in the future at any time, to 'make sure you see me first.'"

The document was made public in 1997 and contained in an Associated Press report at that time.

## STRANGE CALL

A British newspaper received an anonymous phone call about "big news" in the United States 25 minutes before President John F. Kennedy was shot in 1963, one file says.

A batch of 2,800 declassified documents includes a Nov. 26, 1963 memo from the CIA to FBI director J. Edgar Hoover about a call received by the Cambridge News on Nov. 22, the day Kennedy was killed in Dallas, Texas.

The memo from deputy CIA director James Angleton says the caller said "the Cambridge News reporter should call the American Embassy in London for some big news, and then hung up." Anna Savva, a current Cambridge News reporter, said Friday there's no record of the call. "We have nobody here who knows the name of the person who took the call," she said.

The memo was released by the U.S. National Archives in July.

The phone call to the Cambridge News was first reported decades ago by Kennedy conspiracy theorist Michael Eddowes. In the 1980s, Eddowes, a British lawyer, claimed to have a CIA document mentioning the call. Eddowes, who died in 1992, wrote a book alleging that Kennedy's assassin was not Lee Harvey

Oswald but a Soviet impostor who took his identity. As a result of his efforts, the killer's body was exhumed in 1981. An autopsy confirmed that it was Oswald.

Associated Press Writers Deb Riechmann and Dave Porter contributed to this report.

## Conservative site with GOP ties funded Trump research

By STEVE PEOPLES and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A conservative website with strong ties to the Republican establishment triggered the investigation into Donald Trump's past that ultimately produced the dossier that alleged a compromised relationship between the president and the Kremlin.

The Washington Free Beacon on Friday confirmed it originally retained the political research firm Fusion GPS to scour then-candidate Trump's background for negative information, a common practice known as "opposition research" in politics. Leaders from the Free Beacon, which is funded largely by Republican billionaire Paul Singer, insisted none of the early material it collected appeared in the dossier released later in the year detailing explosive allegations, many uncorroborated, about Trump compiled by a former British spy.

"During the 2016 election cycle we retained Fusion GPS to provide research on multiple candidates in the Republican presidential primary, just as we retained other firms to assist in our research into Hillary Clinton," wrote the site's editor-in-chief, Matthew Continetti, and chairman Michael Goldfarb. They continued: "The Free Beacon had no knowledge of or connection to the Steele dossier, did not pay for the dossier, and never had contact with, knowledge of, or provided payment for any work performed by Christopher Steele."

Earlier in the week, reports revealed that the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee continued funding Fusion's work after the original GOP source lost interest.

Trump this week called it a "disgrace" that Democrats had helped pay for research that produced the document. But the original source of the research remained a secret.

The president himself hinted that he knew the Republican source earlier in the week, but he refused to share it. The White House had no immediate comment Friday night about the Free Beacon's involvement.

The Washington Free Beacon was initially founded as a project of the conservative nonprofit group Center for American Freedom, as an alternative to liberal news sites run by progressive nonprofits. The Center for American Freedom was organized as a 501(c)4 and did not reveal its donors, but Singer was the sole funder of the site as recently as 2014, according to a Republican political veteran familiar with the site. The veteran spoke on condition of anonymity to detail the newspaper's financial background.

The Free Beacon first retained Fusion to investigate Trump in the fall of 2015 and ended its relationship after Trump secured the Republican presidential nomination in late spring of 2016, according to a person close to Goldfarb, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share private discussions.

The website and its leaders have strong ties throughout the Republican establishment. Goldfarb was deputy communications director on John McCain's presidential campaign. Singer was backing Florida Sen. Marco Rubio's presidential bid at the time of the Free Beacon's involvement. And one of Singer's closest associates, Republican operative Dan Senor, served as Speaker Ryan's chief adviser during the 2012 president campaign.

A representative to Singer did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Rubio denied any knowledge of the Fusion research or the dossier this week.

"As far as whether it was my campaign, it wasn't and I'll tell you why," he told CNN. "I was running for president. I was trying to win. If I had anything against Donald Trump that was relevant and credible and politically damaging, I would've used it. I didn't have it."

The document, compiled by former British spy Christopher Steele, emerged this year as a political flash-point in the broader debate over Trump's ties to Russia.

A person close to Singer said the billionaire was not aware of Steele's involvement or the dossier until earlier this year when it was published. The person was not authorized to share internal discussions.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 36 of 45

Law enforcement officials have worked to corroborate the dossier's claims. James Comey, FBI director at the time, advised Trump about the existence of the allegations, and Steele has been questioned as part of an ongoing probe into possible coordination between Russia and the Trump camp.

The U.S. intelligence community has determined that Russia meddled in the 2016 U.S. election. Special counsel Robert Mueller is investigating the Russian interference and whether it was tied to Trump's campaign.

The House Intelligence Committee will help verify whether the Free Beacon had any involvement with Steele or his dossier, according to Jack Langer, a spokesman for House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes.

"The Beacon has agreed to cooperate with the House Intelligence Committee to help the Committee verify this assertion," Langer said.

Miller reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Chad Day, Mary Clare Jalonick, Stephen Braun and Tom LoBianco in Washington contributed to this report.

## White House: Trump plans to make choice for Fed next week

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Friday that he has someone "very specific in mind" to be the next chairman of the Federal Reserve and he will be announcing his choice next week.

"It will be a person who hopefully will do a fantastic job," Trump said in a video address he tweeted out late Friday. "I think everybody will be very impressed. But most importantly, I think at the end of eight years, you really will be impressed because things are looking good."

Trump did not give any hints about the person he has selected but various media reports Friday said that current Fed Chair Janet Yellen most likely will not be offered a second term and Trump is instead leaning toward Jay Powell, a Fed board member who up until recently was the only Republican on the Fed board.

Asked about those reports during a White House briefing, press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said she could confirm that the announcement is expected next week but "beyond that I don't have any other details to offer."

In the video remarks he tweeted out, Trump said he knew that "people are anxiously awaiting my decision as to who the next head of the Fed will be."

Yellen's four-year term ends in February. Trump earlier this week said his choice was down to "two and maybe three people." That group is believed to include Yellen, Powell and John Taylor, a Stanford University economist.

The group of finalists had originally also included former Fed board member Kevin Warsh and Gary Cohn, head of the president's National Economic Council. But the White House let it be known this week that Trump wanted to keep Cohn in his current job to help push the administration's tax cut plan through Congress.

Trump said in the video that things were looking good for the country and the U.S. economy. Earlier in the day, the government reported that the overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, grew at an annual rate of 3 percent in the July-September quarter after 3.1 percent growth in the second quarter. It was the strongest back-to-back quarters of GDP growth in three years.

"We've got a lot of jobs coming into our country. Go out and get a good one," Trump said in the video. "Wages are going up, the economy is strong. Have fun. God bless America."

## Trump administration disavows Puerto Rico power contract

By **MICHAEL BIESECKER and MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration scrambled Friday to distance itself from the decision to award a \$300 million contract to help restore Puerto Rico's power grid to a tiny Montana company from

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 37 of 45

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's hometown.

The White House said federal officials played no role in the selection of Whitefish Energy Holdings by the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority.

The administration disavowed the contract amid a growing number of investigations and a bipartisan chorus of criticism from Capitol Hill.

Trump spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Zinke had given the president his personal assurance that he had nothing to do with what she described as "a state and local decision made by the Puerto Rican authorities and not the federal government."

The interior secretary also issued a fiery denial on Twitter, saying "Only in elitist Washington, D.C., would being from a small town be considered a crime."

Whitefish Energy Holdings is headquartered in Whitefish, Montana, which has a population of about 7,200. Zinke, a former Montana congressman, knows Whitefish CEO Andy Techmanski. Zinke's son also had a summer job at a Whitefish construction site.

"I had absolutely nothing to do with Whitefish Energy receiving a contract in Puerto Rico," said Zinke in a statement linked to a tweet. "Any attempts by the dishonest media or political operatives to tie me to awarding or influencing any contract involving Whitefish are completely baseless."

Zinke acknowledged that after the company's initial contract was awarded, he was contacted by the company, though he did not give the name of the individual who reached out to him. Zinke said he took no action and that all relevant documents would be disclosed to "appropriate officials."

"I welcome any and all investigations into these allegations," Zinke said.

The Department of Homeland Security's inspector general, an agency watchdog, confirmed Friday that federal auditors will review the Whitefish contract.

"As part of their standard procedure, they will conduct vetting to look for the presence of any inappropriate relationships," said Arlen Morales, a spokeswoman for the inspector general's office.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is part of Homeland Security, said it has not approved any reimbursement requests from the utility for money to cover ongoing repairs to the island's power grid following Hurricane Maria.

FEMA said in a statement that any language in the controversial contract saying the agency approved of the deal with Whitefish is inaccurate. The contract said the utility would not pay costs unallowable under FEMA grants, but it also said, "The federal government is not a party to this contract."

The agency said its initial review raised significant concerns about how Whitefish got the deal and whether the contracted prices were reasonable. The 2-year-old company had just two full-time employees when the storm hit Sept. 20. It has since hired more than 300 workers.

A price list attached to the Whitefish contract reviewed by The Associated Press sets rates for both workers and equipment to be paid by the utility: \$20,277 an hour for a heavy lift Chinook helicopter, \$650 an hour for a large crane truck, \$322 an hour for a foreman of a power line crew, \$319 an hour for a journeyman lineman and \$286 an hour for a mechanic. Each worker also gets a daily allowance of \$80 for food, \$332 for a hotel room and \$1,000 for each flight to or from the mainland.

Multiple congressional committees have opened investigations into the deal, the terms of which have triggered questions from both Republicans and Democrats. Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri, senior Democrat on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, said the Whitefish contract "raises every red flag in the book."

Democrats also raised questions about the role of HBC Investments, a key financial backer of Whitefish Energy. The Dallas-based company's founder and general partner, Joe Colonna, has contributed thousands of dollars to Trump and other Republicans, including Energy Secretary Rick Perry, a former Texas governor, and Texas Sens. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz. Colonna also gave to Trump's inauguration.

Whitefish spokesman Chris Chiames called Colonna's political donations "irrelevant." The company said it would cooperate with any information requests from federal authorities.

"We are very proud of the work we are doing to restore power to the people of Puerto Rico under very difficult circumstances, and we respectfully ask that others await the facts before jumping to misinformed

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 38 of 45

conclusions," the company said in a statement issued Friday. "We have one simple goal — to restore power to Puerto Rico as quickly and efficiently as possible."

Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority director Ricardo Ramos has praised the work performed so far, saying the company's was the only offer the utility received that did not require a down payment. The power company is \$9 billion in debt and was already struggling to provide service amid ongoing power outages before hurricanes Irma and Maria hit last month.

"There is nothing illegal going on here," Ramos said Thursday.

A federal control board that oversees Puerto Rico's finances said this week it had appointed a former military officer to oversee the work. Retired Air Force Col. Noel Zamot will be responsible for speeding up reconstruction efforts and overseeing coordination with the board, Puerto Rico's government and the federal government.

It was not immediately clear whether Zamot would have the authority to void Whitefish's contract, although under the contract the utility can suspend or terminate the contract "for any or no reason" after providing written notice to Whitefish and compensating the company for actual expenses.

About 75 percent of the U.S. territory remains without power more than a month after the Category 4 storm made landfall.

Puerto Rico Public Affairs Secretary Ramon Rosario told reporters on Friday he wasn't familiar with the contract's details when asked why it includes a clause that prohibits an audit or review of "the cost and profit elements of the labor rates."

Rosario said only that Puerto Rico's governor already has requested an audit and that the government will turn over all pertinent documents.

"There obviously needs to be transparency," Rosario said. "If anyone did anything illegal, let them fry in jail."

---

Associated Press writers Danica Coto in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Ben Fox in Miami and Ken Thomas in Washington contributed to this report.

---

Follow AP environmental writer Michael Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck>

## Facebook ads: Social media giant announces new transparency

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Under pressure in advance of hearings on Russian election interference, Facebook is moving to increase transparency for everyone who sees and buys political advertising on its site.

Executives for the social media company said Friday they will verify political ad buyers in federal elections, requiring them to reveal correct names and locations. The site will also create new graphics where users can click on the ads and find out more about who's behind them.

More broadly, Rob Goldman, Facebook's vice president in charge of ad products, said the company is building new transparency tools in which all advertisers — even those that aren't political — are associated with a page, and users can click on a link to see all of the ads any advertiser is running.

Users also will be able to see all of the ads paid for by the advertisers, whether or not those ads were originally targeted toward them.

The move comes after the company acknowledged it had found more than 3,000 ads linked to Russia that focused on divisive U.S. social issues and were seen by an estimated 10 million people before and after the 2016 U.S. elections.

Facebook, Twitter and Google will testify in Congress next Tuesday and Wednesday on how their platforms were used by Russia or other foreign actors in the election campaign. The Senate and House intelligence committees and the Senate Judiciary Committee are all holding hearings as part of their investigations into Russian election interference.

Facebook's announcement comes a day after Twitter said it will ban ads from RT and Sputnik, two state-

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 39 of 45

sponsored Russian news outlets. Twitter also has said it will require election-related ads for candidates to disclose who is paying for them and how they are targeted.

Facebook's Goldman said the company also will build a new archive of federal election ads on Facebook, including the total amount spent and the number of times an ad is displayed, he said. The archive, which will be public for anyone to search, would also have data on the audience that saw the ads, including gender and location information. The archive would eventually hold up to four years of data.

Goldman said the company is still building the new features. They plan to test them in Canada and roll them out in the United States by next summer ahead of the 2018 midterm elections.

"This is a good first step but it's not at all the last step, there's a lot to learn once we start testing," Goldman said in an interview.

Facebook already had announced in September that the platform would require an advertiser to disclose who paid for the ads and what other ads it was running at the same time. But it was unclear exactly how the company would do that.

The moves are meant to bring Facebook more in line with what is now required of print and broadcast advertisers. Federal regulations require television and radio stations to make publicly available the details of political ads they air. That includes who runs the ad, when it runs and how much it costs.

It is also likely meant to head off bipartisan legislation in the Senate that would require social media companies to keep public files of election ads and try to ensure they are not purchased by foreigners. Though Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, a Democratic co-sponsor of the legislation, has said his bill would be "the lightest touch possible," social media companies would rather set their own guidelines than face new regulation.

Facebook has responded swiftly to the attention it has received in recent months on Capitol Hill, boosting staff and lobbying efforts. The company has spent more than \$8.4 million in lobbying Congress and the rest of the government through the third quarter of this year, according to federal records.

The company's chief operating officer, Sheryl Sandberg, visited several congressional offices this month to convey that the company is taking the issue seriously. Facebook has also turned over the 3,000 ads to Congress and special counsel Robert Mueller, who is doing his own investigation of Russian interference in the election and whether it was tied to President Donald Trump's campaign.

Warner, who is the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, said on Thursday that the moves by the social media companies in the week leading up to the hearings "show a growing recognition of how serious this problem is." Still, he said, he wants to see at the hearings next week a "fuller disclosure of exactly what happened in 2016."

Some analysts have warned that policing such online election ads can be difficult. It's one thing to enforce advertising rules for a print newspaper or a TV station, where real humans can vet each ad before it is printed or aired. But that is much more complicated when automated advertising platforms allow millions of advertisers — basically anyone with a credit card and internet access — to place an ad.

To address that challenge, Goldman says his company will try to create new tools for enforcement.

"For political advertisers that do not proactively disclose themselves, we are building machine learning tools that will help us find them and require them to verify their identity," he said in a Facebook blog post.

---

Associated Press writer Barbara Ortutay contributed to this report from New York.

## Spain cracks down hard after Catalonia declares independence

By ARITZ PARRA and CIARAN GILES, Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — In one of the most momentous days in recent Spanish history, Spain fired Catalonia's regional government and dissolved its parliament Friday after a defiant Catalan declaration of independence that flouted the country's constitution.

Lawmakers in the Catalan parliament voted to unilaterally declare independence, prompting the swift crackdown by the Spanish government, which also called an early election in the region.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 40 of 45

Hours after Catalonia's secession move, the Spanish Senate granted the government special constitutional powers to stop the wealthy region's move toward independence.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's conservative government then called an urgent Cabinet meeting late Friday, after which Rajoy emerged to announce the emergency measures, including regional elections called for Dec. 21.

In Barcelona, Catalonia's regional capital, Rajoy's announcement in a televised address was greeted with jeers and whistles of disapproval from crowds who had gathered at the gates of the government palace to celebrate their parliament's moves toward independence.

"It's not about suspending or meddling in the self-government (of Catalonia), but to return it to normality and legality as soon as possible," Rajoy said.

The government and Spain's Constitutional Court have both said the secession bid was illegal, and after Friday's independence vote, Rajoy said it was a move that "not only goes against the law but is a criminal act."

Rajoy also said he was firing the head of the Catalan regional police, shutting down the Catalan government's overseas offices, and dismissing its representatives in Madrid and in Brussels, where the European Union has its headquarters.

After the Catalan parliament independence vote, Rajoy said it was a move that "in the opinion of a large majority of people not only goes against the law but is a criminal act."

The Senate's decision giving Rajoy special powers trumped the Catalan regional parliament's vote to secede, which was doomed because the Constitutional Court has already consistently ruled against any steps toward independence.

The battle around Catalonia's future is far from over, however.

Madrid's move to take away Catalonia's regional powers was sure to be seen as a humiliation and a provocation by Catalans and a backlash was expected, with planned street protests and the possibility that regional government workers could follow a policy of disobedience or non-cooperation.

On top of that, the Dec. 21 election could deliver a steadfastly pro-independence Catalan parliament, even if recent polls have suggested the region of 7.5 million people is roughly evenly split on secession.

Many Catalans strongly oppose independence and a group of so-called unionists was organizing a large-scale protest in Barcelona on Sunday.

A spokesman for Spain's prosecutor's office, meanwhile, said it would seek to bring rebellion charges against those responsible for the Catalan independence vote.

The tense day, featuring emotional speeches and scenes of joy and despair, went to the heart of Spain's political and cultural history.

The 1978 constitution, drawn up after the end of Gen. Francisco Franco's decades-long dictatorship, created a decentralized Spanish state that devolved power to 17 autonomous regions, including Catalonia. The regions have broad administrative and legal powers. The Spanish constitution, however, also describes Spain as "indivisible."

Catalonia has its own cultural traditions and its own language. Having long seen itself as different from the rest of Spain, the Catalan drive for independence began in 2010 when the Constitutional Court struck down key parts of a groundbreaking charter that would have granted the region greater autonomy and recognized it as a nation within Spain.

Catalonia represents a fifth of Spain's gross domestic product and many want the tax revenues generated by the prosperous region to remain at home.

The motion to secede was approved by the 135-member Catalan parliament, where secessionists hold a slim majority, with 70 votes in favor. Opposition lawmakers had walked out of the chamber in protest ahead of the vote.

After the vote officials and lawmakers let loose cries of "Freedom!"

In an emotional scene, regional leader Carles Puigdemont called on cheering fellow separatists to remain peaceful.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 41 of 45

"In the days ahead we must keep to our values of pacifism and dignity. It's in our, in your hands, to build the republic," Puigdemont said.

Outside parliament, thousands who had gathered cheered the news, some dancing and raising a toast. In Barcelona, people crowded around TV sets to watch the historic events unfold. The famous Sant Jaume Square outside the regional government office was packed with thousands of people celebrating. Many were draped with the "Estelada" flag that adds a blue triangle to the red and yellow Catalan flag and has become a symbol of the separatist struggle.

"I feel so emotional after the huge fight we went through, we finally got it ... the independence of Catalonia!" said 74-year-old Rosalina Cordera Torelles.

Nearby, 24-year-old Rita Carboneras could hardly contain her excitement.

"I'm super, super, super happy. Super excited," she said. "So relieved. Now we are Catalan at last. We can be ourselves. We are just happy, look everyone around. Everything is so exciting."

The exhilaration was short-lived. Some 500 kilometers (300 miles) to the southwest, the Senate in Madrid voted by an overwhelming margin of 214 to 47 in favor of granting the government exceptional powers.

The main opposition Socialist and pro-business Citizens parties support Rajoy's stance on Catalonia, and many Spaniards outside the region are scornful of Catalonia's secession ambitions.

Rajoy has also received support from outside Spain, with other European leaders, including Germany, France and Britain, rejecting Catalonia's claims. The U.S. administration also backed Rajoy, after President Donald Trump last month branded the Catalan independence ballot as "foolish."

"Catalonia is an integral part of Spain, and the United States supports the Spanish government's constitutional measures to keep Spain strong and united," U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in a statement.

Also supporting Rajoy's warnings of trouble in Catalonia if it forges ahead with its secession bid, more than 1,500 businesses have moved their official headquarters out of Catalonia this month to ensure they can continue operating under European Union laws if Catalonia secedes.

The EU says Catalonia will be tossed out of the bloc if it leaves Spain and would have to apply to become a member, a lengthy process.

Giles reported from Madrid. Elena Becatoros and Joseph Wilson in Barcelona contributed.

## Tiger Woods pleads guilty to reckless driving, avoids jail

By CURT ANDERSON and TERRY SPENCER, Associated Press

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Tiger Woods pleaded guilty Friday to reckless driving in a deal that will keep him out of jail as long as he stays out of trouble, resolving charges from an arrest last spring in which he was found passed out in his Mercedes with prescription drugs and marijuana in his system.

Woods spoke only briefly during a hearing at a Palm Beach County courthouse, answering questions from a judge about his plea agreement. Prosecutors dropped a driving under the influence charge for the superstar golfer, and the judge warned him to behave.

"This particular plea agreement has no jail time on it. However, if you violate your probation in any significant way, I could revoke your probation and then I could sentence you to jail for 90 days with a fine of up to \$500, is that understood?" Judge Sandra Bosso-Pardo said.

Woods, 41, nodded. He did not make any statement during the hearing or outside the courthouse.

Woods will enter a diversion program and spend a year on probation and pay a \$250 fine and court costs. He has already met some of the program's other requirements, completing 50 hours of community service at the Tiger Woods Foundation, Palm Beach County State Attorney Dave Aronberg said.

Aronberg didn't say specifically what Woods did with the charitable group, but said he met the terms of the deal. Woods also attended a workshop where victims of impaired drivers detail how their lives were damaged.

Aronberg said most DUI offenders do not qualify for the diversion program because they have a prior

record or were in an accident. About 2,500 first-time offenders have graduated from the county program since it began four years ago.

"This is designed for first-time offenders, where the person made a one-time mistake and they're going to overcome it," Aronberg said. "Mr. Woods was treated like any other defendant in his situation."

Since he was intoxicated with prescription drugs and marijuana, according to court records, he will also be required to undergo regular drug tests. Woods is also not allowed to drink alcohol.

Woods arrived at the courthouse in a black sport utility vehicle, wearing sunglasses and a dark suit with no tie. Police officers surrounded him as he walked down a hallway inside the courthouse and they ringed the inside of the courtroom during the high-profile proceeding.

Woods was arrested about 2 a.m. May 29 when officers found him unconscious in his Mercedes, which was parked awkwardly on the roadside and had damage to the driver's side.

It's not clear how he damaged the car. Officers checked the area but didn't find that he had hit anything. He was about 15 miles from his home.

His arrest was recorded by an officer's dashcam video and released to the public.

Woods had the active ingredient for marijuana, two painkillers — Vicodin and Dilaudid — the sleep drug Ambien and the anti-anxiety drug Xanax in his system but no alcohol, according to a toxicology report released in August. He completed a drug treatment program in July.

Woods has said he had been self-medicating to relieve the pain from his fourth back surgery and insomnia.

The DUI arrest was the first time Woods had been in trouble since Thanksgiving weekend 2009, when he plowed his SUV into a tree and a fire hydrant outside his then-Windermere, Florida, home. That led to revelations that he had multiple extramarital affairs and a divorce from his wife Elin Nordegren, the mother of his two children. He spent 45 days in a Mississippi clinic where he was treated for an addiction.

Woods' 79 PGA Tour victories and 14 major titles both rank No. 2 all-time. He has not competed since February because of his back injury and is not expected to return this year. His last win was in August 2013.

Woods has said his back is improving. Even though he has been a non-factor on the PGA Tour, Forbes Magazine lists Woods as the 17th best-paid athlete in the world in 2017, making \$37 million, almost exclusively from endorsements.

## Science Says: Jack Frost nipping at your nose ever later

By **SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Winter is coming ... later. And it's leaving ever earlier.

Across the United States, the year's first freeze has been arriving further and further into the calendar, according to more than a century of measurements from weather stations nationwide.

Scientists say it is yet another sign of the changing climate, and that it has good and bad consequences for the nation. There could be more fruits and vegetables — and also more allergies and pests.

"I'm happy about it," said Karen Duncan of Streator, Illinois. Her flowers are in bloom because she's had no frost this year yet, just as she had none last year at this time either. On the other hand, she said just last week it was too hot and buggy to go out — in late October, near Chicago.

The trend of ever later first freezes appears to have started around 1980, according to an analysis by The Associated Press of data from 700 weather stations across the U.S. going back to 1895 compiled by Ken Kunkel, a meteorologist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Centers for Environmental Information.

To look for nationwide trends, Kunkel compared the first freeze from each of the 700 stations to the station's average for the 20th Century. Some parts of the country experience earlier or later freezes every year, but on average freezes are coming later.

The average first freeze over the last 10 years, from 2007 to 2016, is a week later than the average from 1971 to 1980, which is before Kunkel said the trend became noticeable.

This year, about 40 percent of the Lower 48 states have had a freeze as of Oct. 23, compared to 65 percent in a normal year, according to Jeff Masters, meteorology director of the private service Weather

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 43 of 45

Underground.

Duncan's flowers should be dead by now. According to data from the weather station near her in Ottawa, Illinois, the average first freeze for the 20th century was Oct. 15. The normal from 1981 to 2010 based on NOAA computer simulations was Oct. 19. Since 2010, the average first freeze is on Oct. 26. Last year, the first freeze in Ottawa came on Nov. 12.

Last year was "way off the charts" nationwide, Kunkel said. The average first freeze was two weeks later than the 20th century average, and the last frost of spring was nine days earlier than normal.

Overall the United States freeze season of 2016 was more than a month shorter than the freeze season of 1916. It was most extreme in the Pacific Northwest. Oregon's freeze season was 61 days — two months — shorter than normal.

Global warming has helped push the first frosts later, Kunkel and other scientists said. Also at play, though, are natural short-term changes in air circulation patterns — but they too may be influenced by man-made climate change, they said.

This shrinking freeze season is what climate scientists have long predicted, said University of Oklahoma meteorology professor Jason Furtado.

A shorter freeze season means a longer growing season and less money spent on heat. But it also hurts some plants that require a certain amount of chill, such as Georgia peaches, said Theresa Crimmins, a University of Arizona ecologist. Crimmins is assistant director of the National Phenology Network. Phenology is the study of the seasons and how plants and animals adapt to timing changes.

Pests that attack trees and spread disease aren't being killed off as early as they normally would be, Crimmins said.

In New England, many trees aren't changing colors as vibrantly as they normally do or used to because some take cues for when to turn from temperature, said Boston University biology professor Richard Primack.

Clusters of late-emerging monarch butterflies are being found far further north than normal for this time of year, and are unlikely to survive their migration to Mexico.

Kevin Trenberth, a climate scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, said natural variability, especially an El Nino, made last year exceptional for an early freeze, but "it represents the kind of conditions that will be more routine in a decade or two" because of man-made climate change.

"The long-term consequences are really negative," said Primack, because shorter winters and hotter temperatures are also expected to lead to rising seas that cause worse flooding during heavy storms.

In suburban Boston, Primack and his wife are still eating lettuce, tomatoes and green beans from their garden. And they are getting fresh figs off their backyard tree almost daily.

"These fig trees should be asleep," Primack said.

---

AP data journalist Nicky Forster contributed to this story from New York.

Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter at @borenbears. His work can be found here.

---

This Associated Press series was produced in partnership with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Oct. 28, the 301st day of 2017. There are 64 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 28, 1726, the original edition of "Gulliver's Travels," a satirical novel by Jonathan Swift, was first published in London.

On this date:

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 44 of 45**

In 1636, the General Court of Massachusetts passed a legislative act establishing Harvard College.

In 1776, the Battle of White Plains was fought during the Revolutionary War, resulting in a limited British victory.

In 1886, the Statue of Liberty, a gift from the people of France, was dedicated in New York Harbor by President Grover Cleveland.

In 1914, Yugoslav nationalist Gavrilo Princip, whose assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, sparked World War I, was sentenced in Sarajevo to 20 years' imprisonment. (He died in 1918.)

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt rededicated the Statue of Liberty on its 50th anniversary.

In 1940, Italy invaded Greece during World War II.

In 1958, the Roman Catholic patriarch of Venice, Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, was elected Pope; he took the name John XXIII. The Samuel Beckett play "Krapp's Last Tape" premiered in London.

In 1962, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev informed the United States that he had ordered the dismantling of missile bases in Cuba; in return, the U.S. secretly agreed to remove nuclear missiles from U.S. installations in Turkey.

In 1965, Pope Paul VI issued a Declaration on the Relation of the Church with Non-Christian Religions which, among other things, absolved Jews of collective guilt for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

In 1976, former Nixon aide John D. Ehrlichman entered a federal prison camp in Safford, Arizona, to begin serving his sentence for Watergate-related convictions (he was released in April 1978).

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter and Republican presidential nominee Ronald Reagan faced off in a nationally broadcast, 90-minute debate in Cleveland.

In 1991, what became known as "The Perfect Storm" began forming hundreds of miles east of Nova Scotia; lost at sea during the storm were the six crew members of the Andrea Gail, a swordfishing boat from Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Ten years ago: Stacy Peterson, the 23-year-old fourth wife of police sergeant Drew Peterson, went missing in suburban Chicago. (Her fate has never been determined; Drew Peterson was convicted in Sept. 2012 of murdering his third wife, Kathleen Savio (SAH'-vee-oh).) Fire ravaged a North Carolina beach house, killing seven college students. Argentina's first lady, Cristina Fernandez, claimed victory in the country's presidential election; she became the first woman elected to the post. The Boston Red Sox swept to their second World Series title in four years with a 4-3 win over the Colorado Rockies in Game 4. Country star Porter Wagoner, 80, died in Nashville.

Five years ago: Airlines canceled more than 7,000 flights in advance of Hurricane Sandy, transit systems in New York, Philadelphia and Washington were shut down, and forecasters warned the New York area could see an 11-foot wall of water. President Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney altered their campaign travel plans because of the approaching superstorm. The San Francisco Giants won their second World Series title in three years, beating the Detroit Tigers 4-3 in 10 innings to complete a four-game sweep.

One year ago: The FBI dropped what amounted to a political bomb on the Clinton campaign when it announced it was investigating whether emails on a device belonging to disgraced ex-congressman Anthony Weiner, the estranged husband of one of Clinton's closest aides, Huma Abedin, might contain classified information. The Cleveland Indians held off the Chicago Cubs 1-0 for a 2-1 lead as the World Series returned to Wrigley Field for the first time since 1945.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz singer Cleo Laine is 90. Actress Joan Plowright is 88. Musician-songwriter Charlie Daniels is 81. Actress Jane Alexander is 78. Actor Dennis Franz is 73. Pop singer Wayne Fontana is 72. Actress Telma Hopkins is 69. Olympic track and field gold medalist Caitlyn Jenner is 68. Actress Annie Potts is 65. Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates is 62. The former president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (ah-muh-DEE'-neh-zahhd), is 61. Rock musician Stephen Morris (New Order) is 60. Country/gospel singer-musician Ron Hemby (The Buffalo Club) is 59. Rock singer-musician William Reid (The Jesus & Mary Chain) is 59. Actor Mark Derwin is 57. Actress Daphne Zuniga is 55. Actress Lauren Holly is 54. Talk show host-comedian-actress Sheryl Underwood is 54. Actress Jami Gertz is 52. Actor Chris Bauer is 51. Actor-

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 111 ~ 45 of 45**

comedian Andy Richter is 51. Actress Julia Roberts is 50. Country singer-musician Caitlin Cary is 49. Actor Jeremy Davies is 48. Singer Ben Harper is 48. Country singer Brad Paisley is 45. Actor Joaquin Phoenix is 43. Singer Justin Guarini (TV: "American Idol") is 39. Pop singer Brett Dennen is 38. Rock musician Dave Tiro (Plain White T's) is 38. Actor Charlie Semine is 37. Actor Matt Smith is 35. Actor Finn Wittrock is 33. Actress Troian Bellisario is 32. Singer/rapper Frank Ocean is 30. Actress Lexi Ainsworth (TV: "General Hospital") is 25. Actor Nolan Gould is 19.

Thought for Today: "I prefer liberty with danger than peace with slavery." — Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Swiss-born French philosopher (1712-1778).