

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 1 of 49

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Dakota Outdoors Ad
- 1- Lights going up today
- 2- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 3- Farmers Union PSA
- 3- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted
- 3- Groton Area Help Wanted
- 4- Pumpkin Fest Thank You
- 5- Dog Licenses available
- 6- Pump prices slightly higher in SD
- 7- Today in Weather History
- 7- Roslyn 4-Plex for sale
- 8- Today's Forecast
- 9- Yesterday's Weather
- 9- Today's Weather Info
- 9- National Weather Map
- 10- Daily Devotional
- 11- 2018 Community Events
- 12- News from the Associated Press



Well, not much activity yesterday on SD37 with the cold, windy conditions. Today is expected to be a pleasant day so we're expecting lots of action today. Perhaps by tonight, the lighting on SD37 will be up and running. Plans remain to open SD37 by Thursday. Yesterday the mailboxes were returned to their proper places. (Photo

by Paul Kosel)

## Dakota Outdoors



**Erik Dean**  
402 N Main St  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
605.229.0123

dakoutdoors@midconetwork.com

**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

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 2 of 49

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul.

“Angels  
have no  
philosophy  
but love.”

-Adeline Cullen Ray

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 3 of 49



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

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 4 of 49



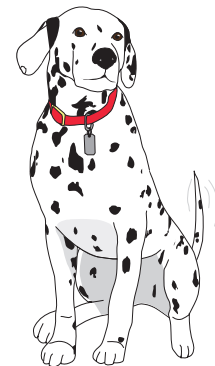
*What a great day we had at Groton's 2nd Pumpkin Fest!! We can't thank our volunteers enough for all your help!! We received so much support and donations from local businesses, groups and individuals!! What a great community we live in!! A big THANK YOU to everyone for helping to make Groton's 2nd Pumpkin Fest a huge success!! Stay tuned for details for Groton's 3rd Pumpkin Fest to be held October 6, 2018!!*

*We look forward to making next year's event bigger and better so please sign up to volunteer!!*

## 2018 DOG LICENSES AVAILABLE NOW!!



**Licenses due by Dec. 29, 2017**  
**Fines start Jan. 2, 2018**



Please bring proof of rabies shot information for each dog to City Hall or  
email to [library@grotonsd.net](mailto:library@grotonsd.net) or fax to 397-4498

Please contact City Hall as soon as possible if you no longer have any dogs

Spayed or neutered dogs are \$5 per dog,  
otherwise \$10 per dog

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 6 of 49

## Pump Prices Slightly Higher for South Dakota

October 30, 2017 - At \$2.47, today's national gas price average is one cent more on the week. Gas prices are fluctuating across the country with 25 states paying more, 17 states paying less and nine states staying stable on the week for a gallon of regular gasoline. States in the Central and Great Lakes region are experiencing the biggest increases (six to 12 cents).

South Dakota's pump price average is up 2 cents over last week at \$2.49. Month over month price the state's average has remained the same.

"Depending on where in the country you are filling up your tank, gasoline prices are playing tricks on some motorists with large increases on the week and treating others to lower gas prices," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "The price volatility can be attributed to a new trend that has emerged during October in the last few years, which is an unexpectedly steady demand for gasoline after the end of the summer driving season."

Despite the fluctuation, AAA forecasts that the national average gas price will decrease as the holidays approach.

### Quick Stats

The nation's top ten markets with the largest monthly changes are: Georgia (-27 cents), Florida (-23 cents), Alabama (-22 cents), Tennessee (-22 cents), South Carolina (-21 cents), Mississippi (-20 cents), North Carolina (-20 cents), Texas (-19 cents), Indiana (+16 cents) and Virginia (-14 cents).

The nation's top ten least expensive markets are: Mississippi (\$2.19), Alabama (\$2.19), South Carolina (\$2.21), Louisiana (\$2.22), Arkansas (\$2.22), Texas (\$2.23), Tennessee (\$2.25), Virginia (\$2.26), Missouri (\$2.26) and Oklahoma (\$2.30).

### Great Lakes and Central Region

The Great Lakes and central states collectively are seeing gas prices increase more than any other region in the country. On the week, motorists are paying one to 12 cents more at the pump with Ohio (+12 cents), Indiana (+8 cents), Illinois (+7 cents), Missouri (+6 cents), Minnesota (+5 cents) and Nebraska (+4 cents) seeing the largest increases. Only two states in the region are not on the increase trend: Michigan (-8 cent) and Kansas (no change). Illinois is selling the most expensive gas at \$2.59/gallon for unleaded.

The Great Lakes and Central region has seen gasoline inventories decline for five weeks straight. At 46.6 million bbl, inventories register at the lowest level of the year and 4.65 million bbl below year ago levels. As supply tightens, gas prices are increasing for motorists in the region.

### Oil market dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI closed at \$53.90/bbl, with a gain of \$1.26 for the day. Oil prices may continue pushing higher this week, following the release of EIA's latest report that showed exports of U.S. crude surpassed 1.9 million b/d for the second time in the last four weeks. The refinery increases are likely due to production levels stabilizing above 16 million b/d after restarts of several Gulf Coast as a precaution ahead of Hurricane Nate's landfall earlier this month.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at [AAA.com/mobile](http://AAA.com/mobile).

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 7 of 49

## Today in Weather History

October 31, 1979: A narrow band of heavy wet snow developed around midnight from Winner to Leola and produced from three to six inches of snow before ending in the afternoon of 31st. The wet snow stuck to power poles and combined with 30 to 50 mph winds broke up to 600 poles. Estimated damage was around \$400,000 dollars. The counties affected were Tripp, Lyman, Buffalo, Hyde, Hand, Faulk, and Edmunds Counties.

### 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.


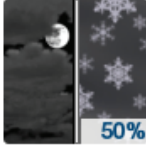

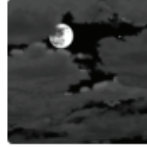



October 31, 1991:: A blizzard swept through southeastern South Dakota, dropping over 16 inches of snow in places. The snow combined with winds gusting to 60 mph at times, thus producing blizzard conditions. Interstates 29 and 90, as well as most other roads east and south of Sioux Falls were closed due to blowing and drifting snow. There were hundreds of traffic accidents in the Sioux Falls area alone. The hospital emergency rooms were swamped with victims of automobile accidents and injuries sustained while shoveling heavy snow. Two men died from heart problems while shoveling the snow.

1876: The Great Backerganj, also known as the Bengal cyclone of 1876 struck Bangladesh, then part of the province of Bengal in British India on this day. A maximum wind speed of 137 mph along with a storm surge of 10 to 45 feet inundated the coastal region. This storm likely caused 200,000 casualties along with displacing thousands of other individuals.

1991: A severe winter storm, dubbed the Great Halloween Mega Storm, struck the upper Midwest. Minnesota bore the brunt of this storm. Blizzard conditions occurred with winds gusting frequently to 40 and 50 mph. By the time it was all over on November 2nd, Duluth recorded 37 inches, Minneapolis 28 inches, International Falls 18 inches and 11.2 inches in 24-hours at Sioux Falls, SD, their earliest heavy snowfall of 6 inches or more and snowiest October on record. For Duluth and Minneapolis, the snow amounts set new all-time records for the greatest amount of snow in a single storm. The storm gave these two cities nearly half of their average seasonal snowfall.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 8 of 49

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy then Chance Snow	Slight Chance Rain/Snow then Slight Chance Rain	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Chance Snow then Chance Rain/Snow
High: 39 °F	Low: 30 °F	High: 49 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 41 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 36 °F

## Evening Temperatures That Will Chill You To The Bone

5-9pm:  
Temps Less Than Perfect:  
**Readings In The 30s**

*A Light Southerly "Boo"ree  
Can Also Be Expected*



### National Weather Service

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



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Graphic Created  
10/31/2017 5:57 AM

Published on: 10/31/2017 at 6:03AM

Mostly cloudy skies are expected today with temperatures 5 to 15 degrees below average, along with a light south breeze. Not the best conditions for this evening but certainly not the worst...We could see some light snow early Wednesday but temperatures will recover closer to average by the afternoon.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 9 of 49

## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 38.4

Low Outside Temp: 20.0

High Gust: 38

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 78° in 1933

Record Low: 8° in 2006

Average High: 49°F

Average Low: 27°F

Average Precip in Oct: 1.99

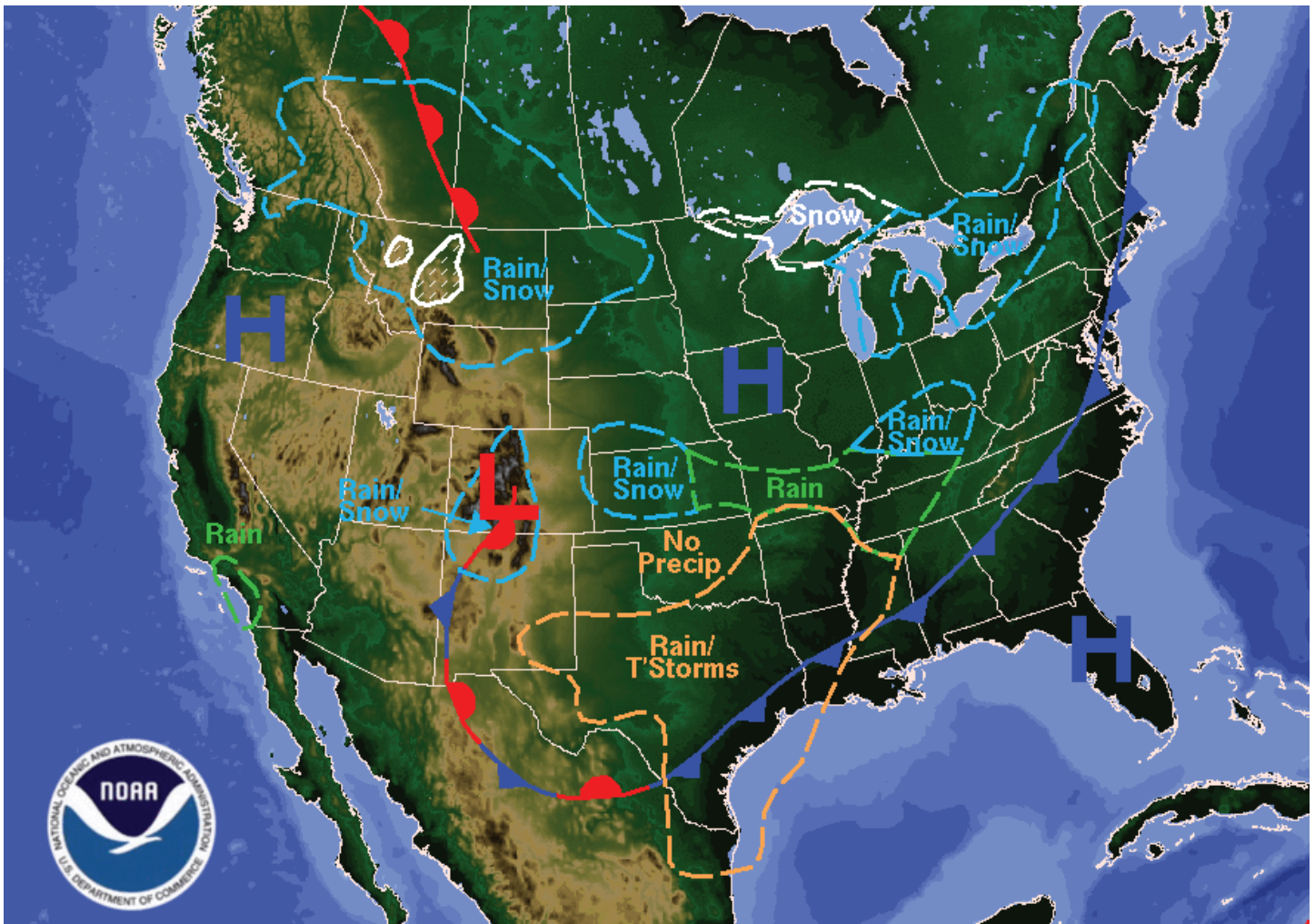
Precip to date in Oct: 0.67

Average Precip to date: 20.47

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 6:21 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:13 a.m.



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Oct 31, 2017, issued 4:57 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 10 of 49



## EVIDENCE AND FACTS!

"Take nothing on its looks. Take everything on evidence. There's no better rule!" wrote Charles Dickens in *Great Expectations*.

Years later, a fictional detective, Sgt. Joe Friday became famous for the phrase, "Just the facts, Ma'am. All I want are the facts." If there were no facts there could be no reliable evidence.

"Shout for joy to God, all the earth...Say to God, 'How awesome are Your deeds! So great is Your power... All the earth bows down to You,'" wrote David.

Everywhere David looked, he saw God's "awesome deeds." And these "deeds" provided all the "evidence" he, and those who met with him in worship, needed to have to believe in the God of Israel.

These "awesome deeds" can be seen in His-story: God judging and punishing those who were disobedient to Him; those who broke His laws and disregarded and disobeyed His commandments. They paid the price. His-story also includes examples of His countless blessings and unending love, mercy and grace that He graciously blest those who trusted Him. He protected them and provided for their every need as long as they were obedient to His Word and His ways. And He still does.

The Bible contains all of the evidence that is needed for us to see the "awesome deeds" of God. In His-story He gives us "evidence" and "facts" that are undeniable.

Christian faith is a faith established on truths that cannot be denied. With David we can "Shout for joy!"

Prayer: Lord, open our eyes to see Your mighty acts of strength and power and shout for joy as we worship You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 66:3 Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you.

## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 12 of 49

## News from the Associated Press

### Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Region 7A

First Round

Bennett County def. Red Cloud, 12-25, 25-15, 25-19, 25-13

Little Wound def. Todd County, 25-18, 25-23, 13-25, 25-22

Winner def. St. Francis Indian, 25-5, 25-7, 25-9

Region 1B

First Round

Clark/Willow Lake def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-17, 25-10, 25-17

Florence/Henry def. Waubay/Summit, 28-30, 25-23, 27-29, 25-23, 15-7

Great Plains Lutheran def. Britton-Hecla, 25-20, 25-20, 25-19

Region 2B

First Round

Eureka/Bowdle def. Edmunds Central, 25-21, 12-25, 25-18, 25-1

Highmore-Harrold def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-9, 25-12, 25-9

Region 3B

First Round

Castlewood def. Wessington Springs, 25-20, 22-25, 25-16, 25-19

James Valley Christian def. Iroquois, 25-14, 25-3, 25-13

Lake Preston def. Estelline, 25-17, 25-17, 25-23

Region 4B

First Round

Dell Rapids St. Mary def. Mitchell Christian, 27-25, 25-23, 25-23

Howard def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-11, 25-10, 25-13

Region 5B

First Round

Gayville-Volin def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-16, 25-8, 25-22

Region 6B

First Round

Scotland def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-18, 25-10, 25-27, 25-13

Region 7B

First Round

Bison def. Takini, 25-5, 25-10, 25-14

Dupree def. Wakpala, 25-6, 25-10, 25-11

Lower Brule def. Oelrichs, 25-0, 25-0, 25-0

Lyman def. Jones County, 24-26, 25-8, 25-17, 25-18

White River def. Crazy Horse, 25-4, 25-7, 25-11

District 8B

First Round

Tiospaye Topa def. Newell, 25-12, 25-14, 16-25, 25-18

## 2 South Dakota college football players charged with rape

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Two University of South Dakota football players were arrested Monday on charges of second degree rape after an alleged assault earlier this month at an off-campus residence, police said.

Vermillion, South Dakota, police said in a statement that Danny Rambo and Dale Williamson turned themselves in without incident.

School officials say they received a complaint last week about the Oct. 22 alleged attack and turned it over to law enforcement.

University president James W. Abbott says the school is cooperating with police.

"This is a very troubling accusation, and University Police will assist the Vermillion investigation in any way possible," said Abbott.

Rambo is a junior defensive back from Texarkana, Texas, who was an honorable mention Missouri Valley Football Conference selection in 2016, according to the school's athletic website. Williamson, from Donaldsonville, Georgia, is a sophomore defensive back who played in five games last year.

Police said the investigation is continuing.

## Railroad sues over millions of rail ties it calls defective

By JEFF MARTIN, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — One of the nation's largest railroads must replace millions of defective wooden railroad ties on its tracks because they're degrading faster than expected, the company said in a federal lawsuit.

Norfolk Southern Railway blames an Alabama company that produced its railroad ties of failing to use proper protective coating on more than 4.7 million of them, the railroad said in its lawsuit filed this month in U.S. District Court in Alabama.

Instead of using materials that preserve the wood, officials with Boatright Railroad Products Inc. ordered workers to "make them black by whatever means necessary" so they appeared to be properly treated but were not, Norfolk Southern maintains in the suit.

"So long as the railroad ties had the same physical appearance as a tie that had been properly treated, it did not matter to defendants if the substance used to 'make it black' was actually a wood preservative at all."

Motor oil, anti-freeze, paint and other substances which would not effectively preserve the wood were used on the ties instead of creosote — the chemical which should have been used, the company alleges.

Boatright also provided misleading samples to a consultant for the railroad who was checking on the quality of its work, the lawsuit alleges. The Alabama firm's employees were instructed to take the consultant out hunting at the same time he was to be inspecting railroad ties being treated at the facility, the lawsuit states.

A lawyer who represented Boatright in previous legal matters didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Monday.

Properly treated rail ties are "crucial" to the railroad's operations, as untreated ones can "degrade and deteriorate prematurely, thereby jeopardizing the safety and integrity of Norfolk Southern's rail network and the interstate rail network as a whole," the company's complaint states.

Safety is a top priority, and Norfolk Southern "continues to inspect and closely monitor the condition of all crossties across its rail network in accordance with the highest industry standards," the railroad said in a statement Monday to The Associated Press.

"Any tie found to be experiencing premature degradation will be replaced before it can pose a risk to safety," the statement said.

Several Amtrak routes use Norfolk Southern's tracks for passenger trains. It's possible that passengers could face some delays as ties are replaced, said Sean Jeans-Gail, vice president of government affairs and policy at the National Association of Railroad Passengers.

The state of the nation's railroad tracks has come under scrutiny in recent months amid concerns about

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 14 of 49

derailments of lengthy trains hauling oil or ethanol in the Midwest and the South. The National Academies of Sciences recently called for more thorough inspections of freight railroad tracks. More frequent inspections are needed to prevent potentially catastrophic derailments of trains hauling oil and ethanol in which ruptured tank cars can produce giant fireballs, the scientific organization said in a report this month.

Virginia-based Norfolk Southern operates freight trains in more than 20 states in the southern and eastern United States.

From 2009 to 2014, Boatright provided Norfolk Southern with nearly 5 million railroad ties, and virtually all of them were installed in the railroad's network, the lawsuit said. About 4.5 million of them are described as cross ties; and 193,000 are switch ties. Also included in the total are about 72,000 inferior bridge ties, according to the suit.

## Elections board endorses electronic voting system law change

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Board of Elections has endorsed draft legislation that would block a type of electronic voting system from being used in South Dakota.

Secretary of State Shantel Krebs said Monday that a direct recording electronic voting system hasn't been used in the state. Krebs says South Dakota uses paper ballots.

The board supported 2018 draft legislation that would remove references to the machines from state law. Krebs says officials want to take a "very proactive approach."

Krebs says other states are getting rid of the equipment in response to the 2016 election and concerns over attempted hacking or potential electoral interference.

The National Conference of State Legislatures says direct recording electronic voting machines record votes and vote totals directly into computer memory, but don't use paper ballots.

## Judge in Vegas says 4 month trial expected in Bundy standoff

By KEN RITTER, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Trial could take four months for Nevada rancher and states' rights figure Cliven Bundy, his two sons and one other co-defendant accused of leading a self-styled militia to prevent federal agents from removing Bundy cattle from public rangeland, a federal judge told prospective jurors on Monday.

Jury selection alone could take several days, Chief U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro told 49 people during a first day of questioning about their backgrounds, opinions and ability to impartially decide whether Bundy, sons Ryan and Ammon Bundy, and co-defendant Ryan Payne of Montana conspired to lead an armed uprising against the government. Similar-sized groups of prospective jurors are due for questioning through Thursday.

"Although they are accused, they start trial with a clean slate," the judge said of the defendants.

Court proceedings began with security exceptionally tight inside the federal courthouse in Las Vegas, and in the courtroom where observers are banned from having electronic devices including cellphones. A small sidewalk protest outside echoed more robust demonstrations organized by Bundy backers during two previous trials.

Those proceedings ended in April and August with prosecutors failing to gain full convictions of six defendants who had assault-style weapons with them during an April 2014 standoff involving Bundy backers, protesters and federal agents near the Nevada town of Bunkerville.

The confrontation stemmed from Cliven Bundy's refusal to pay grazing fees to a federal government that he maintains has no authority over public land, including what is now Gold Butte National Monument, where he says Bundy family cows have grazed since the early 1900s.

The assertions by the 71-year-old patriarch of a Mormon family with 14 children and more than 50 grandchildren has roots in a nearly half-century fight over public lands involving ranchers in Nevada and the West, where the federal government controls vast expanses of land.

The four defendants were conspicuous in Monday's courtroom, sitting wearing red jail scrubs next to

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 15 of 49

their lawyers — including one aiding Ryan Bundy, who is representing himself. Each defendant has been in federal custody since his arrest in Oregon in early 2016, and each has protested his pretrial confinement.

Each told Navarro when she asked on Monday that his decision not to wear civilian clothes was voluntary.

"My attire is my choice today," Ryan Bundy said.

"Yeah. I think they look pretty good," Ammon Bundy quipped.

Several prospective jurors, who were referred to in court by juror numbers instead of names, said serving through the holidays to the end of February would pose a hardship for them, their families or their employers. One said she is a full-time student at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, who also works 30 hours a week to make ends meet.

The jury that is eventually seated will hear a case about armed confrontation in a city still reeling following the Oct. 1 Las Vegas Strip shooting by a man who authorities say fired assault-style weapons from windows of a high-rise casino hotel into an open-air music festival crowd, killing 58 people and injuring nearly 550 before also killing himself.

The start of trial was postponed nearly three weeks following the massacre. Ammon Bundy's attorneys, Daniel Hill and Morgan Philpot, asked the judge on Monday for another delay.

Philpot cited media reports that he said make "a direct correlation between this trial and that event."

Authorities including the FBI and Las Vegas police have not disclosed if they have identified a motive for Strip shooter Stephen Paddock's rampage. None has linked Paddock with Bundy.

Bundy, his sons and Payne each faces 15 felony charges including conspiracy, assault and threats against federal officers, firearms counts, obstruction and extortion. Convictions on all charges could carry the possibility of more than 170 years in prison.

## South Dakota man's blackface costume prompts backlash

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man has apologized after his racially insensitive Halloween costume caused a backlash on social media.

A photo shared on Twitter on Friday showed a white man in blackface and a black wig, kneeling and holding a sign that says, "Will stand for money," an apparent reference to NFL players kneeling during the national anthem to protest social injustices, particularly against African-Americans. The tweet has since been deleted.

The man pictured identifies himself on Twitter and Facebook as South Dakota State University student Cole Paulson, though the school said he isn't currently enrolled and couldn't immediately confirm whether he previously attended the school, the Argus Leader reported.

Paulson apologized, telling the newspaper that feels "terrible" for wearing blackface while insisting that he had no racist intentions.

"I will be completely honest and tell you I was ignorant to the fact as to painting my face like that was racist," he said. "It was in no way my intention to offend the African-American community, and I have read many articles and documents since to educate myself on why it was wrong of me to do what I did. ... I was contacted almost immediately about how it was wrong and proceeded to wash it off before I went anywhere. I wholeheartedly apologize as I feel horrible about my ignorance and offending many people I respect."

South Dakota State spokesman Mike Lockrem said the school was made aware of the photo Saturday morning and that the school's Office of Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Access "has reached out to the individual."

"Some dialogue has been started, but beyond that, I don't have any information to the extent (of what has been said)."

## Coal test plant coming to Wyoming in November

GILLETTE, Wyo. (AP) — A company that is developing a process to produce cleaner burning coal plans to begin work next month on establishing a test plant in northeast Wyoming, a company official said.

Robin Eves, CEO of Clean Coal Technologies Inc., said his company is close to starting the commercial designs of the coal refining process it has been working on for more than a decade.

Along with producing more energy than untreated coal, the refined coal product also produces fewer harmful emissions when burned, including carbon dioxide, the company said.

The company will use coal from the Powder River Basin in northeast Wyoming in the new test plant.

A location of the test plant will be announced soon, Eves told the Gillette News Record in an email.

Through CCTI's proprietary process, coal is treated in a way that extracts much of its moisture, which makes it lighter.

While dehydrating coal isn't a new idea, being able to do it in a way that the coal remains stable is, said Richard Horner, director of special projects and emerging technology with the University of Wyoming's School of Energy Resources.

"It's one thing taking the moisture out of coal, but if you do not consume that de-watered coal pretty quickly, you have spontaneous combustion problems," Horner said. "What CCTI has done, which makes it intriguing, is that they've taken volatiles out of the coal together with the water, which improves the BTU value. Then, they're taking those volatiles and spraying it back on the coal, which stabilizes it. That's quite original."

Horner said that UW receives proposals for about three or four energy-related technologies a month.

"For the first time, there's something serious to look at here," he said. "This seriously needs to go to the next level."

That is why UW has recently partnered with CCTI on its research and development in Wyoming.

While the prospect of CCTI's research is exciting, Horner said there are still several steps that need to be taken before it can be marketed, especially for export.

After CCTI establishes its test plant in Wyoming, Horner said he expects to have a good handle on how viable and marketable the technology can be for Wyoming coal.

Information from: The Gillette (Wyo.) News Record, <http://www.gillettenewsrecord.com>

## Iowa family uses no-till, soil-saving method on farm

By **ANDREW WIND, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier**

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa (AP) — Dennis Messingham remembers the grilling he received when Ken Jackson interviewed him about renting 135 acres of farmland five years ago.

It didn't let up until Messingham managed to get in a question of his own about the planting practices he planned to use on the field.

"I asked him if I could no-till the beans into the corn, and I thought he was going to faint," recalled Messingham, who rotates between planting the two crops. He assumed Jackson, already in his 80s, would favor the older practice of tilling the field to prepare it for planting rather than the no-till approach Messingham uses to better control erosion.

But his question "was the right answer," Messingham told the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier .

That's because Jackson, who died in May 2016 at the age of 86, had already significantly invested in conservation efforts on the field, located at the northwest edge of Cedar Falls. Since 1988, about 45 acres of the land has been terraced, a conservation practice that minimizes erosion and washing nitrogen from fertilizers into waterways on hilly or sloped land.

A sign next to the field commemorates that decision with the words "Saving our soil for decades." It includes the names KLJ Farms (for Kenneth Leigh Jackson) and Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District, which encourages such farming practices and paid for the sign. It was installed several months ago, replacing an older, worn sign the agency also installed.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 17 of 49

It's the only sign noting the use of terraces in the county. Officials said Jackson's family has been continuously using the practice longer than any other landowner here.

Jackson, who owned Century Pattern Co. in Cedar Falls, wasn't a farmer.

"He always wanted to farm," said Jane Jackson, Ken's wife. "When this (land) came available, we had some money and we got it from the bank. He loved to come out and walk the fields."

They also owned other farmland across the Cedar Valley where Ken had implemented various conservation practices over the years. "I would probably say it was in the mid-'60s when he started to put land in conservation reserve," said Mark Jackson, his son. So his father welcomed the opportunity to install the terraces on this land.

Elaine Hammer, conservation technician with the Natural Resources Conservation Services in Waterloo, helped lay out Jackson's terraces. The NRCS works closely with the conservation district.

"It's a little dike we built up, a little dam," she explained. A system of tiles also was installed just below the surface with a series of intakes at the bottom of each terrace, allowing the water to drain. The terraces curve around the sloped land, slowing the water.

"They're normally on this type of land," she said. "This was a perfect piece for this."

Terraces are partially paid for with federal cost-sharing funds on land that qualifies because of topography. Farmers who install the terraces are required to keep them in place for a set number of years — which the Jackson land has far exceeded. The terraces have remained despite the growing size of equipment and newer conservation practices some farmers use instead.

"It's all about carrying on Dad's legacy," said Mark Jackson. "He knew that with bad farming measures, the character of the farm wouldn't last."

Some who installed the terraces in Jackson's era eventually removed them.

"A lot of people like to knock these terraces out these days," said Messingham. "That's a really bad thing. I don't see any reason to take them out if they're already there."

"In certain parts of the state, probably northeast Iowa, it's still pretty common" to have the terraces, Hammer added. "Building new ones is down, really, throughout the state."

Farming Jackson's land was a good fit for Messingham.

"I've been for the conservation ever since I started farming" in 1984, he said. "The rest of the farm that isn't terraced, I farm on the contour. We also are minimal till to no till — no till mostly."

In addition, he plants a cereal rye cover crop after harvest. Along with stopping erosion, cover crops help control weeds.

Messingham acknowledged not everyone farming on hilly land will go through the expense of terracing, which also has the potential of reducing crop yields since not as many acres can be planted in a field. He suggested those farmers may use some of the other methods to slow erosion or keep nitrogen in fertilizers out of waterways.

"I truly think everybody is working toward the conservation end of it," he said. "The Jacksons just went a little further."

Information from: Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier, <http://www.wcfcourier.com>

## Dayton thanks farmers for high compliance with buffer law

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Gov. Mark Dayton and other officials are thanking farmers and landowners for their high rate of compliance with the state's buffer strip law.

The 2015 legislation requires buffers of perennial vegetation to filter farm pollution before it reaches public waters. They're a major piece of Dayton's hopes for improving water quality statewide. With a Wednesday deadline looming, 95 percent of the 400,000 sites that need buffers now comply.

Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson told reporters Monday the high compliance rate shows that farmers were committed to meeting the deadline. He says many already had buffers in place when the requirement became law, while others responded to the governor's call to be part of the solution.

Landowners who can't meet Wednesday's deadline can get a waiver to push it to July 1.

## Native American activist Dennis Banks dies at age 80

By STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press

Dennis Banks, who helped found the American Indian Movement and engaged in sometimes-violent uprisings against the U.S. government, including the armed occupation of Wounded Knee in 1973, died at age 80, his family announced Monday.

Banks, whose Ojibwe name was Nowacumig, was one of several activists who founded AIM in Minneapolis in 1968, and he was a leader of the group's takeover of Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota in 1973, in a protest against both the U.S. and tribal governments. The village had been the site of a massacre by U.S. soldiers in 1890 that left an estimated 300 Indians dead. The occupiers held federal agents at bay for 71 days; two Native Americans died and several agents were injured amid the frequent gunfire.

Banks died Sunday night at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, surrounded by about 30 people, including siblings, children and grandchildren, said daughter Tashina Banks Rama. He had heart surgery earlier this month and was in high spirits until pneumonia he had contracted after the surgery took a turn for the worse on Friday, she said.

"Dennis Banks is somebody who had an indelible impact on history, not just in our native community but throughout our country," said Anton Treuer, a professor of the Ojibwe language at Bemidji State University, citing how he demanded that the powerful take notice of American Indian concerns. "He was someone who was both loved and hated — depending on what circle you're looking at."

Banks and fellow AIM leader Russell Means faced charges stemming from the Wounded Knee occupation, but a judge threw out the case. However, Banks spent 18 months in prison in the 1980s after being convicted for rioting and assault for a protest in Custer, South Dakota, earlier in 1973. He avoided prosecution on those charges for several years because California Gov. Jerry Brown refused to extradite him, and the Onondaga Nation in New York gave him sanctuary.

Banks also helped lead a takeover of the Bureau of Indian Affairs offices in Washington, D.C., in 1972 as part of a protest dubbed "The Trail of Broken Treaties." And he was a participant in the 1969-71 occupation by Native Americans of Alcatraz Island, the site of the former prison in San Francisco Bay.

Banks' family wrote on his Facebook page that as he took his last breaths, son Minoh Banks sang him four songs for his journey.

"All the family who were present prayed over him and said our individual goodbyes," the family said. "Then we proudly sang him the AIM song as his final send off."

Banks lived near the town of Federal Dam on the Leech Lake Reservation in northern Minnesota and was a member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, one of the many bands of Ojibwe, also known as the Chippewa or Anishinaabe, living in North America. In the late 1990s, Banks founded a company that sold wild rice and maple syrup, trading on his famous name.

He was part of a group of AIM supporters who returned to Wounded Knee in 2003 to mark the 30th anniversary of the standoff. Banks paid tribute to the dead as "warriors" and declared it "a national holiday." He was also there in 1998 for the 25th anniversary.

In 2010, Banks joined several other Ojibwe from the Leech Lake and White Earth bands who tested their rights under an 1855 treaty by setting out nets illegally on Lake Bemidji a day before Minnesota's fishing season opener. He also went to the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota to join last year's protests of the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

Treuer said Banks is remembered in the Native American community not just for his work in the rise of AIM, but for his efforts on the local level, such as focusing attention on racial disparities in the justice system, housing for Native Americans, treaty rights and teaching traditional ways to young people.

Rama said the family plans to hold wakes Wednesday evening at the Minneapolis American Indian Center, and Thursday and Friday on Leech Lake Reservation. Banks will be buried on the reservation in a

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 19 of 49

traditional ceremony Saturday.

Banks is survived by 20 children and more than 100 grandchildren, she said.

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<http://apne.ws/2u1RMfv>

## New Mexico utility seeks electricity options other than coal

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN, Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — New Mexico's largest electric provider on Monday put out a request for proposals for hundreds of megawatts of power to fill a future void as the utility plans ahead for weaning itself from coal-fired generation over the next several years.

Public Service Co. of New Mexico plans to close two units at the San Juan Generating Station in northwestern New Mexico before the end of the year to meet a federal mandate aimed at reducing haze-causing pollution in the region. By 2022, the rest of the plant could close.

In an announcement late last week, the utility said it is looking for a combination of sources that can ensure the reliability of a system that serves a half-million customers around New Mexico. It pegged the amount at 456 megawatts.

The utility is encouraging renewable and battery-storage options.

The utility also plans to divest its ownership shares in the nearby Four Corners Power Plant when its coal supply contract runs out in 2031. That would leave the company with no coal resources in its portfolio.

Executives at PNM Resources, the utility's parent company, have pointed to the uncertainty surrounding coal given possible future environmental regulations and ongoing pressure to address pollution concerns.

They also have said replacing the coal supply with renewable energy and more flexible natural gas-powered plants will save money for customers in the long run.

Overall, the amount of U.S. electricity generated by coal has fallen to about one-third in the last decade, mostly as hydraulic fracturing has made natural gas cheaper and more plentiful.

Bidders hoping to supply New Mexico with energy will have until Nov. 30 to announce their intention to bid. Proposals will be due in January.

Utility spokesman Pahl Shipley said Monday the request for proposals is an important step as the company follows through with a resource plan that was adopted earlier this year. However, he said it's too early in the bidding process to speculate about possible effects, if any, on customer bills.

The utility has said options for filling the void will include building solar farms and more natural gas plants. It also suggests that new transmission lines could alleviate current capacity limits that will prevent more wind energy from being developed in eastern New Mexico.

## South Dakota Volleyball Polls

By The Associated Press SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - Here is the final South Dakota media volleyball poll for the 2017 season. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking..

Class AA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Harrisburg;(11);18-1;55;1

2. Mitchell;-;19-2;44;2

3. Aberdeen Central;-;13-5;31;3

4. R.C. Stevens;-;27-6;24;4

5. S.F. O'Gorman;-;16-13;6;NR

Others receiving votes: Watertown (11-7) 5.<

Class A

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 20 of 49

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. S.F. Christian;(11);26-4;55;1
2. Dakota Valley;-;24-3;44;2
3. Madison;-;23-4;32;3
4. Parker;-;23-6;16;4
5. Miller;-;23-4;13;5

Others receiving votes: Sioux Valley (23-4) 5.<

Class B

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Northwestern;(11);29-1;55;1
2. Warner;-;25-4;44;2
3. Chester Area;-;22-4;27;4
4. Hanson;-;24-2;22;3
5. Phillip;-;27-2;12;5

Others receiving votes: Herreid-Selby Area (26-2) 4, Ethan (20-4) 1.<

## Minot re-examines economic development efforts

MINOT, N.D. (AP) — City leaders in Minot are re-examining local economic development strategies and the use of an incentive fund after recent fluctuations in the oil and agriculture industries.

City Councilman Josh Wolsky said the council will determine if there's new methods for economic development that can be debated or if the city's "old methods are as effective as we want them to be."

The council has agreed to divert nearly \$823,000 in sales tax that's expected to be collected for the city's MAGIC Fund to flood protection for 2018, the Minot Daily News reported. The fund was created in 1990 and has been used to grant and loan money to businesses.

Wolsky expects the council to discuss the subject in detail in November and said it will likely appoint a review committee.

Stephanie Hoffart, president of the Minot Area Development Corporation, said the MAGIC fund is vital to remaining competitive business recruitment. She said while a company might not need incentives to make a financial move in the city, they could assist in influencing decisions. But she Hoffart said economic isn't solely about incentives.

"It's one of the tools in the toolbox. It isn't the only thing," she said.

Mayor Chuck Barney said how and where money is being spent on economic development needs to be evaluated by the city. He said a broader view needs to be discussed than the new strategic plan that was prepared by MADC last year.

Barney prefers a committee to arrive at a plan following public input. He said eliminating funding for economic development efforts isn't an option.

"Whatever industries we get in Minot, we really have to fight hard to get. That's why I feel organizations like MADC are critical to the long-term health of the community from an economic point of view," Barney said.

Information from: Minot Daily News, <http://www.minotdailynews.com>

## Owners of big Montana coal mine due in court as layoffs loom

By MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Attorneys for a large Montana coal mine are due in court this week to press a judge to reverse an order that could prompt dozens of layoffs by blocking the mine's plans to expand.

U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy has scheduled a Tuesday hearing in Missoula to hear arguments on whether Signal Peak Energy can do preliminary work in the expansion area in order to avoid layoffs.

Bull Mountain is one of the largest underground mines in the U.S. and ships about 95 percent of its fuel to Asia. Its owners wants to expand onto a 176-million ton coal reserve beneath land adjacent to the existing mine.

Molloy ruled in August that federal officials who approved the expansion overstated the mine's economic benefits and failed to consider its climate change impacts. The mine's owners asked Molloy to reconsider, setting the stage for Tuesday's hearing.

"If we don't get a favorable court ruling we will have to lay people off," Signal Peak spokesman Mike Dawson warned Monday.

Signal Peak attorneys filed an emergency motion Friday asking the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to intervene. They warned about 30 layoffs were imminent with more likely in coming months if the Molloy's order stands.

U.S. government attorneys also have appealed Molloy's rulings on behalf of the administration of President Donald Trump, who pledged on the campaign trail to help revive the declining coal industry.

The challenge to the government's approval of the expansion was brought by the Western Environmental Law Center on behalf of the Montana Environmental Information Center.

However, the prospects of a last-minute reprieve appeared slim after a clerk for the 9th Circuit last week put the appeals on hold pending Tuesday's hearing.

Shiloh Hernandez, a lawyer for the environmental group, said it was unlikely the appeals court would delay Tuesday's hearing.

"Everyone wants this resolved sooner than later," Hernandez said.

The mine north of the city of Billings employs about 250 people.

Production peaked in 2013 and has since fallen 35 percent as utilities across the U.S. shut down coal-burning power plants in favor of electricity from natural gas, wind turbines and solar farms.

## Meth found among Halloween trick-or-treat candy

KESHENA, Wis. (AP) — Menominee Tribal Police say a parent on the reservation in northeastern Wisconsin found a packet of methamphetamine among her child's trick-or-treat Halloween candy.

The parent turned the small packet of crystal powder over to police early Monday and officers say it tested positive for meth. The child did not ingest the powder.

WLUK-TV says police are urging parents to check their children's candy if they have been trick-or-treating in the Keshena area on the Menominee Indian Reservation, about 160 miles north of Milwaukee.

Information from: WLUK-TV, <http://www.fox11online.com>

## Brown County town to start construction on new city hall

COLUMBIA, S.D. (AP) — A Brown County town is set to start construction on a new city hall building.

The American News reports that Columbia's new city hall will be located on the site of the old city shop. Columbia Mayor Corey Mitchell says HKG Architecture designed the building, which will hold the city shop and meeting room.

The town board in August accepted Wolf Construction's \$287,000 bid to build the new city hall. Mitchell says a \$250,000 low-interest loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture will cover most of the building costs.

Mitchell says town sales tax funds will be used for the loan payments. He says building should finish in

the spring.

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

## Head-on crash in Beadle County kills 1 man, injures another

WESSINGTON, S.D. (AP) — A two-vehicle crash in Beadle County over the weekend killed a 25-year-old man.

The Highway Patrol says the man was driving a pickup truck that crossed the center line on U.S. Highway 14 and collided head-on with another pickup Sunday afternoon. He was flown to a Sioux Falls hospital, where he later died.

The other driver suffered minor injuries. Neither man was immediately identified.

## Last boil water advisory ends after Detroit-area main break

FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich. (AP) — A final boil water advisory has been lifted following last week's water main break that affected about a dozen suburban Detroit communities.

The Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's office issued the all-clear Monday morning for the northwest part of Farmington Hills, saying testing confirmed the water is safe to consume.

Officials say, however, that people should review steps that should be taken before water is used following a boil water advisory.

The Great Lakes Water Authority lifted the advisory Sunday for six other Oakland County communities and the rest of Farmington Hills. Other affected communities had the advisory lifted earlier.

Officials say more than 300,000 people were affected by last Monday's break in Farmington Hills. Crews last week installed new sections of a broken 48-inch (122-centimeter) line.

Online:

<http://www.oakgov.com/health>

## Inconsistencies cast doubt on harrowing tale of sea survival

By CALEB JONES, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Two Hawaii women who say they were lost at sea on a sailboat for months never activated their emergency beacon, the U.S. Coast Guard said, adding to a growing list of inconsistencies that cast doubt on their harrowing tale of survival.

The women previously told The Associated Press that they had radios, satellite phones, GPS and other emergency gear, but they didn't mention the Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon, or EPIRB.

A Coast Guard review of the incident and subsequent interviews with the women revealed that they had an EPIRB aboard their boat but never turned it on.

Jennifer Appel confirmed in an interview Tuesday that they had the beacon and did not use it. She said that in her experience, it should be used only when you are in imminent physical danger and going to die in the next 24 hours.

"Our hull was solid, we were floating, we had food, we had water, and we had limited maneuverable capacity," Appel said in Japan, where the U.S. Navy took them after they were rescued by a Navy ship. "All those things did not say we are going to die. All that said, it's going to take us a whole lot longer to get where we're going."

In retrospect, though, Appel said there were two times that she would have used it — once when she and Tasha Fuiava were off Hawaii around late June to early July, and a second time off Wake Island on Oct. 1.

"That's a lesson learned for me, because that was the best chance we had in the ocean to get help," Appel said of the Wake Island missed opportunity.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 23 of 49

Previously, Appel and Fuiava had said they were close to giving up when the Navy rescued them last week, thousands of miles off course.

The EPIRB communicates with satellites and sends locations to authorities. It's activated when it's submerged in water or turned on manually. The alert signal sends a location to rescuers within minutes.

A retired Coast Guard officer who was responsible for search and rescue operations said that if the women had used the emergency beacon, they would have been found.

"If the thing was operational and it was turned on, a signal should have been received very, very quickly that this vessel was in distress," Phillip R. Johnson said Monday in a telephone interview from Washington state.

Johnson described the device as sturdy and reliable, but added that old and weak batteries could cause a unit not to function.

Appel and Fuiava also said they had six forms of communication that all failed to work.

"There's something wrong there," Johnson said. "I've never heard of all that stuff going out at the same time."

The two women met in late 2016, and within a week of knowing each other decided to take the trip together. Fuiava had never sailed a day in her life. They planned to take 18 days to get to Tahiti, then travel the South Pacific and return to Hawaii in October.

They set off on May 3 along with their two dogs and were rescued by the Navy last week, thousands of miles off course.

Key elements of the women's account are contradicted by authorities, and are not consistent with weather reports or basic geography of the Pacific Ocean. The discrepancies raised questions about whether Appel and her sailing companion, Tasha Fuiava, could have avoided disaster.

On their first day at sea, the two women described running into a fierce storm that tossed their vessel with 60 mph (97 kph) winds and 30-foot (9-meter) seas for three days, but meteorologists say there was no severe weather anywhere along their route during that time.

After leaving "we got into a Force 11 storm, and it lasted for two nights and three days," Appel has said of the storm they encountered off Oahu. In one of the first signs of trouble, she said she lost her cellphone overboard.

"We were empowered to know that we could withstand the forces of nature," Appel said. "The boat could withstand the forces of nature."

But the National Weather Service in Honolulu said no organized storm systems were in or near Hawaii on May 3 or in the days afterward. Archived NASA satellite images confirm there were no tropical storms around Hawaii that day. Appel expressed surprise that there was no record of the storm. She said they received a Coast Guard storm warning while sailing after sunset on May 3.

The pair said they thought about turning back, but the islands of Maui and Lanai didn't have harbors deep enough to accommodate their sailboat. At 50 feet (15 meters) long, the vessel is relatively small, and both islands have harbors that accommodate boats of that size. Plus, the Big Island — the southernmost island in Hawaii — has several places to dock.

Appel, though, said she modified her sailboat, called the Sea Nymph, by adding six tons of fiberglass to the hull to make it thicker and heavier and extend the keel to a depth of 8.5 feet to give the boat greater stability. Similar vessels typically have a keel of 5 to 7 feet, she said. The extra-long keel meant it couldn't get in to nearby harbors.

"Given the constraints of our vessel, we chose the appropriate action," she said.

Still, they pressed on.

Days later, after parts of their mast and rigging failed, they sailed up to another small island, still with a working motor, but decided against trying to land, believing the island was mostly uninhabited with no protected waters.

"It is uninhabited. They only have habitation on the northwest corner and their reef was too shallow for us to cross in order to get into the lagoon," Appel said.

But Christmas Island, part of the island nation of Kiribati, is home to more than 2,000 people and has

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 24 of 49

a port that routinely welcomes huge commercial ships.

"We could probably nurse it down to the next major island in Kiribati," Appel said. "Then we'll be able to stop there and seek safe haven and get up on the mast and fix it."

The island has at least two airfields, and women had flares aboard to alert people on land. Plus, its widest point spans about 30 miles (48 kilometers), a day's hike to safety from even the most remote area.

When asked if the small island would have been a good place to land and repair their sails, Appel said no. "Kiribati, um, one whole half of the island is called shipwreck beach for a reason," she said.

Christmas Island has a place called Bay of Wrecks on its northeast side.

So, instead of stopping for help, they say they set a new destination about 1,000 miles (1,609 kilometers) away and a few hundred miles beyond their original target of Tahiti. They were headed to the Cook Islands.

"We really did think we could make it to the next spot," Appel said.

Then, they say, another storm killed their engine at the end of May.

The Coast Guard made radio contact with a vessel that identified itself as the Sea Nymph in June near Tahiti, and the captain said they were not in distress and expected to make land the next morning.

More than five months after they departed, they were picked up in the western Pacific about 900 miles (1,448 kilometers) southeast of Japan. The two women and their dogs were all in good health when picked up by the U.S. Navy.

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Associated Press writer Ken Moritsugu contributed to this report from Naha, Japan.

## **SKorea, China move to resolve disputes and hold summit talks**

**By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea and China announced Tuesday that they will work to improve their relationship, which has been badly strained by the deployment of an American missile defense system, with Seoul saying their leaders are set to hold talks next week.

The thaw in relations comes amid increased regional tensions over North Korea's nuclear ambitions and ahead of President Donald Trump's scheduled visit to both countries next week as part of his first Asian tour.

Relations between Beijing and Seoul have been testy since South Korea allowed the U.S. to deploy a contentious missile defense system on its soil, triggering economic retaliation from China. China views the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system's powerful radar as a threat to its own security. South Korea and the U.S. say the system is purely defensive and aimed at countering possible North Korean threats.

China and South Korea recently agreed that they should soon normalize their relations and boost cooperation for a peaceful, diplomatic resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

The ministry statement said Beijing reaffirmed its opposition to THAAD and asked South Korea to handle "relevant issues appropriately," while South Korea reiterated the system doesn't target China. It said military officials of the two countries will discuss Chinese worries about the THAAD system.

Seoul's presidential office announced separately that President Moon Jae-in and Chinese President Xi Jinping will hold summit talks next week on the sidelines of an annual regional forum in Vietnam. It would be their second one-on-one meeting since Moon's inauguration in May.

China's Foreign Ministry in its own statement did not mention a summit. In that statement, Beijing repeated its objection to the anti-missile system but it indicated an interest in improving ties. It said both sides attached great importance to their relationship and were willing to push forward on developing a cooperative partnership.

Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said later Tuesday that Beijing had noted that South Korea stated it would not consider deploying an additional THAAD battery on its soil and made other gestures toward China's concerns.

"We hope South Korea can honor its commitments, translate its words into actions and properly deal with the relevant issue," Hua told reporters at a daily news briefing.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 25 of 49

Tuesday's South Korean statement didn't mention whether it has agreed not to deploy more THAAD batteries, but the country's foreign minister, Kang Kyung-wha, told lawmakers in Seoul on Monday that South Korea wasn't considering an additional deployment.

A protracted standoff over the THAAD issue was not expected to benefit either country and restoring ties is seen as in both China and South Korea's best interests.

Many analysts say China appeared to have used its THAAD opposition to bolster its regional clout but that such a stance could push South Korea closer to the United States and Japan for a potential anti-Beijing trilateral alliance.

In South Korea, there have been growing worries about frosty ties with China, which is its largest trading partner and some South Koreans say might one day replace the United States as the world's sole superpower. In retaliation for the THAAD deployment, Beijing suspended visits to South Korea by Chinese tour groups and trips to China by South Korean entertainers. South Korean retail and auto businesses in China suffered anti-South Korea sentiments.

It remained unclear how quickly China would move to remove its sanctions against South Korea. Staff contacted at travel agencies in northern China said they had yet to receive official word from the government that group tours might resume.

The move to thaw relations with South Korea comes as China grows increasingly frustrated with North Korea, which has relied on Beijing as its main trading partner. As North Korea's last major diplomatic ally, China's cooperation is seen as crucial to the success of international sanctions on the North's weapons programs.

China banned imports of North Korean coal, seafood and textiles and ordered North Korean-owned businesses to close in line with new U.N. sanctions imposed after the North its sixth and most powerful nuclear test in September.

North Korea has vowed to continue its nuclear program and build a more reliable arsenal of missiles capable of reaching the U.S. mainland. It has previously called the THAAD deployment an American plot to bolster its military hegemony in the region.

Tuesday's announcements by Seoul and Beijing came after Xi consolidated his already considerable power at a twice-a-decade Communist Party congress that concluded last week.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

### 1. WHAT MESSAGE MUELLER IS SENDING

The special counsel warns individuals in Trump's orbit: If they lie about contacts between the president's campaign and Russians, they'll face criminal prosecution.

### 2. SAILORS SEA TALE NOT ADDING UP

The Coast Guard says that two Hawaiian women who say they were lost in the Pacific for months never activated their emergency beacon, adding to inconsistencies to their story of survival.

### 3. CATALONIA'S FORMER LEADER EXPECTED TO ADDRESS HIS FUTURE

Spain's foreign minister says Madrid would be surprised if Carles Puigdemont seeks political asylum in Belgium.

### 4. NEW FINGERPRINT ALGORITHM HELPS ID BODIES FOUND DECADES AGO

Since launching a new effort in February, the FBI and local medical examiner offices have identified 199 bodies found between 1975 and the late 1990s.

### 5. PARCHED JORDAN BEING HIT HARD BY CLIMATE CHANGE

Yet large-scale solutions such as a cross-border desalination project with Israel are entangled in politics.

### 6. BERGDAHL SENTENCING HEARING SHIFTS TO DEFENSE

The Army sergeant convicted of desertion in Afghanistan is expected to testify about his brutal five years of captivity by Taliban allies.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 26 of 49

## 7. HOW BALLOT IS SEEN AS 'OBAMACARE' REFERENDUM

Voters in Maine will decide whether to join 31 other states and expand Medicaid under the Affordable Health Care Act, the first time the expansion question has been put to voters.

## 8. GOOGLE-BRED WAYMO AIMS TO SHIFT ROBOTIC CARS INTO NEXT GEAR

An AP reporter boards a driverless Chrysler Pacifica minivan and finds that it cruised smoothly at 35 mph on faux neighborhoods and expressways at a test base in California.

## 9. WHERE 'HOUSE OF CARDS' MAY FALL

Netflix is exploring a spinoff of the Emmy-winning political satire amid controversy surrounding star Kevin Spacey.

## 10. RIDING HIGH IN SUMMER, DODGERS ON BRINK OF WIPEOUT

Los Angeles, baseball's best team during the regular season, is one loss from being eliminated in their first World Series appearance since 1988.

## WW1 Australian battle re-enacted in Israel on centennial

By **ILAN BEN ZION, Associated Press**

BEERSHEBA, Israel (AP) — A century to the day after Australian horsemen broke through Ottoman defenses in a daring First World War victory, nearly two hundred re-enactors, including descendants of the soldiers who fought that day, were participating on Tuesday in a memorial to those killed in a battle that helped turn the tide of the war and shape the modern Middle East.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and New Zealand Governor-General Patsy Reddy joined Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, at a ceremony marking the centenary of the Battle of Beersheba, paying tribute to the 171 British troops killed. Some 175 members of the Australian Light Horse Association were participating.

The battle was a crucial, if largely forgotten, victory in the Mideast campaign that enabled the Allies to break the Turkish line in what is now southern Israel and capture Jerusalem weeks later. The victorious campaign redrew the map of the Middle East.

In the fall of 1917, Allied forces with General Sir Edmund Allenby's Egyptian Expeditionary Force advanced on Gaza as part of a campaign to knock the Ottoman Empire, Germany's ally, out of the war. To outflank the Turkish troops entrenched around Gaza, a parched detachment made a desperate maneuver through the Negev Desert to capture the strategic biblical town of Beersheba, known both in antiquity and in modern times for its wells.

On October 31, 1917, Allied troops launched their assault, but by late in the day, the critical water sources remained in Turkish hands. In a desperate gambit, mounted infantrymen with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps drew their bayonets, charged the Turkish trenches cavalry-style, and stormed into the town.

Had they been turned back, the entire campaign might have been lost.

"We learned about the ethos of courage of Australian and New Zealand's soldiers," Netanyahu said. "It was an example of the spirit of fortitude and courage and the willingness to act in the defense of our people and our values."

"These are the values that guide us today as well," he added. "We saw here in Beersheba 800 cavalry go against 4,000 embedded Turks with machine guns, with bunkers, the few ones against the many. That's the spirit of the army of Israel. It stands today."

For the Australians, the Battle of Beersheba is iconic of "the spirit of the Australian people" said Kelvin Crombie, a historian and one of the organizers of the 100th anniversary commemorations, "Daring, bold and courageous." Having suffered crushing defeats at Gallipoli and on the Western Front, it's remembered as the young nation's first real victory.

The Light Horse charge also proved decisive for the Zionist dream of a future Jewish state. Two days later, after word of the victory reached London, Britain's foreign minister Lord Arthur Balfour issued a declaration calling for "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people."

"They spurred their horses through that fire, those mad Australians, through that fire, and took the town of Beersheba, secured the victory that did not create the State of Israel but enabled its creation," Turnbull said.

"Had the Ottoman rule in Palestine and Syria not been overthrown by the Australians and the New Zealanders, the Balfour declaration would have been empty words," he added. "But this was a step for the creation of Israel."

Reddy said the military campaign "changed political conditions in this region in the most profound way."

She said bonds between Australians and New Zealanders forged at Gallipoli were strengthened in the campaign. "It is only fitting that we should join together today in remembering their service and their sacrifice. We will remember them," she said.

The three leaders continued to an opening ceremony for a museum dedicated to the campaign.

Crombie said that more and more Australians are understanding "it really was something that had an effect on world history."

## Catalan ex-leader to speak in Brussels as asylum rumors grow

By **RAF CASERT** and **ARITZ PARRA**, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Catalonia's ousted regional president will give a news conference in Brussels on Tuesday, European officials said, as speculation mounted that he might seek political asylum in Belgium and try to avoid possible prosecution in Spain for declaring Catalan independence.

Carles Puigdemont arrived in Brussels on Monday, the same day that Spanish prosecutors announced they were seeking rebellion, sedition and embezzlement charges against him and other Catalan officials.

European officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, said that Puigdemont would speak publicly in Brussels at around 12 p.m. (1100 GMT; 7 a.m. EDT).

Over the weekend, a Belgian government official said that it wouldn't be "unrealistic" for Puigdemont to request asylum.

Spanish Foreign Minister Alfonso Dastis said that the central government in Madrid would be surprised if Puigdemont sought asylum in Belgium and were granted protection there.

Dastis told Spain's Cadena SER radio that there is a level of "reciprocal trust" about the rule of law among members of the European Union.

"It would be surprising that he could receive the right to asylum under the current circumstances," Dastis said, adding that the acceptance of an asylum petition "would not be a situation of normality" in relations between the two countries.

Belgium allows asylum requests by citizens of other European Union nations, and in the past, some Basque separatists weren't extradited to Spain while they sought asylum, causing years of friction.

Spain took control over prosperous northeastern Catalonia this weekend after Puigdemont led the regional parliament to proclaim a new republic on Friday.

The Spanish government immediately sacked him and his Cabinet, dissolved the regional parliament and called a new Catalan election for Dec. 21.

One of the main separatist civil society groups of Catalonia, the National Catalan Assembly, said Tuesday it accepted the regional election, despite the fact it was called under the Spanish government's intervention.

The group, whose leader is in jail on provisional sedition charges, is not a political party but it has been the driving civic force behind the independence movement in recent years.

It said grassroots organizations need to prepare a "joint strategy" ahead of the elections with the goal of "obtaining an uncontested victory that will ratify the Republic."

Meanwhile, some of the official websites of the Catalan government tied to the previous administration were down Tuesday, in a further sign of the takeover by central authorities.

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Aritz Parra reported from Barcelona, Spain.

## Bergdahl testifies about his experience in Taliban captivity

By JONATHAN DREW, Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) — Gut-wrenching testimony at the sentencing hearing for Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl will likely continue Tuesday as the deserter's defense team questions officials who treated and debriefed the soldier following his brutal five years of captivity by Taliban allies.

The defense presentation began Monday in North Carolina with Bergdahl himself describing his experience in enemy hands. And that served as a dramatic counterpoint to the emotional testimony of the final prosecution witness, Shannon Allen, whose husband is unable to speak and needs help with everyday tasks after being shot in the head while searching for Bergdahl in Afghanistan.

Georgia National Guard Master Sgt. Mark Allen's daughter is now 9 years old, and "he's never had the chance to really play with her," she said.

Bergdahl, who faces up to life in prison for endangering his comrades after pleading guilty to desertion and misbehavior before the enemy, told the judge he didn't mean to cause harm when he walked off his post in 2009.

He spoke for two hours, apologizing to those wounded searching for him, and describing his captivity and the challenges he still faces with daily life.

Asked by a defense attorney what the worst part was, he said it wasn't the beatings: "The worst was the constant, just the constant deterioration of everything. The constant pain from my body falling apart. The constant screams from my mind," he said, haltingly.

"It was the years of waiting to see whether or not the next time someone opens the door if that would be the person coming to execute you."

He described brutal conditions, including beatings with copper wire and unending bouts of gastrointestinal problems brought on by squalid conditions. He was kept in a cage for four out of the five years after several escape attempts, his muscles atrophying to the point he could barely stand or walk.

Bergdahl said he still has nightmares that make it hard to sleep more than five hours. He checks his door at least three times to make sure it's secure each night and sleeps with a flashlight nearby. He wakes up sometimes not remembering that he's back in the U.S., he said, and has daytime flashbacks to captivity arising from unpredictable triggers.

Because Bergdahl's words in court were an unsworn statement, prosecutors won't be given the chance to cross-examine him.

The 31-year-old soldier from Hailey, Idaho, was brought home by President Barack Obama in 2014 in a swap for five Taliban prisoners at Guantanamo Bay.

Earlier Monday, the judge, Army Col. Jeffery Nance, ruled that Donald Trump's scathing criticism of Bergdahl — made first as a candidate and reaffirmed as commander-in-chief — won't prevent the soldier from receiving a fair sentence. Nance also said that a reasonable member of the public would not have doubts about the fairness of military justice because of Trump's comments.

He rejected a defense request to rule that it would be unfair to give Bergdahl any prison time. The judge did say, however, that he would consider Trump's comments as a mitigating factor, not an aggravating factor, in the sentencing. Other mitigating and aggravating factors that he could consider include Bergdahl's mental health and serious wounds to service members who searched for him.

The hearing is expected to last several more days. Defense attorneys told the judge that one of the next witnesses they plan to call is an official who debriefed Bergdahl from the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency, which works with captive service members. The official testified in 2015 that Bergdahl was "skin over bones" and had been subjected to worse conditions than any American prisoner of war since the Vietnam War.

## With first charges, Mueller sends warning to Trump, aides

By CHAD DAY and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Special counsel Robert Mueller has sent a warning to individuals in President Donald Trump's orbit: If they lie about contacts between the president's campaign and Russians, they'll end up on the wrong end of federal criminal charges.

With the disclosure of the first criminal cases in his investigation, Mueller also showed that he will not hesitate to bring charges against people close to the campaign even if they don't specifically pertain to Russian election interference and possible collusion with the Trump campaign.

Court papers unsealed Monday revealed an indictment against Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, and a guilty plea by another adviser, who admitted to lying to the FBI about meetings with Russian intermediaries.

Perhaps more unsettling for the White House, the plea by George Papadopoulos came weeks ago and his initial arrest has been kept quiet for months, all while he has been cooperating with federal agents. The charges had been sealed specifically to keep the news of his guilty plea from discouraging others from cooperating with the special counsel or from destroying evidence.

At Papadopoulos' plea hearing earlier this month, one of Mueller's prosecutors, Aaron Zelinsky, hinted at the possibility of more to come. The Mueller probe is "a large-scale ongoing investigation of which this case is a small part," Zelinsky said, according to a transcript unsealed Monday.

The developments, including the unexpected unsealing of a guilty plea, usher Mueller's investigation into a new, more serious phase. And the revelations in the guilty plea about an adviser's Russian contacts could complicate the president's assertions that his campaign had never coordinated with the Russian government to tip the 2016 presidential election in his favor, the central issue behind Mueller's mandate.

Manafort, who steered Trump's campaign for much of last year, and business associate Rick Gates ended the day under house arrest on charges that they funneled payments through foreign companies and bank accounts as part of their political work in Ukraine.

Papadopoulos, also a former campaign adviser, faced further questioning and then sentencing in the first — and so far only — criminal case that links the Trump election effort to the Kremlin.

Manafort and Gates, who pleaded not guilty in federal court, are not charged with any wrongdoing as part of the Trump campaign, and the president immediately sought to distance himself from the allegations. He said on Twitter that the alleged crimes occurred "years ago," and he insisted anew there was "NO COLLUSION" between his campaign and Russia.

But potentially more perilous for the president was the guilty plea by former adviser Papadopoulos, who admitted in newly unsealed court papers that he was told in April 2016 that the Russians had "dirt" on Democratic rival Clinton in the form of "thousands of emails," well before it became public that the Democratic National Committee and Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta's emails had been hacked.

Papadopoulos was not charged with having improper communications with Russians but rather with lying to FBI agents when asked about the contacts, suggesting that Mueller — who was appointed in May to lead the Justice Department's investigation — is prepared to indict for false statements even if the underlying conduct he uncovers might not necessarily be criminal.

Mueller's investigation has already shadowed the administration for months, with investigators reaching into the White House to demand access to documents and interviews with key current and former officials.

The Papadopoulos plea occurred on Oct. 5 but was not unsealed until Monday, creating further woes for an administration that had prepared over the weekend to deflect the Manafort allegations. In court papers, Papadopoulos admitted lying to FBI agents about the nature of his interactions with "foreign nationals" who he thought had close connections to senior Russian government officials.

The court filings don't say whom Papadopoulos may have told about the Russian claims about possessing emails damaging to Clinton. According to a previous filing in the case, Papadopoulos told the FBI that he didn't tell anyone in the Trump campaign about the "dirt" on Clinton because he didn't know if it "was real or fake."

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 30 of 49

Previous emails obtained by The Associated Press show Papadopoulos discussing his attempts to line up a meeting between Trump and the Russian government. The emails showed that Manafort and Gates, who were top officials in the campaign at the time, rebuffed those efforts.

Papadopoulos has been cooperating with investigators, according to the court papers. His lawyers hinted strongly in a statement Monday that their client has more testimony to provide.

There, too, the White House scrambled to contain the potential fallout, with press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders contending that Papadopoulos' role in the campaign was "extremely limited." She said that "any actions that he took would have been on his own."

The criminal case against Manafort, who surrendered to the FBI in the morning, had long been expected.

The indictment naming him and Gates, who also had a role in the campaign, lays out 12 counts including conspiracy against the United States, conspiracy to launder money, acting as an unregistered foreign agent, making false statements and several charges related to failing to report foreign bank and financial accounts. The indictment alleges the men moved money through hidden bank accounts in Cyprus, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Seychelles.

In total, more than \$75 million flowed through the offshore accounts, according to the indictment. Manafort is accused of laundering more than \$18 million.

Outside the courthouse, Manafort attorney Kevin Downing attacked the charges and said "there is no evidence that Mr. Manafort or the Trump campaign colluded with the Russian government."

Manafort's indictment doesn't reference the Trump campaign or make any allegations about coordination between Russia and campaign aides. But it does allege a criminal conspiracy was continuing through February of this year, after Trump had taken office.

Manafort, 68, was fired as Trump's campaign chairman in August 2016 after word surfaced that he had orchestrated a covert lobbying operation on behalf of pro-Russian interests in Ukraine. The indictment against Manafort and Gates says the pair had managed a covert Washington lobbying operation on behalf of Ukraine's ruling political party.

Gates directed the work of two prominent Washington lobbying firms, Mercury LLC and the Podesta Group. The indictment doesn't refer to the companies by name, but the fallout at one was swift.

Prominent Washington lobbyist Tony Podesta, a Democrat and brother to John, resigned Monday, seeking to avoid further enmeshing his firm in the controversy, according to a person familiar with the decision who spoke anonymously to preserve relationships with former colleagues.

Specifically, the indictment accuses Manafort of using "his hidden overseas wealth to enjoy a lavish lifestyle in the United States, without paying taxes on that income." That included using offshore accounts to purchase multimillion-dollar properties in the U.S., some of which the government is seeking to seize.

The indictment also cites more than \$900,000 in payments to an antique rug store, about \$850,000 to a New York men's clothing store and the purchase of a Mercedes Benz and multiple Range Rovers.

Manafort also had registered with the Justice Department as a foreign agent for parts of Ukrainian work that occurred in Washington. The filing under the Foreign Agents Registration Act came retroactively, a tacit acknowledgment that he operated in Washington in violation of the federal transparency law. The indictment Monday accuses Manafort and Gates of making several false and misleading statements in that FARA filing.

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Associated Press writers Michael Biesecker, Stephen Braun, Tom LoBianco, Sadie Gurman and Jeff Horwitz contributed to this report.

## Google-bred Waymo aims to shift robotic cars into next gear

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

ATWATER, Calif. (AP) — Google's self-driving car spin-off is accelerating efforts to convince the public that its technology is almost ready to safely transport people without any human assistance at all.

Waymo, hatched from a Google project started eight years ago, showed off its progress Monday dur-

ing a rare peek at a closely guarded testing facility located 120 miles (193 kilometers) southeast of San Francisco. That's where its robots complete their equivalent of driver's education.

The tour included giving more than three dozen reporters rides in Chrysler Pacifica minivans traveling through faux neighborhoods and expressways that Waymo has built on a former Air Force base located in the Californian Central Valley city of Atwater.

The minivans smoothly cruised the roads — driver's seat empty and passengers in the back — at speeds of up to 35 mph (56 kph). By contrast, the Waymo-powered minivans that have been driving volunteer riders in the Phoenix area still use safety drivers to take over control if something goes wrong.

But Waymo's real goal is to get to the point where people in cars are nothing but passengers.

Waymo CEO John Krafcik told reporters that the company will be making some cars and freight trucks totally driverless fairly soon, though he didn't provide a specific timetable. "We are really close," he said. "We are going to do it when we feel like we are ready."

Since Google began working on self-driving cars in 2009, dozens of established automakers such as General Motors and Ford Motors have entered the race, along with other big technology companies, including Apple and ride-hailing service Uber. The competition is so fierce and the stakes so high that Waymo is currently suing Uber, alleging that one of its former managers stole its trade secrets and took them with him when he joined Uber in 2016 as part of an elaborate scheme. The trial in that high-profile case is scheduled to begin in early December.

Waymo is hoping to infuse its technology into ride-hailing services such as its current partner, Lyft, and big-rig trucking companies. It also intends to license its automated system to automakers such as Fiat Chrysler Automobile, which is already using it in 100 Pacifica minivans.

## Lawmakers to Trump: Leave Mueller alone

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats — and a few Republicans — in Congress have a clear message for President Donald Trump: Don't mess with Robert Mueller.

Concerned that the president may fight back after Mueller's investigation into Russian meddling led to two indictments and a guilty plea for his former advisers Monday, top Democrats laid down a marker for the president, who earlier in the year criticized Mueller and the probe.

"The President must not, under any circumstances and in any way, interfere with the special counsel's work," said Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer. "If he does, Congress must respond swiftly, unequivocally, and in a bipartisan way to ensure that the investigation continues and the truth — the whole truth — comes out."

Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, added, "Members of Congress, Republican and Democrat, must also make clear to the President that issuing pardons to any of his associates or to himself would be unacceptable, and result in immediate, bipartisan action by Congress."

Republicans were less explicit, but many sent a similar message.

"I don't think anybody in their right mind at the White House would think about replacing Mr. Mueller unless there was a very good reason," said South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Republican who has been both a critic and a friend to Trump over the last year.

Republican Sen. Bob Corker, a Trump critic, said he "can't even imagine" that Trump would fire Mueller.

The first charges announced by Mueller involved former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort and his associate Rick Gates, who both pleaded not guilty. Another former adviser, George Papadopoulos, pleaded guilty to lying to FBI agents when asked about Russian contacts.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters after the charges were released that "there is no intention or plan to make any changes in regards to the special counsel." But lawmakers have been on guard since May, when Trump abruptly fired FBI Director James Comey and Mueller was

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 32 of 49

appointed.

Trump was initially more critical of the special counsel, and at one point his legal team looked into potential conflicts surrounding the team Mueller has hired, including the backgrounds of members and political contributions by some members of his team to Democrat Hillary Clinton.

After Trump made those rumblings, two bipartisan bills emerged in the Senate Judiciary Committee that would attempt to protect any special counsel. Legislation sponsored by Graham would prevent the firing of any special counsel unless the dismissal was first reviewed by a panel of three federal judges. Legislation co-sponsored by Republican Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina would let any special counsel for the Department of Justice challenge his or her removal in court.

After an initial flurry of support, the bills have stalled as Trump has quieted his public criticism of Mueller. Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, said he was undecided on the bills after some law experts questioned their legality in a hearing.

As senators returned to the Capitol Monday evening for votes, many Republicans were lukewarm or declined to say whether they would support the legislation. Graham said of his own bill, "I don't feel an urgent need to pass that law until you show me a reason Mr. Mueller is in jeopardy."

Some Republicans said they were reviewing the legislation. "It would be a problem" if Trump fires special counsel or pardons indicted people, said Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake, another recent critic of Trump.

The main message from Republicans was that the charges wouldn't affect legislative work. Republicans are hoping to make some progress on tax reform, and are hoping to stay focused on that goal.

"It doesn't distract us in any way," Corker said. "I don't see it being a factor at all."

That remains to be seen, as Republicans have had a difficult time this year enacting any major policy as Trump has taken aim at some in his own party.

It's also unclear how the charges will affect several congressional investigations into the Russian interference and whether it was connected to Trump's campaign. Neither the Senate nor the House intelligence committees have interviewed Papadopoulos or Gates, according to sources familiar with the probes. And only the Senate intelligence panel has talked to Manafort,

The sources declined to be named because the committees' interviews are private.

As the investigations have gone on for several months, some Republicans have called for them to end. The Senate Judiciary Committee probe into the meddling and the House intelligence probe have split along partisan lines. And Democrats fumed last week as House Republicans launched new probes into Clinton and former President Barack Obama.

Some Democrats indicated that the congressional investigations should step up as Mueller's probe found new evidence.

"It is a pretty sobering, shattering moment in American history," Connecticut Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Democratic member of the Judiciary panel, said of the charges. "It is the end of the beginning, but not the beginning of the end."

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Associated Press writer Alan Fram contributed to this report.

## Russia probe centers on Trump campaign aide

By **STEPHEN BRAUN** and **STEVE PEOPLES**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former Donald Trump campaign aide described by the White House as a low-level volunteer was thrust Monday into the center of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, providing key evidence in the first criminal case connecting Trump's team to alleged intermediaries for Russia's government.

George Papadopoulos was approached by people claiming ties to Russia and offering "dirt" on Hillary Clinton in the form of thousands of emails, according to court documents unsealed. Papadopoulos pleaded guilty to lying to FBI agents about the conversations and has been cooperating with investigators, the documents said.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 33 of 49

Papadopoulos' guilty plea and the possibility that he's working with Mueller's team came as an unexpected twist in the mounting drama surrounding the criminal probe. A separate welter of charges Mueller announced Monday against Trump's ex-campaign chairman Paul Manafort and his longtime aide Rick Gates do not appear directly related to their work for Trump.

But Papadopoulos' case cuts close to the central question of Mueller's investigation: Did Russia try to sway the election? Did Trump's campaign know?

"The Russians had emails of Clinton," Papadopoulos was told by an unnamed Russian professor during a breakfast meeting at a London hotel in April. U.S. investigators said that the following day, Papadopoulos then emailed a Trump campaign policy adviser, "Have some interesting messages coming in from Moscow about a trip when the time is right."

Papadopoulos was arrested in July and has been interviewed repeatedly by authorities, the filing said. After entering his guilty plea he was ordered not to contact other Trump officials and prohibited from foreign travel. In one of the unsealed files, an FBI agent working for Mueller bluntly hinted that more former Trump associates could soon be questioned.

Papadopoulos' lawyer, Thomas M. Breen, based in Chicago, declined to comment on the guilty plea but noted that "we will have the opportunity to comment on George's involvement when called upon by the court at a later date. We look forward to telling all of the details of George's story at that time."

The incident echoes elements of a June 2016 meeting involving Donald Trump Jr. and other campaign officials at Trump Tower. The president's son organized that sit down with a Russian lawyer who was offering negative information about Clinton.

The White House immediately cast Papadopoulos as a mere volunteer with little influence during last year's campaign. White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said his role was "extremely limited" and that "no activity was ever done in an official capacity on behalf of the campaign."

Trump named Papadopoulos to his foreign policy advisory council in March 2016, among a short list of experts amid growing public pressure on Trump to demonstrate he had a bench of foreign policy expertise.

During a meeting with the Washington Post editorial board, Trump called Papadopoulos an "excellent guy." He was named along with retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, former Bush administration inspector general Joseph Schmitz, international affairs professor Walid Phares and energy executive Carter Page, whose ties to Russian interests have also been scrutinized by congressional inquiries.

On March 31, 2016, Trump tweeted a photo of his meeting with the advisory board, with Papadopoulos among a handful of advisers at the president's table. In his plea filing, Papadopoulos admitted that he told Trump and other top campaign national security officials during that meeting, that he had made contact with intermediaries for Russia who said they could set up a meeting between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The statement does not describe Trump's reaction, but one meeting attendee recalled that it was not well received by Attorney General Jeff Sessions, then a senator and close adviser to the campaign who was also in attendance.

Sessions quickly dismissed the idea and said he'd prefer that no one ever speak about it, according to the attendee, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share the private conversation.

The court filings recount Papadopoulos' meetings abroad starting in March 2016, after he'd been named to Trump's board. Papadopoulos initially told the investigators the meetings came before, and later admitted that was untrue. Papadopoulos also deleted a Facebook post about his travels, the documents said.

The court filings say he met first with the unnamed Russian professor who boasted of damaging emails and then later with an unnamed Russian woman, who claimed to be related to Putin and sought to arrange a meeting between Trump and the Russian leader. The unnamed professor also introduced Papadopoulos to a third unnamed person who claimed he had connections to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two men then exchanged emails about a possible meeting between Trump campaign aides and Russian government officials.

The court records did not specify which emails the Russian claimed to have.

The timing of the new disclosures about Clinton emails may be significant because the scope of the

Kremlin's efforts to hack Clinton's campaign and the Democratic National Committee were just beginning to be understood by March 2016, weeks before Papadopoulos was told of damaging emails.

It's unclear how frequently Papadopoulos was in contact with the campaign officials. Sanders initially said the foreign policy advisory board convened only once, but the White House later clarified she was speaking only of official meetings with Trump in attendance. An official involved with the group said the group met on a monthly basis throughout the spring and summer for a total of about six meetings.

Papadopoulos, who was based in London at the time, did not attend them all, but he did attend a dinner meeting of the advisers in late June at the Capitol Hill Club in Washington, along with Sessions.

The special counsel's statement noted that in an email exchange about Papadopoulos' contacts last year, two unnamed Trump campaign officials sought to protect Trump from any overt involvement.

"We need someone to communicate that DT is not doing these trips. It should be someone low level in the campaign so as not to send any signal," one of the campaign aides said. An email independently obtained by The Associated Press shows that the comment was sent by Trump's former campaign chairman Manafort to his long-time aide Gates on May 21, 2016.

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Associated Press writer Tom LoBianco contributed to this report.

## 'House of Cards' canceled as fallout continues for Spacey

By MARK KENNEDY, AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The fallout facing Kevin Spacey widened Monday following an accusation that he allegedly made sexual advances on a teen boy, with Netflix pulling the plug on his hit show "House of Cards" and "deeply troubled" producers of the political thriller arriving on set to comfort cast mates.

Executives from Netflix and the show's producer, Media Rights Capital, said they arrived in Baltimore, where the show is shot, on Monday afternoon to make sure actors and crew "continue to feel safe and supported." Spacey was not scheduled to be on set on Monday.

Though the decision to end the series was announced on Monday, the decision to end the series was made several months ago, according to a person with knowledge of the situation who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the decision.

Spacey is the latest Hollywood man to be named in widening allegations of sexual harassment and abuse in entertainment, media and other industries. The avalanche of allegations began earlier this month after the New York Times published a story alleging that producer Harvey Weinstein had sexually harassed numerous women.

On Monday, NBC fired political journalist Mark Halperin after multiple allegations of sexual harassment, and The New Republic said it had launched an investigation after publisher and president Hamilton Fish was accused of harassing women.

The New York Times on Monday also published new allegations against Weinstein, including the account of a woman who accused Weinstein of raping her in the late 1970s and a dancer's account of Weinstein misconduct in 2004 that led to a \$100,000 settlement. Weinstein's representative Sallie Hofmeister has said the Oscar winner denies all allegations of non-consensual sex.

The Producers Guild of America also announced it had instituted a lifetime ban on Weinstein from holding membership in the organization. The move came after Weinstein, 65, resigned his membership, the group said.

"This unprecedented step is a reflection of the seriousness with which the Guild regards the numerous reports of Mr. Weinstein's decades of reprehensible conduct," the guild said in a statement. "Sexual harassment can no longer be tolerated in our industry or within the ranks of producers guild membership."

In an interview published by BuzzFeed News on Sunday, actor Anthony Rapp alleged that he was attending a party at Spacey's apartment in 1986 when an inebriated 26-year-old Spacey picked him up, placed him on his bed, and climbed on top of him. Rapp, then 14, was able to get away without any physical harm.

Spacey responded on Twitter by saying he doesn't remember the alleged encounter but if he acted

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 35 of 49

the way Rapp alleges, "I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior."

Spacey then said Rapp's story "encouraged" him to address long-simmering rumors about his sexuality. He wrote that he's had romantic relationships with both men and women in the past but is now living "as a gay man" and wanted to be honest so he could examine "my own behavior." Requests for comment went unanswered Monday.

The two-paragraph statement — an apology in the first for a 31-year-old alleged assault and a self-outing in the second — struck many as an odd time for Spacey to address his sexuality or even an attempt to deflect blame. Worse, he seemed to make a connection between being gay and sexual abuse of minors.

"Kevin Spacey really tried to throw the entire LGBT community under a bus and call it solidarity in an effort to mask his personal failings," wrote civil rights activist DeRay Mckesson on Twitter.

Actor Zachary Quinto called Spacey's outing "a calculated manipulation to deflect attention from the very serious accusations." Musician Lance Bass added on Twitter: "Being gay should never be equated with sexual assault or pedophilia. Thanks for giving the homophobes more ammo."

Sarah Kate Ellis, president and CEO of the gay rights group GLAAD said in a statement that the story was really about unwanted sexual advances on Rapp not Spacey's sexuality. "Coming out stories should not be used to deflect from allegations of sexual assault," she said.

Rapp cited the dozens of Weinstein accusers as the reason he recounted his encounter with Spacey.

"I came forward with my story, standing on the shoulders of the many courageous women and men who have been speaking out to shine a light and hopefully make a difference, as they have done for me," he wrote on Twitter. Rapp, who starred on Broadway in "Rent," currently stars in "Star Trek: Discovery."

Many Hollywood figures came to Rapp's side, including fellow "Discovery" co-star Wilson Cruz and Rose McGowan, one of the leading voices against sexual harassment in Hollywood, who said of Spacey: "It's your turn to cry."

Two comedians offered withering criticism: "You do not get to 'choose' to hide under the rainbow!" Wanda Sykes, outspoken member of the LGBT community, wrote on Twitter. Billy Eichner also blasted the move: "Kevin Spacey has just invented something that has never existed before: a bad time to come out."

Former "House of Cards" showrunner Beau Willimon, who also serves as the president of the Writers Guild of America, East, called Rapp's story "deeply troubling."

In a statement, Willimon said: "During the time I worked with Kevin Spacey on 'House of Cards,' I neither witnessed nor was aware of any inappropriate behavior on set or off. That said, I take reports of such behavior seriously and this is no exception. I feel for Mr. Rapp and I support his courage."

While much of the sexual harassment scandal has focused on top Hollywood names such as Weinstein and Spacey, a broader discussion of treatment of women in the industry has emerged. On Monday, a former worker on "The Bachelor" and its spinoffs sued Warner Bros. Entertainment and the show's producers alleging she was subjected to persistent questioning about her sex life when she was promoted to a segment producer role in 2016.

Becky Steenhoek's sexual harassment lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court alleges producers continued the questioning even though she was visibly uncomfortable with it. She eventually complained, and within a week Steenhoek's suit states she was no longer allowed to meaningfully participate in the show, and an offer to work on a later "Bachelor" spinoff show was rescinded.

Steenhoek was told by a producer that "this is the way of the industry and world that we work in," her lawsuit states.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages and its allegations have been denied by Warner Bros.

"These allegations were brought to our attention and were thoroughly investigated earlier this year," the company said in a statement. "Our findings did not support the plaintiff's characterization of the events claimed to have taken place, which is why we are disappointed by the filing of this lawsuit."

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AP National Writer Hillel Italie in New York, TV writers Lynn Elber in Los Angeles and David Bauder in New York, and Entertainment Writer Anthony McCartney in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Mark Kennedy is at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>

## Trump campaign aide steps to center of Russia probe

By **STEPHEN BRAUN and STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former Donald Trump campaign aide described by the White House as a low-level volunteer was thrust Monday into the center of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, providing key evidence in the first criminal case connecting Trump's team to alleged intermediaries for Russia's government.

George Papadopoulos was approached by people claiming ties to Russia and offering "dirt" on Hillary Clinton in the form of thousands of emails, according to court documents unsealed. Papadopoulos pleaded guilty to lying to FBI agents about the conversations and has been cooperating with investigators, the documents said.

Papadopoulos' guilty plea and the possibility that he's working with Mueller's team came as an unexpected twist in the mounting drama surrounding the criminal probe. A separate welter of charges Mueller announced Monday against Trump's ex-campaign chairman Paul Manafort and his longtime aide Rick Gates do not appear directly related to their work for Trump.

But Papadopoulos' case cuts close to the central question of Mueller's investigation: Did Russia try to sway the election? Did Trump's campaign know?

"The Russians had emails of Clinton," Papadopoulos was told by an unnamed Russian professor during a breakfast meeting at a London hotel in April. U.S. investigators said that the following day, Papadopoulos then emailed a Trump campaign policy adviser, "Have some interesting messages coming in from Moscow about a trip when the time is right."

Papadopoulos was arrested in July and has been interviewed repeatedly by authorities, the filing said. After entering his guilty plea he was ordered not to contact other Trump officials and prohibited from foreign travel. In one of the unsealed files, an FBI agent working for Mueller bluntly hinted that more former Trump associates could soon be questioned.

Papadopoulos' lawyer, Thomas M. Breen, based in Chicago, declined to comment on the guilty plea but noted that "we will have the opportunity to comment on George's involvement when called upon by the court at a later date. We look forward to telling all of the details of George's story at that time."

The incident echoes elements of a June 2016 meeting involving Donald Trump Jr. and other campaign officials at Trump Tower. The president's son organized that sit down with a Russian lawyer who was offering negative information about Clinton.

The White House immediately cast Papadopoulos as a mere volunteer with little influence during last year's campaign. White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said his role was "extremely limited" and that "no activity was ever done in an official capacity on behalf of the campaign."

Trump named Papadopoulos to his foreign policy advisory council in March 2016, among a short list of experts amid growing public pressure on Trump to demonstrate he had a bench of foreign policy expertise.

During a meeting with the Washington Post editorial board, Trump called Papadopoulos an "excellent guy." He was named along with retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, former Bush administration inspector general Joseph Schmitz, international affairs professor Walid Phares and energy executive Carter Page, whose ties to Russian interests have also been scrutinized by congressional inquiries.

On March 31, 2016, Trump tweeted a photo of his meeting with the advisory board, with Papadopoulos among a handful of advisers at the president's table. In his plea filing, Papadopoulos admitted that he told Trump and other top campaign national security officials during that meeting, that he had made contact with intermediaries for Russia who said they could set up a meeting between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The statement does not describe Trump's reaction, but one meeting attendee recalled that it was not well received by Attorney General Jeff Sessions, then a senator and close adviser to the campaign who

was also in attendance.

Sessions quickly dismissed the idea and said he'd prefer that no one ever speak about it, according to the attendee, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share the private conversation.

The court filings recount Papadopoulos' meetings abroad starting in March 2016, after he'd been named to Trump's board. Papadopoulos initially told the investigators the meetings came before, and later admitted that was untrue. Papadopoulos also deleted a Facebook post about his travels, the documents said.

The court filings say he met first with the unnamed Russian professor who boasted of damaging emails and then later with an unnamed Russian woman, who claimed to be related to Putin and sought to arrange a meeting between Trump and the Russian leader. The unnamed professor also introduced Papadopoulos to a third unnamed person who claimed he had connections to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two men then exchanged emails about a possible meeting between Trump campaign aides and Russian government officials.

The court records did not specify which emails the Russian claimed to have.

The timing of the new disclosures about Clinton emails may be significant because the scope of the Kremlin's efforts to hack Clinton's campaign and the Democratic National Committee were just beginning to be understood by March 2016, weeks before Papadopoulos was told of damaging emails.

It's unclear how frequently Papadopoulos was in contact with the campaign officials. Sanders initially said the foreign policy advisory board convened only once, but the White House later clarified she was speaking only of official meetings with Trump in attendance. An official involved with the group said the group met on a monthly basis throughout the spring and summer for a total of about six meetings.

Papadopoulos, who was based in London at the time, did not attend them all, but he did attend a dinner meeting of the advisers in late June at the Capitol Hill Club in Washington, along with Sessions.

The special counsel's statement noted that in an email exchange about Papadopoulos' contacts last year, two unnamed Trump campaign officials sought to protect Trump from any overt involvement.

"We need someone to communicate that DT is not doing these trips. It should be someone low level in the campaign so as not to send any signal," one of the campaign aides said. An email independently obtained by The Associated Press shows that the comment was sent by Trump's former campaign chairman Manafort to his long-time aide Gates on May 21, 2016.

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Associated Press writer Tom LoBianco contributed to this report.

## Riding high in summer, Dodgers on brink of wipeout in fall

By **BETH HARRIS, AP Sports Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Dodgers were baseball's best team during the regular season, piling up 104 wins, blasting 53 homers in June and finishing up a 43-7 run in August.

Now, they're one loss away from being eliminated in their first World Series appearance since 1988.

Riding high in summer, potentially knocked out in fall.

All that early success could be wiped out with four defeats in October, leaving the Dodgers without the title they so desperately crave and last won 29 years ago.

"It would certainly be disheartening and disappointing," manager Dave Roberts said Monday. "At the outset, our goal was to be the last team standing and we still have that opportunity."

Los Angeles trails the Astros 3-2 heading into Game 6 on Tuesday night at Dodger Stadium.

"Right now, we're not thinking of the alternative," Roberts said.

The Dodgers won their record fifth consecutive NL West title before rolling past Arizona in the NL Division Series and the defending World Series champion Cubs in the NL Championship Series.

But that's nothing to hang their hat on.

"At the end of the year, if all you've won is the NL West and you still didn't reach the World Series or win the World Series, you didn't reach your goal," outfielder Andre Ethier, the longest-tenured Dodgers player, said on the eve of Game 1.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 38 of 49

Ethier cautioned his teammates: "We haven't achieved anything, we haven't won anything. All we did was won the NL West and that doesn't mean anything."

Winning 100-plus games doesn't guarantee anything, either. Heading into opening day this season, 16 teams had posted that many wins since the 21st century began. Just two went on to win the World Series: the Cubs last year and the Yankees in 2009.

As for the others, they're better remembered for losing than winning.

The Mariners tied a major league record by winning 116 games in 2001. But Ichiro Suzuki and his teammates didn't get past the ALCS, bowing in five games to the Yankees.

The great Orioles teams of the late 1960s and early '70s had dominant pitching to go with an offense powered by Frank Robinson, Brooks Robinson and Boog Powell. They won 109 games in 1969 only to lose to the Miracle Mets in the World Series. They followed up with 108 victories in 1970 and beat Cincinnati for the title. But in 1971, despite notching 101 wins and having four 20-game winners on the mound, the O's failed to defend their title, losing to Pittsburgh in seven games.

Bash Brothers Jose Canseco and Mark McGwire powered Oakland to 104 wins in 1988, only to lose to the Dodgers in the World Series. The Athletics rebounded the following year with 99 wins and beat the Giants in the earthquake-interrupted Series before racking up 103 wins in 1990 and getting swept by the Reds in defense of their title.

The Dodgers had many milestone moments during the regular season. Alex Wood began the season 10-0, the first Dodgers starter to do so since Don Newcombe in 1955. Cody Bellinger, a favorite for NL Rookie of the Year, hit for the cycle on July 19, the ninth player in franchise history to accomplish the feat. Closer Kenley Jansen was undefeated.

By early August, the Dodgers had gone 43-7 for the best 50-game run by a major league team since the 1912 Giants.

They coasted for much of the season, with their lead stretching to a whopping 21 games on Aug. 23.

It was enough for them to survive a woeful September stretch in which they dropped 16 of 17, including a major league-worst 11 in a row.

But the turning of the calendar has brought mixed results.

Jansen has a blown save and a loss in this World Series. Ace Clayton Kershaw, so outstanding in a Game 1 victory, couldn't hold a four-run lead in Game 5 and allowed the Astros to tie the score on a walk, two hits and a three-run homer. Houston eventually won 13-12 in 10 innings to move within a victory its first championship.

This year, with a pair of 100-win teams in the World Series for the first time since 1970, someone is likely to end up being forgettable.

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

## Netflix exploring 'House of Cards' spinoff amid Spacey flap

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Netflix is exploring a "House of Cards" spinoff as the show's final season nears amid controversy surrounding star Kevin Spacey.

The streaming channel, which reportedly is weighing different concepts for the spinoff, said Monday that the upcoming sixth season will be the last for "House of Cards."

The announcement of the Emmy-winning political satire's end came amid fallout from Spacey's alleged sexual advances toward a 14-year-old actor in the 1980s. But Netflix had already decided to end the show and was pursuing a spinoff.

Spacey has apologized for the incident which he said he doesn't recall but would have stemmed from "drunken behavior." He also spoke publicly for the first time about being gay.

The final "House of Cards" episodes are in production, with a release date yet to be announced.

## Maine Medicaid expansion vote seen as Obamacare referendum

By **MARINA VILLENEUVE, Associated Press**

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — The roiling national debate over the government's proper role in health care is coming to a head in a state more commonly known for moose, lobster and L.L. Bean.

On Nov. 7, voters in Maine will decide whether to join 31 other states and expand Medicaid under former President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act. It is the first time since the law took effect nearly four years ago that the expansion question has been put to voters.

The ballot measure comes after Maine's Republican governor vetoed five attempts by the politically divided Legislature to expand the program and take advantage of the federal government picking up most of the cost.

It also acts as a bookend to a year in which President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans tried and failed repeatedly to repeal Obama's law.

Activists on both sides of the issue are looking at the initiative, Maine Question 2, as a sort of national referendum on one of the key pillars of the law, commonly known as Obamacare. Roughly 11 million people nationwide have gained coverage through the expansion of Medicaid, the state-federal health insurance program for lower-income Americans.

Republican consultant Lance Dutson called Maine's initiative a national bellwether in which the needs of the people could trump political ideology.

"People believe there are good parts to Obamacare and bad parts to Obamacare. And without taking Medicaid expansion, we are leaving one of the good parts on the table while still suffering from the bad parts of it," said Dutson, who supports Question 2.

Maine may not be the last state to put the Medicaid question before voters. Expansion proponents in Idaho and Utah have launched similar efforts in those states aimed at the 2018 ballot.

If the initiative passes, an estimated 70,000 people in Maine would gain health coverage. The issue is personal to many in an aging, economically struggling state with a population that is smaller than the city of San Diego.

Nature painter Laura Tasheiko got dropped from Medicaid three years ago after successfully battling breast cancer. Since then, she has relied on the charitable services of a hospital near her home in Northport, a seaside village of less than 2,000 people about 100 miles northeast of Portland.

She worries about having another serious health problem before she is eligible for Medicare when she turns 65 next year.

"Some of the after-effects of the chemo can be severe, like heart failure," she said. "Having no insurance is really scary."

Maine's hospitals support the Medicaid expansion and say charity care costs them over \$100 million annually. The initiative's supporters have reported spending about \$2 million on their campaign, with hundreds of thousands of dollars coming from out-of-state groups. By comparison, the lead political action committee established to oppose the measure has spent a bit less than \$300,000.

Among those who say Maine will benefit from the expansion is Bethany Miller. She said her adult son, Kyle, needed Medicaid because he couldn't afford subsidized monthly insurance premiums even though he was working.

She remembers watching as her son's eyes went hollow and his body turned skeletal in the weeks before he died, at age 25, from a diabetic coma a year ago.

"He had a job, but he didn't make enough money to pay for his basic needs and his insulin, and he couldn't live without his insulin," said Miller, who lives in Jay, a small paper mill town about 70 miles north of Portland.

LePage, a Trump supporter, is lobbying furiously against the initiative. He and other critics warn that the expansion will be too costly for Maine, even with the federal government picking up most of the tab. After 2020, the state's share of paying for the expansion population would be 10 percent.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 40 of 49

LePage warns that he would have to divert \$54 million from other programs — for the elderly, disabled and children — to pay for Medicaid expansion.

“It’s going to kill this state,” he said.

LePage said he considers Medicaid another form of welfare and wants to require recipients to work and pay premiums.

Maine currently serves about 268,000 Medicaid recipients, down from 354,000 in 2011. LePage credits the drop to his administration’s tightened eligibility restrictions.

If Question 2 passes, the Medicaid expansion would cover adults under age 65 with incomes at or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level. That’s \$16,643 for a single person or \$22,412 for a family of two.

State Rep. Deborah Sanderson, a Republican, said Maine is already struggling to serve its rapidly aging population as nursing homes shutter and rural hospitals struggle.

“I get accused on occasion of trying to pit one population of folks against another,” she said. “It’s a case of only having a certain amount of resources to take care of a large number of needs.”

Finances are a concern in a state marked by factory closures and sluggish wage growth.

But with more people living on the margins, advocates of the expansion say that is all the more reason to extend the benefits of Medicaid. About 8 percent of Maine residents do not have insurance, a little less than the national percentage.

Democratic Sen. Geoffrey Gratwick, a retired rheumatologist, said he has seen many patients throughout his career who did not have health insurance and came to him with a disease already in its late stages. He voted for all five Medicaid expansion attempts.

“They are just as good people as you or I, but their lives will be shorter and they will be sicker,” he said. “Compassion, common sense and our economic interest demand that we get them the health care they need.”

Nathalie Arruda and her husband, Michael, are in that group that is sometimes without insurance. They live in the farming community of Orland, halfway between New Hampshire and the state’s eastern border with New Brunswick, Canada.

The couple run a computer business and rely on herbal teas and locally grown greens to stay healthy as they fall in and out of Medicaid eligibility. LePage restricted Medicaid eligibility for adults with dependents, like the Arrudas.

“There have absolutely been times when my husband or I have put off getting something looked at that we probably should have because we didn’t have coverage,” Arruda said.

In Miller’s view, her son would still be alive if LePage had signed one of the Medicaid expansion bills sent to him by the Legislature.

When Kyle turned 21, he was one of thousands who lost MaineCare coverage under the governor’s reforms. She said he juggled construction jobs but couldn’t afford his \$80 subsidized monthly premium for private insurance.

He struggled to pay medical bills from emergency room visits, Miller said.

Before Kyle died last November, he had landed a steady job at a plastics factory that promised health insurance. He didn’t live long enough to get the coverage, falling into a diabetic coma.

“He started rationing his insulin so he could buy food,” his mother said. “And it cost him his life.”

Follow Marina Villeneuve on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/marinav13>

## First guilty plea, indictment of Trump aides in Russia probe

By CHAD DAY and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — On a black Monday for Donald Trump’s White House, the special counsel investigating possible coordination between the Kremlin and the Trump presidential campaign announced the first charges, indicting Trump’s former campaign chairman and revealing how an adviser lied to the FBI about meetings with Russian intermediaries.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 41 of 49

The formal charges against a total of three people are the first public demonstration that special counsel Robert Mueller and his team believe they have identified criminal conduct. And they send a warning that individuals in the Trump orbit who do not cooperate with Mueller's investigators, or who are believed to mislead them during questioning, could also wind up charged and facing years in prison.

Paul Manafort, who steered Trump's campaign for much of last year, and business associate Rick Gates ended the day under house arrest on charges that they funneled payments through foreign companies and bank accounts as part of their private political work in Ukraine.

George Papadopoulos, also a former campaign adviser, faced further questioning and then sentencing in the first — and so far only — criminal case that links the Trump election effort to the Kremlin.

Manafort and Gates, who pleaded not guilty in federal court, are not charged with any wrongdoing as part of the Trump campaign, and the president immediately sought to distance himself from the allegations. He said on Twitter that the alleged crimes occurred "years ago," and he insisted anew there was "NO COLLUSION" between his campaign and Russia.

But potentially more perilous for the president was the guilty plea by former adviser Papadopoulos, who admitted in newly unsealed court papers that he was told in April 2016 that the Russians had "dirt" on Democratic rival Hillary Clinton in the form of "thousands of emails," well before it became public that the Democratic National Committee and Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta's emails had been hacked.

Papadopoulos was not charged with having improper communications with Russians but rather with lying to FBI agents when asked about the contacts, suggesting that Mueller — who was appointed in May to lead the Justice Department's investigation — is prepared to indict for false statements even if the underlying conduct he uncovers might not necessarily be criminal.

The developments, including the unexpected unsealing of a guilty plea, usher Mueller's investigation into a new, more serious phase. And the revelations in the guilty plea about an adviser's Russian contacts could complicate the president's assertions that his campaign never coordinated with the Russian government to tip the 2016 presidential election in his favor, the central issue behind Mueller's mandate.

Mueller's investigation has already shadowed the administration for months, with investigators reaching into the White House to demand access to documents and interviews with key current and former officials.

The Papadopoulos plea occurred Oct. 5 but was not unsealed until Monday, creating further woes for an administration that had prepared over the weekend to deflect the Manafort allegations. In court papers, Papadopoulos admitted lying to FBI agents about the nature of his interactions with "foreign nationals" who he thought had close connections to senior Russian government officials.

The court filings don't provide details on the emails or whom Papadopoulos may have told about the Russian government effort.

Papadopoulos has been cooperating with investigators, according to the court papers. His lawyers hinted strongly in a statement Monday that their client has more testimony to provide.

There, too, the White House scrambled to contain the potential fallout, with press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders contending that Papadopoulos' role in the campaign was "extremely limited." She said "any actions that he took would have been on his own."

The criminal case against Manafort, who surrendered to the FBI in the morning, had long been expected.

The indictment naming Manafort and Gates, who also had a role in the campaign, lays out 12 counts, including conspiracy against the United States, conspiracy to launder money, acting as an unregistered foreign agent, making false statements and several charges related to failing to report foreign bank and financial accounts. The indictment alleges the men moved money through hidden bank accounts in Cyprus, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Seychelles.

In total, more than \$75 million flowed through the offshore accounts, according to the indictment. Manafort is accused of laundering more than \$18 million.

Outside the courthouse, Manafort attorney Kevin Downing attacked the charges and said "there is no evidence that Mr. Manafort or the Trump campaign colluded with the Russian government."

Manafort's indictment doesn't reference the Trump campaign or make any allegations about coordina-

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 42 of 49

tion between Russia and campaign aides. But it does allege a criminal conspiracy was continuing through February of this year, after Trump had taken office.

Manafort, 68, was fired as Trump's campaign chairman in August 2016 after word surfaced that he had orchestrated a covert lobbying operation on behalf of pro-Russian interests in Ukraine. The indictment against Manafort and Gates says the pair had managed a covert Washington lobbying operation on behalf of Ukraine's ruling political party.

Gates personally directed the work of two prominent Washington lobbying firms, Mercury LLC and the Podesta Group. The indictment doesn't refer to the companies by name, but the fallout at one was swift.

Prominent Washington lobbyist Tony Podesta, a Democrat and brother to John, resigned Monday, seeking to avoid further enmeshing his firm in the controversy, according to a person familiar with the decision who spoke anonymously to preserve relationships with former colleagues.

Specifically, the indictment accuses Manafort of using "his hidden overseas wealth to enjoy a lavish lifestyle in the United States, without paying taxes on that income." That included using offshore accounts to purchase multimillion-dollar properties in the U.S., some of which the government is trying to seize.

The indictment also cites more than \$900,000 in payments to an antique rug store, about \$850,000 to a New York men's clothing store and the purchase of a Mercedes Benz and multiple Range Rovers.

Manafort also had registered with the Justice Department as a foreign agent for parts of Ukrainian work that occurred in Washington. The filing under the Foreign Agents Registration Act came retroactively, a tacit acknowledgment that he operated in Washington in violation of the federal transparency law. The indictment Monday accuses Manafort and Gates of making several false and misleading statements in that FARA filing.

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Associated Press writers Michael Biesecker, Stephen Braun, Tom LoBianco, Sadie Gurman and Jeff Horwitz contributed to this report.

## Crews scramble to restore power to Northeast after storm

By DAVID SHARP, Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — A severe storm that pounded the Northeast with hurricane-force wind gusts and torrential rain has left utility crews scrambling to restore power and forced communities to postpone Halloween festivities due to damage.

The storm knocked out power to nearly 1.5 million homes and business at its peak Monday across the region. More than 1 million customers remained in the dark early Tuesday.

A house was swept away by raging waters in New Hampshire, sailboats crashed onto a beach in Massachusetts and an empty scaffolding truck was blown off of a bridge that's under construction between Maine and New Hampshire.

Thousands of trees were toppled, some falling onto houses and cars.

"Trees were falling all around me. I could hear them crashing down," said John Carroll, spokesman for Central Maine Power, describing his commute to work Monday. "It was terrifying. It was wild."

Miraculously, no serious injuries were reported.

New England bore the brunt of the storm with winds gusting to 82 mph in Mashpee on Cape Cod in Massachusetts and topping out at 130 mph at the Mount Washington Observatory in New Hampshire.

Nearly 500,000 homes and businesses in Maine lost electricity, surpassing the peak number from an infamous 1998 ice storm. Officials said the storm left 450,000 customers in New Hampshire without power at its peak and produced wind gusts of 78 mph.

In Warren, New Hampshire, dramatic video captured a one-story house being swept away by a raging river before crashing into a bridge and breaking apart. No one was in the house at the time.

Some cities and towns in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut postponed trick-or-treating from Halloween night — Tuesday — to as late as Sunday evening due to safety concerns including darkened streets, downed power lines and debris.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 43 of 49

Electricity was slowly being restored. But in Maine, the state's largest utility warned residents to be prepared to be without electricity for up to a week.

Rachel Graham, her husband and their 2-year-old daughter endured the storm in a yurt where they are staying while they build a house on their property in Freeport, Maine. They listened as 20 pine trees snapped and wind gusts lashed the yurt.

"You could feel everything and hear everything," Graham said. "It was a lot of crashes and bangs."

In the Boston suburb of Brookline, Helene Dunlap said her power went out after she heard a loud "kaboom" early Monday morning. She went outside hours later to find a large tree had fallen on a neighboring home.

"It really shook the whole place up," she said. "It was such a dark, stormy night that looking out the window we really couldn't determine what was going on."

A tree fell and sheared off the rear of a home in Methuen in northeastern Massachusetts, along the New Hampshire line. The tree crashed into Philip Cole's bedroom, where he would have been if he hadn't been called into work Sunday night.

"You opened the door to my bedroom, and there's no bedroom," Cole told WBZ-TV. "There's no floor, there's no anything really, just a closet and that was it."

The storm system also caused problems Sunday in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. On the shoreline in Bayonne, New Jersey, a barge washed up after apparently breaking free from its moorings.

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Associated Press writers Mark Pratt and Alanna Durkin Richer in Boston; Dave Collins in Hartford, Connecticut; Kathy McCormack in Concord, New Hampshire; Patrick Whittle in Portland, Maine; Lisa Rathke in Montpelier, Vermont; and Shawn Marsh in Trenton, New Jersey, contributed to this report.

## **APNewsBreak: Lost sailors did not activate emergency beacon**

**By CALEB JONES, Associated Press**

HONOLULU (AP) — The U.S. Coast Guard announced Monday that the two Hawaii women who say they were lost at sea never activated their emergency beacon, adding to a growing list of inconsistencies that cast doubt on the women's harrowing tale of survival.

U.S. Coast Guard spokesman Lt. Scott Carr told The Associated Press that their review of the incident and subsequent interviews with the survivors revealed that they had the Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) aboard but never turned it on. The women said they chose not to activate the device because they never feared for their lives.

Parts of their story have been called into question, including the tropical storm the two say they encountered on their first night at sea in May. National Weather Service records show no organized storms in the region in early May.

When asked if the two had the radio beacon aboard, the women told the AP on Friday they had a number of other communications devices, but they didn't mention the EPIRB.

The device communicates with satellites and sends locations to authorities. It's activated when it's submerged in water or turned on manually.

During the post-incident debriefing by the Coast Guard, Jennifer Appel, who was on the sailboat with Tasha Fuiava, was asked if she had the emergency beacon on board. Appel replied she did, and that it was properly registered.

"We asked why during this course of time did they not activate the EPIRB. She had stated they never felt like they were truly in distress, like in a 24-hour period they were going to die," said Coast Guard spokeswoman Petty Officer 2nd Class Tara Molle, who was on the call to the AP with Carr.

Carr also said the Coast Guard made radio contact with a vessel that identified itself as the Sea Nymph in June near Tahiti, and the captain said they were not in distress and expected to make land the next morning. That was after the women reportedly lost their engines and sustained damage to their rigging and mast.

Experts say some of the details of the women's story do not add up.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 44 of 49

A retired Coast Guard officer who was responsible for search and rescue operations said that if the women used the emergency beacon, they would have been found.

"If the thing was operational and it was turned on, a signal should have been received very, very quickly that this vessel was in distress," Phillip R. Johnson said Monday in a telephone interview from Washington state.

Emergency Position Indication Radio Beacons, or EPIRBs, activate when they are submerged in water or turned on manually and send a location to rescuers within minutes.

The beacons are solid and built to be suddenly dropped in the ocean. "Failures are really rare," Johnson said, but added that old and weak batteries also could cause a unit not to work.

It's not clear if the pair had tested it before the journey.

The women also said they had six forms of communication that all went dead. "There's something wrong there," Johnson said.

He knows of cases in remote Alaska where a ship in distress just using one form of beacon brought a fairly quick response from nearby fishing boats and the Coast Guard.

"I've never heard of all that stuff going out at the same time," he said.

And there's more that doesn't add up.

Key elements of the women's account are contradicted by authorities, weather reports and the basic geography of the Pacific Ocean. The discrepancies raised questions about whether Appel and her sailing companion, Tasha Fuiava, remember the ordeal accurately or could have avoided disaster.

The Hawaii residents reported that their sailing equipment and engine failed and said they were close to giving up when the U.S. Navy rescued them last week, thousands of miles off course. They were taken to Japan, where they didn't immediately respond to an email and call seeking comment Monday.

The Navy said they do not investigate incidents like this and they were only there to render assistance. The Coast Guard said its review of the case is ongoing, but that there is no criminal investigation at this time.

The two women met in late 2016, and within a week of knowing each other decided to take the trip together. Fuiava had never sailed a day in her life. They planned to take 18 days to get to Tahiti, then travel the South Pacific and return to Hawaii in October.

On their first day at sea, May 3, the two U.S. women described running into a fearsome storm that tossed their vessel with 60 mph (97 kph) winds and 30-foot (9-meter) seas for three days, but meteorologists say there was no severe weather anywhere along their route during that time.

After leaving "we got into a Force 11 storm, and it lasted for two nights and three days," Appel said of the storm they encountered off Oahu. In one of the first signs of trouble, she said she lost her cellphone overboard.

"We were empowered to know that we could withstand the forces of nature," Appel said. "The boat could withstand the forces of nature."

But the National Weather Service in Honolulu said no organized storm systems were in or near Hawaii on May 3 or in the days afterward. Archived NASA satellite images confirm there were no tropical storms around Hawaii that day.

The pair said they thought about turning back, but the islands of Maui and Lanai didn't have harbors deep enough to accommodate their sailboat. At 50 feet (15 meters) long, the vessel is relatively small, and both islands have harbors that would have accommodated them. Plus, the Big Island — the southernmost island in state — has several places to dock.

"I had no idea that we were going to be in this thing for 80 solid hours," Appel said of the storm of which there is no record.

Still, they pressed on.

Days later, after parts of their mast and rigging failed, they sailed up to another small island, still with a working motor, but decided against trying to land, believing the island was mostly uninhabited with no protected waters.

"It is uninhabited. They only have habitation on the northwest corner and their reef was too shallow for

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 45 of 49

us to cross in order to get into the lagoon," Appel said.

But Christmas Island, part of the island nation of Kiribati, is home to more than 2,000 people and has a port that routinely welcomes huge commercial ships.

"We could probably nurse it down to the next major island in Kiribati," Appel said. Then we'll be able to stop there and seek safe haven and get up on the mast and fix it."

The island has at least two airfields, and women had flares aboard to alert people on land. Plus, its widest point spans about 30 miles (48 kilometers), a day's hike to safety from even the most remote area.

When asked if the small island would have been a good place to land and repair their sails, Appel said no. "Kiribati, um, one whole half of the island is called shipwreck beach for a reason."

Christmas Island has a place called Bay of Wrecks on its northeast side.

So, instead of stopping for help, they say they set a new destination about 1,000 miles (1,609 kilometers) away and a few hundred miles beyond their original target of Tahiti. They were headed to the Cook Islands.

"We really did think we could make it to the next spot," Appel said.

Then, they say, another storm killed their engine at the end of May. More than five months after they departed, they were picked up in the western Pacific about 900 miles (1,448 kilometers) southeast of Japan and thousands of miles off course. The two women and their dogs were all in good health when picked up by the U.S. Navy.

## National security leaders say war authority sufficient

By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top U.S. national security officials on Monday warned congressional Republicans and Democrats demanding a new war authorization that existing laws governing combat operations against terrorist groups are legally sufficient and that repealing them prematurely could signal the United States is backing away from the fight.

During testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis urged Congress to tread carefully. If lawmakers are compelled to replace the post-Sept. 11, 2001, laws, the two secretaries cautioned them against imposing restrictions and conditions on American military forces that allow their enemies "to seize the initiative."

Tillerson and Mattis said President Donald Trump doesn't have permission from Congress to attack North Korea, but they indicated the U.S. Constitution gives him that power in certain circumstances where U.S. citizens and national security interests are being imminently threatened.

The response troubled several Democrats who have expressed concerns over Trump's confrontational statements toward North Korea and its budding arsenal of nuclear weapons. Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., asked if the act of possessing a nuclear weapon capable of striking the U.S. qualified as an imminent threat, but both witnesses declined to answer.

"Secretaries Tillerson and Mattis's responses to my questions about the Administration's war powers in North Korea were very worrying," Murphy said. "The fact is, no president has unlimited power to start a war without congressional approval."

Murphy and several other Democrats are planning to introduce legislation that would prohibit Trump from starting a pre-emptive war against North Korea, absent an imminent threat or without express authorization from Congress.

The testimony from Tillerson and Mattis came as the deadly ambush in Niger earlier this month is igniting a push among many lawmakers to update the legal parameters for combat operations overseas.

Roughly 800 U.S. service members are in Niger as part of a French-led mission to defeat the extremists in West Africa. There are hundreds more American forces in other African countries.

The bulk of the nearly three-hour hearing centered on arcane but crucial laws known as authorization for use of military force. One, to fight al-Qaida, was approved a week after the Sept. 11 attacks. A separate authorization for the war in Iraq approved by Congress in 2002 also remains in force.

Tillerson and Mattis said if Congress does pursue a new authorization for foes such as Islamic State

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 46 of 49

militants, it's imperative the existing laws not be rescinded until a new one is fully in place. Tillerson and Mattis also said any new war authorization, like the existing ones, should not have any geographic or time restrictions so as not to tip the enemy off.

"We cannot put a firm timeline on a conflict against an adaptive enemy who would hope that we haven't the will to fight as long as necessary," Mattis said. "Instead we must recognize that we are in an era of frequent skirmishing, and we are more likely to end this fight sooner if we don't tell our adversary the day we intend to stop fighting."

A growing number of congressional Republicans and Democrats, many of whom were startled by the depth of the U.S. commitment in Niger and other parts of Africa, have been demanding a new war authorization. They've argued that the dynamics of the battlefield have shifted over the past 16 years and it's past time to replace the post-Sept. 11 authorization to fight al-Qaida with a law that reflects current threats.

Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., highlighted the fact that none of the 21 members of the committee were members of the Senate when the 2001 war authorization was approved. Flake and Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., are sponsoring legislation for a new war authority for operations against the Islamic State group, al-Qaida and the Taliban.

Flake said he understood the reluctance expressed by Mattis and Tillerson not to telegraph when U.S. troops might depart a particular war zone. But he said that concern is "overwhelmed in a big way by not having Congress buy in, and us not having skin in the game."

"It simply allows us to criticize the administration, Republican or Democrat, if we don't like what they're doing because we haven't weighed in," Flake said.

U.S. troops also are battling an enemy — Islamic State militants — that didn't exist 16 years ago in a country — Syria — that the U.S. didn't expect to be fighting in. Nor did the 2001 authorization anticipate military confrontations with the Syrian government. Trump in April ordered the firing of dozens of Tomahawk missiles at an air base in central Syria, and American forces in June shot down a Syrian Air Force fighter jet.

Beyond that, Trump has approved a troop increase in Afghanistan, the site of America's longest war, and the U.S. backs a Saudi Arabia-led coalition carrying out airstrikes in Yemen.

But previous attempts to ditch the old authorization and force Congress to craft a new one have failed.

"So far, Congress has been unable to bridge the gap between those who see a new (war authorization) as primarily an opportunity to limit the president and those who believe constraining the commander in chief in wartime is unwise," said Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., the committee chairman. "And unfortunately, the inability to reconcile this divide without threatening the existing authorization has allowed the status quo to prevail."

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Associated Press writers Andrew Taylor and Josh Lederman contributed to this report.

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Follow Richard Lardner on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/rplardner>

## Google-bred Waymo aims to shift robotic cars into next gear

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

ATWATER, Calif. (AP) — Google's self-driving car spin-off is accelerating efforts to convince the public that its technology is almost ready to safely transport people without any human assistance at all.

Waymo, hatched from a Google project started eight years ago, showed off its progress Monday during a rare peek at a closely guarded testing facility located 120 miles (193 kilometers) southeast of San Francisco. That's where its robots complete their equivalent of driver's education.

The tour included giving more than three dozen reporters rides in Chrysler Pacifica minivans traveling through faux neighborhoods and expressways that Waymo has built on a former Air Force base located in the Californian Central Valley city of Atwater.

The minivans smoothly cruised the roads — driver's seat empty and passengers in the back — at speeds

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 47 of 49

of up to 35 mph (56 kph). By contrast, the Waymo-powered minivans that have been driving volunteer riders in the Phoenix area still use safety drivers to take over control if something goes wrong.

But Waymo's real goal is to get to the point where people in cars are nothing but passengers.

Waymo CEO John Krafcik told reporters that the company will be making some cars and freight trucks totally driverless fairly soon, though he didn't provide a specific timetable. "We are really close," he said. "We are going to do it when we feel like we are ready."

Since Google began working on self-driving cars in 2009, dozens of established automakers such as General Motors and Ford Motors have entered the race, along with other big technology companies, including Apple and ride-hailing service Uber. The competition is so fierce and the stakes so high that Waymo is currently suing Uber, alleging that one of its former managers stole its trade secrets and took them with him when he joined Uber in 2016 as part of an elaborate scheme. The trial in that high-profile case is scheduled to begin in early December.

Waymo is hoping to infuse its technology into ride-hailing services such as its current partner, Lyft, and big-rig trucking companies. It also intends to license its automated system to automakers such as Fiat Chrysler Automobile, which is already using it in 100 Pacifica minivans.

## Asian shares mixed after Wall St pull-back, weak China data

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Shares meandered Tuesday in Asia after markets retreated from their record highs overnight and China reported weak manufacturing data.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index lost 0.4 percent to 21,933.52 as the yen gained against the U.S. dollar, hurting exporters' shares. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.2 percent to 28,283.34 and the Shanghai Composite index lost 0.1 percent to 3,386.04. South Korea's Kospi advanced 0.4 percent to 2,510.09 after Samsung reported record profits. The S&P ASX 200 in Australia was almost unchanged at 5,917.50. Shares in Southeast Asia were mixed.

CENTRAL BANK WATCH: Investors expect President Donald Trump to announce his choice for the next chair of the Federal Reserve by the week's end. The choice could have far-ranging effects on the markets, particularly if a new chair advocates a more aggressive policy in raising interest rates than the incumbent Janet Yellen has. The Fed is due to start a two-day meeting on Tuesday. It's expected to raise rates at its next meeting in December, which would be the third increase of the year. Other central banks meeting this week include the Bank of Japan and the Bank of England.

WALL STREET: The Dow Jones industrial average fell 0.4 percent to 23,348.74 and the Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 0.3 percent to 2,572.83. The Nasdaq composite dropped 0.1 percent to 6,698.96, while the small-cap Russell 2000 index lost 1.2 percent to 1,490.90. Losses for health care stocks, telecoms and other areas of the market overshadowed gains for technology companies and energy producers.

EARNINGS: This week will see more than 100 companies in the S&P 500 index report their earnings results for July through September. In Asia, Samsung Electronics Co. reported another record high in quarterly earnings on a breathtaking run for a company that is fighting to get its leader out of jail. The South Korean company's July-September net income surged 150 percent to 11 trillion won (\$9.8 billion), compared with 4.4 trillion won a year earlier.

CHINA MANUFACTURING: An official survey said Chinese manufacturing activity expanded in October at a slower pace than the previous month as output weakened. The purchasing managers' index released Tuesday fell to 51.6 from 52.4 in September. The index is based on a 100-point index where 50 divides expansion from contraction. The surveys are closely watched leading indicators for China's economy, the world's second biggest.

ANALYST'S VIEWPOINT: "Today's official PMI readings suggest that economic activity cooled this month, most likely due to disruptions to industrial activity in north-eastern China as a result of the ongoing environmental crackdown, as well as softer investment spending in response to slower credit growth and the unwinding of pre-Party Congress fiscal support. We anticipate further weakness in the months ahead,"

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 48 of 49

Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a commentary.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude oil lost 9 cents to \$54.06 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It rose 25 cents to settle at \$54.15 per barrel on Monday. Brent crude, the international standard, lost 10 cents to \$60.49.

CURRENCIES: The dollar dipped to 113.12 yen from 113.18 Japanese yen late Monday. The euro slipped to \$1.1638 from \$1.1650. The British pound fell to \$1.3199 from \$1.3208.

AP Business Writer Stan Choe contributed to this report.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

### Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 31, the 304th day of 2017. There are 61 days left in the year. This is Halloween.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 31, 1517, Martin Luther sent his 95 Theses denouncing what he saw as the abuses of the Catholic Church, especially the sale of indulgences, to the Archbishop of Mainz, Germany (by some accounts, Luther also posted the Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg), marking the start of the Protestant Reformation.

### On this date:

In 1795, English poet John Keats was born in London.

In 1864, Nevada became the 36th state as President Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation.

In 1926, magician Harry Houdini died in Detroit of peritonitis resulting from a ruptured appendix.

In 1941, the Navy destroyer USS Reuben James was torpedoed by a German U-boat off Iceland with the loss of some 100 lives, even though the United States had not yet entered World War II. Work was completed on the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota, begun in 1927.

In 1956, Navy Rear Adm. George J. Dufek and six others became the first air travelers to set foot at the South Pole.

In 1967, Nguyen Van Thieu (nwen van too) took the oath of office as the first president of South Vietnam's second republic.

In 1975, the Queen single "Bohemian Rhapsody" was released in the United Kingdom by EMI Records.

In 1984, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by two Sikh (seek) security guards.

In 1992, Pope John Paul II formally proclaimed that the Roman Catholic Church had erred in condemning the astronomer Galileo for holding that the Earth was not the center of the universe.

In 1994, a Chicago-bound American Eagle ATR-72 crashed in northern Indiana, killing all 68 people aboard.

In 1996, a Brazilian Fokker-100 jetliner crashed in Sao Paulo, killing all 96 people on board and three on the ground.

In 1999, EgyptAir Flight 990, bound from New York to Cairo, crashed off the Massachusetts coast, killing all 217 people aboard.

Ten years ago: Three lead defendants in the 2004 Madrid train bombings were found guilty of mass murder and other charges, but four other top suspects were convicted on lesser charges and an accused ringleader was completely acquitted in the attacks that killed 191 people. Gold traded above \$800 an ounce for the first time since 1980.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama joined New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie for a tour of damage along the Jersey coast from Superstorm Sandy; Wall Street was back in business after a two-day shutdown caused by the storm (stocks finished mixed).

One year ago: Pope Francis marked the upcoming 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation by traveling to secular Sweden, where he encouraged Catholics and Lutherans to forgive the "errors" of the past and forge greater unity, including sharing in the Eucharist.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Lee Grant is 92. Former astronaut Michael Collins is 87. Former CBS anchor-



# Groton Daily Independent

**Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 114 ~ 49 of 49**

man Dan Rather is 86. Folk singer Tom Paxton is 80. Actor Ron Rifkin is 79. Actress Sally Kirkland is 76. Actor David Ogden Stiers is 75. Actor Brian Doyle-Murray is 72. Actor Stephen Rea is 71. Olympic gold medal long-distance runner Frank Shorter is 70. Actress Deidre Hall is 70. TV show host Jane Pauley is 67. Actor Brian Stokes Mitchell is 60. Movie director Peter Jackson is 56. Rock musician Larry Mullen is 56. Actor Dermot Mulroney is 54. Rock musician Mikkey Dee is 54. Rock singer-musician Johnny Marr is 54. Actor Rob Schneider is 53. Country singer Darryl Worley is 53. Actor-comedian Mike O'Malley is 52. Rap musician Adrock is 51. Songwriter Adam Schlesinger (SHLES'-in-ger) is 50. Rap performer Vanilla Ice (aka Rob Van Winkle) is 50. Rock singer Linn Berggren (Ace of Base) is 47. Reality TV host Troy Hartman is 46. Gospel singer Smokie Norful is 44. Actress Piper Perabo (PEER'-uh-boh) is 41. Actor Brian Hallisay is 39. Actress Samaire (SAH'-mee-rah) Armstrong is 37. Folk-rock musician Tay Strathairn (Dawes) is 37. Actor Eddie Kaye Thomas is 37. Rock musician Frank Iero (My Chemical Romance) is 36. Actor Justin Chatwin is 35. Actor Scott Clifton is 33. Actress Vanessa Marano is 25. Actress Holly Taylor is 20. Actress-singer Willow Smith is 17.

Thought for Today: "There are very few monsters who warrant the fear we have of them." — Andre Gide, French author and critic (1869-1951).