

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 1 of 43



Kristi Peterson Bookkeeping
Simple Solutions for YOU
605/216-4474 ~ peterson4@nvc.net

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Peterson Bookkeeping Ad
- 2- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 3- Farmers Union PSA
- 3- City Council Agenda
- 4- Sweet 16 Bracket
- 5- Noem's Weekly Column
- 6- Netters off to the Sweet 16
- 8- Today in Weather History
- 8- Roslyn 4-Plex for sale
- 9- Today's Forecast
- 10- Yesterday's Weather
- 10- Today's Weather Info
- 10- National Weather Map
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12- 2018 Community Events
- 13- News from the Associated Press

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

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

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 2 of 43

Chicken Soup
for the Soul



“Among the things you can give and still keep are your word, a smile, and a grateful heart.”

-Zig Ziglar



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 City Council Meeting Agenda November 6, 2017 – 7:00pm Groton Community Center

1. Minutes
2. Bills
3. Department Reports
4. When to hire skating rink employees
5. Community Center Floor
6. Jail to be tore down November 30, 2017
7. Safe Routes to School Remainder: \$6,512.50
8. Annual Report Training – Jan. 2018 - Hope
9. Liquor License Renewals
10. Heartland Official Delegate Form
11. Employee Health Insurance options for 2018
12. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 4 of 43

Class A Volleyball Sweet 16

[Print Sweet 16](#)

The eight (8) winners of the Sweet 16 contests will be re-seeded for the State Tournament.

#1 SF Christian

Scores:

Date: 11/7/2017
Time: 7:00 PM CT
Site: Huron Arena

Scores:

#16 Mobridge-Pollock

STATE QUALIFIER

STATE QUALIFIER

#5 Miller

Scores:

Date: 11/7/2017
Time: 5:30 PM CT
Site: Pierre

Scores:

#12 RC Christian

#2 Dakota Valley

Scores:

Date: 11/7/2017
Time: 7:00 PM CT
Site: Beresford

Scores:

#15 Elk Point-Jefferson

STATE QUALIFIER

STATE QUALIFIER

#6 Sioux Valley

Scores:

Date: 11/7/2017
Time: 5:30 PM CT
Site: Chamberlain

Scores:

#11 Pine Ridge

Seed School	Seed Pts.
1 SF Christian	45.967
2 Dakota Valley	45.259
3 Belle Fourche	45.129
4 Madison	44.926
5 Miller	44.593
6 Sioux Valley	44.593
7 Parker	43.379
8 McCook Central/Montrose	43.333

Seed School	Seed Pts.
9 Groton Area	43.273
10 Redfield/Doland	43.214
11 Pine Ridge	42.607
12 RC Christian	42.357
13 Dell Rapids	42.296
14 Winner	41.643
15 Elk Point-Jefferson	41.462
16 Mobridge-Pollock	38.692

#3 Belle Fourche

Scores:

Date: 11/7/2017
Time: 6:00 PM MT
Site: Wall

Scores:

#14 Winner

STATE QUALIFIER

STATE QUALIFIER

#7 Parker

Scores:

Date: 11/7/2017
Time: 7:30 PM CT
Site: Madison HS

Scores:

#10 Redfield/Doland

#4 Madison

Scores:

Date: 11/7/2017
Time: 7:00 PM CT
Site: Brandon

Scores:

#13 Dell Rapids

STATE QUALIFIER

STATE QUALIFIER

McCook #8 Central/Montrose

Scores:

Date: 11/7/2017
Time: 7:30 PM CT
Site: Watertown Arena

Scores:

#9 Groton Area

KRISTI NOEM
REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA



Tax Reform: Strong Families. A Strong Future.

I met a woman a while back in the grocery store. She had a cart full of groceries and a handful of coupons. As we waited in line, she asked: "Kristi, when is it going to get better?" The cost of those groceries, of healthcare, of childcare – all were going up. But she hadn't gotten a raise in years.

I've been thinking about that young woman a lot lately. She, like so many South Dakota families, faces that financial pinch every day. When will it get better? Earlier this month, we released a once-in-a-generation tax reform package that I'm optimistic will begin to answer that question.

The bill – appropriately named the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act – is designed to strengthen families and offer a more optimistic future for all Americans. More specifically, we significantly lower individual tax rates and nearly double the standard deduction. We also simplify the tax code so an individual or family can file their taxes on a form as simple as a postcard. Think of the stress that would save come tax time!

We also provide unprecedented support for families, increasing the Child Tax Credit to \$1,600 per child, eliminating the marriage penalty, preserving the Child Care Credit, and creating a new Family Flexibility Credit.

The Death Tax is fully and completely repealed by 2024, and we double the exemption between now and then. Farmers and ranchers, along with other businesses, will be able to immediately write off the full cost of new equipment, which is critical for agriculture. No changes are made to popular retirement savings options, such as the 401(k) or IRA. And we open the door for employers to create more jobs and raise wages by offering a historically low small business tax rate and lowering the corporate tax rate to a globally competitive 20 percent.

I know I just threw a lot of numbers at you, so let me explain what it would mean for a typical family. Imagine this: Phil and Kate have two children in middle school. She works at the bank in town; he works for an area farmer. Together, they make \$59,000 a year. As a result of the lower tax rates, a significantly larger standard deduction, an enhanced Child Tax Credit and the new Family Flexibility Credit, Phil and Kate would see their total tax bill drop from \$1,582 to \$400. That's more money they can use for whatever is important to them, whether it's paying bills, buying a new fridge, or putting away savings for the future.

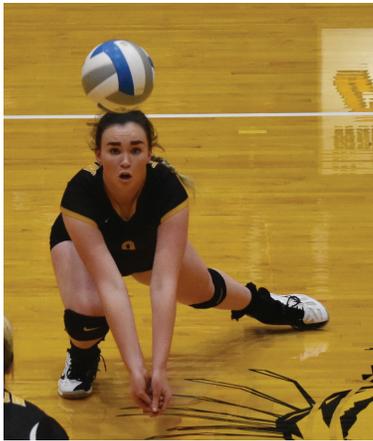
Let's look at another example. Meet Beth. Two years ago, she opened Beth's Pizza Place. This year, she expects to earn around \$62,000 in net income. Under today's tax code, Beth would pay a little over \$8,600 in taxes, but under our plan, her tax bill would fall by more than \$3,000, freeing up money to install a new oven or give her employees a little raise.

While nothing will be perfect in everyone's eyes, I'm optimistic about the impact this package could make in the lives of South Dakotans, including that woman I met in the grocery store. It's taken years to get to his point, but it's essential we get this right. For kids about to graduate from college, this could be the tax code they live by for much of their adult lives.

As the first South Dakotan in history to serve on the committee that's responsible for tax reform, I'm deeply honored to give our state a seat at this table. I was talking with President Trump just after we introduced the bill. His optimism about our plan and commitment to getting it done was beyond encouraging.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will be debated in my committee for a few more weeks before the full House votes on it. If you'd like to follow along or share your thoughts on it, please visit Noem.House.gov/TaxReform

Groton Area heads to the Sweet 16



Payton Colestock goes for the dig. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

It was exciting volleyball action Thursday night in the Groton Area arena as it was a rematch between Groton Area and Milbank for the rite to advance to the Sweet 16 round. After losing the first game, 25-23, the Tigers rallied to win the next three games, 25-13, 25-18 and 25-22 to win the match.

Molly Rick dominated the first game for Milbank with seven kills. The Bulldogs jumped out to a 5-1 lead. Groton Area would rally to tie the game at 14, 15 and 16 before taking the lead at 21-18. Milbank came back to tie the game at 22 and 23 and scored the last two points to win the game, 25-23.

Jennie Doeden four ace serves, three blocks and a kill to help lead Groton Area to the second game win. The Tigers jumped out to an 8-0 lead and Milbank never threatened as the Tigers easily won game two, 25-13.

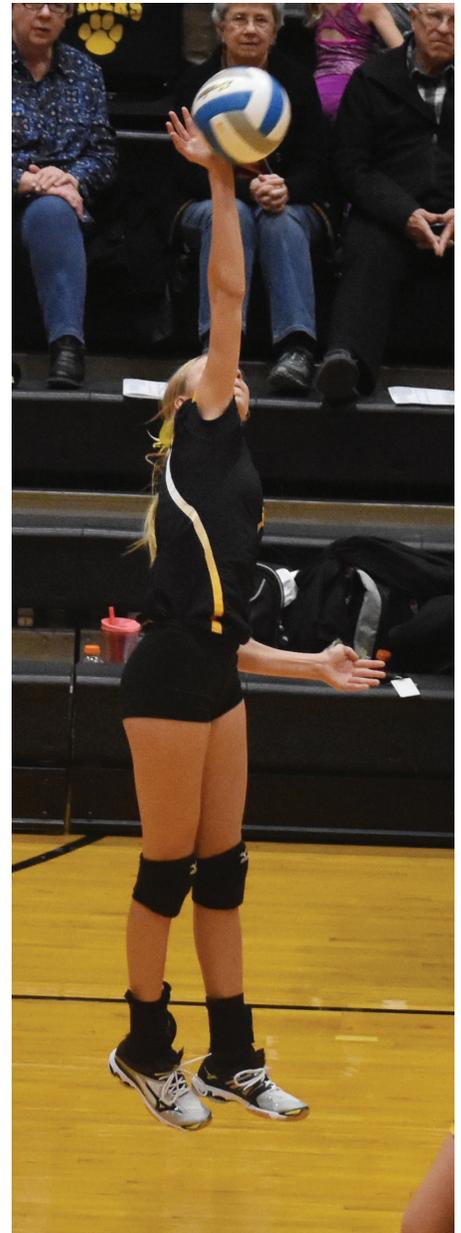
Groton Area jumped out to a 4-0 third game lead, but Milbank tied the game at nine and took the lead. The game was tied five times and the lead changed hands four times. Groton Area had a rally of four straight points to take a 19-17 lead. Milbank closed to within one, 19-18, but would remain scoreless for the rest of the game. The game ended with Miranda Hanson having three straight ace serves and Nicole Marzahn having the game winning kill for the final, 25-18. Payton Colestock had four kills and an ace serve in the game while Marzahn and Doeden each had three kills and Gia Gengerke had two blocks.



Jessica Bjerke serves the ball. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

The fourth game was intense and fierce with the game being tied eight times and the lead changed hands four times. Each team had the biggest lead of the game at three points. Marzahn had the game winning kill to give Groton the 25-22 win. Gengerke had five kills, an ace serve and a block in the final game and Marzahn had three kills for the leaders.

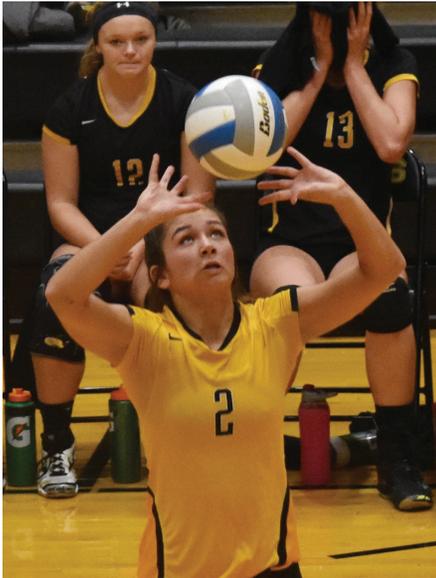
"It was definitely a hard fought win for us and a definite confidence booster moving into the sweet 16!"



Nicole Marzahn goes for the kill. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 7 of 43



Payton Maine sets the ball.

(Photo by Julianna Kosel)

14 with three ace serves and Gia Gengerke was 21 of 21 with two ace serves. "It's really the one part of the game that never changes and we have total control over so we should do well with those things."

"We will have McCook/Montrose in the sweet 16, so now it's time to start preparing for them!"

Groton Area was 173 of 174 in sets with 36 assists. Miranda Hanson was 149 of 150 with 32 assists and Payton Maine was 12 of 12 with three assists. The Tigers had 135 digs with Maine having 30, Doeden 25 and Jessica Bjerke 20. In blocks, Gengerke had four solo and one assisted block, Doeden had three blocks and Jessica Bjerke had one block.

Milbank had three missed serves with Jaecy Engebretson having two ace serves. Molly Rick was 72 of 78 in attacks with 25 kills while Engebretson had 13 kills and MaKayla Johnson had eight. Rick led the Bulldogs with 39 kills while Maty Lightfield had 26 and Gabbi Cummins 25. Cummins had three blocks and Jaden Hoek had two.

Groton Area will play McCook Central/Montrose at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the Watertown Arena.

- Paul Kosel

said Coach Chelsea Hanson. "We had everyone contributing tonight with four girls having right around 10 kills each!" The Tigers were 184 of 201 in attacks with 43 kills. Gia Gengerke was 36 of 40 with 12 kills, Jennie Doeden was 42 of 49 with 11 kills, Nicole Marzahn was 41 of 42 with 10 kills and Payton Colestock had eight kills."

"Everyone did their part and aside from getting off to a weak start we really kept our heads in it and competed and for that I'm very proud!" Hanson said. "We also hit a milestone. I've never had it where we went 106-106 from the service line with 8 aces, that's huge. "A missed served is a definite momentum killer and I'm glad we stayed focused back there." Jennie Doeden was 24 of 24 with two ace serves, Miranda Hanson was 14 of



Gia Gengerke goes for the block.

(Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Today in Weather History

November 4, 1992: Significant snow blanketed much of the state except the southwest between November 1st and November 4th. The snow and slush caused numerous minor traffic accidents and further delayed the fall harvest in many areas. The highest snowfall amounts included over a foot in north central and northeast South Dakota, and the northern Black Hills, with generally 3 to 7 inches reported elsewhere. Some of the more significant storms total snowfall reports were 25.2 inches at Lead, 15 inches at Eureka, 14 inches near Summit, 13 inches near Victor, 12.6 inches at Roscoe, and 12 inches in Leola and 23 miles

north of Highmore.

1927 - A great Vermont flood occurred. Tropical rains deluged the Green Mountain area of Vermont causing the worst flood in the history of the state. Torrential rains, up to 15 inches in the higher elevations, sent streams on a rampage devastating the Winooski Valley. Flooding claimed 200 lives and caused 40 million dollars damage. The town of Vernon reported 84 deaths. Flooding left up to eight to ten feet of water in downtown Montpelier VT. (2nd-4th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1935: Called the Yankee Hurricane, this Category 2 storm affected the Bahamas and South Florida. This storm remains the only tropical cyclone to hit Miami from the Northeast in November.

1985: Heavy rains from the remnants of tropical storm Juan dropped 10 to 19 inches of rain on West Virginia and surrounding states, causing 62 deaths. A maximum of 19.77 inches was recorded near Montebello in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. The flood in West Virginia was considered the worst in the State's history.

1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a fast moving cold front produced severe weather over the Tennessee Valley and the Central Gulf Coast States during the afternoon and evening hours, and into the next morning. Thunderstorms spawned nineteen tornadoes, including eleven in Mississippi. The last of the nineteen tornadoes killed a woman in her mobile home in Lee FL. A tornado in Culbert AL injured sixteen people, and caused two million dollars damage. Thunderstorms also produced baseball size hail in Alabama. Unseasonably hot air prevailed south of the cold front. McAllen TX was the hot spot in the nation with a high of 102 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Snow and high winds plagued parts of Colorado and Wyoming. Winds gusted to 71 mph near Wheatland WY, and reached 80 mph west of Fort Collins CO. Up to five inches of snow blanketed Yellowstone Park WY closing many roads. Snow also blanketed northern Minnesota, with seven inches reported at Baudette. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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.

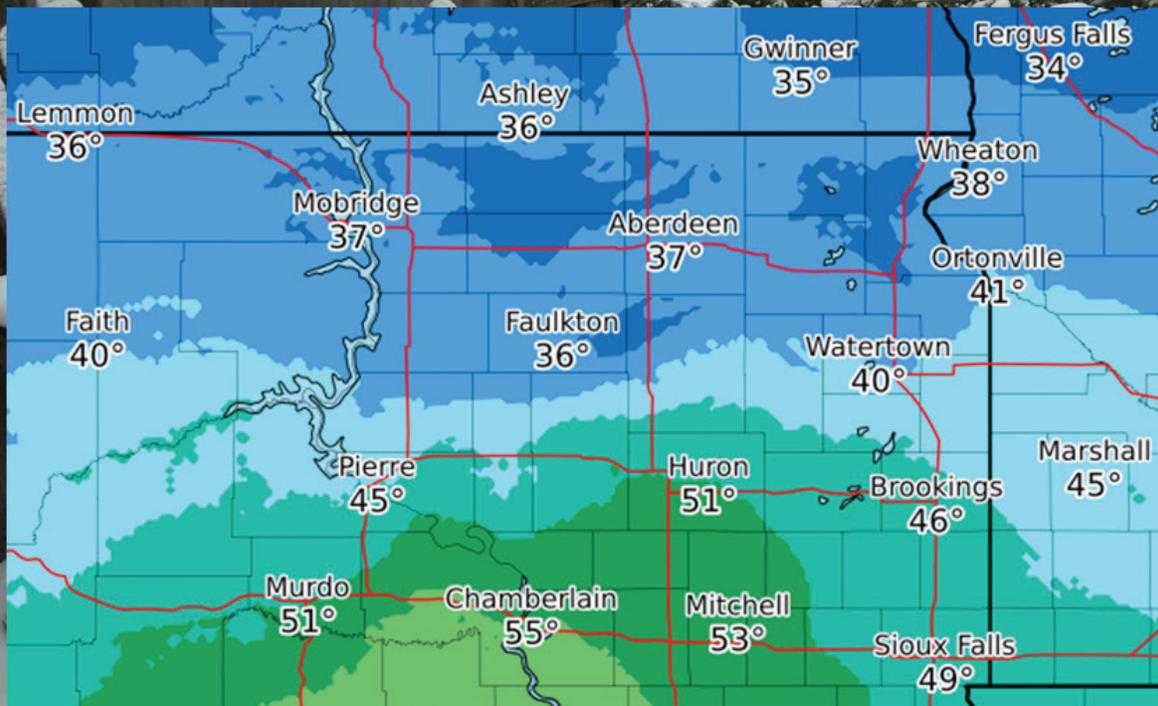
Direct all inquiries, questions or requests for real estate information to Danny R. Smeins, Attorney at Law, at (605) 345-4875 or (605) 448-5964 or Ray Lardy, Roslyn Homes, Inc., at (605) 228-1597 or Richard Galbraith at (605) 229-0180.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 9 of 43

Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Cloudy	Chance Snow	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Chance Snow	Slight Chance Snow	Sunny
High: 37 °F	Low: 22 °F	High: 31 °F	Low: 14 °F	High: 29 °F	Low: 13 °F	High: 29 °F

Temperatures Thaw Out Today



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

Published on: 11/04/2017 at 5:24AM

GRAPHIC CREATED:
11/4/2017 5:22 AM

With the recent precipitation and lingering clouds it will be difficult to warm up temperatures too much, however readings are expected to allow roads to thaw out after some light ice accumulations north of highway 212. We could see some light snow move back into the area tonight but with little accumulation.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 10 of 43

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 30.8

Low Outside Temp: 27.6

High Gust: 25

Precip: 0.00 1" Snow

Today's Info

Record High: 78° in 1975

Record Low: -2° in 1991

Average High: 47°F

Average Low: 25°F

Average Precip in Nov: .12

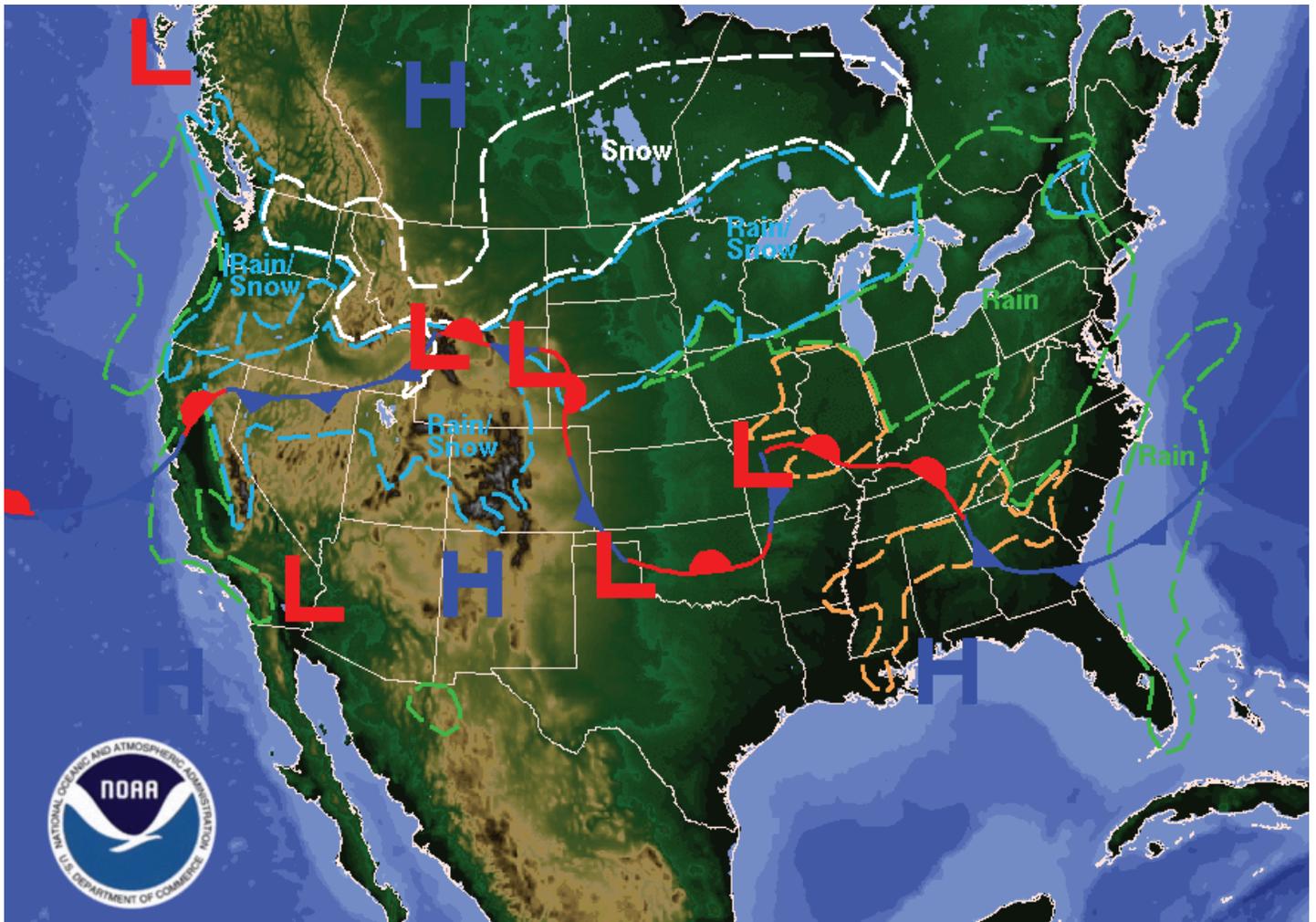
Precip to date in Nov: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.59

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 6:16 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:19 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Nov 04, 2017, issued 4:51 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 11 of 43



DESTINATION AND DIRECTION

It was the end of our summer break and my roommate and I were returning for our final year in seminary.

After driving several miles I asked, "Fritz, why is the sun shining in our eyes when we are supposed to be going west?"

Suddenly he realized that instead of turning right at the end of our driveway, he had turned left and we were going east and not west. Realizing our mistake, we laughed at ourselves, turned the car around and headed in the right direction.

No one can travel in the wrong direction and expect to reach the right destination. A wise Psalmist once wrote, "May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine on us so that Your ways may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations."

God has made His ways known through Jesus Christ, His Son who said, "I am the way!" Every person on earth is going "somewhere" but if they refuse His "where" they will end up "nowhere" and spend eternity in hell.

Some of those we know are traveling the "Religion Roadway." They have respect for what is sacred but have not accepted God's Son as their Savior and made Him their Lord. They are depending on "something" to get them "somewhere" in life but do not know that there is "Someone" who can save them and give them eternal life.

Everyone we know is on their way going somewhere depending on something to get them some place. But it is our responsibility to show them the right way – His way!

Prayer: Father, may we accept our responsibility as Your disciples to present the right "Way" to those who are lost. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 67:1, 2 May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us— so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

News from the Associated Press

South Dakota city sees vibrancy with new eateries

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Two new eateries in southeast South Dakota are a welcomed change of pace in the downtown where food spots and restaurants are few and far in between.

Sandwich shop Bread and Batter operated only as a seasonal, to-go business across from the Corn Palace for the past two summers. But community support led the shop to now be open all year round, with more seating and a larger menu, the Daily Republic reported.

"We just want to continue to make the community happy and provide a crave-worthy produce that people got to have," said Kalie Corrigan, who runs the shop with her husband Jim.

The second restaurant is called The Back 40 and will complete its move to Mitchell in March, said Keke Leiferman, who owns the restaurant. The restaurant is expected to combine live acoustic music with a gourmet breakfast menu.

"I don't see anybody in Mitchell combining food, music and an entire evening of an experience, so I think that's what might make us unique," she said.

A certain number of restaurants, bars, convenience stores, retail and residential spaces are necessary to maintain vibrancy in Mitchell's downtown, said Jeff Logan, owner of Logan Luxury Theatres and president of the Mitchell Main Street and Beyond Board of Directors.

"I'm thrilled to see new restaurants in the downtown area because they provide the variety of services that we need to make it a vibrant neighborhood," Logan said.

The Corrigan's model for success is to keep it simple.

"It's not too complicated," Jim Corrigan said. "We want to make some good food, make a few bucks and make people happy."

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

Unfinished mansion an eyesore for South Dakota neighborhood

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A southeast South Dakota neighborhood is marred by an unfinished and neglected mansion.

The mansion in Sioux Falls' upscale Prairie Hills neighborhood has been abandoned for more than three years, the Argus Leader reported. The property's windows and doors are boarded up, there loose shingles on the roof and graffiti on the outer walls.

City code enforcement manager Matt Tobias says the city issued a notice to demolish the structure over a year ago after the building permits expired without final inspection.

The property's owner, Vitaliy Strizheus, recently appeared before the city's Property Maintenance Board of Appeals and promised to finish the project, Tobias said.

Strizheus said personal issues delayed the project but he plans to resume construction soon.

"I have a contractor, waiting on some bids for the stucco and the inside work is going to resume here soon," Strizheus said. "We intend to live there. We just had to pause it for a minute."

City code enforcers will regularly check on the project's progress, Tobias said. The city could tear the structure down if no progress is made.

"We never wanted to demolish this house, but it being the way it was, at some point in time we wouldn't have had a choice," Tobias said.

The city plans to send structural engineers to the property to inspect the structure to ensure it hasn't deteriorated. Strizheus will then have to acquire new building permits.

Lincoln County had valued the property at \$1.5 million.

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

White Mountain Apache ask for tweak to allow water project

By ISAAC WINDES, Cronkite News

WASHINGTON (AP) — A White Mountain Apache leader told House members Thursday that the tribe desperately needs to “replace the failing and terminal groundwater well system,” but that current Interior Department regulations are preventing the tribe from moving forward on the project.

Tribe Vice Chairman Kasey Velasquez told a House Natural Resources subcommittee that Interior officials do not oppose the project, but that they are not sure current regulations allow money from a settlement fund to be “used for the system’s cost overruns.”

The solution, the Apache say, is a one-page bill that would add 17 words to the law to clarify the situation. But Velasquez said it is needed urgently so there is no delay in work to improve the dire condition of the tribe’s critical water infrastructure.

“The tribe’s current water sources and antiquated infrastructure have been, and continue to be, grossly inadequate to meet the current demands and needs of our reservation communities,” Velasquez said Thursday.

“We must ensure its timely design and completion by resolving the cost issue within the act’s existing authorization now, not later,” he said.

But the seemingly simple change to the law has moved at a typical Washington pace.

An identical bill was passed by the Senate last year, but never made it out of committee in the House.

When the latest bill was passed by the Senate in May, Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Arizona, called it “no small task” and said Senate approval was a “significant victory for the state.” His co-sponsor, Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, said in a statement at the time that the “federal government owes it to the White Mountain Apache Tribe to meet its obligation under the water-rights settlement.”

That bill now sits in the House Natural Resources Committee.

Interior Department officials were not invited to testify at Thursday’s hearing. But in comments to the Senate Indian Affairs Committee in 2016, the last time the bill had a hearing, a department official testified that the agency “supports the ongoing efforts to implement the White Mountain Apache Tribe settlement; however, we do not have sufficient information to develop a position” on the bill.

While Velasquez and other tribal leaders said they would not discuss ongoing negotiations with Interior, they said they were actively working with the department to find a solution to the water settlement process. The clarifying language would bring them “one step closer” to finishing the project, they said.

Rep. Paul Gosar, R- Prescott, said in Thursday’s hearing that language in the latest version of the bill would “clarify the congressional intent of the settlement,” and he submitted letters in support of the bill from the Salt River Project and the Arizona Department of Water Resources.

In addition to health concerns, Velasquez pointed to the economic harm his tribe of nearly 14,000 faced has suffered as a result of not having a sufficient source of clean, running water.

“Despite hundreds of miles of streams on our land, our own economic development has been stifled by a lack of safe, clean and reliable drinking water, for our people, housing, schools, hospital and reservation residents,” he said.

Velasquez ended his testimony with an emotional plea, the same ending he used in his testimony to the Senate last year.

“As I testify before you today, I am mindful of an image and a hope that I’ve held for years,” Velasquez said at the hearing. “That I would be fortunate to live long enough to see a child . open a faucet on a kitchen sink to fill a glass of water — something they cannot do today.”

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 15 of 43

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Class 11AAA(equals)

Semifinal(equals)

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 41, Brandon Valley 40, 2OT

Sioux Falls Washington 42, O Gorman 41

Class 11AA(equals)

Semifinal(equals)

Harrisburg 20, Mitchell 7

Class 11A(equals)

Semifinal(equals)

Dakota Valley 34, St. Thomas More 11

Madison 40, Milbank Area 7

Class 11B(equals)

Semifinal(equals)

Bridgewater-Emery 35, Sioux Valley 7

Sioux Falls Christian 21, Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 7

Class 9AA(equals)

Semifinal(equals)

Gregory 60, Miller/Highmore-Harrold 14

Irene-Wakonda 41, Kimball/White Lake 26

Class 9A(equals)

Semifinal(equals)

Britton-Hecla 24, Warner 20

Corsica/Stickney 36, Howard 22

Class 9B(equals)

Semifinal(equals)

Colman-Egan 54, Castlewood 13

Sully Buttes 36, Colome 20

Class 11AA(equals)

Semifinal(equals)

Pierre 35, Yankton 14

Some high school football scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

10-22-42-61-69, Mega Ball: 3, Megaplier: 2

(ten, twenty-two, forty-two, sixty-one, sixty-nine; Mega Ball: three; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$48 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$64 million

Details of South Dakota nuclear-missile accident released

By SETH TUPPER, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Bob Hicks was spending a cold December night in his barracks 53 years ago at Ellsworth Air Force Base near Rapid City when the phone rang.

It was the chief of his missile maintenance team, who dispatched Hicks to an incident at an underground silo.

"The warhead," the team chief said, "is no longer on top of the missile."

Hicks eventually learned that a screwdriver used by another airman caused a short circuit that resulted in an explosion. The blast popped off the missile's cone —the part containing the thermonuclear warhead —and sent it on a 75-foot fall to the bottom of the 80-foot-deep silo.

The courageous actions Hicks took that night and over the next several days were not publicized. The accident was not disclosed to the public until years later, when a government report on accidents with nuclear weapons included seven sentences about it. The report listed the accident as the nation's first involving a Minuteman missile.

Fifty-three years after he responded to a nuclear-missile accident near Vale, Bob Hicks returned to the site of the former accident and also visited the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site near Wall.

Further details were reported publicly for the first time, drawn from documents obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests by the Rapid City Journal and others, and from Hicks himself, who is now 73 years old and living in Cibolo, Texas.

When Hicks was sent to the accident on Dec. 5, 1964, he was only 20 years old, and the cryptic statement from his team chief was the only information he was given.

"That was enough to cause me to get dressed pretty quickly," Hicks recalled.

The trouble began earlier that day when two other airmen were sent to a silo named Lima-02. It was 60 miles northwest of Ellsworth Air Force Base and 3 miles southeast of the tiny community of Vale, on the plains outside the Black Hills.

Lima-02 was one of 150 steel-and-concrete silos that had been planted underground and filled with Minuteman missiles during the previous several years in western South Dakota, where the missiles were scattered across 13,500 square miles. There were hundreds more silos in place or soon to be constructed in North Dakota, Missouri, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska, eventually bringing the nation's Minuteman fleet to a peak of 1,000.

The original Minuteman missiles, called Minuteman I, were 56 feet tall and weighed 65,000 pounds when loaded with fuel. The missiles were capable of traveling at a top speed of 15,000 miles per hour and could reach the Cold War enemy of the United States, the Soviet Union, within 30 minutes.

Each missile was tipped with a thermonuclear warhead that was many times more powerful than either of the two atomic bombs that the United States dropped on Japan during World War II. One government agency reportedly estimated that the detonation of an early 1960s-era Minuteman warhead over Detroit would have caused 70 square miles of property destruction, 250,000 deaths and 500,000 injuries.

The two airmen who visited the Lima-02 silo on Dec. 5, 1964, were part of a young Air Force missile corps that was responsible for launching and maintaining the missiles. The two airmen's names are redacted — as are many other names — from an Air Force report that was filed after the accident.

At noon that Saturday, the airmen received orders to troubleshoot and repair the Lima-02 security system. They made the long drive and arrived at 2 p.m.

The rectangular, north-south aligned, 1-acre silo site was surrounded by a chain-link fence that was topped with strands of barbed wire. The unremarkable-looking place consisted mostly of a flat expanse of gravel. Toward the south end were several low-slung tops of underground concrete structures.

One of the structures was a 3 1/2-foot-thick, 90-ton slab that covered the missile and would have been blasted aside during a launch. A couple of paces away from that was a circular, steel-and-concrete vault door, about the diameter of a large tractor tire. The door concealed a 28-foot-deep shaft leading to the underground work area known as the equipment room.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 17 of 43

Working in 24-degree conditions above ground, the airmen began a series of steps with special tools and combination locks that allowed them to open the massive vault door. Next, they climbed the ladder down to the equipment room, which encircled the upper part of the silo and missile like a doughnut.

The airmen worked in the roughly 5 feet of space between the steel launch tube and the equipment-room wall, among racks of electronics and surfaces painted mostly in pale, institutional green. Though the launch tube was between them and the missile, the missile was not much more than an arm's length away.

According to the Air Force report on the accident, one of the airmen removed a fuse as part of a check on a security alarm control box. The report said the airman was "lacking a fuse puller," so he used a screwdriver to pry the fuse from its clip.

When the fuse was re-inserted, the report said, it was supposed to click. The sound of a click indicated good contact with the holder. But there was no click, so the airman repeated the procedure. Still not certain he heard a click, he pulled the fuse out a third time and pushed it back into the holder again.

"At 1500 hours MST," the report said, referencing 3 p.m. Mountain Standard Time, "simultaneously with the making of this contact, a loud explosion occurred in the launch tube."

Hicks arrived at the silo later and heard a simpler story from his team chief. According to that story, it was merely the removal of the fuse with a screwdriver — not the insertion of the fuse — that caused the problem. Hicks said the metal of the screwdriver contacted the positive side of the fuse and also the fuse's grounded metal holder, causing a short circuit that sent electricity flowing to unintended places.

"It would be just like you taking your car battery and you touch a screwdriver to the positive terminal on the battery and you touch the frame of the car," Hicks explained. "You have just put voltage potential on your entire car."

Hicks and the accident report agree that the wrong tool was used. In the language of the report, "The technician did not use the authorized, available tool to remove the fuse."

The resulting short circuit might not have been problematic had it not been for some wiring in one of the missile's retrorockets that was later found to be faulty. According to Hicks, some weakly insulated or exposed wiring may have been in contact with the metal casing of a retrorocket, allowing for a jolt of electricity that caused the retrorocket to fire.

The retrorockets were housed below the cone of the missile. They were supposed to fire when the missile was in outer space, to separate the third and final fuel stage from the cone, allowing the cone and its warhead — which were collectively called the "re-entry vehicle" — to fall toward the target.

When one of the retrorockets fired inside the missile in the Lima-02 silo, pressure built up in the space where the retrorockets were housed, and the cone of the missile — which was about 5 feet tall, nearly 3 feet in diameter at its base, and about 750 pounds in weight — burst off and fell down in the few feet of space between the missile and the silo wall.

The cone hit the wall of the silo, bounced back toward the missile and grazed it in two spots along the second fuel stage, hit two of the three suspension cables that supported the missile, and finally crashed to the concrete floor of the silo and came to rest on its side. Luckily, the cone did not do enough damage to the missile to cause the missile to explode.

Neither of the airmen immediately knew what had happened. The bureaucratically written accident report said they "expeditiously evacuated" after hearing the explosion, as the silo filled with gray smoke.

In later years, Buddy Smith, who now lives in Texas and is a friend of Hicks, received training about the South Dakota accident before working in the missile fields of Wyoming.

"I wasn't there," Smith said of the explosion, "but I know there were two technicians who ruined their underwear. 'Cause that ain't supposed to happen."

Bob Dirksing, who was Hicks' roommate at Ellsworth and now lives in the Cincinnati area, said the two airmen who were in the silo when the explosion happened were lucky to survive.

"It could've been a lot worse," Dirksing said. "If the short had gone to the missile instead of to the retrorockets, it would've been a completely different story. I'm sure there would've been fatalities. The boys who were down there would've been fried."

The explosion triggered a flurry of activity over the next seven hours. A potential "broken arrow" was

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 18 of 43

declared, which is military-speak for an accident involving a nuclear weapon. A strike team was deployed to set up a 2,000-foot cordon around the silo, including a road block. Medics were dispatched to the scene. Three sergeants were flown in by helicopter.

The sergeants went down to the equipment room after the smoke cleared and made two observations: Everything was covered in gray dust, and the missile was missing its top.

A radiation-monitoring team went down next and did not detect alarming radiation levels but did find the missile's cone, which contained the warhead, damaged and lying at the bottom of the silo.

By about 10 p.m., the scramble to assess the situation was over. Nobody was injured. The missile was slightly damaged but otherwise intact. The warhead was safe inside its cone, although the cone was damaged. And except for some Vale-area residents who probably saw the commotion and wondered what was going on, the public knew nothing.

The emergency was over, and it was time to plan a salvage operation. Sometime before midnight at Ellsworth, the phone rang for Bob Hicks.

Hicks had enlisted less than two years earlier as a skinny, 6-foot-tall, 19-year-old farm boy from Somerset, Texas, a small town about 20 miles south of San Antonio. He was the youngest in a family of 13 children, which included six boys who served more than a combined 90 years on Air Force active duty from World War II to Vietnam and beyond.

After basic training, Hicks had been sent to nuclear weapons maintenance school in Colorado. By October 1963 — eight months after his enlistment — he was installing warheads and guidance packages atop Minuteman missiles in the silos of western South Dakota.

The silos had been rushed into existence after a groundbreaking ceremony in 1962, with Americans still reeling from the shock of seeing the Soviets launch their Sputnik satellite in 1957. If the Soviets could put a satellite into orbit, American leaders reasoned, it would not be long until they could launch a missile on an arcing path through outer space to the United States.

When Hicks got the call about the accident on Dec. 5, 1964, he and another airman jumped into the specially equipped truck-and-trailer rig that they typically used to transport warheads. They sped into the night, traveling on the newly constructed Interstate 90 toward Sturgis. It wasn't long before Hicks had to pull over when he saw a state trooper's cruiser lights flashing in his rearview mirrors.

"He said, 'Ya'll seem to be in a hurry,'" Hicks recalled.

Hicks did not divulge that he was en route to a potential nuclear disaster, and the trooper inquired no further.

But the trooper did mention some smoke emitting from one of the rig's wheels. Hicks and his companion traced the problem to some bad brake hoses. They made an impromptu fix and sped off again toward Sturgis.

After passing through Sturgis and heading east, Hicks steered the rig north around the hulking, dark mass of Bear Butte and motored across the quiet countryside to Vale before finally reaching the silo.

There were perhaps a dozen people at the scene.

"As we later joked," Hicks recalled in his slight Texas drawl, "They were standing around not knowing whether to scratch their watch or wind their butts."

According to Hicks, the missile had not yet been rendered safe, and his team chief said somebody had to do it. Hicks volunteered.

When he saw the missile was fully upright, Hicks was relieved. If it had fallen against the silo, the missile might have been weakened to the point of a collapse and explosion. But that disaster had been avoided.

Incredible as it may sound to a civilian, Hicks said he spent no time worrying about the thermonuclear warhead. He had been convinced by his training that it was nearly impossible to detonate a warhead accidentally. Among other things, he said, the warhead had to receive codes from the launch-control officers, had to reach a certain altitude, and had to detect a certain amount of acceleration and G-force. There were so many safeguards built in, Hicks later joked, that a warhead might have been lucky to detonate even when it was supposed to.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 19 of 43

That's not to say his trip down the silo was without danger. The missile, which contained a load of fuel, had been grazed and damaged by the falling cone. And with only a few years of history behind the Minuteman missile program and no known nuclear accident involving a Minuteman until the one Hicks was confronting, he was heading into the unknown.

Nevertheless, he climbed down the shaft and into the equipment room that encircled the upper part of the underground silo. Next, he lowered the so-called "diving board," which extended from the launch tube toward the missile and allowed Hicks to essentially walk the plank at a height of about 60 feet above the silo floor.

He also installed a work cage, which was a man-sized steel basket that could be hung from motorized cables on the inner wall of the launch tube. The cable assembly not only moved the cage vertically but could also move horizontally on a track around the launch tube, allowing airmen to access every part of the missile.

Hicks maneuvered the cage down the side of the missile and started the procedure to "safe" it. At each point between the missile's three fuel stages, Hicks inserted a long metal rod with a socket-like head and turned the rod to break the electrical connections between the stages, rendering them incapable of firing.

With the missile "safe," it was time to figure out what to do about the warhead.

Hicks said there was a particularly high-ranking officer at the scene who had been flown in by helicopter. After Hicks had rendered the missile safe, Hicks came back to the surface and heard the officer asking some other men how to retrieve the warhead.

Hicks heard no response, so he piped up. Cargo nets were sometimes used to move heavy equipment in and out of the silo, he said. He suggested that a net could be lowered to the bottom of the silo, and the cone with its warhead could be rolled into the net. The net could then be hoisted up on a cable by a crane.

The officer did not appreciate the boldness of Hicks, whose rank was airman second class.

"He said, 'Airman, when I want an opinion from you, I'll ask you,'" Hicks recalled.

Hicks retreated to his truck and awaited further orders. Later, Hicks said, he was recalled to the officer's side and asked to explain the idea again.

The cargo-net method was eventually chosen as the plan, but Hicks said the Air Force wanted the procedure to be practiced in another silo. The practice proceeded over the next couple of days.

Following the practice, the operation was green-lighted, and a crew assembled at Lima-02 on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1964 — four days after the accident — to retrieve the damaged missile cone and its thermonuclear warhead.

First, some jagged edges on the cone that were caused by its violent separation from the missile were covered in padding, and the cone was hoisted about a foot off the silo floor while a mattress pad was slid underneath it. Next, two cargo nets, which were layered one on top of the other under the pad, were pulled up around the cone and hooked to the cable.

Then began the painstaking process of raising the cone up out of the 80-foot-deep silo, in the few feet of space between the missile and the silo wall, without hitting the missile and causing an explosion. The crane did the lifting, but three men also held tight to a hemp rope that was connected to the cone in case of any problems with the crane, cable or net.

"Up very slow," reads a portion of a minute-by-minute account of the operation, as printed in the later accident report. "Dead slow. Stop. Up very slow. Stop. Up slow. Stop."

And on it continued like that for about two hours until the cone emerged from the silo late that afternoon. The cone and its inner warhead were placed on top of some mattresses, Hicks said, in a truck-and-trailer rig. There the cone and warhead sat overnight, in the trailer.

The next day — Thursday, Dec. 10 — a convoy assembled to escort the truck to Ellsworth Air Force Base. According to Hicks, he drove the truck, in part because nobody else at the scene seemed to know how.

The warhead was eventually transported to Medina Annex at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio for disassembly. The written record is not as clear about the fate of the missile, but the accident report indicates it may have been removed from the silo the next day, Friday, Dec. 11.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 20 of 43

Also on Dec. 11, 1964, the Air Force appointed a board of officers to investigate the accident. The board filed its report seven days later, on Dec. 18, and listed "personnel error" as the primary cause. The report said the cost of the damage was \$234,349, which would equate to about \$1.85 million in inflation-adjusted 2017 money.

Large sections of the report's findings and recommendations are redacted, and the non-redacted portions do not disclose the fate of the two airmen who were at the silo when the explosion happened.

Several months after the accident, in March 1965, Hicks was selected as the maintenance man of the month for his division. A short article about the honor in the base newspaper did not disclose that a missile accident had occurred, but it vaguely referenced Hicks' role in rendering a missile safe and transporting "damaged components."

That same month, Hicks was awarded an Air Force Commendation Medal for acts of courage. The written citation with the medal briefly summarized the accident and the role Hicks played in responding to it.

"By his personal courage and willingness to risk his life when necessary in the performance of dangerous duties," the citation said, in part, "Airman Hicks has reflected credit upon himself and the United States Air Force."

The accident did not scare Hicks away from dangerous jobs. Shortly after receiving his medal, he trained in explosive ordnance disposal and was eventually sent to Guam during the Vietnam War, where he disarmed and extracted bombs that failed to release from B-52 planes.

Hicks went on to work for the Office of Special Investigations, which is the Air Force equivalent of the FBI. He retired from active duty during the 1980s and was hired to work as a civilian agent for OSI until his final retirement in 2005. Along the way, he and his wife, Janet, had two sons.

The missile silos in western South Dakota were decommissioned following the 1991 signing of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty by the United States and the Soviet Union. By 1996, all but one of South Dakota's silos had been imploded. The last remaining silo, called Delta-09, is now host to an unarmed missile and is part of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, which includes three attractions spread out along Interstate 90 east of Wall — the silo, a preserved launch-control center called Delta-01, and a visitor center.

The former Lima-02 silo site near Vale has passed into private ownership and is now home to a honey-extracting business. The fence that formerly surrounded the silo complex is still there, kept intact by the landowner.

Although South Dakota's Minuteman missiles now belong to history, the United States still has 400 Minutemans ready to launch from silos in North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska. Each of the missiles is a Minuteman III — two generations advanced from the Minuteman I that was in the Lima-02 silo in 1964.

The Minuteman III fleet is just one part of the U.S. nuclear-weapons triad, which has 5,113 nuclear warheads in all, including some in storage and others that are deployed and ready for use from land, sea or air.

To opponents of nuclear armament, that's a lot of accidents waiting to happen. The U.S. government has officially acknowledged 32 accidents involving nuclear weapons since the 1950s, while additional accidents, incidents, mishaps and close calls have been uncovered by journalists and activists.

And accidents continue to happen. In 2014, three airmen were conducting maintenance on a Minuteman III missile at a silo in Colorado when an accident caused \$1.8 million worth of damage to the missile — roughly the same amount of damage, taking inflation into account, as the 1964 accident in South Dakota. The few known details of the 2014 accident were revealed only after persistent requests for information from The Associated Press.

None of the accidents suffered by the nation's nuclear-weapons program has ever caused a nuclear detonation. That there was not a detonation at Lima-02 in 1964 is an indication of the safety and reliability of the Minuteman missile program, according to Bob Hicks, who did not sour on nuclear weapons after the accident.

Hicks views the nuclear triad as a necessary and effective deterrent against attacks from nations such as North Korea, whose leader Kim Jong Un is provoking worldwide anxiety about his development of nuclear weapons.

As the future of nuclear weaponry unfolds, the world may need more unflappable people like Hicks, who considers himself lucky rather than unfortunate to have been called to the site of a nuclear missile accident. "A career is made up of opportunities," Hicks said. "Being in the right place, at the right time."

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

Seeing lack of women in fly fishing, Colorado group responds

By **SETH BOSTER, The Gazette**

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — From Skaguay Reservoir, the women with fly rods hike about 2 miles through the valley, following upstream to find their very own place.

Meet the Pikes Peak Women Anglers, the Colorado Springs group representing fly fishing's under-represented gender.

Among American practitioners of the most specialized form of angling, nearly 70 percent are men, says the latest recreation participation study from the Outdoor Foundation. Women's participation has remained stagnant over the past five years.

Local enthusiasts sense there's a long way to go before reaching "50/50 on the water" by 2020 — a goal announced by Orvis, fly fishing's leading retailer.

"It's not close," says Sharon Wright, known as the Fly Fishing Cowgirl at Angler's Covey, where she works.

"A long ways away," adds fellow guide Kristina Dougherty on the way to the stream.

If they sound hopeless, they're not. On the contrary, they see progress; at least they're not wearing men's waders and boots as they did decades ago when they were teenagers growing interested in fly fishing at a time when the industry didn't even make gear for them.

And at least today they have seven others with them — among the most dedicated Pikes Peak Women Anglers making these monthly trips. By organizing the group, Wright and Dougherty hope they're advancing interest in the technical activity that they describe as therapeutic, an escape from the real world that women struggle in every day.

To them, it's no wonder that Casting for Recovery, the Western-based nonprofit that introduces fly fishing to women with breast cancer, has grown. Another nonprofit, the Denver-based Colorado Woman Flyfishers, is celebrating 20 years of building camaraderie on the river.

That camaraderie is what the Springs' Joan Bennett was searching for a few years ago after her husband died. She wanted to keep fishing, "but I wasn't crazy about fishing alone," she says. "I think a lot of women aren't crazy about fishing by themselves."

She found a local co-ed group but worried about the competition that men might bring. She found the Pikes Peak Women Anglers to be "extremely friendly and supportive," she says as she rigs her line by the stream. "Everybody wants to help everybody else."

In this group, no one keeps secrets about the flies they use. No spot is reserved, though it can be annoying when a man so casually enters their space.

"I've seen them kind of butt in because they feel like you're just a woman, you're not gonna catch that fish anyway," says Deb Wetherbee, among those introduced to fly fishing through the group. "So they try to squeeze you out. Try to."

Other men express how impressed they are — reactions that Wright and Dougherty don't remember much from years ago. Still, those are surprised responses, and they are problematic.

However much it seemed the sport wasn't meant for them, the two guides persisted on their career paths. The "intimidation factor" was there, Wright says. "The good ol' boy mentality" was apparent to Dougherty, who would go into fly fishing shops with her dad and ask questions, only for the answers to be returned to her dad, as if she were invisible.

"I didn't really care that it was male-dominated," she says. "I was proud of that ponytail sticking out of my hat."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 22 of 43

She started going to Denver's Fly Fishing Show and felt more inspired: "I'd look around, and there wasn't a lot of women around, so I thought I could throw my hat in the ring."

She's seen more women attend over the years, with the introduction of the women's showcase. Still, she goes and wishes for more technical presentations. "It's all still about being a woman in fly fishing or being safe on the river, which is good, but ..."

But she wants to be taken seriously. As does Jen Lofgren, who manages an Orvis store in Denver with 30 years as a guide and retailer. While the industry clearly is trying to draw women to fly fishing, she's worried that the focus is on fashion more than function, perpetuating a stereotype.

"I don't want a pink vest; I don't want pink waders; I don't need pink," Lofgren says. "That to me sends a message that you don't think I'm serious about what I'm doing."

She recalls taking "lumps" on her climb through the guiding ranks. She was the only woman in her training class, and once hired, she saw more trips doled out to men — perhaps due to some perception that she wasn't strong enough for the physical rigors of the backcountry.

"I don't mean to sound like a victim or something," Lofgren says. "It's just something that, for some women, it's taken time. I think that's changed a lot."

Still, Wright and Dougherty at Angler's Covey meet male clients who appear crestfallen at the sight of them. Wright repeats the questions she's heard: "Do you really know what you're doing? Can you really get me onto a fish?"

And often the guides meet women who seek their tutelage because their husband, or boyfriend, does not fly fish — as if a man is the one to teach them. Wright and Dougherty are happy to do so, and they tell them to tag along with the Pikes Peak Women Anglers.

"It's so great to see people become independent," Wright says. "To see that light go on: 'I can do it.'"

After a long wait at the stream, she hooks a brown trout — small, maybe 6 inches. "Needs to grow is all," she says as she releases it. "A future champion."

Information from: The Gazette, <http://www.gazette.com>

US rig count down by 11 this week to 898; Oklahoma loses 8

HOUSTON (AP) — The number of rigs exploring for oil and natural gas in the U.S. declined by 11 this week to 898.

That's up from the 569 rigs that were active a year ago.

Houston oilfield services company Baker Hughes said Friday that 729 rigs sought oil and 169 explored for natural gas this week.

Among major oil- and gas-producing states, Colorado added four rigs, Texas gained three, while Alaska tacked on two.

Oklahoma lost eight rigs and Louisiana shed four. New Mexico and North Dakota both lost a pair, while Utah dropped one.

Arkansas, California, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Wyoming were unchanged.

The U.S. rig count peaked at 4,530 in 1981. It bottomed out in May of 2016 at 404.

Gas pipeline developers suing hundreds of landowners

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Developers of a proposed natural gas pipeline are suing hundreds of landowners in two states to gain rights of way granted by federal regulations.

Mountain Valley Pipeline lawyers filed federal court complaints in Charleston, West Virginia and Roanoke, Virginia to obtain easements through eminent domain rights, The Charleston Gazette-Mail reported Thursday.

The pipeline would extend south for 195 miles (315 kilometers) in north-central West Virginia through 11 counties to the Virginia state line, and nearly 110 miles (175 kilometers) through six counties in Virginia.

Pipeline lawyers said in both complaints that acquiring easements through condemnation is necessary

as developers have been unable to negotiate agreements with the landowners. The filings said developers are entitled to 50-foot-wide (15-meter) rights of way for the pipeline in addition to using or building access roads and clearing trees as necessary.

The Virginia complaint lists more than 300 separate properties and the West Virginia one lists more than 140. The lawyers are seeking that both filings be handled quickly. West Virginia U.S. District Judge John T. Copenhaver Jr. was asked to schedule a hearing on or before Dec. 13 so developers can access properties by February and have the pipeline built and in operation by November or December of 2018.

Copenhaver expressed concern in a Wednesday order about the case's "vast number of defendants" and told developers to submit a report by Nov. 8 detailing how each landowner was served the lawsuit. Copenhaver also said a hearing would not be set until he was "assured" the service had been handled properly.

Also Wednesday, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Austin Caperton decided to waive the state's individual certification for the pipeline under the federal Clean Water Act.

A divided Federal Energy Regulatory Commission last month approved federal eminent domain powers allowing developers to take private property for the pipeline.

Some landowners have opposed the pipeline plan in public forums. Among opponents was a West Virginia farmer who objected at a hearing in March in Clarksburg to moves to grant the project a state environmental permit, citing concerns that land would be taken in perpetuity and worries about the impact of fossil fuels on the climate.

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

A list of the 63 Sears and Kmart stores closing in January

By The Associated Press

Sears Holdings Corp. says it will be closing another 63 stores as the ailing retailer tries to turn around its business. Liquidation sales will start as early as next Thursday. A list of the stores:

Alabama

Kmart, Albertville

Sears(asterisk), Tuscaloosa

Arizona

Kmart, Casa Grande

Sears(asterisk), Mesa

Arkansas

Sears(asterisk), Fort Smith

Sears(asterisk), Fayetteville

Colorado

Sears(asterisk), Greeley

Florida

Kmart, Clearwater

Kmart, Milton

Kmart, Sebring

Georgia

Kmart, Macon

Kmart, Tifton

Kmart, Dalton

Sears(asterisk), Lithonia

Sears(asterisk), Valdosta

Idaho

Kmart, Ammon

Illinois

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 24 of 43

Kmart, Effingham
Kentucky
Kmart, Henderson
Kmart, Glasgow
Kmart, Versailles
Kmart, Frankfort
Maryland
Sears(asterisk), Baltimore
Massachusetts
Sears(asterisk), Lanesboro (Pittsfield)
Michigan
Kmart, Clinton Township
Kmart, Battle Creek
Kmart, Mount Pleasant
Minnesota
Kmart, Thief River Falls
Missouri
Kmart, Poplar Bluff
Kmart, Independence
Kmart, Sedalia
Kmart, St. Louis
New Jersey
Sears(asterisk), Phillipsburg
North Carolina
Kmart, Jacksonville
Ohio
Kmart, St. Marys
Kmart, Cleveland
Kmart, Oregon
Kmart, Austintown
Kmart, Hillsboro
Pennsylvania
Kmart, Moosic
Kmart, Moon Township / Coraopolis
Kmart, Shamokin Dam
Kmart, Clarion
Sears, State College
Sears(asterisk), Pennsdale/Muncy
Sears(asterisk), Indiana
South Dakota
Kmart, Aberdeen
Tennessee
Kmart, Nashville
Kmart, Cookeville
Kmart, Tullahoma
Texas
Kmart, Texarkana
Sears, San Angelo
Sears(asterisk), Lufkin
Utah

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 25 of 43

Sears(asterisk), Salt Lake City
Virginia
Kmart, Richmond
Kmart, Abingdon
Kmart, Danville
Kmart, Lynchburg
Sears(asterisk), Colonial Heights
Wisconsin
Kmart, Stevens Point
West Virginia
Kmart, Vienna
Kmart, Martinsburg
Kmart, Beckley
Wyoming
Sears, Cheyenne

(asterisk)The Sears Auto Center at this store will close in early December 2017. The store itself will close in late January 2018.

Rapid City to create 'transformation campus' for homeless

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Officials have identified a preferred site for a campus to serve people who are homeless in Rapid City.

The concept is being described as a transformation campus that would provide transitional housing, addiction treatment, counseling and job training. Community organizations providing those services will be encouraged to relocate to the campus or have a presence there, the Rapid City Journal reported .

"We want to remove barriers, get basic needs met and invest right away in getting people as independent as they can be so they can become productive, thriving members of the community rather than spending resources on them over and over and not helping them get anywhere," said Charity Doyle, the project manager.

The preferred site focuses on nearly 4 acres situated on the edge of downtown Rapid City, said Rapid City Collective Impact, a program of the Black Hills Area Community Foundation. The program announced Thursday that the land and buildings at the site are former National American University property now owned by corporations registered to local developer Hani Shafai.

Doyle said talks are underway to acquire the property with private and city funds. She said Shafai plans to construct new buildings for some of the displaced tenants.

Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender called the proposed site "outstanding" and expressed support for a potential financial contribution from the city.

"I think it's logical for the city to play some part in this type of investment in the community," he said. "But all the details have yet to be worked out."

Doyle said the campus will be a good neighbor to the residential areas it will border.

"These are not trouble-making people," she said. "These are people that are just battling poverty in our community."

Doyle expects the campus to open by March 2019.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 26 of 43

Wisconsin cranberry farmers hope to generate demand overseas

TOMAH, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin's cranberry farmers are working to generate demand for the fruit overseas to alleviate an oversupply that's driving down prices.

Food buyers, bloggers and social media influencers from China and India visited Wisconsin's cranberry farms as part of the U.S. Cranberry Marketing Committee's Reverse Trade Mission, Wisconsin Public Radio reported.

About 20 people visited the Cutler Cranberry Co. farm near Tomah last week to see how the fruit is harvested, processed and packaged. Committee officials hope visitors will return home and spread the word about the fruit's uses and potential health benefits.

The trade effort cost about \$60,000 and was paid for by federal grants and fees paid on barrels of cranberries.

A 2013 survey found that less than 4 percent of Chinese consumers were aware of cranberries as a fruit, said Mabel Zhuang, founder of M.Z. Consulting in Shanghai, which works with the committee.

"But after five years promotion, now the awareness rate has increased to over 50 percent," she said. "It's a huge increase in the past five years."

Only sweetened, dried cranberries are currently allowed to be imported into China. The U.S. and Chinese governments are working to create an agreement to allow for fresh cranberries from the U.S. to be imported into China.

There was a record harvest of the fruit in 2016 and a strong harvest of the fruit this year, said Tom Lochner, the association's executive director.

"Sales of cranberry products are growing. We see an increase each year, probably averaging 3 to 4 percent a year over the last five or six years," Lochner said. "The problem is we've been growing them faster than we're selling them. So, that's why we've seen an accumulation of inventories."

The fruit's abundance caused the price of a 100-pound barrel to drop by 21 percent last year.

Information from: Wisconsin Public Radio, <http://www.wpr.org>

35 states and DC back bid to collect online sales taxes

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Thirty-five state attorneys general and the District of Columbia this week signed on to support South Dakota's legal bid to collect sales taxes from out-of-state internet retailers.

South Dakota is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review whether retailers can be required to collect sales taxes in states where they lack a physical presence. The case could have national implications for e-commerce.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley said in a statement Thursday that Colorado filed a friend-of-the-court brief supporting South Dakota's petition to the high court. The state is seeking to overturn legal rulings issued mostly before the online shopping boom that hamstringing officials who want to collect sales taxes from out-of-state retailers.

"South Dakota is leading the national fight to bring tax fairness for our local retailers and to help support main street businesses," Jackley said.

The support includes neighboring Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and Wyoming. The other states are: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin.

The brief says the jurisdictions all rely on consumption taxes to fund essential government operations.

States have pushed Congress to address the issue without success, and one estimate put the loss to states at roughly \$26 billion in 2015. South Dakota estimates it loses about \$50 million annually to e-commerce.

"The problem with the physical-presence rule is that it was first conceived of in 1967, two years before the moon landing and decades before the first retail transaction occurred over the Internet," according

to the brief.

Some companies such as Amazon have decided to collect state sales taxes despite the precedent.

South Dakota legislators passed a law last year requiring collection of the tax. The law was struck down in September by the state Supreme Court due to precedent. The state had welcomed the defeat so it could try to get the U.S. Supreme Court to take up the case.

It takes four U.S. Supreme Court justices to vote to hear a case, or grant certiorari. Jackley said that he hopes the high court agrees to hear the case and issues a decision by June 2018.

Facing tumult at home, Trump sets out on lengthy Asia trip

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — On his most grueling and consequential trip abroad, President Donald Trump stands ready to exhort Asian allies and rivals on the need to counter the dangers posed by North Korea's nuclear threat.

The 12-day, five-country trip, the longest Far East itinerary for a president in a generation, comes at a precarious moment for Trump. Just days ago, his former campaign chairman was indicted and another adviser pleaded guilty as part of an investigation into possible collusion between his 2016 campaign and Russian officials.

With Trump set to arrive Sunday in Japan, the trip presents a crucial international test for a president looking to reassure Asian allies worried that his inward-looking "America First" agenda could cede power in the region to China. They also are rattled by his bellicose rhetoric about North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The North's growing missile arsenal threatens the capitals Trump will visit.

"The trip comes, I would argue, at a very inopportune time for the president. He is under growing domestic vulnerabilities that we all know about, hour to hour," said Jonathan Pollack, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington. "The conjunction of those issues leads to the palpable sense of unease about the potential crisis in Korea."

Trump's spontaneous, and at times reckless, style flies in the face of the generations-old traditions and protocol that govern diplomatic exchanges in Asia. The grand receptions expected for him in Tokyo, Seoul, Beijing and beyond are sure to be lavish attempts to impress the president, who raved about the extravagances shown him on earlier visits to Saudi Arabia and France.

The trip will also put Trump in face-to-face meetings with authoritarian leaders for whom he has expressed admiration. They include China's Xi Jinping, whom Trump has likened to "a king," and the Philippines' Rodrigo Duterte, who has sanctioned the extrajudicial killings of drug dealers.

Trump may also have the chance for a second private audience with Russian President Vladimir Putin, on the sidelines of a summit in Vietnam.

The White House is signaling that Trump will push American economic interests in the region, but the North Korean threat is expected to dominate the trip. One of Trump's two major speeches will come before the National Assembly in Seoul. Fiery threats against the North could resonate differently than they do from the distance of Washington.

Trump will forgo a trip to the Demilitarized Zone, the stark border between North and South Korea. All U.S. presidents except one since Ronald Reagan have visited the DMZ in a sign of solidarity with Seoul. The White House contends that Trump's commitment to South Korea is already crystal clear, as evidenced by his war of words with Kim and his threats to deliver "fire and fury" to North Korea if it does not stop threatening American allies.

The escalation of rhetoric, a departure from the conduct of past presidents, has undermined confidence in the U.S. as a stabilizing presence in Asia.

"There's a danger if there is a lot of muscle flexing," said Mike Chinoy, a senior fellow at the U.S.-China Institute at the University of Southern California. "Trump has been going right up to the edge and I wouldn't rule out some sort of forceful North Korean reaction to Trump's presence in the region," he said.

The White House said Trump would be undeterred.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 28 of 43

"The president will use whatever language he wants to use, obviously. That's been of great reassurance to our allies, partners and others in the region who are literally under the gun of this regime," White House national security adviser H.R. McMaster said Thursday. "I don't think the president really modulates his language, have you noticed?"

At each stop, Trump will urge his hosts to squeeze North Korea by stopping trading with the North and sending home North Korean citizens working abroad. That includes China, which competes with the U.S. for influence in the region and provides much of North Korea's economic lifeblood.

The White House is banking on the close relationships Trump has established with some Asian leaders to help make his demands more palatable.

Officials acknowledge that Trump does not yet have a feel for Moon Jae-in, South Korea's newly elected liberal president. But Trump has demonstrated cordial relations with Xi and struck up a friendship with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, with whom he planned to golf on Sunday.

While Xi and Abe have recently tightened their control on power, Trump arrives weakened by low poll numbers, a stalled domestic agenda and the swirling Russia probe.

Many in the Asian capitals will view Trump warily.

His early withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership demolished the Obama administration's effort to boost trade with some of the world's fastest-growing economies and sustain America's post-World War II strategic commitment to Asia.

Trump is expected to outline his economic vision for the region, which includes a preference for one-to-one relationships over multinational agreements, during a speech at a summit in Vietnam. He is not expected to offer any concrete economic policy changes while in Asia, though some new contracts for American businesses may be announced.

His administration's eager embrace of a deeper strategic partnership with India and other democracies across the Pacific risks alienating China and Pakistan. The White House did, at the last minute, extend the trip for an extra day so Trump could attend the East Asia Summit in the Philippines.

At the same time, Trump can point to some early successes in Asia.

He won Beijing's support for the toughest international sanctions yet on North Korea. Tensions in the disputed South China Sea that escalated as China conducted a massive land-reclamation effort on Obama's watch have ebbed. Long-standing U.S. alliances with Thailand and the Philippines have been repaired by engaging their authoritarian leaders and sidelining human rights concerns, though the White House suggested Trump may chide Duterte privately.

"How much does it help to yell about these problems?" McMaster said.

The White House hopes the trip could offer a chance at a reset as a tumultuous first year in office winds down. Trump's advisers see it as an opportunity for the president to forcefully assert U.S. pledges to its allies and deliver a fierce warning directly to North Korea's Kim, whom he has belittled as "little Rocket Man."

Trump's trip will be the longest Asia visit for any U.S. president since George H.W. Bush went there in 1992, when he fell ill during a state dinner with Japan's prime minister.

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Matthew Pennington in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

Lebanese prime minister resigns amid tensions with Hezbollah

By ZEINA KARAM, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanese prime minister Saad Hariri resigned from his post Saturday during a trip to Saudi Arabia in a surprise move that plunged the country into uncertainty amid heightened regional tensions.

In a televised address from Riyadh, Hariri fired a vicious tirade against Iran and its Lebanese proxy Hezbollah group for what he said was their meddling in Arab affairs and said "Iran's arms in the region will be cut off."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 29 of 43

"The evil that Iran spreads in the region will backfire on it," Hariri said, accusing Tehran of spreading chaos, strife and destruction throughout the region.

Hariri was appointed prime minister in late 2016 and headed a 30-member national unity cabinet that included the Shiite militant Hezbollah. The government has largely succeeded in protecting the country from the effects of the civil war in neighboring Syria.

The country is sharply divided along a camp loyal to Saudi Arabia, headed by the Sunni Muslim Hariri, and a camp loyal to Iran represented by Hezbollah. President Michel Aoun, who was elected in October 2016 after more than two years of presidential vacuum, is a close ally of Hezbollah.

His election was made possible after Hariri endorsed him for president, based on an understanding that Aoun would then appoint him as prime minister.

In a statement, the presidential office said Aoun was informed by Hariri in a phone call of his resignation, adding that the president now awaits Hariri's return to the country to clarify the circumstances of his resignation and proceed accordingly.

Hariri's bombshell resignation Saturday was expected to raise tensions in the country and ushers in a stage of deep uncertainty and potential instability, throwing into doubt parliamentary elections slated for early next year which have been repeatedly delayed.

It comes amid a sharp escalation in Saudi rhetoric against its regional archrival Iran.

In the first Iranian comment, Hossein Sheikholeslam, an adviser to Iran's foreign minister, described Hariri's resignation as unwise and said "it does not bode well for Lebanon." In comments to al-Alam TV, he said both the U.S. and Saudi Arabia are seeking an escalation.

In his speech, Hariri suggested he feared for his life and said the climate in the country is similar to the one that existed before his father, the late prime minister Rafik Hariri, was assassinated in 2005.

Several Hezbollah members are being tried in absentia for the killing by a U.N.-backed tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands. Hezbollah denies any involvement.

Hezbollah has sent thousands of its fighters to Syria to shore up President Bashar Assad's government. The group's intervention in Syria is highly controversial in Lebanon.

Hariri said Hezbollah's policies have put Lebanon "in the eye of the storm." His attacks on Hezbollah come on the heels of new U.S. sanctions on the group that many fear will impact negatively on the Lebanese economy.

"Hezbollah was able in past decades to impose a reality in Lebanon by force of arms directed at the chests of Syrians and Lebanese," he said.

"I declare my resignation from the premiership of the Lebanese government, with the certainty that the will of the Lebanese is strong," Hariri said.

"When I took office, I promised you that I would seek to unite the Lebanese and end political division ... but I have been unable to do so. Despite my efforts, Iran continues to abuse Lebanon," he said.

In Beirut's Tarik al-Jadideh neighborhood, a predominantly Sunni neighborhood supportive of Hariri, residents described the shock resignation as a good step.

"Prime Minister Hariri has reached the stage where he is not able anymore to bear the pressure on Lebanon by Arab nations, due to the intervention of Iran," said Mohyeddine Awwad, sitting in a cafe where posters of Hariri hung.

Earlier this week, Saudi State Minister for Gulf Affairs Thamer al-Sabhan sharply criticized Hezbollah, calling for its "toppling" and promising "astonishing developments" in the coming days during an interview with the Lebanese TV station MTV.

Al-Sabhan met with Hariri in Saudi Arabia when the now resigned prime minister was visiting earlier this week. Hariri abruptly returned to the kingdom later Friday before his bombshell announcement Saturday.

In tweets after meeting Hariri, al-Sabhan described it as "long and fruitful meeting" that resulted in agreements over many issues that concern the Lebanese. "What's coming is better, God willing," al-Sabhan tweeted on Tuesday. In a series of tweets, al-Sabhan criticized the Lebanese government for tolerating Hezbollah's criticism of the kingdom.

He earlier said that those who cooperate with Hezbollah must be "punished."

Associated Press writer Sarah El Deeb in Beirut and Nasser Kariri in Tehran contributed to this report.

Congressional leaders call for sexual harassment training

By ERICA WERNER and JULIET LINDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Leading lawmakers are calling for mandatory training and other steps to prevent sexual harassment in Congress as the national spotlight on gender hostility in the workplace falls on Capitol Hill.

The calls from House Speaker Paul Ryan and others follow a series of news reports about women staffers and lawmakers experiencing harassment and sexual advances on the job. The Associated Press reported Friday on the experiences of one current and three former female lawmakers, who said they had fended off unwanted advances, sexual comments and, in one case, physical contact from a male colleague in Congress. The issue was already in the national spotlight because of the sex assault allegations against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein and a growing list of boldface names in entertainment and the media.

On Friday, Ryan sent lawmakers a letter urging them to undergo sexual harassment training and make it mandatory for their staffs.

"Any form of harassment has no place in this institution. Each of us has a responsibility to ensure a workplace that is free from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation," wrote Ryan, R-Wis. "We can and should lead by example."

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi called for passage of Democratic-sponsored legislation that would require anti-harassment training, enhance anti-retaliation protections for staffers who report harassment, and streamline dispute resolution. The recent focus on the issue has made clear that Congress' tendency to self-police has resulted in lax rules, a patchwork of policies that vary from one office to another, and a complaints clearinghouse lodged in an Office of Compliance that requires a lengthy counseling and mediation period — and that many staffers have not even heard of.

Pelosi said all that needs to change.

"I think we are at a tipping point in our country," the California Democrat told The Associated Press. "For a long time the Congress was a place where every congressional office had its own rules. ... The system needs to be changed."

The House Administration Committee, which oversees the operations of the House, also announced plans to convene a hearing Nov. 14 focused on training, policies and mechanisms in place to guard against and report sexual harassment.

In the Senate, New York Democrat Kirsten Gillibrand, who went public several years ago with accounts of inappropriate comments from male senators, also announced legislation on the issue. Gillibrand's bill would streamline the reporting process within the Office of Compliance, remove the current mediation requirement and give interns the same resources as full-time staff.

"Congress should never be above the law or play by their own set of rules. The current process has little accountability and even less sensitivity to victims of sexual harassment," Gillibrand said.

GOP Rep. Mary Bono told AP she once confronted a male colleague on the floor of the House after he made repeated suggestive comments, including telling her he'd thought about her in the shower. The behavior stopped, but the lawmaker remains in the House, she said.

Rep. Linda Sanchez described being propositioned repeatedly in years past by one lawmaker who still serves, and ogled and groped by a second who's since left the House. Former Rep. Hilda Solis disclosed repeated come-ons from a lawmaker, but declined to go into detail, while former Sen. Barbara Boxer described a years-ago incident at a hearing where a lawmaker made a sexually suggestive comment about her from the dais that the committee chairman seconded.

The female lawmakers declined to identify the men they were talking about, and did not report the incidents, with a couple of them noting it was not clear where they would have lodged such a complaint.

On Friday, additional female lawmakers offered public comments on the situations that can result in an

environment that is only 20 percent women and still beholden in some ways to out-of-date traditions.

Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-Ill., said she has asked friends and colleagues in the House whether they knew of any woman who had advanced in their careers without being sexually harassed. "Without exception, they don't know of anybody," Bustos said. "We are all talking about it because it's rampant. It's absolutely rampant."

As to whether she herself had been harassed by any fellow member, Bustos said: "It depends on how you want to define harassment."

"How I've chosen to handle it is I just sort of dismiss it and I don't give it another thought," Bustos said. "I hope what happens out of all of this news coverage is it changes some people's behavior as far as comments they make, or if it's worse than that. I hope something good comes out of it."

Associated Press writers Kevin Freking and Matthew Daly contributed to this report.

Latest JFK files say no evidence found of CIA link to Oswald

By DEB RIECHMANN and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Newly released government documents regarding John F. Kennedy's assassination say allegations that Lee Harvey Oswald was connected to the CIA were "totally unfounded."

A 1975 CIA memo says a thorough search of agency records in and outside the United States was conducted to determine whether Oswald had been used by the agency or connected with it in "any conceivable way."

The memo said the search came up empty. The memo also said there was also no indication that any other U.S. agency used Oswald as a source or for recruitment.

The National Archives released another 676 government documents related to the assassination on Friday — the third public release so far this year. Under law, all the documents were to be disclosed to the public last week.

Most of the latest release comprises 553 records from the CIA that previously were withheld in their entirety. There also are records from the Justice and Defense departments, the House Select Committee on Assassinations and the National Archives.

University of Virginia historian Larry Sabato complained that many of the documents in the latest release were still heavily redacted. He tweeted about a 144-page record, titled "Material Reviewed at CIA headquarters by House Select Committee on Assassinations staff members," that had writing on only a handful of pages.

President Donald Trump has ordered the release of all records related to the assassination, and they are expected to be made public on a rolling basis during the next three to four weeks. He also directed agencies to take another look at redactions and withhold information only in the rarest of circumstances.

One record showed how U.S. officials scrambled after the assassination to round up information about Oswald's trip to Mexico City weeks earlier. Officials wondered whether Oswald had been trying to get visas at the Soviet and Cuban embassies in Mexico City in order to "make a quick escape after assassinating the president."

A CIA message sent Nov. 24, 1963 — two days after Kennedy was killed — said an "important question" that remained unsolved was whether Oswald had been planning to travel right away or return to the U.S. and leave later.

The message said that although it appeared Oswald "was then thinking only about a peaceful change of residence to the Soviet Union, it is also possible that he was getting documented to make a quick escape after assassinating the president."

Another record dated April 11, 1964, recounted a visit to the CIA by three staff members of the Warren Commission, which was set up to investigate the assassination.

The memo said the staff members indicated that Thomas Mann, former ambassador to Mexico and then-assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, "still has the 'feeling in his guts' that (Cuban leader

Fidel) Castro hired Oswald to kill Kennedy. They said, however, that the commission has not been able to get any proof of that.”

Also in the latest release was a 20-page FBI analysis of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. dated March 12, 1968 — a month before he was assassinated on April 4, 1968. One section alleges that King was attracted to former members of the Communist Party in America. It notes that two previous aides were party members and eight others, who helped shape King’s organization in its early stages, had communist affiliations.

The analysis said that in the early 1960s, the Communist Party was trying to get a black labor coalition to further its goals in the United States. It referenced a May 1961 issue of a communist newspaper that stated, “Communists will do their utmost to strengthen and unite the Negro movement and ring it to the backing of the working people.”

The FBI said King and his organization were “made-to-order” to achieve these objectives.

The FBI’s surveillance of King is well-known and the analysis includes several pages about his sexual life. One document said a black minister who attended a workshop to train ministers in February 1968 in Miami “expressed his disgust with the behind-the-scene drinking, fornication and homosexuality that went on at the conference.”

“Throughout the ensuing years and until this date, King has continued to carry on his sexual aberrations secretly while holding himself out to public view as a moral leader of religious conviction,” the FBI report said.

Durkin Richer reported from Boston.

Territorial losses suffered by Islamic State in Syria, Iraq

By SARAH EL DEEB and SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — With new losses, the Islamic State group has been driven from more than 96 percent of the large parts of Iraq and Syria it once held, crushing its goal of establishing a “caliphate” that challenges existing borders.

The militants are left fighting for a final stretch inside Syria and desert regions along the Iraq-Syria border. Three years ago, they had defiantly erased that line, knocking down berms marking the frontier.

Since then, they have lost infrastructure, resources, supply routes, control over about 8 million people and — most importantly — administration of a contiguous territory. The extremist group may still prove to be a major challenge for months as it turns to a clandestine insurgency.

On Friday, Syrian President Bashar Assad’s military announced the capture of the eastern Syrian city of Deir el-Zour, while Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi proclaimed victory in retaking the town of Qaim on the border, the militants’ last significant urban area in Iraq.

What the group lost in the last 11 months, and what is left:

QAIM

Iraqi forces’ last conventional military fight against IS played out in Qaim, on the western edge of Anbar province along the border with Syria. Operations began there in the last week of October. On Friday, Iraq said it now controls the town and the nearby border crossing with Syria.

The crossing in the Euphrates River Valley was used by IS to move fighters and supplies between the two countries when the group controlled nearly a third of Iraqi territory.

Brett McGurk, the U.S. envoy for the fight against the Islamic State group, said Thursday the group is now facing “annihilation” with the losses in western Iraq and nearly 96 percent of its territory. He earlier said 6.6 million people have been liberated as the group lost over 90,000 square kilometers (35,000 square miles) in the last year.

The Islamic State “has not reclaimed single meter of this ground. Migrant and refugee flows reversed,” McGurk tweeted Thursday.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 33 of 43

DEIR EL-ZOUR

The Syrian government declared Friday that it has taken full control of Deir el-Zour, where its troops and tens of thousands of civilians have been besieged by IS militants for nearly three years.

Gen. Ali Mayhoub, spokesman for the Syrian army, called it a strategic victory, noting Deir el-Zour's location on a crossroads linking Syria's eastern, northern and central regions, and its role in distributing the province's oil.

Mayhoub said IS militants are now isolated and encircled in the countryside east of the city. Government forces are focused on Boukamal, the last IS urban center in Syria.

Kurdish forces backed by the U.S. also are making a bid for the strategic border town from the other side of the Euphrates, renewing fears of a confrontation between the two forces seeking to control the border area.

RAQQA

Raqqa, the IS group's de-facto capital, fell to Kurdish-led forces on Oct. 17, four months after operations to reclaim it began. The city was the group's hub of operations, and its capture was a major symbolic blow.

The first city to fall into IS hands, foreign fighters flocked to Raqqa. The U.S.-led coalition estimated that 40,000 fighters from Europe, North Africa and Asia once flowed into IS territory.

The group carried out beheadings and other killings in a public square in Raqqa to try to project its ruthless nature. The city also was the center of its media operations, where videos about the benefits of life under IS were produced.

Planning for some of the major violence in Europe was traced to Raqqa, including the deadly attacks in Paris in 2015 and in Brussels in 2016.

MAYADEEN

On Oct. 14, the Syrian government said its troops and allied fighters seized the town of Mayadeen, on the western bank of the Euphrates River. The town had become a refuge for the militant group's leaders from fighting in Raqqa and Deir el-Zour to the north and Iraq to the east.

Mayadeen was also a major point in the race for control of the oil-rich eastern Deir el-Zour province. Washington has feared advances by Syrian troops and allied fighters toward the Iraqi border could help Iran expand its influence in the region and establish a "Shiite corridor" of land links from Iraq to Lebanon, and all the way to Israel. Iran backs militias fighting alongside the Syrian military.

The Syrian government had feared that U.S.-backed forces would get to Mayadeen first, but the militants pulled back a few days after the battle began, disappearing into the desert.

HAWIJA

It took 20 days to liberate Hawija, depriving IS of its last significant urban area in Iraq.

Iraqi forces fought alongside the Kurdish peshmerga to retake the city in oil-rich Kirkuk province on Oct. 10. Hundreds of IS fighters and their families surrendered to the Kurdish forces.

The fall of the city also eliminated a unifying factor for the peshmerga and the Iraqi military and federal police along with their Shiite militia allies. That opened the way for the tension that followed among the former allies.

TAL AFAR

The town was liberated by coalition-backed Iraqi forces Aug. 30, ending the IS presence in northern Iraq. Thousands of IS fighters and their families turned themselves over to Iraqi and Kurdish forces as the town fell, the first instance of mass surrenders of IS fighters on the heels of a military victory.

Unlike the nine-month battle for Mosul, the swift military victory in Tal Afar was the first sign of the battlefield losses had weakened IS as a conventional military force, according to the coalition.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 34 of 43

MOSUL

Iraqi forces declared victory in Mosul on July 10. While clashes continued between small groups of IS fighters in tunnels under the old city for weeks after, the loss of Mosul effectively broke the back of the caliphate.

Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul was a hub for meetings of the IS leadership. It was the largest city under the militants' control and was an important site of facilities for making car bombs, smaller explosives and mortar rounds. The militants used civilians as shields to prevent the weapons factories from being targeted by coalition airstrikes.

The fight for Mosul was long and costly, killing thousands of civilians and Iraqi security forces. IS fighters used years of tight control of the city to build defenses that prolonged the battle and caused widespread death and destruction.

WHAT IS LEFT

The Syrian city of Boukamal is the last major urban center in the hands of IS.

The group also is spread along the Syria-Iraq border in villages in the provinces of Hassakeh and Deir el-Zour in eastern Syria.

There also are small IS cells in Iraq's Nineveh, Anbar and Salahudin provinces, where the central government has lacked strong control for years.

Along this thin line on the border of the two countries, the militants still have a presence in a region running west of the Euphrates River toward the Syrian desert, between Deir el-Zour and Homs provinces. There also is a small IS presence near Damascus.

In a briefing last week, Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said small numbers of IS leaders are "attempting to leverage local insurgencies" in Africa and Asia as they lose territory in Iraq and Syria.

The group's militants and local affiliates in Egypt, Libya, the Sahel area of Africa and the Philippines continue to challenge authorities, carrying out regular attacks.

George reported from Baghdad. Brian Rohan in Cairo contributed.

How Russian hackers pried into Clinton campaign emails

By **RAPHAEL SATTER, JEFF DONN and CHAD DAY, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was just before noon in Moscow on March 10, 2016, when the first volley of malicious messages hit the Hillary Clinton campaign.

The first 29 phishing emails were almost all misfires. Addressed to people who worked for Clinton during her first presidential run, the messages bounced back untouched.

Except one.

Within nine days, some of the campaign's most consequential secrets would be in the hackers' hands, part of a massive operation aimed at vacuuming up millions of messages from thousands of inboxes across the world.

An Associated Press investigation into the digital break-ins that disrupted the U.S. presidential contest has sketched out an anatomy of the hack that led to months of damaging disclosures about the Democratic Party's nominee. It wasn't just a few aides that the hackers went after; it was an all-out blitz across the Democratic Party. They tried to compromise Clinton's inner circle and more than 130 party employees, supporters and contractors.

While U.S. intelligence agencies have concluded that Russia was behind the email thefts, the AP drew on forensic data to report Thursday that the hackers known as Fancy Bear were closely aligned with the interests of the Russian government.

The AP's reconstruction— based on a database of 19,000 malicious links recently shared by cybersecurity firm Secureworks — shows how the hackers worked their way around the Clinton campaign's top-of-the-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 35 of 43

line digital security to steal chairman John Podesta's emails in March 2016.

It also helps explain how a Russian-linked intermediary could boast to a Trump policy adviser, a month later, that the Kremlin had "thousands of emails" worth of dirt on Clinton.

PHISHING FOR VICTIMS

The rogue messages that first flew across the internet March 10 were dressed up to look like they came from Google, the company that provided the Clinton campaign's email infrastructure. The messages urged users to boost their security or change their passwords while in fact steering them toward decoy websites designed to collect their credentials.

One of the first people targeted was Rahul Sreenivasan, who had worked as a Clinton organizer in Texas in 2008 — his first paid job in politics. Sreenivasan, now a legislative staffer in Austin, was dumbfounded when told by the AP that hackers had tried to break into his 2008 email — an address he said had been dead for nearly a decade.

"They probably crawled the internet for this stuff," he said.

Almost everyone else targeted in the initial wave was, like Sreenivasan, a 2008 staffer whose defunct email address had somehow lingered online.

But one email made its way to the account of another staffer who'd worked for Clinton in 2008 and joined again in 2016, the AP found. It's possible the hackers broke in and stole her contacts; the data shows the phishing links sent to her were clicked several times.

Secureworks' data reveals when phishing links were created and indicates whether they were clicked. But it doesn't show whether people entered their passwords.

Within hours of a second volley emailed March 11, the hackers hit pay dirt. All of a sudden, they were sending links aimed at senior Clinton officials' nonpublic 2016 addresses, including those belonging to longtime Clinton aide Robert Russo and campaign chairman John Podesta.

The Clinton campaign was no easy target; several former employees said the organization put particular stress on digital safety.

Work emails were protected by two-factor authentication, a technique that uses a second passcode to keep accounts secure. Most messages were deleted after 30 days and staff went through phishing drills. Security awareness even followed the campaigners into the bathroom, where someone put a picture of a toothbrush under the words: "You shouldn't share your passwords either."

Two-factor authentication may have slowed the hackers, but it didn't stop them. After repeated attempts to break into various staffers' hillaryclinton.com accounts, the hackers turned to the personal Gmail addresses. It was there on March 19 that they targeted top Clinton lieutenants — including campaign manager Robby Mook, senior adviser Jake Sullivan and political fixer Philippe Reines.

A malicious link was generated for Podesta at 11:28 a.m. Moscow time, the AP found. Documents subsequently published by WikiLeaks show that the rogue email arrived in his inbox six minutes later. The link was clicked twice.

Podesta's messages — at least 50,000 of them — were in the hackers' hands.

A SERIOUS BREACH

Though the heart of the campaign was now compromised, the hacking efforts continued. Three new volleys of malicious messages were generated on the 22nd, 23rd and 25th of March, targeting communications director Jennifer Palmieri and Clinton confidante Huma Abedin, among others.

The torrent of phishing emails caught the attention of the FBI, which had spent the previous six months urging the Democratic National Committee in Washington to raise its shield against suspected Russian hacking. In late March, FBI agents paid a visit to Clinton's Brooklyn headquarters, where they were received warily, given the agency's investigation into the candidate's use of a private email server while secretary of state.

The phishing messages also caught the attention of Secureworks, a subsidiary of Dell Technologies,

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 36 of 43

which had been following Fancy Bear, whom Secureworks codenamed Iron Twilight.

Fancy Bear had made a critical mistake.

It fumbled a setting in the Bitly link-shortening service that it was using to sneak its emails past Google's spam filter. The blunder exposed whom they were targeting.

It was late March when Secureworks discovered the hackers were going after Democrats.

"As soon as we started seeing some of those hillaryclinton.com email addresses coming through, the DNC email addresses, we realized it's going to be an interesting twist to this," said Rafe Pilling, a senior security researcher with Secureworks.

By early April Fancy Bear was getting increasingly aggressive, the AP found. More than 60 bogus emails were prepared for Clinton campaign and DNC staffers on April 6 alone, and the hackers began hunting for Democrats beyond New York and Washington, targeting the digital communications director for Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf and a deputy director in the office of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

The group's hackers seemed particularly interested in Democratic officials working on voter registration issues: Pratt Wiley, the DNC's then-director of voter protection, had been targeted as far back as October 2015 and the hackers tried to pry open his inbox as many as 15 times over six months.

Employees at several organizations connected to the Democrats were targeted, including the Clinton Foundation, the Center for American Progress, technology provider NGP VAN, campaign strategy firm 270 Strategies, and partisan news outlet Shareblue Media.

As the hacking intensified, other elements swung into place. On April 12, 2016, someone paid \$37 worth of bitcoin to the Romanian web hosting company THCServers.com to reserve a website called Election-leaks.com, according to transaction records obtained by AP. A botched registration meant the site never got off the ground, but the records show THC received a nearly identical payment a week later to create DCLeaks.com.

By the second half of April, the DNC's senior leadership was beginning to realize something was amiss. One DNC consultant, Alexandra Chalupa, received an April 20 warning from Yahoo saying her account was under threat from state-sponsored hackers, according to a screengrab she circulated among colleagues.

The Trump campaign had gotten a whiff of Clinton email hacking, too. According to recently unsealed court documents, former Trump foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos said that it was at an April 26 meeting at a London hotel that he was told by a professor closely connected to the Russian government that the Kremlin had obtained compromising information about Clinton.

"They have dirt on her," Papadopoulos said he was told. "They have thousands of emails."

A few days later, Amy Dacey, then the DNC chief executive, got an urgent call.

There'd been a serious breach at the DNC.

'DON'T EVEN TALK TO YOUR DOG ABOUT IT'

It was 4 p.m. on Friday June 10 when some 100 staffers filed into the Democratic National Committee's main conference room for a mandatory, all-hands meeting.

"What I am about to tell you cannot leave this room," DNC chief operating officer Lindsey Reynolds told the assembled crowd, according to two people there at the time.

Everyone needed to turn in their laptops immediately; there would be no last-minute emails; no downloading documents and no exceptions. Reynolds insisted on total secrecy.

"Don't even talk to your dog about it," she was quoted as saying.

Reynolds didn't return messages seeking comment.

Two days later, as the cybersecurity firm that was brought in to clean out the DNC's computers finished its work, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange told a British Sunday television show that emails related to Clinton were "pending publication."

"WikiLeaks has a very good year ahead," he said.

On Tuesday, June 14, the Democrats went public with the allegation that their computers had been compromised by Russian state-backed hackers, including Fancy Bear.

Shortly after noon the next day, William Bastone, the editor-in-chief of investigative news site The Smok-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 37 of 43

ing Gun, got an email bearing a small cache of documents marked "CONFIDENTIAL."

"Hi," the message said. "This is Guccifer 2.0 and this is me who hacked Democratic National Committee."

'CAN IT INFLUENCE THE ELECTION?'

Guccifer 2.0 acted as a kind of master of ceremonies during the summer of leaks, proclaiming that the DNC's stolen documents were in WikiLeaks' hands, publishing a selection of the material himself and constantly chatting up journalists over Twitter in a bid to keep the story in the press.

He appeared particularly excited to hear on June 24 that his leaks had sparked a lawsuit against the DNC by disgruntled supporters of Clinton rival Bernie Sanders.

"Can it influence the election in any how?" he asked a journalist with Russia's Sputnik News, in uneven English.

Later that month Guccifer 2.0 began directing reporters to the newly launched DCLeaks site, which was also dribbling out stolen material on Democrats. When WikiLeaks joined the fray on July 22 with its own disclosures the leaks metastasized into a crisis, triggering intraparty feuding that forced the resignation of the DNC's chairwoman and drew angry protests at the Democratic National Convention.

Guccifer 2.0, WikiLeaks and DCLeaks ultimately published more than 150,000 emails stolen from more than a dozen Democrats, according to an AP count.

The AP has since found that each of one of those Democrats had previously been targeted by Fancy Bear, either at their personal Gmail addresses or via the DNC, a finding established by running targets' emails against the Secureworks' list.

All three leak-branded sites have distanced themselves from Moscow. DCLeaks claimed to be run by American hacktivists. WikiLeaks said Russia wasn't its source. Guccifer 2.0 claimed to be Romanian.

But there were signs of dishonesty from the start. The first document Guccifer 2.0 published on June 15 came not from the DNC as advertised but from Podesta's inbox, according to a former DNC official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press.

The official said the word "CONFIDENTIAL" was not in the original document.

Guccifer 2.0 had airbrushed it to catch reporters' attention.

'PLEASE GOD, DON'T LET IT BE ME'

To hear the defeated candidate tell it, there's no doubt the leaks helped swing the election.

"Even if Russian interference made only a marginal difference," Clinton told an audience at a recent speech at Stanford University, "this election was won at the margins, in the Electoral College."

It's clear Clinton's campaign was profoundly destabilized by the sudden exposures that regularly radiated from every hacked inbox. It wasn't just her arch-sounding speeches to Wall Street executives or the exposure of political machinations but also the brutal stripping of so many staffers' privacy.

"It felt like your friend had just been robbed, but it wasn't just one friend, it was all your friends at the same time by the same criminal," said Jesse Ferguson, a former Clinton spokesman.

An atmosphere of dread settled over the Democrats as the disclosures continued.

One staffer described walking through the DNC's office in Washington to find employees scrolling through articles about Putin and Russia. Another said she began looking over her shoulder when returning from Clinton headquarters in Brooklyn after sundown. Some feared they were being watched; a car break-in, a strange woman found lurking in a backyard late at night and even a snake spotted on the grounds of the DNC all fed an undercurrent of fear.

Even those who hadn't worked at Democratic organizations for years were anxious. Brent Kimmel, a former technologist at the DNC, remembers watching the leaks stream out and thinking: "Please God, don't let it be me."

'MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN'

On Oct. 7, it was Podesta.

The day began badly, with Clinton's phone buzzing with crank messages after its number was exposed in

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 38 of 43

a leak from the day before. The number had to be changed immediately; a former campaign official said that Abedin, Clinton's confidante, had to call staffers one at a time with Clinton's new contact information because no one dared put it in an email.

The same afternoon, just as the American electorate was digesting a lewd audio tape of Trump boasting about sexually assaulting women, WikiLeaks began publishing the emails stolen from Podesta.

The publications sparked a media stampede as they were doled out one batch at a time, with many news organizations tasking reporters with scrolling through the thousands of emails being released in tranches. At the AP alone, as many as 30 journalists were assigned, at various times, to go through the material.

Guccifer 2.0 told one reporter he was thrilled that WikiLeaks had finally followed through.

"Together with Assange we'll make america great again," he wrote.

Donn reported from Plymouth, Massachusetts. Desmond Butler, Ted Bridis, Julie Pace and Ken Thomas in Washington, Justin Myers in Chicago, Frank Bajak in Houston, Lori Hinnant in Paris, Maggie Michael in Cairo, Erika Kinetz in Shanghai and Vadim Ghirda in Bucharest, Romania contributed to this report.

Editor's Note: Satter's father, David Satter, is an author and Russia specialist who has been critical of the Russian government. Several of his emails were published last year by hackers and his address is on Secureworks' list.

On eve of Asia trip, Trump pays visit to Pearl Harbor

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (AP) — President Donald Trump paid a solemn visit to the memorial at Pearl Harbor, a sacred journey for a commander-in-chief about to depart on an Asia trip that will be shadowed by fears of another international conflict.

Trump saluted Friday after entering the USS Arizona memorial following a short boat ride with first lady Melania Trump. They approached a wreath of white flowers — a gift from the couple — and watched as two sailors who stood beside it at attention placed the wreath near a wall of names of the fallen.

The Trumps then tossed white flower petals into the waters above the battleship's sunken hull, as the president then peered down where the rusted wreckage is visible at the water's surface.

Nearly 1,200 crew members died on the USS Arizona during the December 7, 1941 surprise attack by Japan that plunged the U.S. into World War II.

Trump, who had spoken earlier in the day about being eager to see the sacred site for the first time, appeared moved by the visit. As the wreath was quietly placed into position, Trump crossed his arms in front of him, closing his eyes as he bowed his head in remembrance.

As the sun began to fade over the Pacific, Trump then listened intently to a National Park Service tour guide, stopping briefly at a display that explained how some survivors of the attack, when they die years later, have chosen to be cremated and have their ashes placed in the sunken ship alongside the remains of their fallen colleagues.

Trump said not a word about North Korea or its nuclear ambitions on Friday, the eve of his first official visit to Asia. He will arrive in Japan on Sunday morning, the first of five countries he will visit over 11 days as he exhorts Asian allies to increase pressure on Pyongyang to abandon its deadly ambitions.

Hawaii acted as a sort of midway point on Trump's trip halfway around the world. He arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Friday after a daylong flight from Washington.

The president quickly donned a lei after he left Air Force One with his wife, who also wore a wreath of flowers. He signed autographs and gave high-fives to kids who were among a group of civilians and service members that gathered for the arrival.

Trump wasn't the only attraction to arrive on base. A few in the crowd shouted their admiration for White House chief of staff John Kelly.

"We love you Gen. Kelly," one person shouted at the retired four-star Marine general who stood several

feet behind the president.

Trump was briefed by leaders of the U.S. Pacific Command. The growing threat from North Korea — a crisis that will shadow the entire trip — was expected to be among the topics discussed. Trump was also meeting with the governors of Alaska, Hawaii and Pacific U.S. territories, all potential targets of any successful attempt by North Korea to strike the U.S. with a nuclear-tipped missile.

"We are going to visit very shortly, Pearl Harbor, which I've read about, spoken about, heard about, studied, but I haven't seen. And that is going to be very exciting for me," Trump said at the start of a briefing with leaders of the U.S. Pacific Command, which oversees U.S. military operations in the region.

The USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor marks the final resting place of more than 1,000 sailors and Marines who were killed on the battleship during the surprise attack on what President Franklin Roosevelt deemed "a date which we live in infamy." Accessible only by boat, the memorial straddles the ship's sunken hull.

A total of more than 2,300 sailors, soldiers and Marines died as a result of the attack, as well as 68 civilians, according to the National Park Service.

The visit to the memorial comes soon after Trump was embroiled in a controversy over his attempt to console the grieving families of America's war dead. The family of one of the four soldiers killed in a Niger ambush last month said the president disrespected them when he called to offer a condolences, a charge Trump vehemently denied.

And The Associated Press discovered that a number of families of soldiers killed since Trump took office had not received a call from the president, despite his claim that he had called nearly all of them.

Associated Press writer Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

No prison for Bergdahl in sentencing for walking off post

By JONATHAN DREW, Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) — For the first time in eight years, Bowe Bergdahl doesn't face confinement, or the threat of it, after a judge spared the soldier from a prison sentence for endangering his comrades by walking off his post in Afghanistan.

The sentence, which also includes a dishonorable discharge, was quickly condemned by President Donald Trump as a "complete and total disgrace." In the coming months, the final act of the legal drama will play out when Bergdahl's lawyers take his case to a military appeals court to argue that Trump's fiery views of the case merit further concessions — and possibly dismissal of the entire case.

The punitive discharge means the case will automatically be appealed to a higher military court. And a top commander will also review the case and consider arguments for leniency, as is standard in Army legal cases.

Bergdahl walked away from his post in Afghanistan, triggering a search that left some of his comrades severely wounded. He was also captured and held by Taliban allies for five years, and his legal case began when he returned to the U.S.

The judge gave no explanation of how he arrived at his decision, but he reviewed evidence that included Bergdahl's captivity and the wounds suffered by troops who searched for him.

The case was politically divisive. President Barack Obama traded Taliban prisoners to bring Bergdahl back in 2014, drawing sharp Republican criticism. As a presidential candidate, Trump called for the soldier to face stiff punishment. He could have received up to life in prison.

The judge also gave the 31-year-old a dishonorable discharge, reduced his rank from sergeant to private and ordered him to forfeit pay equal to \$1,000 per month for 10 months.

Defense lawyer Eugene Fidell told reporters that his client had "looked forward to today for a long time." Bergdahl "is grateful to everyone who searched for him," especially those who "heroically sustained

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 40 of 43

injuries," Fidell added.

Trump's statement came in a tweet about 90 minutes after the sentencing. "The decision on Sergeant Bergdahl is a complete and total disgrace to our Country and to our Military," the president wrote.

Bergdahl pleaded guilty last month to desertion and misbehavior before the enemy. The judge had wide leeway in deciding the sentence because Bergdahl made no deal with prosecutors to limit his punishment.

Prosecutors had sought a stiff penalty because of wounds suffered by service members who searched for Bergdahl after he disappeared in 2009.

The defense sought to counter that evidence with testimony about Bergdahl's suffering as a captive, his contributions to military intelligence and his mental health problems. The argument for leniency also cited Trump's harsh campaign-trail criticism.

The dishonorable discharge threatens to deprive Bergdahl of most or all his veterans' benefits, but it also triggers the automatic appeal to a higher military court.

Fidell told reporters that he looks forward to the appeals court review of Trump's campaign statements, which the president appeared to reaffirm on the day Bergdahl pleaded guilty last month. The Friday tweet will also figure into defense arguments.

As a candidate, Trump "made really extraordinary reprehensible comments targeted directly at our client," Fidell told reporters Friday. He said the defense team sees "an extremely strong basis for dismissal of the case."

Earlier in the week, Bergdahl described the brutal conditions of his captivity, including beatings with copper wire, unending bouts of gastrointestinal problems brought on by squalid conditions and maddening periods of isolation.

A psychiatrist testified that his decision to leave his post was influenced by a schizophrenia-like condition called schizotypal personality disorder that made it hard to understand the consequences of his actions, as well as post-traumatic stress disorder brought on partly by a difficult childhood.

Prosecutors, who had asked for a sentence of 14 years in prison, did not speak to reporters. But during closing arguments, they focused on the dangerous search missions that left several service members wounded.

Scores of troops joined in an all-out search for Bergdahl in the weeks after he abandoned his remote post.

Prosecutors cited two missions that resulted in wounds, including a soldier whose hand was shattered by a rocket-propelled grenade and another who suffered a head wound that put him in a wheelchair and rendered him unable to speak. A Navy SEAL suffered a career-ending leg wound.

The judge ruled that those firefights would not have happened if not for Bergdahl.

One of the wounded soldiers, Jonathan Morita of California, called the lack of prison time "unacceptable." Morita, who testified during sentencing, still does not have full use of his dominant hand after he was hit by the RPG, which did not explode.

Referring to the lack of prison time, he said: "It should have maybe not been the life sentence, but it should have been something."

The soldier from Hailey, Idaho, has been working a desk job at a military installation in San Antonio and has not been held in pretrial confinement.

Follow Jonathan Drew at www.twitter.com/jonldrew

Immigrant girl with cerebral palsy released, now with family

By NOMAAN MERCHANT, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — U.S. authorities released a 10-year-old immigrant girl with cerebral palsy who had been detained by border agents after surgery because she is in the U.S. without legal permission.

The American Civil Liberties Union and U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro said that Rosa Maria Hernandez was returned to her family Friday. Her parents brought her into the U.S. from Mexico in 2007, when she was

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 41 of 43

a toddler, and they live in the Texas border city of Laredo.

A cousin who is an American citizen took Rosa Maria from Laredo to a children's hospital in Corpus Christi on Oct. 24, where she was scheduled to have emergency gallbladder surgery. To get to Corpus Christi, about 150 miles (240 kilometers) away, she had to pass through an interior checkpoint in South Texas operated by the Border Patrol.

Border Patrol agents followed Rosa Maria and the cousin to the hospital, then took the girl into custody after the surgery and transported her to a facility in San Antonio for unaccompanied immigrant minors, under the custody of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The Border Patrol has said it had no choice but to detain Rosa Maria, arguing that she was considered an unaccompanied minor under federal law, the same as a child who crosses into the United States alone without legal permission.

The ACLU sued the government on Rosa Maria's behalf Tuesday, argued that the U.S. government violated federal law on unaccompanied minors and endangered Rosa Maria's health by not sending her home.

"She never should have been in this situation in the first place," ACLU lawyer Michael Tan said Friday. "There is no reason Border Patrol had to target a child."

While Rosa Maria has been reunited with her family, she still faces the threat of deportation. Tan said Friday that Border Patrol agents had issued Rosa Maria a notice to appear in immigration court, but that the case had yet to move forward.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which oversees the Border Patrol, declined to comment. HHS declined to comment on Rosa Maria's case, but said the agency's focus was "on the safety and best interest of each child."

Leticia Gonzalez, an attorney for Rosa Maria's family, said the 10-year-old had the mental capacity of a child closer to 4 or 5 years old due to her cerebral palsy. Priscila Martinez, an activist at the Workers Defense Action Fund, said the child had started to show signs of socially withdrawing while in detention and refusing to eat her favorite kind of bread.

Federal immigration authorities have faced strong criticism from advocates and some Texas Democratic congressmen over their handling of the case.

Castro, a San Antonio Democrat, said Friday that he had tried to see Rosa Maria earlier in the day and had spoken to federal officials about her case. He said Border Patrol agents could have chosen to let Rosa Maria pass through the checkpoint without following or detaining her.

"Staking out the hospital room of a young, sick girl and keeping her away from her family is not a humane treatment for her," Castro said.

But U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in a previous statement after she was detained that "there is no discretion with regard to the law whether or not the agents should enforce the law."

Gabriel Acosta, assistant chief patrol agent for the Border Patrol's Laredo sector, said Tuesday that his agents moved quickly to get her through the checkpoint and "acted professionally and compassionately to get this child the medical attention she needed."

Follow Nomaan Merchant on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/nomaanmerchant>.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Nov. 4, the 308th day of 2017. There are 57 days left in the year. A reminder: Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, Nov. 5 at 2:00 a.m. local time. Clocks go back one hour.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 4, 1942, during World War II, Axis forces retreated from El Alamein in North Africa in a major victory for British forces commanded by Lt. Gen. Bernard Montgomery.

On this date:

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 42 of 43

In 1884, Democrat Grover Cleveland was elected to his first term as president, defeating Republican James G. Blaine.

In 1922, the entrance to King Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in Egypt.

In 1939, the United States modified its neutrality stance in World War II, allowing "cash and carry" purchases of arms by belligerents, a policy favoring Britain and France.

In 1952, Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected president, defeating Democrat Adlai Stevenson. The highly secretive National Security Agency came into existence.

In 1956, Soviet troops moved in to crush the Hungarian Revolution.

In 1964, comedian Lenny Bruce was convicted by a three-judge panel in New York of obscenity charges stemming from his performances at the Cafe Au Go Go in Greenwich Village. (Bruce received a posthumous pardon in 2003 from New York Gov. George Pataki.)

In 1979, the Iran hostage crisis began as militants stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran, seizing its occupants; for some of them, it was the start of 444 days of captivity.

In 1980, Republican Ronald Reagan won the White House as he defeated President Jimmy Carter by a strong margin.

In 1987, 6-year-old Elizabeth (Lisa) Steinberg was pronounced dead at a New York City hospital in a child-abuse case that sparked national outrage; her illegal adoptive father, Joel Steinberg, served nearly 17 years behind bars for manslaughter.

In 1991, Ronald Reagan opened his presidential library in Simi Valley, California; attending were President George H.W. Bush and former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald R. Ford and Richard Nixon — the first-ever gathering of five past and present U.S. chief executives.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a right-wing Israeli minutes after attending a festive peace rally.

In 2008, Democrat Barack Obama was elected the first black president of the United States, defeating Republican John McCain.

Ten years ago: King Tutankhamun's face was unveiled for the first time to the public more than 3,000 years after the pharaoh was buried in his Egyptian tomb. Citigroup Inc. Chairman and Chief Executive Charles Prince, beset by the company's billions of dollars in losses from investing in bad debt, resigned. Paula Radcliffe outlasted Gete Wami to win her second New York City Marathon in 2:23:09. Martin Lel of Kenya won his second men's title, in 2:09:04.

Five years ago: New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said cold temperatures would leave "tens of thousands" of people whose homes were damaged by Superstorm Sandy in need of alternate housing. A 2-year-old boy was mauled to death by a pack of African wild dogs when he fell into their pen from a viewing area at the Pittsburgh Zoo. Zac Vawter, a 31-year-old amputee from Yelm, Washington, who had lost his right leg in a motorcycle accident, climbed the 103 floors of Chicago's Willis Tower, becoming the first person ever to complete the task wearing a mind-controlled prosthetic limb.

One year ago: A federal jury found that Rolling Stone magazine, its publisher and a reporter had defamed a University of Virginia administrator in a debunked 2014 story about a gang rape at a fraternity house. (The magazine and the administrator, Nicole Eramo, later reached a confidential settlement.) A jury convicted two former aides to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie of causing traffic jams near the George Washington Bridge for political revenge against a Democratic mayor. (Bridget Kelly was later sentenced to 18 months in prison while Bill Baroni received two years; both have appealed.)

Today's Birthdays: Actress Loretta Swit is 80. Rhythm-and-blues singer Harry Elston (Friends of Distinction) is 79. Blues singer Delbert McClinton is 77. Former first lady Laura Bush is 71. Actress Ivonne Coll is 70. Actress Markie Post is 67. Rock singer-musician Chris Difford (Squeeze) is 63. Country singer Kim Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 57. Actress-comedian Kathy Griffin is 57. Actor Ralph Macchio is 56. "Survivor" host Jeff Probst is 56. Actor Matthew McConaughey is 48. Rapper-producer Sean "Puffy" Combs is 48. Talk show host Bethenny Frankel is 47. Actor Anthony Ruivivar is 47. Soul/jazz singer Gregory Porter is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Shawn Rivera (Az Yet) is 46. Celebrity chef Curtis Stone is 42. Actress

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Nov. 08, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 118 ~ 43 of 43

Heather Tom is 42. Rhythm-and-blues/gospel singer George Huff is 37. Actress Emme Rylan is 37. Actor Chris Greene (Film: "Loving") is 35.

Thought for Today: "There is no such thing as a little freedom. Either you are all free, or you are not free." — Walter Cronkite, American news anchorman (born this date in 1916, died 2009).