

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 1 of 45

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Johnson Agency Ad
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 2- Veteran's Breakfast
- 3- Legion Turkey Party Ad
- 4- Farmers Union PSA
- 4- Lt. Gov. Veteran's Column
- 5- Sturgis, Belle Fourche papers closing
- 6- School Board Agenda
- 7- Volleyball - McCook Central/Montrose
- 9- GFP Commission Denies Petition to Restrict Recreational Use on portions of Cattail-Kettle Lake
- 10- Today in Weather History
- 10- Roslyn 4-Plex for sale
- 11- Today's Forecast
- 12- Yesterday's Weather
- 12- Today's Weather Info
- 12- National Weather Map
- 13- Daily Devotional
- 14- 2018 Community Events
- 15- News from the Associated Press



Kira and Logan Clocksene invited Eddy Opp to the Veteran's Day breakfast this morning. Opp served in the Army. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

www.johnsonagencygroton.com

102 N Main St. Office: 605/397-2424
Groton, SD 57445 Home: 605/397-8565

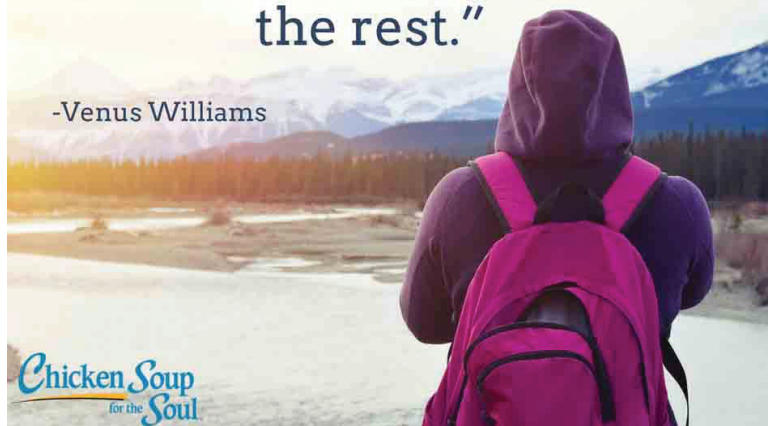


Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

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

"I don't focus on what I'm up against. I focus on my goals and I try to ignore the rest."

-Venus Williams



Chicken Soup
for the Soul

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 2 of 45



Groton Area Elementary students invited a Veteran to the Veteran's Day breakfast this morning at the new elementary school lunch room. A program will be held today at 2 p.m. at the GHS Gym. That event will be carried live on GDILIVE.COM. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jeslyn Kosel invited Veteran Norman Anderson to breakfast this morning. Anderson served in the Navy. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 3 of 45

Groton Post No. 39 American Legion



Annual



Turkey Party

Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017

Starting at 6:30 p.m.

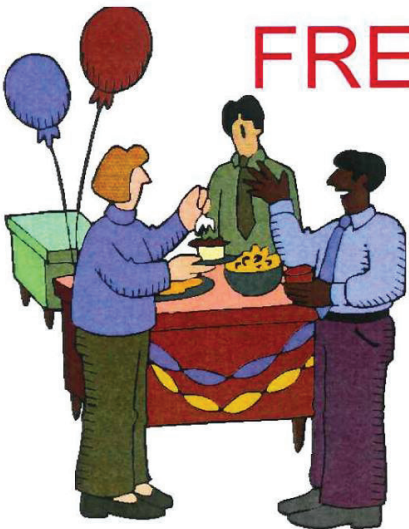
Groton Legion Post Home, 10 N. Main.

Turkey, Ham and Bacon
to be given away

FREE ADMISSION

**DOOR
PRIZE!**

Lunch served
by Auxiliary





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")**

A creative home for our veterans Connecting South Dakota's veterans to arts opportunities

By South Dakota Lt. Governor Matt Michels

South Dakota has always stepped forward in defense of our nation, with a high percentage of our population volunteering for all branches of military service. As a result, our state has a wealth of veterans, proud representatives of each generation that has served. Those honorable veterans have stories to tell—and South Dakota has a rich and vibrant creative sector to help them share their knowledge, their experience and their patriotism.

I have been honored this year by being selected as chair of the National Lieutenant Governors Association during the organization's annual meeting in Nashville, TN. As chair, I am privileged to determine the group's initiative for the coming year. I believe the time is right to focus on connecting veterans with opportunities in the arts—and South Dakota can lead the way with an innovative program already in the planning stages.

In partnership with the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home, the South Dakota Arts Council and Arts South Dakota, the Lieutenant Governor's Office is working to design comprehensive arts residency programming for the State Veterans Home and community of Hot Springs. We will also be working with Americans for the Arts, a national arts advocacy organization, and planning exciting new ways to engage South Dakota artists, students and other communities in connecting veterans to creative expressions of their service.

We've already developed a concept for the program, and partnership meetings and conversations are underway to develop and implement specific projects centered on the State Veterans Home in Hot Springs. You'll be hearing much more about this initiative in coming months, and all the partners are excited about making this wonderful investment to help our state's veterans share and celebrate their stories.

The arts are an essential element in the daily lives of our state's citizens. Involving our creative community in honoring and remembering South Dakota's veterans brings us all closer together and spotlights these remarkable men and women.

For a video link to this project, go to <https://youtu.be/dEF0pzZJ-6c>



Sturgis, Belle Fourche newspapers closing

Two western South Dakota weekly newspapers will publish their last issue next week.

The Journal announced Wednesday that the Meade County Times-Tribune and Butte County Post will publish their final issue Nov. 8. The following day, on Nov. 9, the Journal will begin publishing a daily Northern Hills page.

"It is never an easy decision to transition any business, this holds true for our Northern Hills papers today," Rapid City Journal Publisher Eugene Jackson said. "Our team wants to focus on maximizing our resources, and this was an opportunity to do that.

"You will see and hear from many of the same faces you did before, and they will be a part of the transition into a daily product for the Northern Hills. We feel that delivering content to our readers in the Northern Hills on a daily basis will help us maintain a strong position in that area, also while producing exciting stories and targeted advertisements to help our current customers to continue to drive results for their businesses in those historic locations."

The new Northern Hills page will cover the towns of Sturgis, Belle Fourche, Lead-Deadwood and Spearfish — along with every small community in between.

"We know that these communities are important, so we are excited to roll out the new page titled 'Our Northern Hills' in the Rapid City Journal each day starting next week," Jackson said.

Veteran journalist and current editor of the Meade County Times-Tribune Deb Holland will anchor the coverage for the Northern Hills page in the Journal.

Holland, who grew up in eastern South Dakota but now calls Sturgis home, has been associated with the newspaper since 1982. She began as a summer intern that year and, after graduating from South Dakota State University, returned the following fall to work for the weekly newspaper, then owned by Allison Publishing.

Holland said she was sad to see the publication she has nurtured for years close but is excited to work on the daily "Our Northern Hills" page for the Journal.

"I see this as another opportunity to showcase all the wonderful people and happenings in the Northern Hills," Holland said.

Subscribers to the Meade County Times-Tribune and Butte County Post will be notified next week of options they have for the remainder of their contract.

Jackson also said the Journal is planning several exciting new changes in addition to the Northern Hills page, and those will be announced Nov. 12.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 6 of 45

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6 School Board Meeting

November 13, 2017 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of October 9, 2017 school board meeting as drafted or amended.

2. Approval of October 2017 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments

3. Approval of October 2017 School Transportation Report

4. Approval of October 2017 School Lunch Report

5. Approval of North Central Special Education Co-Op (NCSEC) agenda items...as fiscal agent.

6. Approval of October District bills for payment.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.

2. School Board Committee Reports:

a. Building, Grounds, & Transportation: Clint Fjelstad, Merle Harder, Marty Weismantel

b. Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum: Deb Gengerke, Grant Rix

c. Negotiations: Steve Smith

3. Election of School Board Vice President.

4. Update on Elementary project progress with discussion from representatives from FJJ and JLG.

5. Consideration of Change Orders.

a. CCO #019: Boiler Room Door Threshold and Sweeps

b. CCO #004: New Exterior Lighting

c. CCO #007: Canopy Lighting

d. PR 21: Replacement of Interior Doors

6. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of volunteer assistant coaches.

a. Boys Basketball: Drake Patterson, Jeremy Weber

b. Wrestling: Parker Kroll, Scott Thorson, Troy Zoellner

2. Acknowledge receipt of public school exemption notification #18-11.

3. Executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1).

ADJOURN

It was not a Sweet 16

"The season didn't end the way we wanted it to end," said Coach Chelsea Hanson after the Lady Tigers lost a hard fought battle to the McCook Central-Montrose Fighting Cougars in the Sweet 16. Groton won the first game, but Morgan Koepsell and McKenna Kranz played hard ball and it caused problems for the Tigers. The two Fighting Cougars hit the ball hard and often and Koepsell's height didn't help the Tiger cause either. The Fighting Cougars won the match, 3-1.

Groton won the first game, 25-23, with a game that was tied four times and there were three lead changes before the Tigers rallied to take a 20-14 lead. McCook Central-Montrose closed to within one, 22-21, and after a Groton Area time-out, the Tigers put the game away with the two point win.

The Fighting Cougars jumped out to a 6-0 lead in the second game. Groton closed to within two, 7-5, but after that, it was McCook Central-Montrose going for the 25-16 win.

McCook Central-Montrose jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the third game and went on several rallies to post a 25-17 win.

Groton Area kept the game close for the first part of the match with the game being tied five times and there were two lead changes. Groton led, 9-8, but the Fighting Cougars went ahead, 12-9. The Fighting Cougars held a 21-15 lead

before Groton got a rally going to close the game to within two, 21-19, before McCook Central-Montrose called time out. It was 22-21 before the Fighting Cougars scored the last three points to post the 25-21 win.

"I couldn't be any more proud of the way we competed at the match and all season," Hanson said. "There were so many positives this season that it makes the sting of defeat a little less. We won the conference, made it to the Sweet 16, and ended the season with the most wins (18-6 record) since I've been here for sure and possibly in school history. We had some



Jessica Bjerke returns the ball with Miranda Hanson also pictured (#8) and Coach Chelsea Hanson in the back right.

(Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Jessica Bjerke saves the ball with a return in the back. (Photo by Julianna

Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 8 of 45



Gia Gengerke gets a good hit near the net. (Photo by

Julianna Kosel)

great senior leadership and we will miss them very much next season, they're part of the Groton Volleyball family forever, and when we make a state tournament they can take pride knowing they were part of it! I'm sad to have the season over, but it was sure a lot of fun for all of us!"

The game was carried live on GDILIVE.COM with over 1,600 viewers. broadcast was sponsored by Bahr Spray Foam & Construction, Blocker Construction, Bunke Storage Units, Dakota Brush, Erickson Insurance Agency, Farmers Union Insurance - JR Johnson , Groton Chiropractic Clinic, Groton Ford, Hanlon Brothers, James Valley Seed with Doug Jorgenson , John Sieh Agency, Lori's Pharmacy, KR Body Shop, McGannon Plumbing, Heating, Cooling & Sheet Metal; Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass, Producer's Hybrids with John Wheeting, Professional Management Services, S & S Lumber & Hardware Hank, Subway of Groton, Weber Landscaping. Make sure you tell them "Thank You" and that you patronize them as well. Without their support, GDILIVE.COM would not be possible.

Jennie Doeden finished the match with 21 of 27 attacks and 12 kills, 14 of 14 serves and one ace serve and 17 digs. Gia Gengerke was 28 of 33 in attacks with 10 kills, was 16 of 17 in serves with three ace serves and had three solo blocks. Nicole Marzahn was 32 of

35 in attacks with nine kills, Miranda Hanson had 18 digs and was 118 of 118 in sets with 30 assists and Payton Maine had 39 digs. Jessica Bjerke had two kills and Payton Colestock had one kill.

Koepsell led the Fighting Cougars with 16 kills and four blocks and Kranz had 14 kills.

GFP Commission Denies Petition to Restrict Recreational Use on portions of Cattail-Kettle Lake

PIERRE, S.D. – Earlier this month, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission denied a petition submitted by Cattail Land and Cattle Company, LLC, to restrict recreational use on portions of Cattail-Kettle Lake in Marshall county.

A contested case hearing was conducted on the morning of Nov. 2, 2017, in Brookings where the GFP Commission heard testimony from the petitioner requesting to close a 100 yard buffer zone surrounding their property from all recreational use.

The GFP Commission also heard testimony from other interested parties who were both in favor and opposed to the petition. They then considered evidence as it related to privacy, safety and substantially affected financial interests of the petitioner in addition to historical use of the waters, the water quality, water quantity and the public's interest in recreational use of the water.

In failing to meet the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence, the GFP Commission unanimously approved a resolution denying the petition. As a result, all portions of Cattail-Kettle Lake remain open to public recreational users.

About the Petition Process: In June 2017, during a special legislative session, the South Dakota Legislature adopted H.B. 1001 which allowed landowners who owned property underlying nonmeandered lakes the ability to close water overlying their property. Section 8 of the bill outlined specific nonmeandered lakes (e.g., Cattail-Kettle Lake) that would remain open to the public for recreational purposes. The Legislature tasked the GFP Commission to institute a process by which a landowner could petition the GFP Commission to request the ability to close their private property underlying a section 8 lake from recreational use. Cattail Land and Cattle Company, LLC, was the first petitioner to go through this process.

Today in Weather History

November 10, 1998: Heavy snow fell across most of central, north central, and northeast South Dakota from the early morning hours of the 9th into the late afternoon hours of the 10th. Heavy snow also fell across west central Minnesota from late in the evening on the 9th to the early morning hours of the 10th. Snowfall amounts ranged from 6 to 14 inches. Early in the storm, much of the precipitation fell as rain, freezing rain, and heavy wet snow. During the early morning hours of the 10th, northwest winds increased to 20 to 50 mph and gusted at times to 60 mph. These high winds brought widespread blizzard

conditions into the late evening hours of the 10th. On both the 10th and 11th, most area schools were closed, along with many highways, including Highways 12 and 83. Interstates 29 and 90 were also closed due to slick roads and near-zero visibilities. Hundreds of vehicles were stranded in this storm, with many people needing rescue, and many motorists also slid off the roads. There were also numerous accidents, with a few resulting in injuries. Due to the ice buildup from the rain, freezing rain, and wet snow early in the storm, along with the high winds, many tree limbs, some trees, and power lines and poles were brought down, which resulted in multiple power outages across the region. The area most affected by power outages was north of a line from Mobridge to Ipswich, along Highway 212, to the North Dakota border. Some 25 cities were affected by power outages. Hosmer was without power for over 40 hours. At South Shore, a family lost power for 120 hours. A lineman tried to get to the home twice, but could not because of the low visibility. A teenager was also lost overnight near South Shore while he was hunting with friends. He was found at 8 am the next morning. In Watertown, two people were injured in an accident. Several of the downed trees across parts of the area blocked traffic for a time. Numerous businesses were closed, and activities were canceled on the 9th and 10th. In Pierre, the strong winds ripped the canopy off the Amoco gas station. The blizzard brought the fifth lowest barometric pressure on record to Watertown. Some snowfall amounts from this horrible blizzard included; 15.4 inches near Bryant; 12.5 inches in Webster; 12.3 in Pierre; 10.8 in Sisseton; 10.5 inches near Summit; 10.0 inches in Pollock and near Onida; and 9.0 in Blunt and Conde.

1975: The SS Edmund Fitzgerald sinks 17 miles northwest of Whitefish Point, at the northeastern tip of Michigan's Upper Peninsula on Lake Superior. While the cause of the sinking is unknown, strong winds and high waves likely played a significant role. The crew of 29 members was lost from this event.

2002: The second largest November tornado outbreak on record over the eastern United States occurred during the Veterans Day weekend of November 9-11, 2002. Seventy-six tornadoes were reported in seventeen states. Of the 76 tornadoes, almost one out of every six was a killer, resulting in 36 fatalities.

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.

Broton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 11 of 45

Today	Tonight	Veterans Day	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Mostly Cloudy and Breezy	Partly Cloudy and Breezy then Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny
High: 32 °F	Low: 17 °F	High: 38 °F	Low: 17 °F	High: 38 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 47 °F

Friday Forecast

11/10/2017 6:39 AM Central



Highs: 25-32° in northeast SD and west central MN
32-45° across central SD

Chilly and breezy south winds gusting to 30+ mph Friday

Seasonable temps this weekend, then a warm up to start the work-week. Dry meanwhile

3 Day Forecast

Saturday



35-45°
15-25°

Sunday



35-50°
25-30°

Monday



45-60°
25-35°



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
www.weather.gov/abr

Published on: 11/10/2017 at 6:43AM

We're expecting breezy south winds throughout the day today, and then a seasonable weekend. Warm-up for the beginning of next week! Dry meanwhile.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 12 of 45

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 19.3

Low Outside Temp: 4.4

High Gust: 22

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 69° in 1954

Record Low: -7° in 1896

Average High: 43°F

Average Low: 22°F

Average Precip in Nov: .29

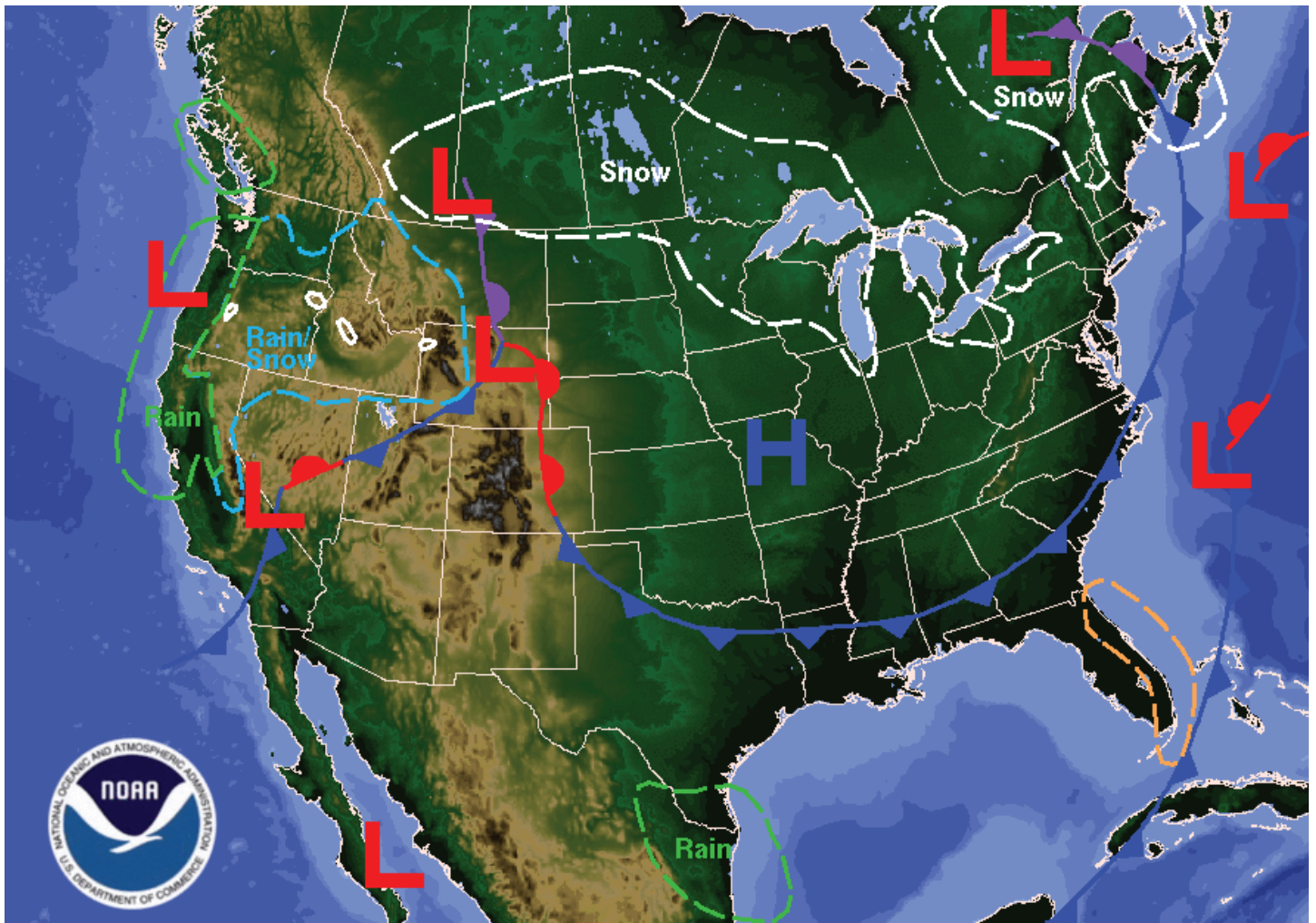
Precip to date in Nov: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.76

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 5:08 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:27 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Nov 10, 2017, issued 4:35 AM EST

DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center

Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 13 of 45



ESCAPING DEATH

"The one inescapable fact of life is death. Yet, man usually refuses to face it," wrote a psychologist recently. Then he quoted La Rochefoucauld, who said, "One cannot focus on either the sun or death for any length of time."

But the Psalmist looked at death differently: "Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death!"

Our God, through His Son Jesus Christ, not only saves and delivers us from sin and its consequences in this life but also after death. Salvation, for example, does not assure us of a life of prosperity and worldly success, a life free from sickness and suffering, a life that has no stress or conflict, a life that is all sunshine and no showers. But we do have the assurance of God's forgiveness and the freedom from the law and its curse, from judgment and fear and guilt and certainly death.

And we do have the assurance of Christ's presence in our lives that promises us that "He will never leave us nor forsake us," be with us when we are sick and suffer, will give us His peace "that passes all understanding" when we are stressed and threatened by the challenges of life.

But ultimately and finally "from the Lord comes (our) escape from death." Escape literally means exit. As Christians we can, with David, be assured that while there are many entrances to death – or many ways that we might die – our exit from death has been provided by God's grace through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

This exit from death, however, is also our entrance into heaven.

Prayer: Thank You, Heavenly Father, for saving us and giving us peace and hope and the assurance of eternal life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 68:20 Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 15 of 45

News from the  Associated Press

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

The Capital Journal, Pierre, Nov. 8

Counties need more revenue resources

There is a crisis looming in South Dakota.

This problem has flown under the radar for the most part. It's a bit arcane, after all. But it affects more than most folks think.

We're writing about the basic services that we quite often take for granted such as maintenance of county highways and bridges, the operation of the local jail, enforcement of court orders, tracking property ownership, paying for indigent health care and prosecuting crimes. These are things that most of us don't deal with — consciously at least — on a daily basis but can and do affect our lives in a profound way.

These things all are paid for by county governments. In fact, counties are mandated by state law to fund these items. They don't have a choice in most cases in what they're asked to manage.

We expect our counties to prosecute people who commit crimes, though we, by and large, don't pay too much attention to it. By the same token, we expect our county roads to be safe and smooth enough that our fillings don't fall out when we go pheasant hunting. Again, we don't pay a whole lot of attention to where the money that fixes county roads comes from. We just expect repairs to be made.

Fixing roads and bridges, locking up convicted criminals, prosecuting suspected criminals and even keeping a handle on vehicle registrations is getting tougher for counties to do. This is because the main source of revenue counties can draw from, property taxes, can't grow beyond 3 percent or how much the consumer price index rose in a given year — it rose 1.5 percent between Sept. 2016 and Sept. 2017 in the midwest region — unless there's new development in the county.

The problem is that expenses for some things, such as employee health care, have risen far faster than the consumer price index. Simply put, county government expenses are rising far faster than the amount of money they're collecting.

In our own Hughes County, simply giving county employees cost of living raises, has become a tough debate.

When it comes to government spending, South Dakotans are rightfully skeptical. We tend to object to paying taxes for most anything because we believe we should be able to spend our money how we, as individuals, believe it should be spent. We've seen boondoggles at all levels and don't like watching our hard-earned money wasted.

But at some point, we have to recognize that if we want the same level of service, particularly from our counties, which are essential to our safety and our commerce, we're going to have to find ways to pay for it.

Does this mean raising taxes? Maybe. It could mean giving counties broader flexibility to charge user fees for certain services. Or allowing them to charge a small tax on sales made outside of city limits.

We may not like having to talk about giving government more money but it's a conversation that we need to have at least when it comes to the county level. If we don't figure something out we may start losing, sooner than we think, the quality of service we've come to expect.

It's also worth remembering that when it comes to local government, which by definition is staffed and managed by our own neighbors, we get a lot of say in how that money is spent. All you've got to do is show up to the monthly meetings, let your voice be heard and vote every few years. That's not too hard.

Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, Nov. 9

Ballot measures should send message to Pierre

Direct democracy continues its resurgence in South Dakota and the performance of the Legislature seems to be a primary source of inspiration.

On Monday, the Secretary of State's Office received petitions for eight potential ballot measures for the

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 16 of 45

2018 election, which comes after 10 ballot measures — including Initiated Measure 22 that voters approved — were on the 2016 ballot.

Now, the Legislature's brazen act of overturning IM22 to start the 2017 legislative session and — as lawmakers claimed — protect the electorate from alleged unconstitutionality has led to three proposed constitutional amendments that zero in on election reform. The petitions for those ballot measures had a total of around 121,000 signatures.

An ethics proposal that is similar to IM22 with the glaring exception of "democracy credits" to help finance elections had 50,000 signatures. The proposed amendment tightens campaign finance and lobbying restrictions, creates an ethics commission and prohibits lawmakers from overturning ballot measures unless the public votes to allow them to do so.

An open primaries proposal (37,000 signatures) replaces Republican and Democratic primaries with a single primary that includes all candidates for a state office with the top two finishers regardless of party affiliation advancing to the general election. An independent redistricting proposed amendment (34,000 signatures) replaces partisan lawmakers with a nine-member independent commission to redraw voting districts after the census is completed every 10 years.

But it is not just those who circulated and signed these petitions who are embracing direct democracy. In a curious twist, House Speaker Mark Mickelson has led the charge to get a pair of initiated measures on the 2018 ballot.

One proposal calls for a \$1 tax hike on a pack of cigarettes to raise money for the state's four technical schools (19,000 signatures), while the other seeks to ban out-of-state money in support of ballot measures (18,000 signatures).

Medical marijuana (15,000 signatures), mail ballots (20,000) and a price cap on prescription drugs purchased by state agencies (22,000) are the other initiated measures that could appear on the ballot.

The next step is for the Secretary of State's Office to examine the petitions and determine if there are enough valid signatures (13,871 for initiated measures and 28,000 for amendments) for the ballot measures to qualify for the election.

Of the proposals, medical marijuana may have the most difficult time making the ballot. In 2015, medical marijuana supporters turned in petitions with around 16,000 signatures but many were determined to be invalid.

Critics, including the state Republican Party, claim out-of-state interests have hijacked South Dakota's initiative and referendum process by financing and supporting ballot measures, which has been the case as it is with politicians who accept special-interest money for their campaigns.

In the end, however, it is South Dakotans who will vote on Election Day and many feel disenfranchised by an increasingly insular Legislature dominated by a handful of Republican leaders. Rather than even crack the door to change, they have chosen to fight it on nearly every front, which was highlighted by the demolition of IM22.

If the Republican Party wants to slow the rising tide of ballot measures, it needs to be more inclusive and in tune to the needs of the entire electorate. Otherwise, it is becoming more clear that direct democracy will become a staple of politics in this state.

The Daily Republic, Mitchell, Nov. 9

'Munsen Court' should come at a cost

There are many opinions about Gary Munsen.

The longtime coach who died in January 2016 at age 72 was quite the figure in Mitchell for decades. Because of the impact he had on so many lives, a mass group of people loved him. That was evident during his funeral when, for one final time, people packed the Corn Palace in his honor.

For more than 40 years, Munsen coached basketball in South Dakota's biggest basketball community. The most notable player under Munsen was undoubtedly Mike Miller, whose foundation last month asked if it could purchase permanent stickers to place on the Corn Palace basketball court and deem the floor "Gary Munsen Court."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 17 of 45

Now's the time to honor Munsen, but it should come at a cost more than just the price of a sticker.

The Mitchell City Council is still taking public input on naming the floor "Gary Munsen Court." The council in mid-October had its first discussion on the topic. There were many positive remarks about the coach, but a decision to label the Palace floor with stickers was tabled. At its more recent meeting, the council didn't discuss the topic.

As the high school basketball season grows closer, we say now is the time for Miller to step in and ensure the Palace floor is named after the coach. He should pay for the naming rights — through a donation to the city — along with the stickers.

While many opinions about Munsen are positive, others didn't love the coach as much. He definitely had his critics, which is why there is some hesitation on the decision. And, we cannot forget this is a city facility that's considering essentially a permanent change.

For his long-tenured success with basketball, Munsen certainly earned recognition and respect. But naming rights for Mitchell's city facilities have typically followed similar paths. Take for example the Pepsi Cola Soccer Complex, which was named due to a \$240,000 donation from the late Earl Nordby, former Pepsi Cola Bottling Company owner, and his family.

Additionally, naming opportunities for any new city facilities have to follow a Mitchell Park and Recreation policy that sets minimum donations for specific commemorations.

We want to see Munsen's name on the Palace's floor. We love the idea.

But through a significant naming-rights donation, Miller should step forward to make it happen.

Deadline nears for drought hay-hauling aid applications

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Drought-stricken North Dakota ranchers looking for state help with paying hay-hauling costs are running out of time to apply.

Monday is the deadline for the hay transportation aid program approved by the state Emergency Commission in late August. The group made \$1.5 million available to reimburse eligible ranchers for personal and commercial hay-hauling expenses.

Initially, the program was for expenses incurred between June 1 and Oct. 20, and the application deadline was Nov. 3. Late last month the state Agriculture Department extended the hauling cutoff date to Nov. 6 and the application deadline to Nov. 13.

"After numerous requests, the deadline was extended two weeks to allow producers to finish purchasing and hauling winter hay stock," Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said.

The program is in response to the worst drought in decades. Alfalfa hay production in North Dakota is down 30 percent from last year, and production of all other hay is down 43 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That means many ranchers have to haul in hay, often from long distances.

Western and central North Dakota were mired in drought throughout the summer, with conditions reaching the extreme and even exceptional categories in some areas. Those conditions have eased this fall, with only about one-third of the state remaining in drought, and most areas seeing only moderate drought, according to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor map.

Farmer survives having arm pinned in equipment for an hour

MILTONA, Minn. (AP) — A Douglas County farmer survived after having an arm pinned in a corn picker in a field for an hour.

The sheriff's office says authorities who responded to the field near Miltona on Thursday afternoon found the man conscious and alert. Emergency crews were able to free his pinned arm from the piece of equipment. He was flown to a Twin Cities-area hospital.

Authorities say the farmer had been trying to clear something from the corn picker when his arm became trapped.

His name and condition weren't immediately released.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 18 of 45

Hermosa man convicted of mistreating about a dozen horses

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A Meade County man has been found guilty of mistreating more than a dozen horses between September 2016 and this past January.

The Rapid City Journal reports that 62-year-old LeRoy James of Hermosa was convicted after a recent four-day trial of three misdemeanor counts of neglect, abandonment or mistreatment of an animal.

Authorities say James inhumanely treated 16 horses under his care, including a mare that died. Some of the horses on the property southeast of Sturgis were found running loose after they broke down their pen in search of food and water.

James denied any wrongdoing. He faces up three years behind bars and a fine of up to \$6,000 when he's sentenced Nov. 21.

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

Authorities ID victim of interstate crash in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a Fort Pierre man who died after a single-vehicle crash on Interstate 29 in Sioux Falls.

The Highway Patrol says 64-year-old Kenneth Dvorak was a passenger in a vehicle that hit ice on a bridge, went into the ditch and rolled Monday afternoon. He died of his injuries.

The driver suffered minor injuries. No charges are pending against him.

Connecticut man sentenced for 25 lbs of pot in South Dakota

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — A Connecticut man stopped by the Highway Patrol in South Dakota with nearly 25 pounds of marijuana in his vehicle has been sentenced to 75 days in jail and five years on probation.

Thirty-eight-year-old William Bradley, of Meriden, Connecticut, was pulled over on Interstate 90 in May for following another vehicle too closely. A police dog prompted a search that turned up the drugs and more than \$13,000 in cash.

The Black Hills Pioneer reports Bradley pleaded guilty in September to possessing more than 10 pounds of marijuana. During his recent sentencing he also was ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine.

Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Class 9AA Championship: Gregory 56, Irene-Wakonda 30

Class 9A Championship: Britton-Hecla 44, Corsica/Stickney 36, OT

Class 9B: Championship: Colman-Egan 42, Sully Buttes 28

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

Wisconsin Legislature sends hemp farming bill to Walker

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin would join a majority of other states in allowing the farming of industrial hemp under a bill sent to Gov. Scott Walker.

The Wisconsin Assembly passed the bill unanimously Thursday. It cleared the Senate unanimously Tuesday and now goes to Walker.

His spokesman Tom Evenson said Walker would review the bill but did not commit to signing it.

The proposal would establish state licenses for farmers who want to grow industrial hemp. People with drug convictions wouldn't be eligible for the licenses. The plants couldn't contain more than 0.3 percent THC, the active ingredient in marijuana.

At least 30 states have passed legislation allowing hemp farms. Supporters of the Wisconsin bill say hemp has a wide range of uses and farmers should have the option of growing another profitable crop.

Mother questions why 14-year-old son fatally shot by officer

By GRETCHEN EHLKE, Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Family members of a 14-year-old boy fatally shot by a sheriff's deputy on a northern Wisconsin reservation questioned on Thursday why the teen, who they describe as loving and kind, was gunned down.

Holly Gauthier said authorities have provided few details about the death of her son, 14-year-old Jason Pero, an 8th grader who died on the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa's reservation Wednesday.

Dispatchers received a call about a male subject walking down the street armed with a knife about 11:40 a.m. Wednesday, said the Ashland County Sheriff's Office, which provides law enforcement services on the reservation along with the tribal police department. A responding deputy fired shots, striking the male. He was treated at the scene but died at a hospital.

Neither the Wisconsin Department of Justice, which is investigating the shooting, or the sheriff's office have identified Pero.

Gauthier tells Duluth station WDIO-TV she believes her son was murdered.

"(There is) no reason you can justify shooting a 14-year-old boy," Gauthier said. Her son was home sick from school Wednesday and staying at his grandparents' house, she added. Gauthier said she doesn't know why Jason was outside.

The state Justice Department said a knife was recovered at the scene of the shooting. Family members questioned whether Pero had a knife.

Pero's grandfather, Alan Pero, described Jason as someone who "never had one mean bone in his body." Gauthier said her son was "a big teddy bear" and "everybody loved him."

Bad River Band Chairman Robert Blanchard said he has not heard directly from sheriff's officials about why Pero was shot and he questioned why the deputy had to take the teen's life.

"This is a tragedy that should not have happened. There's other ways to do things than to pull out a gun and shoot him," Blanchard said.

Sheriff's officials said the deputy was not injured and referred further questions on the shooting to the Department of Justice. The agency said its Division of Criminal Investigation continues to collect evidence and will turn over its reports to the Ashland County District Attorney's Office, hopefully within 30 days.

Blanchard said Pero came from a good family and attended Ashland Middle School.

"It's hard to talk about it without getting emotional," the chairman said.

The superintendent of the School District of Ashland, Keith Hilts, said some students are struggling with their classmate's death, but mental health professionals from the community are on hand to help them. Hilts said Jason was involved in the school band and was a member of the drumming group which will honor him at a Veterans Day assembly Friday.

This story has been updated to correct the name of the tribe to the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

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

North Dakota prepares for 2017 deer gun season

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota has issued 54,500 deer gun licenses in anticipation for the 2017 deer season.

The state has seen an uptick in licenses since 2015 after sliding in 2007, the Bismarck Tribune reported. Jeb Williams, wildlife division chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, said the prospects for hunting are decent all around this year.

Williams said this year's drought didn't have an impact on the state's deer, but that epizootic hemorrhagic disease did affect some white-tailed deer in the southwestern part of the state.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 20 of 45

Williams said that hunters saw a nearly 70 percent success rate while hunting last year. He said that's a good indicator of opportunity for this year.

"That's always our goal when we issue licenses: Does somebody have a reasonable opportunity at harvesting a deer?" he said

Michael Schulz is among the hunters getting ready for the deer gun season, which starts Friday. He said he's hearing mixed reviews about what to expect, but that he's hoping for a successful hunt.

"Hopefully, it goes good, and, hopefully, we can shoot some deer and get some meat and shoot the one that can go on the wall," Schulz said.

Shultz said he's had success in the past two years with doe tags near Hettinger. He hunts with friends on private and state land while hunting deer and pheasants.

"We haven't had too much trouble filling our tags the last few years," he said.

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

Sanford Health creates \$1M medical research award

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sanford Health is creating a \$1 million global medical research prize to honor advancements in medicine, one of the largest philanthropic awards in the world.

Officials with the health care company shared details about the Lorraine Cross Award on Wednesday, the Argus Leader reported .

"We're so close to solving some big problems and maybe our elbow is what is needed to shove them over the edge," said Kelby Krabbenhoft, president and CEO of Sanford.

A review panel of medical experts will assess medical achievements early next year, said David Pearce, president of Sanford Research. Sanford doctors and researchers won't be eligible because the company's philanthropic branch, the Sanford Foundation, wants to spur discoveries outside its system.

"Sanford Research is about developing cures and treatments, we want other people to join our club," Pearce said. "We want to acknowledge others that get things done just like us."

The prize amount will make the award one of the largest in the world, even topping the Nobel Peace Prize's more than \$923,000 award. The award money's purpose is up to the recipient.

"We really want to just reward and award the people that get things done," said Micah Aberson, chief global brand officer for Sanford. "I want to believe that the winners ... are going to use those resources to propel and catalyze their initiatives."

Sanford officials hope offering an award will encourage researchers and physicians to push more boundaries and make meaningful scientific discoveries beyond the borders of Sioux Falls.

"Out here on the frontier, we're getting something done, we're finishing things," Krabbenhoft said. "That's what we want to honor with this award, it's not just one more award, one more blue ribbon to someone who does something significant, but someone who really finishes something, cures something."

The prize will be a continuing award presented every other December starting next year.

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

GOP bill would end wolf management in Wisconsin

By **TODD RICHMOND**, Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Some northern Wisconsin legislators are proposing a bill that would end the state's efforts to manage wolves and force police to ignore wolf killings, unless the federal government removes the animals from the endangered species list.

The Republican lawmakers — Reps. Adam Jarchow, Mary Felzkowski and Romaine Quinn along with Sen. Tom Tiffany — released the proposal Wednesday. They said in a memo to their colleagues seeking co-sponsors that wolves "have taken over northern Wisconsin."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 21 of 45

"They are depredating our deer population, killing livestock and attacking family pets," they said in the memo.

Wolf advocacy groups were quick to blast the bill. The Endangered Species Coalition, the National Wolf-watcher Coalition and Friends of the Wisconsin Wolf and Wildlife issued a joint statement Thursday saying the bill would legalize wolf poaching at a level that could erase the animals from Wisconsin's landscape. They called the bill "an affront to the majority of Wisconsin citizens who support this species."

President Barack Obama's administration removed Great Lakes wolves from the endangered species list in 2012, allowing Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota to take over managing the animals. Wisconsin held three wolf hunting seasons, much to the consternation of animal rights advocates who insisted the population was too fragile to support hunting.

A federal judge placed Great Lake wolves back on the endangered species list in 2014, ending wolf trapping and hunting and preventing farmers from killing wolves that attack their animals.

Wisconsin's wolf population has been growing since. The DNR released data in June that suggest between 925 and 952 wolves roamed the state last winter. That's up from between 866 and 897 wolves the previous winter.

Online DNR records show that so far this year there's been 39 confirmed wolf attacks on hunting dogs, cattle, sheep and one pet dog. The DNR recorded 76 confirmed wolf attacks in 2016.

Under the bill, the DNR would be prohibited from spending any money to manage wolves other than to reimburse people for losses caused by wolves. Police and wardens would be barred from enforcing any federal or state law relating to wolf management or that prohibits killing wolves. The DNR wouldn't be allowed to communicate with the federal government about enforcing wolf management laws or support federal enforcement efforts.

The bill wouldn't apply if the President Donald Trump's administration removes wolves from the endangered species list.

The lawmakers said in their co-sponsorship memo that the federal government removed Idaho wolves from the list after Gov. Butch Otter issued an executive order in 2011 declaring the state would no longer manage wolves or investigate illegal wolf killings.

A bill that would remove wolves in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Wyoming from the endangered species list is sitting in the U.S. Senate, but hasn't been voted on yet.

"Congress has proven to be unable to pass this simple bill to save Wisconsinites from wolves running rampant throughout our state," Jarchow, Felzkowski, Quinn and Tiffany wrote in their co-sponsorship memo. "Something must be done. If Congress won't act — we will!"

The Wisconsin bill's fate is unclear. Aides for state Assembly Speaker Robin Vos and state Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald didn't immediately reply to an email seeking comment on the bill's prospects.

Follow Todd Richmond on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/trichmond1>

Environmentalists target methane emissions in New Mexico

By **SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN, Associated Press**

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Methane emissions from oil and natural gas production in New Mexico are higher than what state and federal regulators have measured and the failure to capture the pollution is costing the state revenues and royalties, environmentalists said Thursday.

Representatives with the nonprofit Environmental Defense Fund released a report that aims to quantify the amount of methane intentionally released through venting or flaring processes as well as gas lost through unintentional leaks.

New Mexico's producers are emitting 570,000 tons of methane annually, amounting to more than \$27 million in lost tax revenues and royalties that could otherwise be used for government programs and services, according to the report.

Jon Goldstein, director of regulatory and legislative affairs for the Environmental Defense Fund, said the

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 22 of 45

report represents a snapshot of the volume and scope of methane emissions across all land types, from state and federal to private and tribal lands.

"What this new report emphasizes is that methane is a big problem for the state but it's an even larger opportunity," he said. "I like to think of it as a multi-hundred-million-dollar piece of low-hanging fruit in a time of tight state budgets."

Overall, the oil and gas industry contributes about one-third of New Mexico's budget each year and employs more than 100,000 workers.

Goldstein and U.S. Sen. Tom Udall, a Democrat, told reporters during a conference call that the state is missing out on an opportunity to collect more money from producers.

Industry officials argue that producers are already taking steps to capture more of the methane due to economic incentives but that estimates from critics of lost revenues and royalties are based on inflated natural gas prices.

The industry also has argued that venting and flaring is sometimes unavoidable given limits on pipeline capacity and other factors.

The latest report follows testimony provided to a legislative panel last week in which state regulators presented figures showing a more than 50 percent decrease in emissions from venting and flaring over the past year.

Industry officials pointed to the reductions and argued that federal regulations called for by environmentalists and Democratic U.S. Sen. Tom Udall would result in higher costs and ultimately job and revenue losses.

The New Mexico Oil and Gas Association said the loss to the state's general fund could top \$750 million if the regulations are kept in place.

Association director Ryan Flynn said producers in New Mexico already have been reducing the footprint of their operations and increasing gas capture efforts, some of which include using drones and other technology to monitor for leaks at well sites and other locations.

"These market-based solutions are the key to helping oil and gas producers continue these reductions, rather than Udall's expensive regulations," Flynn said.

Udall said he and his Democratic colleagues will continue to push for the protection of the Obama-era rules. Dozens of Democrats signed on to a letter sent last week to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

The senator acknowledged Thursday that some energy companies have stepped up but that without regulations, others will do nothing to address the problem.

Wisconsin burial site changes clears state Assembly

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — The state historical director would have to consider evidence for adding land to the state's burial sites catalog under a bill approved by the Wisconsin Legislature.

Developers need permits to excavate on land listed in the catalog. The bill comes in the wake of a failed proposal that would have allowed quarry owners to excavate Ho-Chunk Nation burial grounds to prove human remains are buried there.

The bill approved by the Assembly Thursday on a voice vote requires the historical director to consider whether evidence of remains exists before cataloguing a site and establishes a process for challenging decisions and removing sites from the list.

It now heads to the Senate.

The bill is AB 118.

Man on trans-Pacific voyage in ocean rowboat rescued

HONOLULU (AP) — The U.S. Coast Guard rescued a Chinese man off Hawaii who was voyaging from California to Asia in an ocean rowboat.

The Coast Guard identified him as Ruihan Yu, a Chinese national who was rescued Tuesday about 35 miles (56 kilometers) northeast of the island of Maui.

A Coast Guard news release says the 32-year-old Yu left California on June 9 and was headed for China and Taiwan when his 18-foot (5-meter) vessel developed communication failures and a damaged rudder. Yu's friend notified the Coast Guard that Yu was in possible distress after receiving a text message from him on a two-way satellite communication device.

Coast Guard spokeswoman Tara Molle says Yu planned to continue to his final destination of Australia.

This story has been corrected with new information from the Coast Guard to show that the boater's first name is Ruihan, not Ruihn.

Tribe threatens to ban officials over hospital contract

ROSEBUD, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota tribe is threatening to ban some Indian Health Service officials from its reservation because the founder of the company the agency chose to staff the local hospital emergency department was previously involved in a \$10 million false-claims scandal.

IHS awarded Arizona-based Tribal Emergency Medicine, or Tribal EM, two 90-day task orders totaling over \$2.6 million to staff emergency departments at Rosebud, South Dakota, and Winnebago, Nebraska, the Rapid City Journal reported this week.

Before CEO John Shufeldt founded Tribal EM, he ran a chain of urgent-care clinics that in 2012 agreed to pay \$10 million to settle allegations the company submitted false claims to government programs, including Medicare and Medicaid.

The Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council last week directed the tribe's attorney general to file paperwork banning the hospital's five top managers from the reservation for failing to consult with the tribe on awarding the task order.

"The Rosebud Sioux Tribe feels that IHS is already misspending and misusing our federal funds and to bring Tribal Emergency Medicine to Rosebud IHS is unacceptable," a memo summarizing the tribal council's motion said.

A tribal representative told the newspaper that no hospital officials have been removed from the reservation, despite the Nov. 2 vote 12-0 in favor of their removal. One member did not vote.

Winnebago Tribal Council Chairman Frank White didn't return a phone message left by the newspaper. IHS didn't comment.

Shufeldt said in a statement that Tribal EM's goal is to serve the tribe and tribal members and to provide care that exceeds national emergency medicine standards in quality, service and efficiency.

The task orders require the company to provide 24-hour staff including physicians, physician assistants, nurses and medical support assistants. Both task orders are renewable for up to a year.

"I consider this a partnership and Tribal EM will be collaborative and transparent and do whatever is necessary to be a great partner with the Tribal Council," Shufeldt said.

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

Thousands of turkeys die in Minnesota poultry farm fire

PAYNESVILLE, Minn. (AP) — A fire at a central Minnesota poultry farm has killed thousands of turkeys. The Stearns County Sheriff's Office says the fire broke out about 1:30 a.m. Thursday at St. Martin Farm in Martin Township.

The sheriff's office says about 6,000 turkeys died in the barn fire near Paynesville. The fire is under investigation.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 24 of 45

Report: South-central Alaska sees increase in fishing jobs

KENAI, Alaska (AP) — More people worked in commercial salmon fishing in south-central Alaska in 2016 than in 2015, according to a state report.

The number of commercial fishing jobs did, however, drop by about 5 percent statewide — despite the region's increase, the Peninsula Clarion reported Tuesday.

Groundfish harvesting jobs stayed relatively stable, as did jobs in halibut, herring, sablefish and shellfish harvesting, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development report. But for salmon harvesting jobs, the statewide number from 2015 to 2016 dropped by about 6.4 percent, while the south-central region slightly increased.

Southeast Alaska saw declines in employment in all of its fisheries, with the largest in salmon, according to the report.

Commercial fishing employment is fickle and hard to predict, but early indicators showed promise that 2017 employment would be up.

"This suggests a resurgence for salmon fisheries this year, while other catches, such as cod, appear weaker so far," the report stated.

Information from: (Kenai, Alaska) Peninsula Clarion, <http://www.peninsulaclarion.com>

Shoemaker spending millions to deal with toxic dump sites

ROCKFORD, Mich. (AP) — A shoe manufacturer says it expects to spend about \$3 million this year dealing with toxic chemicals at former dump sites in western Michigan.

The update from Rockford-based Wolverine World Wide came in a conference call with analysts Wednesday after the company reported third-quarter earnings. Wolverine has committed to testing wells, providing bottled water to residents and in some cases offering home filtration systems.

Company President and CEO Blake Krueger says the contamination affects "our families, our friends and our neighbors and we've been as proactive as possible and conservative and transparent."

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is overseeing Wolverine's investigation into groundwater contamination by perfluorinated chemicals from a former Rockford tannery that was demolished in 2010. The chemicals were in a substance Wolverine used to waterproof shoes.

Accused wrong way driver needs mental health treatment

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A woman accused of eluding police while heading the wrong way on Interstate 90 in Pennington County will be treated for mental health issues before the case against her moves forward.

The Rapid City Journal says a 7th Circuit judge has found 52-year-old Marguerite Martin had a mental disease and is currently unable to assist in her own defense.

A complaint says Martin was driving the wrong way on the interstate near New Underwood for about 15 miles Jan. 20. Deputies pursued Martin and used a stop technique to cause her vehicle to spin to a stop in the Box Elder area.

Martin has been released from jail while waiting to be admitted for mental health treatment.

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

Trump says US will no longer be taken advantage of on trade

By JILL COLVIN and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

DANANG, Vietnam (AP) — Promising to put "America first" in his trade practices, President Donald Trump used a speech in Vietnam Friday to denounce multi-nation agreements embraced by the region and deliver what appeared to be a rebuke to China, railing against trade practices he says have put Americans out of work.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 25 of 45

"From this day forward we will compete on a fair and equal basis," Trump told a gathering of CEOs on the sidelines of the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Vietnam. "We are not going to let the United States be taken advantage of anymore. I am always going to put America first.

It was a striking change of tone from the day before, in China, where Trump had taken a friendlier approach toward the country as he sought to establish a more balanced trade relationship.

At issue during the lead-up of the trip: Whether the president would have a formal sit-down with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Trump had said it was expected, but the White House later said a formal meeting was not planned due to scheduling conflicts. The two leaders shook hands and greeted each other before a dinner Friday night, according to video of the event.

In his speech, Trump told executives gathered in the coastal city of Danang that he was happy to enter into bilateral trading agreements with any of the nations in the Indo-Pacific region — but only if they are reciprocal and fair.

"What we will no longer do is enter into large agreements that tie our hands, surrender our sovereignty, and make meaningful enforcement practically impossible," Trump said.

As one of his first acts as president, Trump rejected the far-reaching Pacific Rim trade pact known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, disappointing many nations in the region, including the summit's host, Vietnam.

Leaders of the 11 remaining TPP members, representing roughly 13.5 percent of the global economy, were scheduled to meet on the sidelines of the APEC summit to seek an agreement in principle that would not require U.S. involvement.

But the prospects of that deal appeared in doubt Friday, as a meeting of the leaders of 11 countries still involved in the pact was delayed. There was no word on whether they had given up reaching agreement in Danang or were still working toward an agreement on how to move forward without U.S. involvement.

Trump also took aim at what he described as abusive trade practices he said had "hurt many people in our country." He described "jobs, factories and industries" being "stripped out of the United States and out of many countries" as a result.

Without singling out China by name, Trump argued the U.S. had adhered to World Trade Organization principles, only to be taken advantage of by countries that had ignored the rules and engaged in harmful practices such as product dumping, currency manipulation and government subsidizing of goods.

"We can no longer tolerate these chronic trade abuses and we will not tolerate them," he said.

In the speech, Trump said he had spoken "openly and directly" with Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit about "about China's unfair trade practices and the enormous trade deficits they have produced with the United States."

Trump said China's trade surplus, which stood at \$223 billion for the first 10 months of the year, was unacceptable, and repeated his language from Thursday when he said he did "not blame China" or any other country "for taking advantage of the United States on trade."

But Trump went on to say that the U.S. would "no longer turn a blind eye to violations, cheating or economic aggression."

"We will no longer tolerate the audacious theft of intellectual property. We will confront the destructive practices of forcing businesses to surrender their technology to the state and forcing them into joint ventures in exchange for market access. We will address the massive subsidizing of industries through colossal state-owned enterprises that put private competitors out of business, all the time," he said.

All are allegations the U.S. has lodged against China.

Xi followed Trump to the microphone but in Danang did not directly respond to Trump's claims of trade unfairness toward the U.S.

Trump also continued to talk tough against North Korea and its development of nuclear and ballistic missiles weapons, as he has throughout the trip.

"The future of this region and its beautiful people must not be held hostage to a dictator's twisted fantasies of violent conquest and nuclear blackmail," he said.

APEC is the first of several summits Trump is scheduled to attend on his first official visit to Asia. It will

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 26 of 45

be a change in pace the president, who has spent much of the week basking in elaborate welcome ceremonies and banquets between meetings with the leaders of Japan, South Korea and China.

Shortly before Trump landed, the White House announced he would not be having a formal meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, as Trump had said had been expected. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders blamed scheduling conflicts on both sides, but said it was possible the leaders could have a less formal encounter in Danang or at a later regional conference in the Philippines.

Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said "there have been contradictory signals and we don't have full understanding yet," according to Russian news wires. But he added: "Both presidents are in town, and their paths will cross one way or another."

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had told reporters in Beijing on Thursday that there was no reason to schedule a meeting if the U.S. and Russia are unable to make significant progress on issues including Syria and Ukraine.

Both sides have been working to reach agreement on how they hope to resolve Syria's civil war once the Islamic State group is defeated. The potential understanding comes as an array of forces are near a final defeat of IS, the extremist group that once controlled vast stretches of both Iraq and Syria.

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

US Air Force official: Missile targeting Saudis was Iranian

By JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran manufactured the ballistic missile fired by Yemen's Shiite rebels toward the Saudi capital and remnants of it bore "Iranian markings," the top U.S. Air Force official in the Mideast said Friday, backing the kingdom's earlier allegations.

The comments by Lt. Gen. Jeffrey L. Harrigian, who oversees the Air Force's Central Command in Qatar, further internationalizes the yearslong conflict in Yemen — the Arab world's poorest country.

Saudi Arabia long has accused Iran of giving weapons to the Shiite rebels known as Houthis and their allies, though Tehran has just as long denied supplying them.

"There have been Iranian markings on those missiles," Harrigian told journalists at a news conference in Dubai ahead of the Dubai Air Show. "To me, that connects the dots to Iran."

There was no immediate reaction from Tehran.

Saudi Arabia says it shot down the missile Nov. 4 near Riyadh's international airport, the deepest yet to reach into the kingdom. Saudi Arabia's Foreign Ministry later said investigators examining the remains of the rocket found evidence proving "the role of Iranian regime in manufacturing them." It did not elaborate, though it also mentioned it found similar evidence after a July 22 missile launch. French President Emmanuel Macron similarly this week described the missile as "obviously" Iranian.

Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said in a statement Tuesday that the July launch involved an Iranian Qiam-1, a liquid-fueled, short-range Scud missile variant. Iran used a Qiam-1 in combat for the first time in June when it targeted Islamic State group militants in Syria over twin militant attacks in Tehran.

Harrigian declined to offer any specifics on what type of missile U.S. officials believed it was, nor did he show any images of the debris. He also didn't explain how Iran evaded the blockade by the Saudi-led coalition, which intensified after the missile targeting Riyadh.

"How they got it there is probably something that will continue to be investigated over time," the lieutenant general said. "What has been demonstrated and shown based on the findings of that missile is that it had Iranian markings on it. That in itself provides evidence of where it came from."

The Houthis have described using Burkan-2 or "Volcano" Scud variants in their recent attacks, including the one Nov. 4. Those finless missiles are reminiscent of the Qiam, wrote Jeremy Binnie of Jane's Defense Weekly in a February analysis.

"The Burkan-2 is likely to heighten suspicions that Iran is helping Yemen's rebel forces to develop their

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 27 of 45

ballistic missile capabilities," Binnie wrote.

Adding to that suspicion is the fact that Yemen's missile forces previously never had experience in disassembling and rebuilding the weapons, said Michael Knights, a fellow at The Washington Institute For Near East Policy who previously worked in Yemen.

It is "not a stretch to believe that Tehran is supporting the Houthi missile program with technical advice and specialized components," Knights wrote in an analysis Thursday. "After all, the Houthis have rapidly fielded three major new missile systems in less than two years while under wartime conditions and international blockade."

The U.S. already is involved in the war in Yemen and has launched drone strikes targeting the local branch of al-Qaida, though it stopped offering targeting information under the Obama administration over concerns about civilian casualties. That prohibition continues today, though the Air Force continues to refuel warplanes in the Yemen theater and offers support in managing airspace over the country, Harrigan said. The Saudi-led coalition also uses American-made bombs and ordinance in its attacks.

Yemen long has had ballistic missiles, dating back to the 1970s when Yemen was split between the socialist South Yemen and North Yemen. After unification in 1990 and a later civil war, Yemen largely moved its ballistic missile stockpile to a mountain base in Sanaa, the capital. It also purchased more from North Korea.

When the Houthis seized Sanaa in September 2014, their allied fighters also held control of the ballistic missiles. The Yemeni military was widely believed to possess around 300 Scud missiles at the time, though exact figures remain unknown.

The Saudi-led coalition entered the war in March 2015 on the side of Yemen's internationally recognized government. It then attacked the ballistic missile base in April 2015, touching off massive explosions that killed several dozen people. Saudi Arabia implied at the time that the Scud arsenal in Yemen had been seriously degraded, if not entirely destroyed, as a result of the airstrikes.

It soon would become clear that wasn't the case. In June 2015, the rebels fired their first ballistic missile into Saudi Arabia near the southwestern city of Khamis Mushait. In the time since, Yemen's rebels have fired over 70 ballistic missiles into Saudi Arabia, according to the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies' missile defense project.

For its part, Iran long has denied offering any arms to Yemen, though it has backed the Houthis and highlighted the high civilian casualties from the Saudi-led coalition's campaign of airstrikes.

But others in Iran have been coy about the ballistic missiles in Yemen. Mehdi Taeb, an influential hard-line cleric who is a brother to the intelligence chief of the hard-line Revolutionary Guard, said in April that Iran tried three times to send missiles to Yemen. The Guard, answerable only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, oversees Iran's missile program.

"We did it one time via an airplane, one time via a Navy boat and one time with a ship," Taeb said in an online video.

The cleric said ultimately the administration of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani ordered the transfers stopped over negotiations on the nuclear deal with world powers, without offering a specific time for the attempted shipments.

"They said come back because the Americans said, 'If you send missiles to Yemen, we will end the negotiations,'" Taeb said.

Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/jongambrellap> . His work can be found at <http://apne.ws/2galNpz> .

Report: IS leader may be in eastern Syrian city of Boukamal

By **BASSEM MROUE**, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A media outlet linked to the Syrian military said Friday that the Islamic State group's leader may be holed up in an IS pocket in the eastern town of Boukamal, which government forces and their allies recaptured this week before losing parts of it later.

The claim was denied by Syrian opposition activists who said the government is trying to make up for losses it suffered in Boukamal when large parts were retaken by the extremists again on Friday.

The whereabouts of al-Baghdadi are not known and if he is killed or captured it would be another blow for the organization that has lost more than 90 percent of lands it once controlled in Iraq and Syria where the group declared a caliphate in June 2014.

Al-Baghdadi's whereabouts and the question of whether he is dead or alive have been a continuing source of mystery and confusion.

The Syrian Central Military Media said that, as Syrian troops and their allies conducted search operations in Boukamal, they "got the information" that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi might be "in one of the pockets" in the town. The report did not elaborate on how the soldiers heard about al-Baghdadi or what they were doing about the information.

Rami Abdurrahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group, and Omar Abu Laila, a Europe-based opposition activist originally from Syria's eastern province of Deir el-Zour both denied the report that al-Baghdadi is in Boukamal.

Boukamal, IS' last major stronghold in Syria, was taken on Thursday after IS militants withdrew from it. Abdurrahman said IS launched a counteroffensive on Boukamal capturing more than 40 percent of the town, mostly its northern neighborhoods.

"The fighting is ongoing, now close to the town's center," Abdurrahman said, adding that when IS fighters withdrew from Boukamal on Thursday it was a trap they set to hit back at government forces and their allies.

Abu Laila said IS fighters control most of Boukamal adding that government claims that al-Baghdadi is in the town is to cover for their losses.

In September, al-Baghdadi released an audio in which he urged his followers to burn their enemies everywhere and target "media centers of the infidels." It was his first purported audio in nearly a year.

Al-Baghdadi has only appeared in public once in 2014 in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

Russian officials said in June there was a "high probability" that al-Baghdadi was killed in a Russian airstrike on the outskirts of the Syrian city of Raqqa, the group's de facto capital that the extremists lost last month. U.S. officials later said they believed he was still alive.

Al-Baghdadi's whereabouts are unknown but he is believed to be in IS' dwindling territory in eastern Syria. Opposition activists say he is also likely somewhere in the wide desert that stretches toward Iraq.

Slovenia's president faces former actor in runoff vote

By **JOVANA GEC**, Associated Press

BLLED, Slovenia (AP) — Slovenia is holding a runoff presidential election on Sunday that is pitting President Borut Pahor against challenger Marjan Sarec, a former actor who is the mayor of the northern town of Kamnik.

Pahor, a veteran politician, has been favored to win after leading the vote by a large margin in the first round of balloting on Oct. 22. But analysts say it could be a tight race: Sarec has already surprised Pahor by forcing a runoff, and has narrowed the gap since the first round.

Below is some background on the race being decided in nature-loving Slovenia, the home country of U.S. first lady Melania Trump:

A PRESIDENT WHO IS 'KING OF INSTAGRAM'

A former fashion model, Pahor has been in politics for decades, holding a number of public positions.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 29 of 45

He was Slovenia's prime minister before he took office as president in December 2012.

Pahor, who turned 54 earlier this month, has sought to portray himself as a president of all Slovenians, regardless of their political preferences. Critics say, however, that Pahor is simply avoiding taking a stand on important issues. He has been nicknamed Slovenia's "King of Instagram" for his frequent presence on social media.

THE COMPETITION

Pahor's opponent, Marjan Sarec, is an ambitious opponent who has won support from many Slovenians fed up with the political elite in the small EU state.

Sarec was a well-known satirical comedian who imitated politicians before entering politics himself in 2010 to run for mayor of Kamnik. Sarec won against an established candidate and gave up acting so he could fully commit to the job. The 39-year-old is currently serving his second term as mayor.

WHAT OPINION SURVEYS SAY

Pre-election surveys have suggested that Pahor could win some 56 percent of the votes, and Sarec around 44. Pahor finished first among nine candidates in the first round of voting in October with 47 percent — not enough to avoid a runoff — while Sarec had 25 percent.

WHY THE VOTE MATTERS

Slovenia's presidency holds no executive powers. However, the president proposes the prime minister who runs the government and the office-holder's opinions carry weight on important issues.

Key topics facing Slovenia include the economy, a border dispute with neighboring Croatia stemming from the 1990s' breakup of the former Yugoslavia, the future of the European Union, the large numbers of migrants and refugees who have reached Europe or are attempting to.

ELECTION DAY

Slovenia, which has a population of around 2 million, has about 1.7 million voters. Polling places are set to open Sunday at 0600 GMT (1 a.m.) and close 12 hours later. Initial results are expected a few hours after the polls close.

Ali Zerdin contributed from Ljubljana, Slovenia.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

1. PUTTING AMERICA FIRST AGAIN

Hours after leaving Beijing, President Trump tells an APEC summit in Vietnam that he won't let the U.S. be "taken advantage of anymore" when it comes to trade.

2. WHERE U.S.-BACKED FORCES COULD FACE NEW FOES

Multiple hotspots in north and east Syria could turn violent for the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, particularly in the absence of a clear American policy.

3. ALLEGATION UPON ALLEGATION

Comedian Louis C.K. and "Mad Men" creator Matthew Weiner are the latest men to face accusations of sexual misconduct.

4. TASK MASTER TAKEN TO TASK

A Marine Corps drill instructor is convicted by a military jury of physically abusing young recruits, focusing his fury on three Muslim-American military volunteers.

5. WHERE AN INTRACTABLE WAR DRAGS ON

As Saudi Arabia tightens screws on Yemen, war without seeming end and catastrophic humanitarian crisis engulf the devastated country.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 30 of 45

6. WHOSE IMPACT MAY BE MISUNDERSTOOD

Trump and his economic team have branded trade deficits a mark of economic weakness yet most economists say their ire is misplaced.

7. AN EMOTIONAL REUNION

After a first meeting between a face transplant and the widow of the donor, they say they are like family now.

8. AT ODDS OVER OSCAR NOMINEE

Hard-liners are criticizing Iran's first-ever nominee for the Academy Awards' foreign film that was directed by a woman — Narges Abyar's "Nafas," or "Breath."

9. HER TALENT IS FOR POP MAGIC

Taylor Swift's new album, "reputation," tells the story of her life in the last two years and showcases her more sensual side.

10. NEVADA DESERT FESTIVAL GOES TO WASHINGTON

Catharsis on the Mall is a three-day event that seeks to bring a small slice of the famed Burning Man gathering to the country's capital.

Sexual misconduct accusations transform Alabama Senate race

By **STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans weren't supposed to have to worry about Alabama.

Yet in the span of a tumultuous afternoon, a low-profile special election became a Republican nightmare that threatens a once-safe Senate seat — and offers a new window into ugly divisions that continue to plague the GOP in the age of President Donald Trump.

Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore, a 70-year-old former state Supreme Court justice, defiantly denied allegations of decades-old sexual misconduct with minors published Thursday in a Washington Post story. The revelations, a month before the Dec. 12 special election, triggered a sharp backlash from would-be Republican colleagues on Capitol Hill, who called on Moore to quit the race if the allegations were true.

It was a bittersweet moment for some in the Republican establishment who argued that Moore, a Christian culture warrior twice removed from his state's Supreme Court for judicial misconduct, never should have been the party's Senate nominee in the first place. Some blamed Steve Bannon, Trump's former senior strategist, who broke from most GOP leaders — including Trump himself — by cheering Moore's candidacy earlier in the year.

"Dear GOP, send your thank you cards to the Breitbart embassy attn: Steve Bannon," tweeted a sarcastic Josh Holmes, a former aide to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Moore is the latest soldier in Bannon's self-described war on the Republican establishment. Frustrated that GOP leaders haven't quickly executed Trump's agenda, Bannon has vowed to defeat every Senate Republican up for re-election next year, save for Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

Bannon referenced Moore only briefly during an appearance Thursday night in New Hampshire, attacking The Washington Post — an "apparatus of the Democratic Party," he called it — for also being among the first to report the "Access Hollywood" tape that caught Trump using sexual predatory language before the 2016 election.

"The Bezos-Amazon-Washington Post that dropped that dime on Donald Trump, is the same Bezos-Amazon-Washington Post that dropped the dime this afternoon on Judge Roy Moore," Bannon said. "Now is that a coincidence? That's what I mean when I say 'opposition party.'"

The White House said Trump believes Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore "will do the right thing and step aside" if sexual misconduct allegations against him are true. Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters traveling with Trump in Asia that the president believes a "mere allegation" — especially one from many years ago — shouldn't be allowed to destroy a person's life.

But Sanders said: "The president also believes that if these allegations are true, Judge Moore will do the right thing and step aside."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 31 of 45

Moore's challenge in Alabama comes the same week that Republicans suffered sweeping election losses across several states, none more significant than Virginia, where Democrats seized the governor's office and may have changed the balance of power in the state legislature.

Across Washington, the calls from anxious Republicans for Moore to step aside if the allegations proved true grew as the hours passed on Thursday. They included Trump, McConnell and Cruz, House Freedom Caucus Chairman Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., and Alabama's own senior senator, Richard Shelby.

Moore showed no signs of going quietly, vowing in a fundraising message distributed in the midst of Thursday's chaos to "NEVER GIVE UP the fight!" as he cast his struggle as a "spiritual battle."

It's too late for Moore's name to be removed from the ballot before the Dec. 12 special election even if he withdraws from the race, according to John Bennett, a spokesman for the Alabama secretary of state. A write-in campaign remains possible, Bennett added.

Sen. Luther Strange, the Trump-backed interim senator who lost to Moore in a September primary contest, wouldn't immediately say whether he'd re-enter the race.

"Well, that's getting the cart ahead of the horse. But I will have something to say about that. Let me do some more research," Strange told The Associated Press.

On the ground in Alabama, however, many responded with a collective shrug.

"Take Joseph and Mary. Mary was a teenager and Joseph was an adult carpenter. They became parents of Jesus," Alabama state Auditor Jim Ziegler told The Washington Examiner.

Alabama resident Becky Ashley dismissed the situation as a ploy by Democratic candidate Doug Jones, a former U.S. attorney. "I don't believe them at all," Ashley told the AP. "I believe this is Doug Jones, some of his doings, you know. I just don't believe Roy Moore would do that."

The disbelief stemmed, in part, from Moore's reputation as a conservative Christian.

He was twice removed from his state Supreme Court position, once for disobeying a federal court order to remove a 5,200-pound granite Ten Commandments monument from the lobby of the state judicial building, and later for urging state probate judges to defy the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized gay marriage.

He said more recently that Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minn., should not be allowed to serve in Congress because he's a Muslim. Asked about those comments during a Washington visit last week, Moore said only, "I'll address that later."

The Post reported that Moore, then a 32-year-old district attorney, approached 14-year-old Leigh Corfman in early 1979 outside a courtroom in Etowah County, Alabama.

After phone calls and meetings, he drove her to his home some days later and kissed her, the Post quotes Corfman as saying. On a second visit, he took off her shirt and pants and removed his clothes except for his underwear before touching her over her bra and underpants, Corfman told the Post. He also guided her hand to touch him over his underwear, she said.

"I wanted it over with — I wanted out," she told the Post. "Please just get this over with. Whatever this is, just get it over."

Three other women interviewed by the Post said Moore approached them when they were between the ages of 16 and 18 and he was in his early 30s. All four women spoke on the record to the Post.

Jones, Moore's Democratic opponent, released only an eight-word statement from his campaign: "Roy Moore needs to answer these serious charges."

Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Andrew Taylor in Washington, Robert Ray in Heflin, Alabama, and Michael Casey in Manchester, New Hampshire, contributed to this report.

Wilson throws 2 TD passes, Seahawks win again in Arizona

By BOB BAUM, AP Sports Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Russell Wilson has been confounding the Arizona Cardinals with his escape antics for a long time.

He did it again Thursday night in the biggest play of the Seattle Seahawks' 22-16 victory.

In what his coach Pete Carroll called "an extraordinary play," Wilson eluded the Cardinals with an array of jukes and spin moves before completing a 54-yard pass to Doug Baldwin, setting up his second touchdown pass to Jimmy Graham.

Seattle climbed within a half-game of the first-place Los Angeles Rams in the NFC West in a game marred by a host of injuries, including a season-ending one to Seattle cornerback Richard Sherman.

The Seahawks (6-3) limited Adrian Peterson to 29 yards in 21 carries, improving to 4-0-1 in Arizona in Bruce Arians' five seasons as coach of the Cardinals (4-5). The only time the Seahawks haven't beaten Arians' team in Arizona was in last season's 6-6 tie.

Seattle's Kam Chancellor forced a fumble by Peterson on Arizona's first offensive play and later tackled him in the end zone for a safety.

Sherman limped off the field in the third quarter, one of at least seven players who left the game with injuries. He said afterward he had ruptured an Achilles tendon. He had sat out practice all week nursing the sore Achilles, knowing it could go at any moment.

"It has been bothering me all season," Sherman said. "It is one of those things. You just have to play through it as long as you can and when it goes, it goes."

Seahawks linebacker Bobby Wagner linked the injuries to playing on Thursday nights.

"We play a physical game, a physical sport," he said, "and to ask us to turn around and be ready after Sunday, to turn around and have our bodies OK on that Thursday, is really tough for us to do."

Wilson, sacked a season-high five times, completed 22 of 32 passes for 238 yards. Arizona's Drew Stanton, in his second start since Carson Palmer went down with a broken arm, completed 24 of 47 for 273 yards and a touchdown. Larry Fitzgerald caught 10 passes for 113 yards for the Cardinals, topping 15,000 yards receiving for his career in the process.

With his team leading 15-10, Wilson scrambled and spun his way out of serious trouble repeatedly before throwing from his heels to Baldwin. Antoine Bethea fell down trying to knock the pass away and Baldwin raced downfield on a 54-yard play to the Arizona 2-yard line.

"I saw (outside linebacker) Chandler Jones right there and whenever you see him right there it is not a good thing," Wilson said. "So I was trying to find a way to get some space and get away from him I think I swung back twice and gave Doug a chance to make a play."

The Cardinals have seen Wilson do this sort of thing too many times.

"It's not a surprise, his ability to extend plays," defensive tackle Josh Mauro said, "that's really the catalyst of their whole offense."

Arians called the play "probably the deciding factor in the game."

Wilson threw 2 yards to Graham on the next play and the Seahawks led 22-10 with 12:49 to play.

Kerwynn Williams scored on a one-yard run with 20 seconds to play for the Cardinals and Seattle recovered the onside kick try to seal the win.

INJURIES

There were injuries to important players on both sides.

Arizona left tackle D.J. Humphries and safety Tyvon Branch both left with right knee injuries early in the game. Humphries injured the same knee in the season opener. Branch was the Cardinals' leading tackler through eight games with 68.

Seahawks defensive tackle Jarran Reed left in the first quarter with a hamstring injury. And Seattle left tackle Duane Brown, in his second game since being acquired in a trade from Houston, went down with an ankle injury in the second quarter.

Seattle linebacker Michael Wilhoite (calf) and Arizona tight end Ifeanyi Momah (ankle) also had to leave

the contest.

The Seahawks already were without safety Earl Thomas, who sat out the game with a hamstring injury. Arians said there's a possibility Humphries, Branch and Momah all go on injured reserve.

PENALTY FLOOD

Seattle entered the game as the most penalized team in the league with 82, nine more than its nearest competitor, the New York Jets and it looks like their lead in that category for another week is assured.

With their 12 penalties (for 108 yards) on Thursday, the Seahawks have 94 in nine games.

Four Seattle penalties for 41 yards aided the Cardinals on their first touchdown drive.

The Seahawks had 16 penalties for 138 yards in their home loss to Washington on Sunday.

UP NEXT

Seahawks: Host Atlanta on Monday, Nov. 20.

Cardinals: Play at Houston on Sunday, Nov. 19.

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

White House: No formal Trump-Putin meeting on Asia trip

By JILL COLVIN and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

DANANG, Vietnam (AP) — President Donald Trump will not have a formal sit-down with Russian President Vladimir Putin while the two attend a summit, the White House said Friday shortly before Trump landed in Vietnam, the fourth stop on his first official visit to Asia.

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders blamed scheduling conflicts on both sides for the fact that the leaders will not meet formally during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit taking place in the coastal city of Danang.

But Sanders said it was "possible" and "likely" that they could have a less formal encounter, either in Danang or later in the Philippines when Trump and Putin attend another regional conference.

"Now, they're going to be in the same place. Are they going to bump into each other and say hello? Certainly possible and likely," she said. "But in terms of a scheduled, formal meeting, there's not one on the calendar and we don't anticipate that there will be one."

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had told reporters in Beijing on Thursday that there was no reason to schedule a meeting if the U.S. and Russia are unable to make significant progress on issues including Syria and Ukraine.

"The view has been if the two leaders are going to meet, is there something sufficiently substantive to talk about that would warrant a formal meeting," he said.

Both sides have been working to reach agreement on how they hope to resolve Syria's civil war once the Islamic State group is defeated. The potential understanding comes as an array of forces are near a final defeat of IS, the extremist group that once controlled vast stretches of both Iraq and Syria. Fighting the group is no longer top priority, shifting the focus back to Syria's intractable conflict between Russian-backed President Bashar Assad's government and armed rebels, to whom the U.S. lends at least rhetorical support.

The news comes a day after Trump set aside his blistering rhetoric in favor of friendly overtures to China on Thursday, trying to flatter his hosts into establishing a more balanced trade relationship and doing more to blunt North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

Winding down his two days in Beijing, Trump suggested that if the U.S. and China jointly took on the world's problems, "I believe we can solve almost all of them, and probably all of them."

In the name of furthering that relationship, Trump largely shelved his campaign complaints about China, at least in public. He focused on exhorting Beijing to help with North Korea, an effort expected again to take center stage at an international summit in Vietnam on Friday.

The Chinese rolled out a lavish welcome for the American president. Trump returned the kindness, heaping praise on China's Xi Jinping and predicting the two powers would work around entrenched differences. On Twitter later, Trump called his meetings with Xi "very productive on both trade and the subject

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 34 of 45

of North Korea.”

On trade, Trump criticized the “very one-sided and unfair” relationship between the U.S. and China. But unlike his approach during the campaign, when he castigated China for what he contended were inappropriate trade practices, Trump said Thursday that he didn’t blame the Chinese for having taken advantage of the U.S.

Trump said China “must immediately address the unfair trade practices” that drive a “shockingly” large trade deficit, along with barriers to market access, forced technology transfers and intellectual property theft.

“But I don’t blame China,” he said. “After all, who can blame a country for being able to take advantage of another country for the benefit of its citizens?”

To applause, Trump said, “I give China great credit.”

Reacting from afar, Sen. Bob Menendez, a Democrat from New Jersey, said Trump’s comments “make the United States look weak and as if we are bowing to China’s whim. ... Instead of giving China credit for stealing American jobs, the president should be holding China accountable.” Menendez, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is on trial for alleged bribery.

Tillerson offered a blunt assessment of China’s trade surplus with the United States, which in October widened by 12.2 percent from a year earlier to \$26.6 billion. The total surplus with the United States for the first 10 months of the year was \$223 billion.

“I think the best way to characterize it is that while we appreciate the long hours and the effort that our Chinese counterparts have put into those trade discussions, quite frankly in the grand scheme of a \$300- to \$500-billion trade deficit, the things that have been achieved are pretty small,” Tillerson told reporters in Beijing.

Tillerson also acknowledged there were differences in “tactics and the timing and how far to go with pressure” on North Korea. But he insisted that the two countries shared common objectives.

“There is no disagreement on North Korea,” he said.

The comments by Trump and his top diplomat came after lengthy meetings with Xi. The day included announcements that the U.S. and China had signed agreements valued at more than \$250 billion for products including U.S.-made jet engines, auto parts, liquefied natural gas and beef.

Such contract signings, a fixture of foreign leaders’ visits to Beijing, are intended to defuse complaints about China’s trade policies.

Xi promised a more open business environment for foreign companies in China and said his country was committed to further opening its economy to outside investment.

“China will not close its doors” and will open them “even wider,” he said, pledging that foreign companies in China, including American ones, would find the market “more open, more transparent and more orderly.”

It is unclear how far China will go to fulfill its pledges. Previous U.S. administrations have hailed market-opening promises only to be left disappointed.

Before arriving in China, Trump had delivered a stern message to Beijing, using an address in South Korea to call on China, North Korea’s biggest trade partner, to do more to confront and isolate the North.

Trump appeared far more conciliatory on Thursday, thanking China for its efforts and saying he’d been encouraged by his conversations.

“China can fix this problem easily. And quickly. And I am calling on China and your great president to hopefully work on it very hard,” Trump said. “If he works on it hard it will happen.”

Associated Press writers Christopher Bodeen in Beijing and Darlene Superville and Ken Thomas in Washington contributed to this report.

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U.S., Russia nearing agreement on resolving Syrian civil war

By JOSH LEDERMAN and MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and Russia are nearing an agreement on Syria for how they hope to resolve the Arab country's civil war once the Islamic State group is defeated, officials said Thursday. If clinched, the deal was expected to be announced by President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Vietnam on Friday, four U.S. officials said. The United States has been reluctant to schedule a formal meeting for the leaders unless they have a substantive agreement to announce.

But White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Friday that they won't hold a formal meeting due to scheduling conflicts on "both sides." Still, Sanders said it was possible Trump and Putin could have a less formal encounter while in Vietnam.

The potential understanding comes as an array of forces are near a final defeat of IS, the extremist group that once controlled vast stretches of both Iraq and Syria. Fighting the group is no longer top priority, shifting the focus back to Syria's intractable conflict between President Bashar Assad's government and rebels — and to concerns that foreign powers such as Iran will now dominate the country's future.

The U.S.-Russian agreement being discussed would focus on three elements, officials said: "deconfliction" between the U.S. and Russian militaries, reducing violence in the civil war and reinvigorating U.N.-led peace talks. The officials weren't authorized to discuss the deliberations and requested anonymity.

The U.S. and Russian militaries have maintained a "deconfliction" hotline for years to avoid unintended collisions and even potential confrontations as they each operate in Syria's crowded skies. A heavy air campaign by Russia has been credited with shoring up the position of Assad, a close ally of Moscow.

With IS nearing defeat, the U.S. and Russia are losing their common enemy in Syria and will remain in a proxy battle in which Russia backs Assad and the U.S. lends at least rhetorical support to armed opposition groups fighting the government. That has increased the need for close communication between the two powers about where their forces are operating at any given time, officials said.

The agreement also seeks to build on progress in establishing "de-escalation zones" in Syria that have calmed some parts of the country. In July, when Trump held his first meeting with Putin in Germany, the U.S. and Russia announced a deal that included Jordan and established a cease-fire in southwest Syria. The United States has said that cease-fire has largely held and could be replicated elsewhere in the country.

A key U.S. concern, shared by close ally Israel, is the presence of Iranian-backed militias in Syria that have exploited the vacuum of power. The United States and Israel have been seeking ways to prevent forces loyal to Iran — Israel's archenemy — from establishing a permanent presence. One idea hinges on a "buffer zone" along Israel's border with Syria.

A third element of the deal would reaffirm support for the United Nations effort being run out of Geneva to seek a political transition in Syria and resolve the civil war. The United States and Russia have been at odds for years over whether Assad could be allowed to remain in power in a future Syrian government.

The U.N. talks, which have come in fits and starts without yielding significant progress, aren't the only discussions about Syria's future. Russia, Turkey and Iran have been brokering their own process in Astana, Kazakhstan. The U.S. views those talks warily because of Iran's involvement, though they've led to local cease-fire deals that have reduced violence, too.

"We believe that the Geneva process is the right way to go," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said Thursday. "Unfortunately, it is a long way off, but we're getting a little bit closer."

The U.S.-Russia deal may also seek to expand the mandate of a joint "monitoring center" established this year in Amman, Jordan, to watch for cease-fire violations and other developments on the ground. It has focused on southwest Syria, where the cease-fire is in place, but could be used to monitor broader stretches of the country.

Although Moscow has sought a formal meeting between Trump and Putin while both are in Vietnam this week, the U.S. hasn't committed to such a meeting. Washington's concern is that it would not serve U.S. interests unless there's progress between the countries to announce — on Syria or something else. Putin's aides have said a meeting will likely occur Friday and that the time, place and format are being

worked out between the governments.

"We have been in contact with them, and the view has been if the two leaders are going to meet, is there something sufficiently substantive to talk about that would warrant a formal meeting?" Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Thursday in Beijing.

Reach Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP> and Matthew Lee at <http://twitter.com/APDiploWriter>

Family: Woman died shielding grandson during church massacre

By JAMIE STENGLE, Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Sunday school teacher Peggy Warden threw herself in front of her grandson when a gunman opened fire onto the congregation at First Baptist Church, getting fatally shot as she protected the 18-year-old, relatives said. The teen then shielded a child hiding under a pew.

Warden, 56, was one of more than two dozen people killed in Sunday's shooting at the Sutherland Springs church. Her grandson Zach Poston was one of about 20 other people injured and described what happened from the San Antonio hospital where he was still recovering Thursday, said Warden's brother Jimmy Stevens.

"Basically, Peggy stood up and just shielded over him while the shooter was shooting. And when she got hit in the back he said he turned — because he heard her — and when he turned to see if she was OK, she passed away immediately," Stevens said.

Poston already had been hit in his arms, legs and side, Stevens said, when he saw a small child trying to get out from underneath a pew. So Poston shoved the child back under, Stevens said, and was shot again in the leg.

"So he took what Peggy gave him and he passed it on to help someone else," Stevens told The Associated Press on Thursday. He said it's his understanding that the child survived.

Stevens said one of the congregants was a nurse who was able to help bandage Poston, likely keeping the high school senior from bleeding to death.

"He will recover physically at some point; we just don't know what that point will be," Stevens said. "Our prayers and concerns are going to be for him and those others in there because of the mental and heartfelt torture they went through. It's still going to be in their mind," he said.

The gunman shot and killed 25 people at the church. Authorities have put the official toll at 26, because one of the victims was pregnant. The gunman died of what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound after being chased by bystanders and crashing his car.

Stevens said his sister taught Sunday school, but had only returned to being active in the church in recent months after spending more than a year caring for her husband, who had cancer and died in July.

"Her goal was always to teach children and to make sure she was a disciple," Stevens said, adding, "Her goal was to teach those children so that they grew up with that strength in their heart."

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Senate GOP tax bill would delay biz cut, undo deductions

By ANDREW TAYLOR and MARCY GORDON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans revealed the details of their sweeping tax legislation Thursday, including a one-year delay in plans for a major corporate tax cut despite strident opposition from the White House and others in their own party. Their bill would leave the prized mortgage interest deduction untouched for homeowners in a concession to the powerful real estate lobby but would ignore a House compromise on the hot-button issue of state and local tax deductions.

On the other side of the Capitol, the House Ways and Means Committee approved its own version of

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 37 of 45

the legislation on a party-line 24-16 vote, amid intense political pressure on the GOP to push forward on the first major rewrite of the U.S. tax code in three decades. It's President Donald Trump's top priority and a goal many Republicans believe has grown even more urgent in the wake of election losses on Tuesday that displayed an energized Democratic electorate.

Yet as the Senate Finance Committee unveiled its bill, a few stark differences emerged with the version approved by the House tax-writing committee, underscoring the challenges ahead in getting both chambers to agree on the complex and far-reaching legislation that would affect nearly every American.

The Senate measure fails to repeal the estate tax, though it doubles the size of estates exempted from the tax. It makes couples earning up to \$1 million eligible for a \$1,650 per-child tax credit. It creates a new 38.5 percent tax bracket for couples earning more than \$1 million and individuals making more than \$500,000 per year. And it takes a different approach to cutting taxes for businesses not organized as corporations that is less generous but applies to more businesses.

Democrats are strongly opposed to the GOP rewrite, so the Republicans must find agreement among themselves to have any hope of passage.

The Senate bill would fully repeal the state and local deduction claimed by many taxpayers, an idea that has drawn vigorous opposition from House Republicans in New York and New Jersey and resulted in a compromise in the House version of the bill that would allow property taxes to be deducted up to \$10,000.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy told The Associated Press that the Senate's total-repeal approach would face tough sledding in his chamber. As for the hard-fought compromise, he said, "I think it'd be difficult not to have it in the final bill."

On the other hand, the House bill would lower the cap on the mortgage interest deduction, an idea that caused intense blowback from the real estate lobby, but the Senate tax measure would leave it unchanged. That means homebuyers would continue to be able to deduct interest payments on loans of up to \$1 million as permitted under current law; the House bill would reduce the limit to \$500,000 for new home purchases.

The feverish efforts by Republicans in both chambers are aimed at fulfilling a self-imposed deadline to get legislation out of the House and Senate before Thanksgiving so the period between then and Christmas can be devoted to reconciling the two versions. But the Senate already seems unlikely to meet that deadline because of complex rules governing how it must consider the tax bill.

In one provision sure to cause a major dispute, the Senate measure includes a one-year delay in lowering the corporate tax rate, which is to be cut from 35 percent to 20 percent. Delaying that reduction would lower the cost of the bill to the Treasury, but the delay is opposed by the White House and some Senate Republicans.

"The president would like this to go into effect right away," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Thursday on Fox Business Network.

Other obstacles remain, among them a band of deficit hawks in the Senate who are unhappy about the \$1.5 trillion the legislation would add to the national debt over the coming decade.

"I remain concerned over how the current tax reform proposals will grow the already staggering national debt by opting for short-term fixes while ignoring long-term problems," said Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ala. "We must achieve real tax reform crafted in a fiscally responsible manner."

The House and Senate bills are broadly similar in their outlines. Both would drastically reduce the corporate tax rate and also lower rates for individuals, while eliminating deductions claimed by many people.

The House version would collapse the current seven tax brackets into four, while the Senate would retain seven. The House bill would entirely eliminate the estate tax, while the Senate version would retain it while doubling the exemption level. Both versions would retain an adoption tax credit that had initially been eliminated in the House bill, but that adoption advocates fought to restore.

Both would increase a child tax credit, though not to levels sought by Sens. Marco Rubio and others, an indication of how individual provisions will need to be negotiated with one lawmaker after another in the weeks to come. House Republicans appear on track to pass their version of the bill next week, but in

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 38 of 45

the Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has a slim 52-48 majority that has proven difficult to corral. Democrats are angrily opposed to the GOP rewrite, arguing it's a giveaway to the rich and corporate America. Republicans contend that the tax reductions will help the middle class, even though some independent analyses have found that the wealthy and corporations benefit disproportionately.

The tax bill must deepen federal deficits by no more than \$1.5 trillion over the coming decade. If Republicans don't meet that, the measure would be vulnerable to a bill-killing Senate filibuster by Democrats that GOP senators lack the votes to block. It also cannot add to red ink beyond the first 10 years without facing the same fate.

Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Erica Werner contributed to this report.

AP Exclusive: Russia Twitter trolls deflected Trump bad news

By RYAN NAKASHIMA and BARBARA ORTUTAY, AP Technology Writers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Disguised Russian agents on Twitter rushed to deflect scandalous news about Donald Trump just before last year's presidential election while straining to refocus criticism on the mainstream media and Hillary Clinton's campaign, according to an Associated Press analysis of since-deleted accounts.

Tweets by Russia-backed accounts such as "America_1st_" and "BatonRougeVoice" on Oct. 7, 2016, actively pivoted away from news of an audio recording in which Trump made crude comments about groping women, and instead touted damaging emails hacked from Clinton's campaign chairman John Podesta.

Since early this year, the extent of Russian intrusion to help Trump and hurt Clinton in the election has been the subject of both congressional scrutiny and a criminal investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller. In particular, those investigations are looking into the possibility of collusion between the Trump campaign and the Russians.

AP's analysis illuminates the obvious strategy behind the Russian cyber meddling: swiftly react, distort and distract attention from any negative Trump news.

The AP examined 36,210 tweets from Aug. 31, 2015, to Nov. 10, 2016, posted by 382 of the Russian accounts that Twitter shared with congressional investigators last week. Twitter deactivated the accounts, deleting the tweets and making them inaccessible on the internet. But a limited selection of the accounts' Twitter activity was retrieved by matching account handles against an archive obtained by AP.

"MSM (the mainstream media) is at it again with Billy Bush recording ... What about telling Americans how Hillary defended a rapist and later laughed at his victim?" tweeted the America_1st— account, which had 25,045 followers at its peak, according to metadata in the archive. The tweet went out the afternoon of Oct. 7, just hours after The Washington Post broke the story about Trump's comments to Bush, then host of "Access Hollywood," about kissing, groping and trying to have sex with women, saying, "when you're a star, they let you do it."

Within an hour of the Post's story, WikiLeaks unleashed its own bombshell about hacked email from Podesta's account, a release the Russian accounts had been foreshadowing for days.

"WikiLeaks' Assange signals release of documents before U.S. election," tweeted both "SpecialAffair" and "ScreamyMonkey" within a second of each other on Oct. 4. "SpecialAffair," an account describing itself as a "Political junkie in action," had 11,255 followers at the time. "ScreamyMonkey," self-described as a "First frontier.News aggregator," had 13,224. Both accounts were created within three days of each other in late December 2014.

Twitter handed over the handles of 2,752 accounts it identified as coming from Russia's Internet Research Agency to congressional investigators ahead of the social media giant's Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 appearances on Capitol Hill. It said 9 percent of the tweets were election-related but didn't make the tweets themselves public.

That makes the archive the AP obtained the most comprehensive historical picture so far of Russian activity on Twitter in the crucial run-up to the Nov. 8, 2016, vote. Twitter policy requires developers who

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 39 of 45

archive its material to delete tweets from suspended accounts as soon as reasonably possible, unless doing so would violate the law or Twitter grants an exception. It's possible the existence of the deleted tweets in the archive obtained by the AP runs afoul of those rules.

The Russian accounts didn't just spring into action at the last minute. They were similarly active at earlier points in the campaign.

When Trump reversed himself on a lie about Barack Obama's birthplace on Sept. 17, declaring abruptly that Obama "was born in the United States, period," several Russian accounts chimed in to echo Trump's subsequent false claim that it was Clinton who had started the birther controversy.

Others continued to push birther narratives. The Russian account TEN_GOP, which many mistook for the official account of the Tennessee Republican Party, linked to a video that claimed that Obama "admits he was born in Kenya." But the Russian accounts weren't in lockstep. The handle "hyddrox" retweeted a post by the anti-Trump billionaire Mark Cuban that the "MSM (mainstream media) is being suckered into chasing birther stories."

On Sept. 15, Clinton returned to the campaign trail following a bout with pneumonia that caused her to stumble at a 9/11 memorial service. The Russian account "Pamela_Moore13" noted that her intro music was "I Feel Good" by James Brown — then observed that "James Brown died of pneumonia," a line that was repeated at least 11 times by Russian accounts, including by "Jenn_Abrams," which had 59,868 followers at the time.

According to several obituaries, Brown died of congestive heart failure related to pneumonia.

Racial discord also figured prominently in the tweets, just as it did with many of the ads Russian trolls had purchased on Facebook in the months leading up to and following the election. One Russian account, "Blacks4DTrump," tweeted a Trump quote on Sept. 16 in which he declared "it is the Democratic party that is the party of slavery, the party of Jim Crow & the party of opposition."

TEN_GOP, meanwhile, asked followers to "SPREAD the msg of black pastor explaining why African-Americans should vote Donald Trump!"

Barbara Ortutay reported from New York. AP Data Journalist Larry Fenn contributed from New York.

Scores more Saudis detained in \$100 billion corruption sweep

By ABDULLAH AL-SHIHRI and AYA BATRAWY, Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Dozens more people have been taken into custody by Saudi authorities, the kingdom said Thursday, bringing to 201 the number detained in a sweep that investigators say has uncovered at least \$100 billion in corruption.

Saudi critics and experts have called the unprecedented purge of top princes and businessmen a bold and risky move by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman aimed at consolidating power as he keeps an eye on the throne, sidelining potential rivals and dismantling alliances built with other branches of the royal family.

The sweep comes at a time of increased tensions between Saudi Arabia and its main regional rival, Iran, over the ongoing conflict and suffering in Yemen and a newly erupting political crisis in Lebanon.

Saudi Attorney General Saud al-Mojeb said 208 people had been called in for questioning, and that seven were released without charge, leaving 201 in custody.

The new figure is far larger than what was previously reported by the government, reflecting a continuing series of arrests throughout the week. The stunning purge began overnight Saturday, initially catching 11 princes and 38 officials, military officers and business leaders. They are being held at five-star hotels, including the Ritz-Carlton in Riyadh.

The 32-year-old crown prince, who is the son of King Salman and is popularly known by his initials MBS, is leading the investigation as head of a newly formed anti-corruption committee.

Among those detained are billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal and two sons of the late King Abdullah, including Prince Miteb, who until Saturday had headed the powerful National Guard. Several years ago, he was considered a contender for the throne and was believed to have opposed MBS becoming crown prince.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 40 of 45

The government declined to identify many of the other individuals being questioned, saying it is respecting their privacy during this phase of the investigation.

An estimated 1,700 individual bank accounts have been frozen.

"The potential scale of corrupt practices which have been uncovered is very large," al-Mojeb said, adding that based on investigations in the past three years, at least \$100 billion has been misused through corruption and embezzlement.

Al-Mojeb confirmed that action was taken to suspend personal bank accounts, but he did not disclose any figures. The government stressed that only personal accounts have been frozen, leaving businesses untouched.

Saudis have complained for years of rampant corruption and misuse of public funds by top officials in a system where nepotism is also widespread.

In recent years, Saudi families have also had to contend with austerity measures that have driven up costs while simultaneously being told they can no longer count on cushy government jobs.

Meanwhile, members of the sprawling royal family and their business associates had long been seen as operating above the law. Members of the royal family receive undisclosed monthly stipends from state coffers built up over years of high oil prices.

After oil prices fell three years ago without fully recovering, Saudi Arabia introduced new taxes and lifted some subsidies in order to boost revenue and cut government spending.

Supporters of MBS say fighting corruption is part of the crown prince's Vision 2030 plan, a blueprint for how to restructure the country and wean it from its dependence on oil revenue.

Faisal Abbas, the Saudi editor-in-chief of the daily Arab News, wrote in a widely shared column this week that the kingdom is "damned if it acts against corruption, damned if it doesn't."

"Anyone who understands who is who in Riyadh knows only too well that none of those arrested — whether royals or non-royals — has or would have had any political sway in the current climate whatsoever," he wrote.

"More importantly, it is just mind-boggling that very few are noticing the obvious; which is that all of those being detained are incredibly wealthy," Abbas added.

Still, independent Saudi observers say the anti-corruption probe targets only select members of the royal family, government and business community. Additionally, several of those arrested were ministers under King Salman, raising questions about where responsibility begins and ends.

While few would argue against allegations that some top princes and officials have enriched themselves during years in power, the selection of who has been detained raises speculation that the purge is political.

Prince Miteb's detention stands out because he was the last remaining prince of his generation in a position of real power, which made him a potential obstacle to the throne for MBS.

Earlier this year, the crown prince engineered the ouster of another more experienced prince from the line of succession.

Many also have questioned a recent purchase by MBS of a yacht estimated at anywhere between \$200 million to \$500 million.

Saudi observer Thomas Lippmann said it is difficult to draw the line between what constitutes corruption in Saudi Arabia and how business deals, contracts and access have been won over the years.

"I don't believe for a minute this is really about disrupting the payout system or corruption," said Lippmann, author of "Saudi Arabia on the Edge: The Uncertain Future of an American Ally."

"This is about getting rid of the centers of power," he said.

As the purge unfolded, U.S. President Donald Trump gave his stamp of approval, saying the king and the crown prince "know exactly what they are doing."

French President Emmanuel Macron told journalists in the United Arab Emirates that he wasn't making any judgments.

"This is not the role of a president, and similarly I would not expect a leader of a foreign country to come and infringe on domestic matters," Macron said.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 41 of 45

Macron visited Saudi Arabia later Thursday and met with the crown prince. Their discussions likely also touched on the crisis in Lebanon sparked by the sudden and mysterious resignation of Prime Minister Saad Hariri. He announced his resignation in a pre-recorded message from Saudi Arabia earlier this week.

Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah and one of Lebanon's most powerful figures, has openly speculated that Saudi Arabia played a role in Hariri's resignation and might have been held against his will in the kingdom.

Saudi Arabia ordered all of its citizens to "immediately" depart Lebanon amid heightened tensions with Hezbollah and the militant group's patron, Iran. A brief statement carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency also warned Saudis against travel to the country.

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir warned earlier this week that his government would "deal with" Lebanon as a hostile state as long as Hezbollah was in the government. He said Hezbollah's participation in government is an "act of war" against Saudi Arabia.

In Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition has been battling Shiite rebels since March 2015, the United Nations and more than 20 aid groups said a blockade of all ports in the war-torn country was threatening to bring "starvation and death" to millions of people.

Unless the coalition lifts the blockade, Yemen will face "the largest famine the world has seen for many decades, with millions of victims," said U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock.

The coalition closed all ports and halted aid shipments after Yemen's Houthi rebels fired a ballistic missile over the weekend that was intercepted near Riyadh. Saudi Arabia blamed the strike on Iran, which supports the Houthis but has denied arming them.

— Batrawy reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Markets Right Now: Health care companies lead stocks lower

NEW YORK (AP) — The latest on developments in financial markets (All times local):

9:40 a.m.

Stocks opening lower as investors continue to do modest amounts of selling after Senate Republicans proposed delaying a corporate tax cut by a year.

Health care companies stumbled Friday. Prescription drug distributor Cardinal Health fell 3 percent and medical device maker Medtronic lost 1.8 percent.

The losses are jeopardizing an eight-week winning streak for stocks.

Media companies and retailers rose. Walt Disney rose 2.3 percent and J.C. Penney soared 16 percent.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 5 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,578.

The Dow Jones industrial average declined 47 points, or 0.2 percent, to 23,413. The Nasdaq composite index is down 14 points, or 0.2 percent, to 6,735.

JC Penney is the bright spot for retail this week

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO, AP Retail Writer

PLANO, Texas (AP) — J.C. Penney delivered some encouraging news in the form of rising comparable stores Friday, reversing four straight quarters of declines and it posted smaller-than-expected loss for the third quarter.

Shares soared 15 percent before the opening bell.

The news stanchied, at least for a moment, an extended sell-off in company shares, which accelerated last month when J.C. Penney warned that it would be forced to liquidate poor-selling merchandise. Shares which have tumbled 67 percent this year, hit an all-time low.

Initiatives to spiff up clothing lines to fuel sales is, "giving us confidence that our overall strategy and transformation is beginning to take hold," said CEO Marvin Ellison in a company release Friday.

Yet more challenges lie ahead with the critical holiday shopping season approaching.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 42 of 45

J.C. Penney, like other department stores, has struggled to follow shoppers who have migrated online or who are now going to off-price retailers like T.J. Maxx.

Sales have stabilized since a disastrous attempt to reinvent the company under former Apple executive Ron Johnson. The company has since attempted to lure customers back by returning to its sales floor major appliances like dishwashers. It's also been expanding its in-store Sephora beauty shops.

J.C. Penney Co. reported a loss of \$128 million, or 41 cents, for the quarter. That compares with a loss of \$67 million, or 22 cents per share in the year-ago quarter.

Losses, adjusted for one-time gains and costs, came to 33 cents per share, or a dime better than analysts polled by Zacks Investment Research had expected.

Revenue was \$2.81 billion, also exceeding Street forecasts for \$2.76 billion.

Revenue at stores opened at least a year rose 1.7 percent, when industry analyst had been projecting another decline.

Last month, the company said that it expected a per-share loss of between 40 and 45 cents for the quarter. It also projected per-share profits of between 2 and 8 cents for the year, way down from an earlier outlook of between 40 cents to 65 cents.

The retailer on Friday stuck to those annual outlooks.

Shares rose 40 cents to \$3.17 in premarket trading. A year ago, shares were trading at \$8.36.

Elements of the story was generated by Automated Insights (<http://automatedinsights.com/ap>) using data from Zacks Investment Research. Access a Zacks stock report on JCP at <https://www.zacks.com/ap/JCP>

The gaping US trade gap: A sign of weakness? Not necessarily

By PAUL WISEMAN, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump ripped into one of his favorite targets Thursday in Beijing: The United States' "shockingly" large trade deficit with China.

"I blame past administrations," Trump declared, "for allowing this out-of-control deficit to take place and grow."

America's lopsided trade relationship with China and with the rest of the world is a familiar theme for Trump and his economic team. They've branded trade deficits a mark of economic weakness — even shame — that depress growth and kill jobs.

Yet most economists say their ire is misplaced. They reject the notion that trade is a zero-sum game in which victory goes to the countries that run a trade surplus by exporting more than they import.

"Focusing on the trade deficit as a sign of weakness is fundamentally flawed," says Bryan Riley, a trade analyst at the conservative Heritage Foundation. "If you look over history, there is no correlation between trade deficits and weak economy."

In fact, a swollen trade gap — which shows how much the value of imports exceeds the value of exports — can reflect economic might: When times are good, after all, consumers feel more prosperous and confident enough to spend freely — on imported goods as well as on home-grown goods.

Consider what happened in 2006, the year before the Great Recession began. The economy grew at a solid 2.7 percent. Yet that same year, the United States posted a record-high trade deficit: \$762 billion.

By 2009, in the depths of the recession, the trade deficit had actually shrunk to \$384 billion. The main reason: Fearful American consumers had reduced their spending on imports — and everything else.

Or look at Japan. That nation has long run trade surpluses even though its economy has lain stagnant for much of the past quarter-century.

One reason Americans spend so much on imports: A nearly limitless array of foreign products gives them a multitude of choices and lower prices. Last year, the United States ran a deficit of nearly \$505 billion in goods and services with the rest of the world — including a \$309 billion gap with China.

So far in 2017 through September, the U.S. trade deficit has widened by more than 9 percent over the

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 43 of 45

same period last year.

That said, the flow of inexpensive imports into the United States can inflict pain on some areas of the country. Competition from China, for instance, has long punished the American Midwest and the textile-producing Southeast hard, wiping out hundreds of thousands of manufacturing jobs.

And trade deficits do reduce gross domestic product, the broadest measure of a nation's economic output. It's mainly a matter of mathematics: GDP counts only goods and services that are produced in the United States. So imports — which are counted as consumer spending when you buy, say, Swiss chocolates — are excluded from GDP to prevent them from artificially inflating U.S. production.

Trump argues that China, Mexico and some other countries exploit unfair trade deals to boost their exports to the United States and block imports. Many Democrats agree. So do most economists. China is notorious for subsidizing its exporters and pilfering other countries' trade secrets. China and some other countries have also in the past manipulated down the value of their currencies — a move that gives their exporters a price edge in foreign markets. (Most observers say China hasn't deliberately pushed down its currency for several years.)

But the main factor behind America's vast trade gap goes well beyond any country's bad behavior: The United States spends more than it saves. This trend shows up as budget deficits in Washington and credit-card balances in American households. When you spend more than you produce, imports fill the gap.

Foreigners shouldn't be blamed, economists say, if Americans won't live within their means.

Trump has targeted, in particular, some of the sizable trade deficits that the United States runs with individual countries. His contentious push to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, for example, is meant to shrink America's trade shortfall with Mexico.

But economists say a country's trade deficit with individual countries is a pointless measure. It's natural for the United States to run surpluses with some countries and deficits with others. At a think tank event in Washington last month, Robert Zoellick, a former U.S. trade representative, quipped that he ran a deficit with his local supermarket.

Says Heritage's Riley: "To expect that we should have balance trade with every country in the world — that's never going to happen."

An animated explainer on trade deficits:

<http://bit.ly/2hoS12m>

Follow Paul Wiseman on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/PaulWisemanAP>

Asian shares follow Wall Street lower on US tax cut delay

By **KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer**

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian shares sank Friday, following declines on Wall Street after a proposed delay to U.S. tax cut plan dented investor sentiment.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index lost 1.4 percent to 22,539.75 and South Korea's Kospi fell 0.5 percent to 2,538.34. Hong Kong's Hang Seng slipped 0.2 percent to 29,079.32 and the Shanghai Composite in mainland China sank 0.3 percent to 3,419.16. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 shed 0.3 percent to 6,033.90.

TAX DELAY: U.S. politicians surprised Wall Street with proposed delay in cutting corporate taxes. Proposed bills would ultimately slash the tax rates to 20 percent from 35 percent but the one from Senate Republicans wouldn't take effect until 2019. U.S. markets sold off in reaction to the news, with industrial and technology shares leading the declines, before recouping some of the losses by close of trading.

MARKET VIEW: "The release of the U.S. Senate's tax bill had been one to tip equity markets into losses," said Jingyi Pan, market strategist at IG. "With the increased likelihood of a delay to corporate tax cuts hitting markets, this risk-off day is set to find Asian bourses paring gains."

FORECAST DOWN UNDER: The Australian central bank forecast a "solid pace of growth" averaging

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 44 of 45

about 3 percent over the next couple of years in its latest monetary policy statement. But it also trimmed its inflation and wage growth expectations, suggesting that it will keep benchmark interest rates at their current low levels.

WALL STREET: Major U.S. benchmarks ended skidded lower a day after closing at all-time highs. The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 0.4 percent to close at 2,584.62. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 0.4 percent to 23,461.94. The Nasdaq composite slid 0.6 percent to 6,750.05.

CURRENCIES: The dollar was steady at 113.44 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1645 from \$1.1640.

ENERGY: Oil futures slipped from their highest levels since mid-2015. Benchmark U.S. crude fell 14 cents to \$57.03 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 36 cents to settle at \$57.17 a barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, dipped 12 cents to \$63.81 a barrel in London.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Nov. 10, the 314th day of 2017. There are 51 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Nov. 10, 1982, the newly finished Vietnam Veterans Memorial was opened to its first visitors in Washington, D.C., three days before its dedication. Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev died at age 75.

On this date:

In 1766, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, had its beginnings as William Franklin, the Royal Governor of New Jersey, signed a charter establishing Queen's College in New Brunswick.

In 1775, the U.S. Marines were organized under authority of the Continental Congress.

In 1871, journalist-explorer Henry M. Stanley found Scottish missionary David Livingstone, who had not been heard from for years, near Lake Tanganyika in central Africa.

In 1917, 41 suffragists were arrested for picketing in front of the White House.

In 1938, Kate Smith first sang Irving Berlin's "God Bless America" on her CBS radio program. Turkish statesman Mustafa Kemal Ataturk died in Istanbul at age 57.

In 1942, Winston Churchill delivered a speech in London in which he said, "I have not become the King's First Minister to preside over the liquidation of the British Empire."

In 1951, customer-dialed long-distance telephone service began as Mayor M. Leslie Denning of Englewood, New Jersey, called Alameda, California, Mayor Frank Osborne without operator assistance.

In 1954, the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, depicting the raising of the American flag on Iwo Jima in 1945, was dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Arlington, Virginia.

In 1969, the children's educational program "Sesame Street" made its debut on National Educational Television (later PBS).

In 1975, the U.N. General Assembly approved a resolution equating Zionism with racism (the world body repealed the resolution in Dec. 1991). The ore-hauling ship SS Edmund Fitzgerald mysteriously sank during a storm in Lake Superior with the loss of all 29 crew members.

In 1997, a judge in Cambridge, Massachusetts, reduced Louise Woodward's murder conviction to involuntary manslaughter and sentenced the English au pair to the 279 days she'd already served in the death of 8-month-old Matthew Eappen.

In 2004, word reached the United States of the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at age 75 (because of the time difference, it was the early hours of Nov. 11 in Paris, where Arafat died).

Ten years ago: A stagehands strike shut down most Broadway shows, with curtains rising again 19 days later. Author Norman Mailer, 84, died in New York. The mother of rapper Kanye West, Donda West, died at a Los Angeles-area hospital at age 58 a day after undergoing plastic surgery. Miami ended its 70-year stay at the famed Orange Bowl with a lopsided 48-0 loss to Virginia.

Five years ago: Two people were killed when a powerful gas explosion rocked an Indianapolis neigh-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 124 ~ 45 of 45

borhood, damaging or destroying more than 80 homes. (Five people were later convicted of charges in connection with the blast, which prosecutors said stemmed from a plot to collect insurance money.)

One year ago: President-elect Donald Trump took a triumphant tour of the nation's capital, where he held a cordial White House meeting with President Barack Obama, sketched out priorities with Republican congressional leaders and took in the majestic view from where he would be sworn in to office. After seven times as finalists for the National Toy Hall of Fame, the Little People of Fisher-Price's house, barn and school bus were enshrined along with the swing and Dungeons & Dragons in the hall's class of 2016.

Today's Birthdays: Film composer Ennio Morricone (EHN'-yoh mohr-ee-KOHN'-eh) is 89. Blues singer Bobby Rush is 83. Actor Albert Hall is 80. Country singer Donna Fargo is 76. Former Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., is 74. Lyricist Tim Rice is 73. Actress-dancer Ann Reinking is 68. Actor Jack Scalia is 67. Movie director Roland Emmerich is 62. Actor Matt Craven is 61. Actor-comedian Sinbad is 61. Actress Mackenzie Phillips is 58. Author Neil Gaiman (GAY'-mihn) is 57. Actress Vanessa Angel is 54. Actor Hugh Bonneville is 54. Actor-comedian Tommy Davidson is 54. Actor Michael Jai (jy) White is 53. Country singer Chris Cagle is 49. Actor-comedian Tracy Morgan is 49. Actress Ellen Pompeo (pahm-PAY'-oh) is 48. Actor-comedian Orny Adams is 47. Rapper-producer Warren G is 47. Actor Walton Goggins is 46. Comedian-actor Chris Lilley is 43. Contemporary Christian singer Matt Maher is 43. Rock singer-musician Jim Adkins (Jimmy Eat World) is 42. Rapper Eve is 39. Rock musician Chris Joannou (joh-AN'-yoo)(Silverchair) is 38. Actor Bryan Neal is 37. Actress Heather Matarazzo is 35. Country singer Miranda Lambert is 34. Actor Josh Peck is 31. Pop singer Vinz Dery (Nico & Vinz) is 27. Actress Zoey Deutch (DOYCH) is 23. Actress Kiernan Shipka is 18. Actress Mackenzie Foy is 17.

Thought for Today: "Men get opinions as boys learn to spell, By reiteration chiefly." — Elizabeth Barrett Browning, English poet (1806-1861).