

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 1 of 32



Today's Event

JH GBB at Roncalli (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.)

Wednesday-Friday: No School

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Dakota Tree Ad
- 2- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted Ad
- 3- JK Students featured - Part 1
- 3- Allied Climate Professionals ad
- 3- James Valley Seed ad
- 4- Hanlon Brothers ad
- 4- Bahr Spray Foam ad
- 5- City Council Story
- 6- Farmers Union PSA
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 7- Today's Forecast
- 8- Yesterday's Weather
- 8- Today's Weather Info
- 8- National Weather Map
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10- 2018 Community Events
- 11- News from the Associated Press

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



**DAKOTA TREE
COMPANY**

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**

NEW SIGN-ON BONUSES!

★ ★ ★ **\$1,500 for CNAs** ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ **\$3,000 for LPNs** ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ **\$4,500 for RNs** ★ ★ ★

Contact Brynn Pickrel or Nellie Hatfield at 605-397-2365
or apply in person.

EOE/AA/M/F/V/D-Drug Free Workplace



GROTON

CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton
605-397-2365

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 3 of 32

Groton Area
Junior
Kindergarten
wish you a
Happy
Thanksgiving!

Part 1



Tristan Powell. child of Amber Hommel and John Powell. "My brown blanket, my stuffed animals, and my family."



Mason Locke. child of Matt and Tammy Locke. "Jesus, baseball, my family, the flag, and God."



Rylee Hofer, child of Mark and Jen Hofer. "I love my mom, my dad, and brothers."



From that very first Thanksgiving feast so long ago, we learned just how much can be achieved with the help of good neighbors, and we know that we owe our success to each one of you!

Allied Climate Professionals
Heating & Cooling Installations & Services



Call Service Professional
Kevin Nehls at **626-6522**



In Groton, every day is a day to count our blessings.

Happy Thanksgiving from
James Valley Seed



JAMES
VALLEY SEED

DOUG JORGENSEN

Wensman Seed Dealer
Rea Hybrids Dealer



408 W. 3rd Ave., Groton
605/216-5907 ~ reawhman@yahoo.com

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 4 of 32



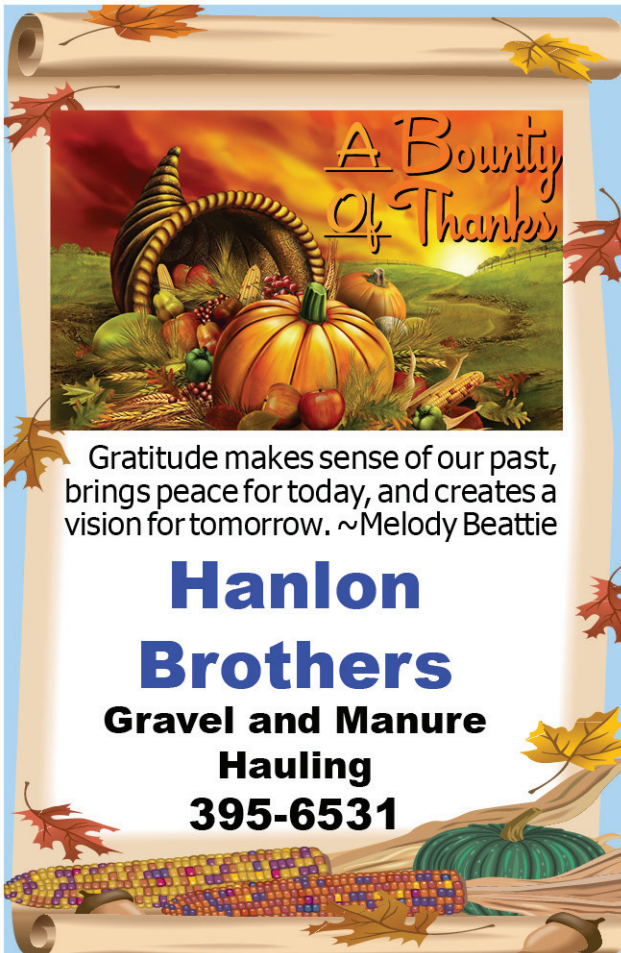
Denton Musick, child of Kayla Musick. "Mom and my 4 new kittens."



Bella Barrera, child of Beltran and Tasha Barrera. "My mom."



Drew Fjeldheim, child of Ryan and Sue Fjeldheim. "My family, my doggy and my grandma, my grandpa, God, Jesus, and Santa."



A Bounty Of Thanks

Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow. ~Melody Beattie

Hanlon Brothers
Gravel and Manure Hauling
395-6531



Spray Foam will seal your home from the cold drafts, but not from the warmth of a Thanksgiving get-together!

Here is the Seal of Approval for a Happy Thanksgiving!

And remember, insulate and air seal with spray foam from Bahr Spray Foam!

BAHR
Construction & Spray Foam
Brian Bahr



Cell: 380-2931 ~ Home: 397-4589
www.bahrsprayfoam.net

Money still left over for Safe Routes to School grant

A short council meeting was held Monday evening. There still remains \$6,512.50 left in the Safe Routes to School grant. There was discussion on buying an addition speed sign and maybe some helmets and bikes. The council took no action as they need more input from the school officials. The money has to be spent by the end of the year or it will be forfeited.

The six month probation for Hope Block as the city's finance office ends December 5. The council approved to give her a raise of \$1.80 per hour at the end of the probation time.

Councilman Karyn Babcock talked about a city employee Christmas party. She said that she would be willing to host it at Base Kamp Lodge in downtown Groton with the meal being catered. The date set was Saturday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m.

The 2018 fees and price list was reviewed. The bulk water rate was increased from \$4 per 1,000 gallons to \$5 per 1,000 gallons and a sidedump of trees will be \$40 instead of \$20. Also, half price season passes for the pool will again be offered on August 1 of each year.

As of the end of October, the city has \$3.1 million in debt. The Railroad sewer crossing is \$77,622.02 and will be paid off July 15, 2022. The West Sewer project is \$130,827.70 and will be paid off October 15, 2022. The Sewer Lagoon is \$55,068.52 and will be paid off January 1, 2019. And the 2015 Refinance is \$2,775,000 and will be paid off December 1, 2035. The city has \$1.7 million available with \$463,306.12 in a checking account and \$145,245.32 in a savings account, both at the First State Bank. In addition, there is \$102,658 in a Wells Fargo savings account, \$701,818.28 in a SD FIT account, \$80,000 for a water tower fund CD, \$1,500 in a baseball trust CD, \$200,000 in a SD Fit CD and \$32,876.69 in a cemetery Perpetual Care CD.

After an executive session, the council voted to give city employees a 50-cent an hour raise and will offer two options for insurance. The renewal option and an HSA option with the city matching up to \$1,000 per employee.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 6 of 32



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")**

Today in Weather History

November 21, 1985: Winds gusting to over 40 mph caused blizzard conditions over the western and central parts of South Dakota on the 21st and 22nd. In addition to the existing snow cover, 1-2 inches of new snow fell and when blown by the wind, reduced visibilities to zero at times. Many roads were drifted shut by the blowing and drifting snow in the western part of the state.

November 21, 2003: Heavy snow of 6 to 10 inches fell from the late afternoon to the late evening hours of the 21st and into the early morning hours on the 22nd. Some snowfall amounts included 4 inches in Browns Valley, 2S Ashton, and Britton; 5 inches at Timber Lake, Blunt, 6 SE McIntosh, and Pollock; 6 inches at Clark, McLaughlin, 14 NNE Isabel, 17 WSW Fort Pierre and Miller; 7 inches at Castlewood, 1 W Highmore, and 4 NW Onida; and 8 inches north of Goodwin, at Ree Heights, at Eagle Butte, and near Troy. Thirteen inches of snow fell in Watertown.

1798 - A four day storm was in progress in the northeastern U.S. The storm dropped a foot of snow on New York City and New Haven, and as much as three feet in Maine and New Hampshire. The snowstorm ushered in a long and severe winter, in some places the ground remained covered with snow until the following May. (David Ludlum)

1967 - Excessive rains in southern California caused the most severe flooding and the most damaging mud slides in 33 years. Downtown Los Angeles received eight inches of rain, and 14 inches fell in the mountains. (David Ludlum)








1985 - Hurricane Kate made landfall during the evening hours near Mexico Beach, FL. Wind gusts to 100 mph were reported at Cape San Blas FL. It was the latest known hurricane to hit the U.S. so far north. (The Weather Channel)

1988 - High winds accompanied rain and snow in the northeastern U.S. Caribou ME received eight inches of snow in six hours, and Fort Kent ME was blanketed with a total of fourteen inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1992: The November 21st – 23rd tornado outbreak was the 3rd largest outbreak in recorded history and one of the longest continuous outbreaks ever recorded. There was no break in tornado activity from 1:30 pm on the 21st when the tornadoes started in Texas until 7:30 am on the 23rd when the last tornadoes lifted in North Carolina. On this date, severe thunderstorms spawned six tornadoes within 70 minutes in the Houston metro area in Texas. At one time, there were three on the ground in Harris County. The strongest, an F4, tracked 20 miles through the eastern suburbs of Houston destroying 200 homes and damaging 1,000 more. In total, 23 tornadoes struck Mississippi and Alabama. An F4 tornado killed 12 people on a 128-mile track through 7 Mississippi counties. The deadliest tornado of 1992, an F4 tornado killed 12 people on a 128-mile path through 7 counties in Mississippi, one of the bodies was blown a quarter mile into a tree.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 7 of 32

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thanksgiving Day	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Sunny and Blustery	Mostly Clear	Increasing Clouds	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Breezy. Chance Rain then Mostly Sunny
High: 26 °F	Low: 7 °F	High: 39 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 48 °F	Low: 36 °F	High: 54 °F

Breezy and Cold Today



Today: Northwest wind of 15 to 25mph with higher gusts. Highs in the 20s.



Wednesday: Breezy southerly winds. Much warmer with highs in the mid 30s in western MN to the lower 60s, west of the Missouri River.



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

11/21/2017 4:49 AM

Published on: 11/21/2017 at 4:58AM

High pressure building into the region will bring breezy northwesterly winds along with cold temperatures. Highs today will only warm into the 20s. Warmer temperatures are expected on Wednesday with highs reaching the mid-30s, in western Minnesota, to the lower 60s, west of the Missouri River.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 8 of 32

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 59.5 at 2:35 PM

Low Outside Temp: 27.2 at 6:52 AM

High Gust: 26 at 7:01 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 65° in 1960

Record Low: -18° in 1964

Average High: 37°F

Average Low: 17°F

Average Precip in Nov: .55

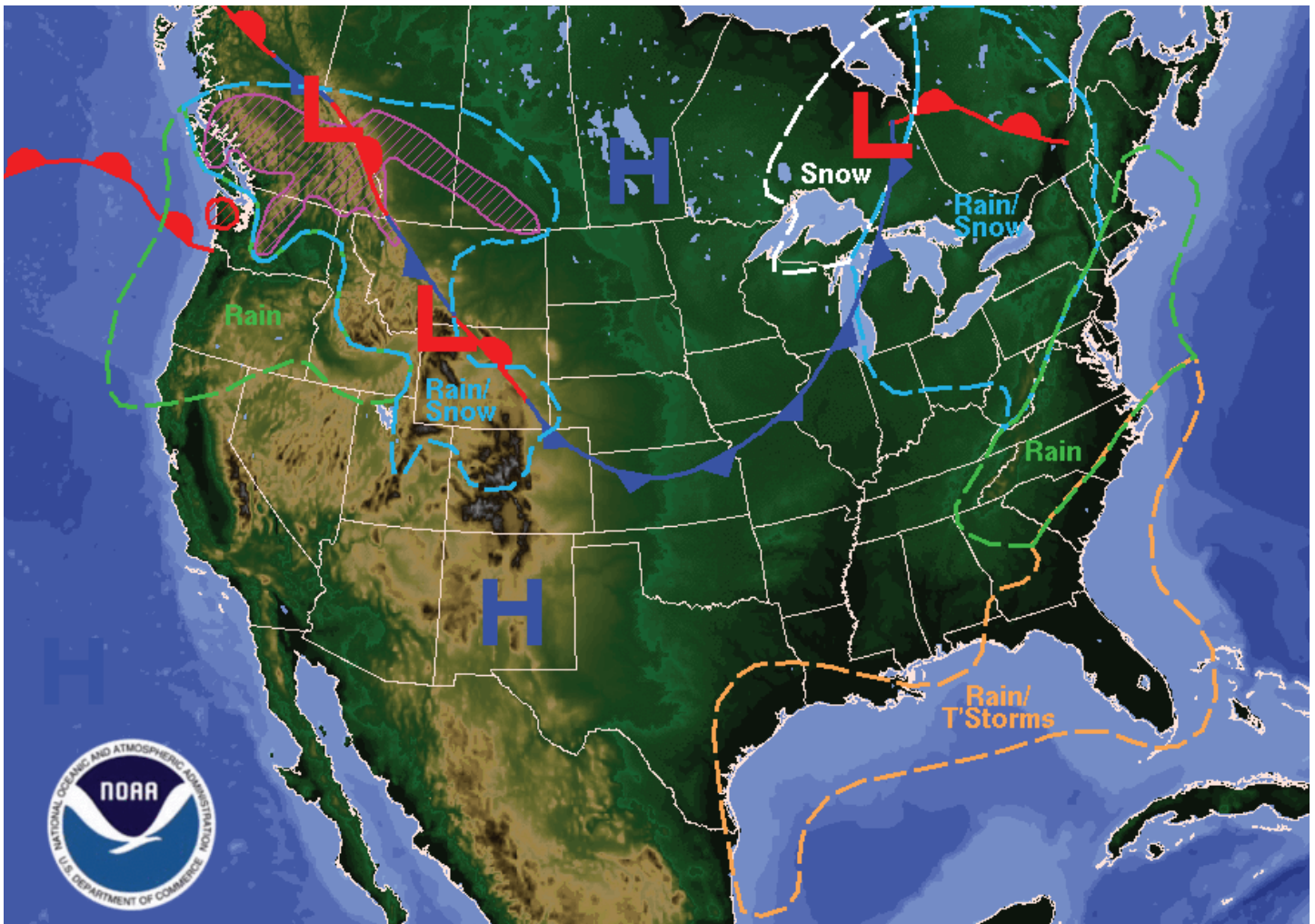
Precip to date in Nov: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.02

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 4:57 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:42 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Nov 21, 2017, issued 4:37 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

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 9 of 32



STAY CLOSE: AVOID DISASTER

"That sure was close, Mom," said Little George.

"What do you mean?" asked his mother.

"Well, I got three days behind in my prayers and when I heard the thunder and saw the lightning I prayed really hard and got caught up and now I'm not afraid."

We all allow "gaps" to develop in our prayer life. When things are going the way we want them to go and there are no serious problems to deal with, it's easy to "let up" on the time we spend with God in prayer.

This life style is not uncommon. In fact, the Psalmist came to the same conclusion when he wrote, "But as for me, it is good to be near God."

We have all met people in life that keep everyone at a distance. Whether they don't want to know us or they don't want us to know them may never be clear. But we feel the separation and there is not much, if anything, we can do about it. So, we move on.

But with God it is different. We can get as close to Him as we desire. In fact, we all know that drawing close to God is something that He wants us to do. His gracious invitation "come to me" is always available.

Life is like an "incline" if we are not walking upward toward Him we are slipping downward away from Him. My mother once said to me, "Larry, if you are not as close to God as you once were, you are the one who has moved." And she added, "Draw close to Him and He will get closer to you."

God not only waits for us to come to Him, but constantly calls: "Come to Me."

Prayer: Lord, may we feel Your presence each moment of every day and stay close to You as we face life's storms. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 73:28 But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 11 of 32

News from the Associated Press

Turkeys seeking Trump Thanksgiving pardon must strut stuff

By STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — What makes a good presidential turkey? Showmanship. A readiness to strut his stuff and gobble on command, yet enough restraint to stay on a table for the big photo op.

So say a Minnesota turkey farmer and 4-H kids who raised the turkey that will go to the White House for an official pardon from President Donald Trump on Tuesday. It's the 70th anniversary of the National Thanksgiving Turkey tradition. Here's a little deeper look at the event and what goes into it:

THE TRADITION

White House archives show that Americans have sent presidents holiday turkeys at least since 1873 under President Ulysses S. Grant. But the National Thanksgiving Turkey dates from 1947, when the National Turkey Federation became the official supplier and presented a 47-pound gobbler to President Harry Truman. In those days the turkeys were destined for dinner.

Formal pardons began with President George H.W. Bush in 1989, though stories of spared turkeys date back to President Abraham Lincoln. President John F. Kennedy sent his 1963 turkey back to its farm. Sometime around the Nixon era the White House began sending them to petting zoos after the ceremonies, though without formal pardons.

MINNESOTA'S GOBBLERS

The perk of taking presidential turkeys to Washington goes to the chairman of the National Turkey Federation. This year that's Carl Wittenburg, from the Minnesota town of Alexandria.

Wittenburg recruited five Douglas County 4-H members to help. They're the same teens he and his wife, Sharlene, mentored to a second-place finish in the statewide 4-H Science of Agriculture Challenge this summer with a project on turkey bedding. None of the girls had worked with turkeys before. Now they're all going to the White House to help oversee the bird, though Wittenburg's 19-year-old son, Wyatt, will lift it up onto the table.

The Wittenburgs grow more than 100,000 turkeys annually for Northern Pride Cooperative in Wyndmere, North Dakota, but they raised the presidential flock on their smaller hobby farm near Alexandria. The birds hatched in late June. The star and an understudy who would step in if there's a last-minute problem will be around 47 and 37 pounds respectively by pardoning time.

THE CHALLENGES

The goal is getting the turkeys used to people. Teaching them to stay on the table and behave is the key, said Katie Kent, 18. The birds are hand-fed grub worms as bribes.

"We're getting them used to being on that table and getting them to gobble and strut on command," said Kodi Bundermann, 17.

Strutting for a turkey means fanning out his tail feathers and puffing out his body feathers. Toms do it to look good to the hens, Wittenburg said. Gobbling also is a male behavior; females click or cluck. It's hard to get turkeys to strut on command, he said, but they'll gobble nine times out of 10.

The 4-Hers also play them music. They seem to like country, said Christina Kuismi, 16.

"They love anything shiny, or even the ends of shoelaces, which are a little shiny," Kuismi said. "They like to untie shoelaces. They've gotten really good at it."

Another challenge for the ceremony is that turkeys are very easily distracted, she said.

"They're just very easily entertained," she said. "They just want to go everywhere and see everything and explore."

THE STARS

The team selected the two best birds from a flock of about 20. They looked for showmanship and character with an absence of any stage fright, Wittenburg said. They wanted turkeys that would strut and gobble for the cameras and the president yet remain calm on the table, he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 12 of 32

The birds got officially named Drumstick and Wishbone on Monday, and the White House opened a Twitter poll on which one Trump should pardon. They stayed at a hotel near the White House for the run-up to the big show. A flock-mate was pardoned by Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton on Friday.

The presidential birds will finish out their lives in leisure at Virginia Tech, joining the 2016 winners, Tater and Tot, at Gobbler's Rest in Blacksburg. With luck, they might live another year or more. A few of their predecessors have hit the ripe old age of 2. Very few domestic turkeys live that long. The vast majority get sent to processing plants when they're between 14 to 20 weeks old.

THE RISKS

Pardons have not always gone smoothly and gratitude is not guaranteed.

In 2001, a turkey named Liberty pecked President George W. Bush in the midsection — some reports say his crotch — drawing laughs from the crowd and an awkward expression from the president's face.

Another memorable photo shows a grimacing President Ronald Reagan getting a face full of feathers when the 1984 turkey started flapping its wings. A turkey also flapped around on Reagan before jumping off the table and strutting around the White House lawn in 1981.

TURKEY FACTS

Minnesota is the top turkey-producing state, with 450 farmers raising about 46 million turkeys this year. North Carolina is No. 2. They're among six states that account for nearly two-thirds of U.S. turkey production. The others are Arkansas, Indiana, Missouri and Virginia.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture projects that farmers will raise nearly 245 million turkeys this year. The National Turkey Federation estimates that Americans will eat about 46 million for Thanksgiving, 22 million at Christmas and 19 million for Easter. But most turkeys are destined to become deli meat, sausage and other products.

Follow Steve Karnowski on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/skarnowski>

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

Hagedorn has 16 to lead South Dakota to fourth win

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Tyler Hagedorn had 16 points to help lead South Dakota to its fourth win of the season, dominating NAIA Mount Marty College 93-54 on Monday night.

South Dakota (4-1) has won two straight after losing to TCU 76-71. The Coyotes will host Southern Miss on Friday.

Hagedorn made 8 of 11 from the field, Logan Power scored 11 points and Tyler Peterson added nine. Nick Fuller scored eight and Trey Burch-Manning added seven with five rebounds.

South Dakota hit 57.7 percent (41 of 71) from the field while limiting the Lancers to 20-of-58 (34.5 percent) shooting. The Coyotes also won the rebound battle 45-24. There were just 24 fouls called, with both teams making 5 of 9 from the free-throw line.

South Dakota scored 60 points in the paint while holding the Lancers to 10.

Jesse Scarber had 15 points, Marcus Mathieu added 13 with five assists and Drew Cheskie scored 10 for Mount Marty.

Nebraska gives long-delayed Keystone XL pipeline new life

By GRANT SCHULTE, Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska regulators Monday approved a Keystone XL oil pipeline route through the state, breathing new life into the long-delayed \$8 billion project, although the chosen pathway is not the one preferred by the pipeline operator and could require more time to study the changes.

The Nebraska Public Service Commission's vote also is likely to face court challenges and may require another federal analysis of the route, if project opponents get their way.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 13 of 32

"This decision opens up a whole new bag of issues that we can raise," said Ken Winston, an attorney representing environmental groups that have long opposed the project.

Environmental activists, American Indian tribes and some landowners have fought the project since it was proposed by TransCanada Corp in 2008. It would carry oil from Canada through Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska to meet the existing Keystone pipeline, where it could move as far as the U.S. Gulf Coast. Business groups and some unions support the project as a way to create jobs and reduce the risk of shipping oil by trains that can derail.

President Barack Obama's administration studied the project for years before finally rejecting it in 2015 because of concerns about carbon pollution. President Donald Trump reversed that decision in March.

The route approved 3-2 by the Nebraska commission would be five miles longer than the one TransCanada preferred and would require an additional pumping station. Commissioners who voted for it said the alternative route would affect less rangeland for endangered species. The commission was not allowed to take into account a leak last week of 210,000 gallons from the existing Keystone pipeline onto South Dakota farmland because pipeline safety is a federal responsibility.

TransCanada CEO Russ Girling issued a statement after the ruling saying the company would study "how the decision would impact the cost and schedule of the project."

TransCanada has said that it would announce in late November or early December whether to proceed with the pipeline — which would carry an estimated 830,000 barrels of oil a day — and would take into account the Nebraska decision and whether it has lined up enough long-term contracts to ship oil.

The company submitted three proposed routes to the Nebraska commission. The preferred route would have taken a more direct diagonal north to south path across the state and a third route was rejected because it would have crossed the environmentally-fragile Sandhills area.

Keystone XL would expand the existing Keystone pipeline network that went into service in July 2010. The current pipeline runs through North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas and extends east into Missouri and Illinois.

More than 90 percent of Nebraska landowners along TransCanada's preferred route have agreed to let the company bury the pipeline beneath their property, but those who oppose it have managed to thwart the project for years. Approval of the route gives TransCanada the ability to seize the land of holdout landowners through eminent domain. The company has said it will use eminent domain only as a last resort.

The approved route would follow the path the company prefers through four northern Nebraska counties. But instead of turning south as company officials had hoped, it would continue southeast to the path of the original Keystone pipeline. The new Keystone XL would then run parallel to the original Keystone pipeline to Steele City, Nebraska, where it would connect to an existing pump station.

"We see many benefits to maximizing the co-location of the Keystone XL pipeline with Keystone I," the Commission majority wrote. "It is in the public interest for the pipelines to be in closer proximity to each other, so as to maximize monitoring resources and increase the efficiency of response times."

Jane Kleeb, executive director of Bold Alliance, a pipeline opposition group, said her coalition still needed to review its options, but added, "We will stand and fight every inch of the way."

The federal government has a say in whether the pipeline is built because it crosses an international border from Canada. Opponents hope the change in the route through Nebraska will require a new review by the U.S. State Department.

A State Department spokeswoman said via email Monday that the agency was aware of the Nebraska commission's vote and was gathering information to decide if the decision would affect the federal permit Trump approved.

The Public Service Commission is composed of four Republicans and one Democrat, all directly elected by district. Kleeb said pipeline opponents plan to challenge two of the Republican commissioners, Frank Landis and Tim Schram, who voted for the alternative route and are up for re-election in the 2018 general election. The commissioners said they wouldn't comment beyond their written statements because their decision could be subject to a court review.

Commissioner Crystal Rhoades, the commission's lone Democrat, said in a dissenting opinion that she was particularly concerned that the alternative route could violate the due process rights of landowners who live along the new route.

"These landowners will now have their land taken by the applicant and they may not even be aware that they were in the path of the approved route," she said.

Opponents could appeal the decision to a state district court, and the case would likely end up before the Nebraska Supreme Court. The commission was forbidden by law from considering a recent oil spill in South Dakota on the existing Keystone pipeline in its decision.

"This is a long and winding road," said Brian Jorde, an attorney for the landowners.

Follow Grant Schulte on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/GrantSchulte>

TransCanada to test water in drainage ditch near spill

AMHERST, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota official says TransCanada Corp. plans to test water from a drainage ditch near the site of a 210,000-gallon oil spill from the Keystone pipeline to determine if it is polluted.

Brian Walsh, a manager at the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said Monday that officials don't believe the oil is polluting the ditch or leaving the spill site through it.

Walsh says there's no visible oil in the ditch. He says TransCanada environmental contractors will collect water for sampling Monday if ice in the ditch melts.

The state has said the buried pipeline leak was on agricultural land. Officials don't believe it has polluted any surface water bodies or drinking water systems.

The pipeline transports crude from Canada.

Construction on road to Mount Rushmore hurts area businesses

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Local business owners say sales have dropped during the three-plus years of construction on the South Dakota roadway that's considered the gateway to the Black Hills and Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

Several businesses along the popular tourist corridor on Mount Rushmore Road have closed or moved to different locations over the years, the Rapid City Journal reported .

Convenience store owner Bob Rick said he has experienced a 30 percent decline in sales at his gasoline and convenience shop during construction. He said he checks on the construction daily and is counting down the days for the \$24 million project to be complete, which is tentatively scheduled for next summer.

"This third year has been tough," Rick said. "I think we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, but it's still not done."

Preliminary research estimated that retailers might see a 30 percent drop in business during peak construction, said Debra Jensen, a Mount Rushmore Road business owner and one of the lobbyists for the reconstruction project. Gas stations and convenience stores were predicted to experience a 60 percent drop.

"We knew it was going to be a challenge for businesses," said Jensen, who worked with other business owners to disseminate information and to support each other during the decline in customers and traffic.

The state transportation department, city officials and contractors coordinated to keep traffic flowing during the construction. But even with the help, many businesses had to consolidate or choose to sell their property.

Many business owners said they're hopeful that the corridor's new street pavements, sidewalks, medians and sewer and water lines will be worth it.

If weather complies, major construction this fall could put the project on track to be finished by the end of May.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 15 of 32

Dalton scores 18, Wyoming beat Jackrabbits 77-65

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands (AP) — Hayden Dalton scored 18 points and Wyoming beat South Dakota State 77-65 on Monday in the first round of the Cayman Islands Classic.

The game featured two standout forwards, Dalton a 6-foot-8 senior who came in averaging 26 points and 11 rebounds, and Mike Daum, a 6-9 junior forward, the nation's top returning scorer who was averaging 21.2 points and 10.8 rebounds this season.

Neither posted a double-double on this day with Dalton finishing with five rebounds and five assists, though making 7 of 12 shots, while Daum finished with 10 points and nine rebounds while shooting just 2 of 12, including 1 of 6 from the arc.

Justin James added 16 points and seven rebounds for the Cowboys (3-0) and Louis Adams 14 points.

Reed Tellinghuisen scored 16 points with three 3-pointers for the Jackrabbits (3-2) with Brandon Key adding 10 points.

The margin between the teams was in single digits most of the way and tied at 55 with eight minutes left. The Cowboys finally shook loose, going up by 11 on a 3-pointer by Alex Aka Gorski with 2½ minutes remaining and 12 on a trey by Adams with 1:20 to go.

The teams combined for 40 turnovers but Wyoming took more advantage outscoring South Dakota State 31-12 off miscues.

Wyoming will play Louisiana-Lafayette in the semifinals Tuesday while the Jackrabbits face Iowa.

Randolph Seiler to retire as US attorney for South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says that he plans to retire from the post he's held since 2015.

Seiler's office said Monday that he will depart on Dec. 31. The Capital Journal first reported the news of 71-year-old Seiler's retirement.

Seiler, of Fort Pierre, served as acting U.S. attorney starting in March 2015. Former President Barack Obama nominated him to officially become the state's top federal prosecutor later that year.

Seiler joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in 1995. From 2009 until March 2015, he served as the first assistant U.S. attorney and the tribal liaison for the District of South Dakota.

President Donald Trump has nominated Ron Parsons, a Sioux Falls attorney who has specialized in appellate and constitutional law, for the U.S. attorney post that Seiler is vacating.

Nebraska Keystone XL vote draws varied South Dakota response

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard says he hopes people who exercise their First Amendment rights will do so peacefully after a Nebraska commission approved a Keystone XL oil pipeline route through that state.

Daugaard said Monday he will continue supporting the proposed pipeline as long as it can be built and operated safely. But Daugaard says he recognizes some residents are disappointed by Nebraska's decision.

Sen. Mike Rounds says he supports Keystone XL and other pipelines, but says he's concerned about an estimated 210,000-gallon oil spill last week from the existing Keystone pipeline in South Dakota.

TransCanada wants to build the nearly 1,200-mile Keystone XL pipeline from Canada through several states, including South Dakota.

Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Chairman Dave Flute says members are "highly disappointed" with Nebraska's move considering the oil spill near their reservation.

Weekend crash in Hughes County kills 22-year-old man

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A one-vehicle crash in Hughes County over the weekend killed a 22-year-old man. The Highway Patrol says the man was driving a car that went out of control on a rural road shortly after 11 p.m. Sunday and rolled. He was pronounced dead at the scene about 8 miles north of Pierre.

The man's name wasn't immediately released. He was alone in the vehicle.

BNSF says changes made since South Dakota 2015 derailment

LESTERVILLE, S.D. (AP) — BNSF Railway says it's using an alternative route for moving hazardous material through parts of South Dakota since federal transportation investigators determined a broken rail probably caused the derailment of a train carrying ethanol two years ago.

BNSF spokeswoman Amy Beth said Monday the railroad has also made investments in its infrastructure since the derailment near Lesterville in September of 2015 that spilled nearly 50,000 gallons (189,000 liters) of denatured fuel alcohol. A fire erupted and caused more than \$1 million in damage. No one was hurt.

The NTSB report issued earlier this year says BNSF Railway's decision to defer track maintenance and operate trains carrying flammable cargo likely caused the derailment of seven cars.

Crash in Yankton County kills man, seriously injures another

LESTERVILLE, S.D. (AP) — A crash in Yankton county killed one person and seriously injured another.

The Highway Patrol says a minivan went out of control on a gravel road north of Lesterville about 1 a.m. Friday, and rolled in the ditch.

Twenty-four-year-old male passenger Carlos Ramirez, of Freeman, died at the scene. The 31-year-old male driver suffered what authorities say are life-threatening injuries. He was taken to a Sioux Falls hospital.

Woman dies in fiery single-vehicle crash in McCook County

MONTROSE, S.D. (AP) — A 41-year-old Garretson woman died in a fiery single-vehicle crash in McCook County.

The Highway Patrol says Therasa Anderson was traveling alone when she lost control of her minivan on a curve of a rural road north of Montrose. The vehicle rolled in the ditch and started on fire.

Anderson was pronounced dead at the scene about 5:30 a.m. Friday.

Fired Zimbabwean VP says Mugabe should resign immediately

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA and FARAI MUTSAKA, Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe should acknowledge the nation's "insatiable desire" for a leadership change and resign immediately, the recently fired vice president and likely successor to the 93-year-old leader said Tuesday, as impeachment proceedings were set to begin against the world's oldest head of state.

The statement by Emmerson Mnangagwa, who was dismissed earlier this month, added to immense pressure on Mugabe to quit after nearly four decades in power, during which he evolved from a champion of the fight against white minority rule into a figure blamed for a collapsing economy, government dysfunction and human rights violations.

The ruling ZANU-PF party was poised to begin impeachment proceedings against Mugabe after its Central Committee voted to oust the president as party leader and select Mnangagwa as his replacement, a move that eventually could allow the former vice president to become head of state. Mnangagwa served for decades as Mugabe's enforcer, with a reputation for being astute and ruthless, more feared than popular.

"The people of Zimbabwe have spoken with one voice and it is my appeal to President Mugabe that he should take heed of this clarion call and resign forthwith so that the country can move forward and preserve his legacy," Mnangagwa said in his statement.

Mnangagwa, who fled the country and has not appeared in public during the past week's political turmoil, said Mugabe had invited him to return to Zimbabwe "for a discussion" on recent events. However, he said he will not return for now, alleging that there had been plans to kill him at the time of his firing.

"I will be returning as soon as the right conditions for security and stability prevail," said Mnangagwa,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 17 of 32

who has a loyal support base in the military. "Never should the nation be held at ransom by one person ever again, whose desire is to die in office at whatever cost to the nation."

Zimbabwe's polarizing first lady, Grace Mugabe, had been positioning herself to succeed her husband, leading a party faction that engineered Mnangagwa's ouster. The prospect of a dynastic succession alarmed the military, which confined Mugabe to his home last week and targeted what it called "criminals" around him who allegedly were looting state resources — a reference to associates of the first lady.

Mnangagwa was targeted by U.S. sanctions in the early 2000s for undermining democratic development in Zimbabwe, according to the Atlantic Council, a U.S.-based policy institute. However, J. Peter Pham, an Africa expert at the council, noted that some Zimbabwean opposition figures have appeared willing to have dialogue with Mnangagwa in order to move the country forward and that the international community should consider doing the same.

"We're not saying whitewash the past, but it is in the interests of everyone that Zimbabwe is engaged at this critical time," Pham said in a statement.

Impeachment proceedings were expected to start with the resumption of parliament on Tuesday, days after huge crowds surged through the capital, Harare, to demand that Mugabe quit. The ruling party instructed government ministers to boycott a Cabinet meeting that Mugabe called for Tuesday morning at State House, the president's official residence.

Ruling party chief whip Lovemore Matuke said ministers were told to instead attend a meeting at party headquarters to work on the impeachment.

The ruling party says the charges for impeachment include that Mugabe "allowed his wife to usurp constitutional power" and that he is "of advanced age" and no longer has the physical capacity to run the government.

It was not clear how long the impeachment process could take. The ruling party has said Mugabe could be voted out as early as Wednesday but some analysts believe the impeachment process could take weeks and would, if conducted properly, allow Mugabe to make a case in his defense.

Mnangagwa said he was aware of the move to impeach Mugabe. Though unpopular in some parts of Zimbabwe, the former vice president called for unity and appeared to embrace the prospect of taking over power.

"I will not stand in the way of the people and my party," he said.

Follow Christopher Torchia on Twitter at www.twitter.com/torchiachris

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. WHAT US HAS PLANNED NEXT FOR NORTH KOREA

The Trump administration is due to announce new sanctions on Pyongyang after designating it a state sponsor of terrorism in the latest push to isolate the nation.

2. PUTIN HOSTS ASSAD IN RUSSIA AS END GAME NEARS

Moscow is about to end its military operation in Syria that tipped the scales in the devastating civil war in favor of government forces.

3. MUGABE URGED TO ACKNOWLEDGE 'INSATIABLE DESIRE' FOR CHANGE

The longtime Zimbabwean president should resign immediately, the recently fired vice president says, as impeachment proceedings were set to begin.

4. 'CBS THIS MORNING' WILL AIR WITHOUT CHARLIE ROSE

PBS halted distribution of his nightly interview show and CBS News suspended the veteran newsman following a Washington Post report detailing sexual misconduct alleged by eight women.

5. REPORT: REP. CONYERS SETTLED COMPLAINT IN 2015 OVER SEXUAL CONDUCT

A woman alleges she was fired from the Michigan Democrat's staff in Washington because she rejected

his sexual advances, BuzzFeed News reports.

6. 60,000 HAITIANS WILL BE FORCED TO LEAVE BY 2019

The White House is ending a temporary residency permit program that allowed Haitians to live and work in the U.S. since a powerful earthquake shook the Caribbean nation in 2010.

7. BIG TOBACCO RETURNS TO PRIME-TIME TV

Decades after they were banned from the airwaves, the tobacco industry will advertise the deadly, addictive effects of smoking, fulfilling a court order.

8. WHERE SEXUAL ABUSE IS PREVALENT

An AP investigation finds that it is a longstanding problem at madrassas, or Islamic religious schools, in Pakistan, but seldom are violations discussed or even acknowledged in public, let alone prosecuted.

9. CALL IT A COMEBACK

A startup pharmaceutical company is trying to bring back the popular arthritis pill Vioxx, voluntarily pulled by Merck & Co. in 2004, for patients with a bleeding disorder.

10. FALCONS STAY IN NFC PLAYOFF HUNT

Matt Ryan throws a pair of touchdown passes and Atlanta (6-4) holds off a late rally to beat the Seattle Seahawks 34-31.

Syria's Assad travels to Russia, meets with Putin

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA and BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Syrian President Bashar Assad was asked to come to Russia to get him to agree to potential peace initiatives drafted by Russia, Iran and Turkey as Russia prepares to scale down its military presence in the country's 6-year war, the Kremlin said on Tuesday.

President Vladimir Putin hosted Assad in the Black Sea resort of Sochi on Monday ahead of a summit between Russia, Turkey and Iran and a new round of Syria peace talks in Geneva. The meeting was unannounced and the Kremlin did not make it public until Tuesday morning.

"I passed to (Putin) and all Russian people our greetings and gratitude for all of the efforts that Russia made to save our country," Assad told Russia's top brass.

Assad has only ventured outside his war-ravaged nation twice since the conflict began — both times to Russia. This week's visit to meet Putin is his second since the crisis began in March 2011 leading to a civil war that has killed some 400,000 and resulted in millions of refugees.

The first was in October 2015, shortly after Russia launched its military campaign in Syria to shore up Assad's forces which turned the war in favor of Assad.

The meeting in Sochi, which lasted three hours, came ahead of a summit at the same place between the presidents of Iran, Russia and Turkey. Iran and Russia have been Assad's main backers while Turkey supports the opposition.

Putin had spoken with the leaders of Iran and Turkey to "assure them that Russia will work with Syrian leadership to prepare the groundwork for possible understandings" that could be reached on Wednesday to "make sure" that agreements reached will be "viable," Dmitry Peskov, Putin's spokesman, told reporters on Tuesday.

The Kremlin said Putin would phone President Donald Trump and Saudi King Salman to discuss the situation in Syria on Wednesday.

Asked whether Putin and Assad have talked about the Syrian president's future in post-war Syria, Peskov said "possible options for political settlement have been discussed." Faced with pressure from other nations urging Assad to step down, Moscow has insisted that it is up to the Syrian people to vote Assad in or out.

With the Syrian government controlling most of the country and Islamic State fighters in disarray, Putin told Assad at the Monday meeting that Moscow is about to curtail its military presence there.

"Regarding our joint operation to fight terrorists in Syria, this military operation is indeed coming to an end," he told Assad in televised remarks. "I'm pleased to see your willingness to work with everyone who wants peace and settlement."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 19 of 32

The Kremlin has announced scale-downs and a halt in its operation in Syria before but did not follow through. Putin in March 2016 ordered that a withdrawal from Syria, saying "all the tasks have been accomplished." In January, Russia said it is pulling out its aircraft carrier and other warships from the waters off Syria. Russia continued to operate warships off the Syrian shore as late as this fall.

Footage and photographs released by the Kremlin press office showed Putin giving Assad a warm embrace upon his arrival at Putin's residence in Sochi.

Russian television showed footage of Putin and Assad entering a meeting with the top brass of Russia's defense ministry and the General Staff.

"I asked the Syrian president to stop by," Putin told the Russian generals. He then referred to Assad and said: "I would like to introduce you to people who played a key role in saving Syria."

Assad's office quoted him as thanking Russia and its military, which he said "gave martyrs and made efforts in Syria." He added: "I was very happy to know that you are here since you are the officers who directly took part in the battle in Syria."

Assad said the Russian Air Force helped Syrian troops in the fight against insurgents, helping many Syrians to return to their homes. "In the name of the Syrian people, I greet you and thank you all, every Russian officer, fighter and pilot that took part in this war."

The meeting came two days after Syrian troops and their allies captured the eastern town of Boukamal, the last major inhabited area held by the IS group in Syria. Syrian troops and their Iran-backed allies marched into the town under the cover of Russian airstrikes.

Mroue reported from Beirut.

'CBS This Morning' to air for 1st time after Rose suspension

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Charlie Rose is the latest public figure to be felled by sexual misconduct allegations, with PBS halting distribution of his nightly interview show and CBS News suspending him following a Washington Post report with the accusations of eight women.

The women, who all worked for Rose or tried to work for him, accused the veteran newsman of groping them, walking naked in front of them and telling one that he dreamed about her swimming nude, the Post reported Monday.

Rose, 75, said in a statement that he was "deeply embarrassed" and apologized for his behavior.

It is unclear how "CBS This Morning" will address Rose's suspension Tuesday. Rose has co-hosted the critically-acclaimed morning news program with Gayle King and Norah O'Donnell. It has been gaining the past few years on its better-known rivals. Rose also conducts interviews for "60 Minutes."

Three women went on the record in the Post's deeply-reported story. Reah Bravo, a former associate producer for Rose's PBS show who began working for him in 2007, told the newspaper: "He was a sexual predator, and I was his victim." She said Rose groped her on multiple occasions and once, during a business trip to Indiana, called her to his hotel room where he emerged from a shower naked.

Kyle Godfrey-Ryan, one of Rose's former assistants, was 21 when she said Rose repeatedly called her to describe his fantasies of her swimming naked at the pool at his Long Island home while he watched from his bedroom. She said she was fired when Rose learned she had spoken to a mutual friend about his behavior.

Megan Creydt, who worked as a coordinator on Rose's PBS show in 2005 and 2006, told the newspaper that she was sitting in the passenger seat as Rose drove in Manhattan one day when he put his hand on her thigh. Five women interviewed by the Post described similar grabs to their legs in what many interpreted as an attempt to see their reactions.

Rose said that he has behaved insensitively at times "and I accept responsibility for that, though I do not believe that all of these allegations are accurate. I always felt that I was pursuing shared feelings,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 20 of 32

even though I now realize I was mistaken. I have learned a great deal as a result of these events, and I hope others will, too."

Rose's interview show is seen in 94 percent of the country on PBS stations. It is rebroadcast on Bloomberg's cable network, which also announced Monday it was suspending the show. He interviews a wide circle of people in the media, politics and entertainment — this month including Harvard President Drew Faust, rapper Macklemore and the Post's Robert Costa, who talked about that paper's sexual harassment investigation of Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore.

"PBS was shocked to learn today of these deeply disturbing allegations," the public broadcasting service said in a statement. "We are immediately suspending distribution of 'Charlie Rose.'"

Despite his age and heart troubles in the past, Rose had been one of the busiest figures in television.

Two hours after the Post story went online, one of its authors, Amy Brittain, tweeted that "sadly, my inbox is already flooded with women who have had similar, disturbing encounters with Charlie Rose."

Rose owned his interview show, even though PBS distributed it, and that raised questions of what recourse women who had complaints about his behavior could do. The Post quoted Yvette Vega, his longtime executive producer, as saying she failed and deeply regretted not helping women who complained about his behavior.

But it apparently was a poorly-kept secret in the industry. Two former employees interviewed by the Post said young women hired by the show were known as "Charlie's Angels." A Post contributing writer who worked on the story said she was reporting on some of the allegations while working at another news organization in 2010 but could not confirm them.

Stories of sexual misconduct have been coming in a flood since The New York Times first reported on Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein's behavior in early October. Even on Monday, the Times suspended White House reporter Glenn Thrush while it looked into a story about him making drunken, unwanted advances on women. In the news business alone, NBC political reporter Mark Halperin and top National Public Radio news executive Michael Oreskes have lost their jobs.

Interviewed last April outside a Time magazine gala, Rose was asked by The Associated Press about Fox News' Bill O'Reilly, who lost his job when it was revealed his network had paid millions of dollars to settle claims women had made against him.

"All of the cases that raise the issue of sexual harassment, which is a terrible thing, (and) has probably been not exposed enough," Rose said. "Not enough in the sense of the attention in the past, so that people were afraid to come forward. I think people are coming forward now."

Trump administration announces sanctions against North Korea

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is due to announce new sanctions on North Korea on Tuesday after declaring it a state sponsor of terrorism in the latest push to isolate the pariah nation.

North Korea on Monday joined Iran, Sudan and Syria on the terror blacklist, a largely symbolic step as the administration already has the authority to impose virtually any sanctions it wants on Kim Jong Un's government over its nuclear weapons development.

As part of its "maximum pressure" campaign, President Donald Trump said the Treasury Department would impose more sanctions on North Korea and "related persons" starting Tuesday, without hinting who or what would be targeted. It is part of rolling effort to deprive Pyongyang of funds for its nuclear and missile programs and leave it internationally isolated.

"It will be the highest level of sanctions by the time it's finished over a two-week period," Trump said.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Monday the pressure campaign was starting to bite in Pyongyang, which is already facing unprecedented U.N.-mandated sanctions over its nuclear and ballistic missile tests. Tillerson said anecdotal evidence and intelligence suggests the North is now suffering fuel shortages, with queues at gas stations, and its revenues are down.

The United States has been applying sanctions of its own as well.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 21 of 32

In Tokyo, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe welcomed the move, telling reporters Japan supports the step as a way to increase pressure on North Korea.

In September, Trump opened the way for the U.S. to punish foreign companies dealing with North Korea. He issued an executive order expanding the Treasury Department's ability to target anyone conducting significant trade in goods, services or technology with the North, and to ban them from interacting with the U.S. financial system.

Bruce Klingner, senior research fellow on Northeast Asia at the conservative Heritage Foundation, said Treasury could be preparing more designations against North Korean entities related to the terrorism listing, or possibly Chinese or other companies violating the September order.

A potential target would be Chinese banks that serve as North Korea's conduit to the international system. Such a move would irk Beijing, whose help Trump is counting on to put an economic squeeze on Pyongyang. China recently sent its highest-level envoy to North Korea in two years to discuss the tense state of affairs on the Korean Peninsula.

Tillerson urged China, which accounts for 90 percent of North Korea's external trade, to take unilateral steps to cut fuel supplies to its wayward neighbor. China, which is calling for dialogue to ease the nuclear tensions, is reluctant to exert economic pressure that could destabilize the North.

Tillerson acknowledged a two-month pause in the North's rapid tempo of nuclear and missile tests and said there was still hope for diplomacy. With tougher sanctions in the offing, he warned Kim, "This is only going to get worse until you're ready to come and talk."

The terror designation, however, is likely to exacerbate sour relations between Washington and Pyongyang that have turned uglier with name-calling between Trump and Kim. North Korea shows no interest in talks aimed at getting it to give up its nukes.

North Korea has been on and off the terror list over the years. It was designated for two decades because of its involvement in international terror attacks in the 1980s, then taken off in 2008 to smooth the way for nuclear talks that soon failed.

Almost 60,000 Haitians allowed to stay in US only until 2019

By LUIS ALONSO LUGO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration said it is ending a temporary residency permit program that has allowed almost 60,000 citizens from Haiti to live and work in the United States since a powerful earthquake shook the Caribbean nation in 2010.

The Homeland Security Department said conditions in Haiti have improved significantly, so the benefit will be extended one last time — until July 2019 — to give Haitians time to prepare to return home.

"Since the 2010 earthquake, the number of displaced people in Haiti has decreased by 97 percent," the department said in a statement issued Monday evening. "Haiti is able to safely receive traditional levels of returned citizens."

Advocates and members of Congress from both parties had asked the Trump administration for an 18-month extension of the program, known as Temporary Protected Status. Haitian President Jovenel Moise's government also requested the extension.

Rony Ponthieux, a 49-year-old Haitian nurse with temporary residency who has lived in Miami since 1999, told The Associated Press, "This isn't over, this is time we get to fight for renewal, not to pack our bags." She has a daughter and a son born in the United States and another son in Port-au-Prince.

"We need to push Washington to provide a legal status for us with TPS," Ponthieux said. "This is anti-immigrant policy."

Advocates for Haitians quickly criticized the decision to make this the last extension, arguing the conditions in the island nation haven't improved nearly enough for Haitians to be deported.

Florida Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, a Republican, expressed "strong opposition" to the measure and urged the administration to reconsider.

"Forcing them to leave the United States would be detrimental," he said in a statement. "Almost eight

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 22 of 32

years later, Haiti remains in total disarray and still requires much rebuilding.”

Amanda Baran, policy consultant at the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, called the termination of the status a “heartless decision” and said the Trump administration has no plan in place for the U.S.-born children who may now lose their Haitian parents and caregivers to deportation.

While Haiti has made advances spurred by international aid since the quake, it remains one of the poorest nations in the world. More than 2.5 million people, roughly a quarter of the population, live on less than \$1.23 a day, which authorities there consider extreme poverty.

The United Nations last month ended a peacekeeping mission in Haiti that, at its peak, included more than 10,000 troops. Its new mission is comprised of about 1,300 international civilian police officers and 350 civilians who will help the country try to reform a deeply troubled justice system.

The Homeland Security Department made its announcement 60 days before temporary status for the Haitians is set to expire. In May, the agency extended the program for only six months instead of the customary 18, and urged Haitians under the program to get their affairs in order and prepare to go home.

The temporary status covers some 435,000 people from nine countries ravaged by natural disasters or war, who came to the U.S. legally or otherwise. Days after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake devastated Haiti in January 2010, President Barack Obama granted the 18-month protection status for Haitians in America who would otherwise have had to go home. Obama renewed it every time it ran out.

Monday’s decision doesn’t affect thousands of Haitians who were taken in by Brazil and other South American countries after the earthquake and began making their way to the United States last year. U.S. Customs and Border Protection says 6,424 Haitians showed up at border crossings with Mexico during the 12-month period that ended Sept. 30, up from only 334 a year earlier. They were generally paroled to live in the United States on humanitarian grounds.

Since taking office, Trump has ended temporary permit programs for Sudan and Nicaragua. He postponed until next July a decision on how to deal with a similar program for 86,000 residents from Honduras.

U.S. officials have said conditions in Haiti have significantly improved since the disaster. But advocates for Haitians say a persistent cholera epidemic and damages caused by three hurricanes since 2016 exacerbate the difficulty for returning Haitians.

Maryland Sens. Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, along with fellow Democrat Dianne Feinstein of California, last week unveiled new legislation to protect undocumented immigrants living under temporary protected status. It would make immigrants under the program eligible to apply for legal permanent residency after three years.

Associated Press writer Adriana Gomez Licon in Miami contributed to this report.

Follow Luis Alonso Lugo on Twitter: www.twitter.com/luisalonsolugo

Report: Rep. Conyers settled complaint over sexual conduct

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michigan Rep. John Conyers settled a complaint in 2015 from a woman who alleged she was fired from his Washington staff because she rejected his sexual advances, BuzzFeed News reported.

The website reported Monday that Conyers’ office paid the woman over \$27,000 to settle the complaint under a confidentiality agreement.

BuzzFeed also published affidavits from former staff members who said they had witnessed Conyers touching female staffers inappropriately — rubbing their legs and backs — or requesting sexual favors. One former staffer said one of her duties was “to keep a list of women that I assumed he was having affairs with and call them at his request and, if necessary, have them flown in using Congressional resources.”

BuzzFeed said it received the documents from right-wing activist Mike Cernovich, but independently confirmed their authenticity. Cernovich said he gave the documents to BuzzFeed News because Democrats would “try to discredit the story by attacking the messenger” if he published them himself.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 23 of 32

The 88-year-old Conyers is the top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee and the longest-serving current member of the House. Calls to Conyers and his office seeking comment were not immediately returned Monday night.

The government has paid more than \$17 million in taxpayer money over the last 20 years to resolve claims of sexual harassment, overtime pay disputes and other workplace violations filed by employees of Congress. The Office of Compliance released the numbers amid a wave of revelations of sexual misconduct in the worlds of entertainment, business and politics that made its way to Capitol Hill last week. Two female lawmakers described incidents of sexual harassment, one in explicit detail, and Minnesota Sen. Al Franken apologized to a woman who said he forcibly kissed her and groped her during a 2006 USO tour.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Monday she was unaware of the settlement by Conyers. "The current process includes the signing of non-disclosure agreements by the parties involved," Pelosi said in a statement. "Congresswoman Jackie Speier has introduced legislation that will provide much-needed transparency on these agreements and make other critical reforms. I strongly support her efforts."

A spokeswoman for House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., did not immediately provide comment Monday.

Phil Knight's tourney draws top-10 teams to Oregon this week

By DAVE SKRETTA, AP Sports Writer

Nike founder Phil Knight is throwing a birthday party and every college basketball fan is invited.

Well, they can at least watch it on TV.

Knight is celebrating his 80th birthday by staging a two-bracket tournament — the PK80 — beginning Thursday in Oregon. It includes some of the sport's heaviest hitters, too, including four schools ranked in the top 10 this week: No. 1 Duke, No. 2 Michigan State, No. 7 Florida and ninth-ranked North Carolina.

No. 17 Gonzaga is also in the field along with Oregon, Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas, schools that are all receiving votes. There are 16 teams total, eight lined up in each bracket.

"It's a big, big, big-time deal for our program and our fans," said Gonzaga coach Mark Few, whose team opens with Ohio State and could eventually play the Blue Devils in their bracket.

One big question is whether Miles Bridges will play or the Spartans. The star forward is day to day after spraining his ankle in a victory over Stony Brook on Sunday.

"By Tuesday morning I'll know a little bit more," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. "Miles is tough enough to play through it, but we're not going to take any chances either. We're going to have to see where it's at."

Knight's tournament in Oregon is certain to grab headlines, but it's hardly the only tournament to be thankful for this week. Here are some of the others:

— The Maui Invitational began Monday with sixth-ranked Wichita State rallying from an 18-point hole to beat California and No. 13 Notre Dame beating host Chaminade. They are back in action Tuesday with a chance to meet for the championship on Wednesday.

— The Battle 4 Atlantis begins in the Bahamas on Tuesday with No. 2 Arizona perhaps on a collision course with fifth-ranked Villanova. No. 18 Purdue, North Carolina State and SMU are also in the field.

— The Hall of Fame Classic will be decided Tuesday night when Creighton plays No. 25 Baylor in the finals. No. 23 UCLA will meet Wisconsin in the third-place matchup.

— The Cayman Islands Classic is highlighted by No. 12 Cincinnati, which plays Richmond in the semifinal Tuesday. The winner gets Louisiana or Wyoming for the title on Wednesday.

— The Legends Classic began with No. 16 Texas A&M routing Oklahoma State and Penn State beating up Pittsburgh in the semifinals Monday. The Aggies and Nittany Lions meet for the title on Tuesday.

— The Advocare Invitational championship rounds begin Thursday with No. 23 West Virginia topping the field. Nebraska, St. John's and Missouri are among the other teams in the mix.

— The NIT Season Tip-Off has some local flavor with No. 20 Seton Hall. Virginia, Vanderbilt and Rhode Island are also in the field with the semifinals Thursday and championship game Friday.

— The Las Vegas Invitational begins Thursday with No. 15 Xavier the star attraction. Kansas State,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 24 of 32

Arizona State and George Washington are among the teams playing at Orleans Arena.

GAMES ALREADY SET

Yes, there is an "if" element to all of those tournaments, and some upsets along the way could deprive hoops fans of some high-profile showdowns. But there are at least a couple games involving ranked teams this week that are taking place out of tournaments.

No. 25 Alabama is set to face No. 14 Minnesota on Friday night in New York, while Texas A&M heads across the country to Los Angeles to face No. 10 Southern California in a showdown Sunday.

SO LONG, ALASKA: One of the premier tournaments for years was the Great Alaska Shootout, attracting high-profile schools such as Duke, Kentucky, UCLA and Kansas since its inception in 1978. But its shine wore off as tournaments popped up in more exotic — and far warmer — destinations, and the headliners the last few years have been Colorado State, Toledo and Iona.

But if for no better reason than posterity, tune in this week for the final edition hosted by the University of Alaska-Anchorage. Central Michigan, Idaho and Santa Clara top the field.

More AP college basketball: www.collegebasketball.ap.org and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

US ending temporary permits for almost 60,000 Haitians

By LUIS ALONSO LUGO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration said Monday it is ending a temporary residency permit program that has allowed almost 60,000 citizens from Haiti to live and work in the United States since a 2010 powerful earthquake shook the Caribbean nation.

The Homeland Security Department said conditions in Haiti have improved significantly, so the benefit will be extended one last time — until July 2019 — to give Haitians time to prepare to return home.

"Since the 2010 earthquake, the number of displaced people in Haiti has decreased by 97 percent," the department said in a press release. "Haiti is able to safely receive traditional levels of returned citizens."

Advocates and members of Congress from both parties had asked the Trump administration for an 18-month extension of the program, known as Temporary Protected Status. Haitian President Jovenel Moise's government also requested the extension.

Rony Ponthieux, a 49-year-old Haitian nurse with temporary residency who has lived in Miami since 1999, told The Associated Press, "This isn't over, this is time we get to fight for renewal, not to pack our bags." She has a daughter and a son born in the United States and another son in Port-au-Prince.

"We need to push Washington to provide a legal status for us with TPS," Ponthieux said. "This is anti-immigrant policy."

Advocates for Haitians quickly criticized the decision, arguing the conditions in the island nation haven't improved nearly enough for Haitians to be deported.

Florida Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, a Republican, expressed "strong opposition" to the measure and urged the administration to reconsider.

"Forcing them to leave the United States would be detrimental," he said in a press release. "Almost eight years later, Haiti remains in total disarray and still requires much rebuilding."

Amanda Baran, policy consultant at the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, called the termination of the status a "heartless decision" and said the Trump administration has no plan in place for the U.S.-born children who may now lose their Haitian parents and caregivers to deportation.

While Haiti has made advances spurred by international aid since the quake, the Caribbean nation remains one of the poorest in the world. More than 2.5 million people, roughly a quarter of the population, live on less than \$1.23 a day, which authorities there consider extreme poverty.

The United Nations last month ended a peacekeeping mission in Haiti that, at its peak, included more than 10,000 troops. Its new mission is comprised of about 1,300 international civilian police officers and 350 civilians who will help the country try to reform a deeply troubled justice system.

The Homeland Security Department made its announcement 60 days before temporary status for the

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 25 of 32

Haitians is set to expire. In May, the agency extended the program for only six months instead of the customary 18, and urged Haitians under the program to get their affairs in order and prepare to go home.

The temporary status covers some 435,000 people from nine countries ravaged by natural disasters or war, who came to the U.S. legally or otherwise. Days after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake devastated Haiti in January 2010, President Barack Obama granted the 18-month protection status for Haitians in America who would otherwise have to go home. Obama renewed it every time it ran out.

Monday's decision doesn't affect thousands of Haitians who were taken in by Brazil and other South American countries after the earthquake and began making their way to the United States last year. U.S. Customs and Border Protection says 6,424 Haitians showed up at border crossings with Mexico during the 12-month period ended Sept. 30, up from only 334 a year earlier. They were generally paroled to live in the United States on humanitarian grounds.

Since taking office, Trump has ended temporary permit programs for Sudan and Nicaragua. He postponed until next July a decision on how to deal with a similar program for 86,000 residents from Honduras.

U.S. officials have said conditions in Haiti have significantly improved since the disaster. But advocates for Haitians say a persistent cholera epidemic and damages caused by three hurricanes since 2016 exacerbate the difficulty for returning Haitians.

Maryland Sens. Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, along with fellow Democrat Dianne Feinstein of California, last week unveiled new legislation to protect undocumented immigrants living under temporary protected status. It would make immigrants under the program eligible to apply for legal permanent residency after three years.

Associated Press writer Adriana Gomez Licon in Miami contributed to this report.

Follow Luis Alonso Lugo on Twitter: www.twitter.com/luisalonsolugo

Justice Dept. sues to stop AT&T's \$85B Time Warner deal

By TALI ARBEL, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Justice Department is suing AT&T to stop its \$85 billion purchase of Time Warner, setting the stage for an epic legal battle with the telecom giant.

It could also create a new headache for President Donald Trump, whose public statements have raised suspicions that he might have interfered with the department's decision, potentially undermining its legal case. DOJ's antitrust chief, Makan Delrahim, has said the president did not tell him what to do. White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Monday she wasn't aware of any specific action related to the case taken by the White House.

In a press release, Delrahim said that a combined AT&T-Time Warner would "greatly harm American consumers" by hiking television bills and hampering innovation, particularly in online television service. The DOJ said AT&T would be able to charge rival distributors such as cable companies "hundreds of millions of dollars more per year" for Time Warner's programming — payments that would ultimately get passed down to consumers through their cable bills.

In an emailed statement Monday, AT&T general counsel David McAtee said the lawsuit is a "radical and inexplicable departure from decades of antitrust precedent" and that the company is confident that it will prevail in court.

AT&T runs the country's second largest wireless network and is the biggest provider of traditional satellite and cable TV services. Time Warner owns HBO, CNN, TBS and other networks, as well as the Warner Bros. movie studio.

The government's objections to the deal surprised many on Wall Street. AT&T and Time Warner are not direct competitors, and "vertical" mergers between such companies have typically had an easier time winning government approval than deals that combine two rivals.

The last time the U.S. government won a court victory in a vertical merger antitrust case was in 1972,

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 26 of 32

when the Supreme Court said Ford's takeover of a spark-plug business violated antitrust law.

Many had expected government approval of the deal because Obama-era antitrust officials approved a similar deal — Comcast's purchase of NBCUniversal — in 2011, after imposing restrictions on Comcast's behavior that were meant to protect consumers.

As a candidate, however, Trump vowed to block the pending AT&T-Time Warner deal because it would concentrate too much "power in the hands of too few." As president, Trump has often blasted CNN for its coverage of him and his administration, disparaging it and its reporters as "fake news."

At a press conference Monday, AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson addressed speculation over whether the government's lawsuit was "all about CNN," saying, "Frankly, I don't know." But Stephenson said AT&T would not agree to anything that would result in it losing control of CNN.

A person familiar with the matter, who could not go on the record, previously told the Associated Press that DOJ wanted the combined company to sell either Turner — the parent of CNN, TBS and other networks — or DirecTV to satisfy its antitrust concerns. A DOJ official, speaking on condition of anonymity in order to discuss a pending legal case, said Monday that the government is still willing to work with AT&T on "structural relief," or selling off assets.

AT&T has argued that buying Time Warner would let it package and deliver video more cheaply, over the internet, rather than in expensive cable bundles. It already has a DirecTV Now streaming service, which puts popular live TV networks online, and costs \$35 a month and up, cheaper than traditional cable bundles.

Consumer advocates and some Democratic politicians applauded the lawsuit as a blow against media consolidation. Consumers Union, an advocacy group that opposes the deal, said there were "legitimate reasons" to block the deal to protect consumers, but called reports of political pressure "concerning."

The consumer advocacy group Free Press likewise praised the DOJ action, but its president, Craig Aaron, objected to Trump's "saber-rattling" against CNN and other outlets that air criticism of the administration. Aaron called on the Justice Department to demonstrate its independence by reviewing TV station owner Sinclair's proposed takeover of rival Tribune. Sinclair is a conservative-leaning company.

Delrahim, the antitrust chief, has previously expressed a preference for requiring companies to sell off assets rather than allowing mergers to proceed with conditions on the merged company's behavior.

Comcast has faced criticism for breaking some promises related to the conditions on its NBCU deal. For example, the FCC fined Comcast \$800,000 for not doing enough to let customers know they could just get internet as a standalone service. Bloomberg TV also complained that it was exiled in Comcast's channel lineups far from other news and business networks. The FCC agreed.

The DOJ official said Monday that the AT&T merger was more harmful to consumers than the Comcast-NBCU deal in part because DirecTV has customers across the country. Comcast only operates in certain regions.

This isn't the first time that AT&T has faced pushback from the government over an acquisition. The Justice Department also sued to block its \$39 billion bid of T-Mobile, a direct competitor, in August 2011. AT&T walked away months later.

Sadie Gurman contributed from Washington.

Warming to make thunderstorms larger and more frequent

By **SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Summer thunderstorms in North America will likely be larger, wetter and more frequent in a warmer world, dumping 80 percent more rain in some areas and worsening flooding, a new study says.

Future storms will also be wilder, soaking entire cities and huge portions of states, according to a federally-funded study released Monday in the journal *Nature Climate Change*.

The U.S. in recent years has experienced prolonged drenchings that have doused Nashville in 2010, West Virginia and Louisiana in 2016 and Houston this year. The disasters cost about \$20 billion a year in damage.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 27 of 32

By the end of century if emissions aren't curbed, these gully washers will be much worse because they will get bigger, said Andreas Prein, a climate scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, who led the study.

Prein and colleagues used high-resolution computer simulations to see how global warming will likely change the large thunderstorms that are already daily summer events in North America. Previous studies projected more frequent and wetter storms, but this is the first research to show they likely will be more widespread, covering an entire city instead of just half of it, Prein said.

"We see increases that are beyond our expectations ... far beyond our expectations," Prein said. "It looks everything that can go wrong does go wrong concerning flooding."

With the size of the storm factored in, the total amount of rain in the U.S. South is projected to jump 80 percent between now and the end of the century, Prein said. For Mexico, the increase in rainfall would be 70 percent and 60 percent in the U.S. Southwest. Canada and the rest of the U.S. should expect a 40 percent rain increase from current levels.

About half of those increases are from the storms being larger, Prein said. These types of storms include tropical storms, but most of the storms studied are average thunderstorms.

"You can really think about these storms as rivers that come from the skies," Prein said. "The largest ones are several times the Mississippi River discharge."

Victor Gensini, a meteorology professor at the Northern Illinois University who wasn't part of the team, praised the study as new and exciting.

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

Investigators: Roy Halladay performed turns before crash

By TERRY SPENCER, Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Retired star pitcher Roy Halladay sped his small sports plane low over the Gulf of Mexico minutes before his fatal crash two weeks ago, climbing sharply in the final seconds before diving into the water, federal investigators said in a preliminary report released Monday.

National Transportation Safety Board investigator Noreen Price placed no blame for the Nov. 7 accident near Tampa, simply laying out the facts as gleaned from the plane's data recorder and eyewitnesses. A final report with conclusions could take one to two years.

Price says Halladay, 40, had taken off from a lake near his Tampa-area home about 17 minutes before the crash, taking his ICON A5 to 1,900 feet (580 meters) before dropping to 600 feet (180 meters) as he neared the coastline. He then dropped to 36 feet (11 meters) when he reached the water. While flying at about 105 mph (170 kph), Halladay skimmed the water at 11 feet (3.3 meters), flying in a circle before climbing to 100 feet (30 meters), the plane's data showed.

A witness told investigators the plane climbed to between 300 and 500 feet (95 to 150 meters) when it turned and went into a 45-degree dive. It slammed into the water and flipped.

Halladay's body was found with the plane, which was severely damaged. The plane itself was equipped with a parachute, but it was not deployed.

The former Toronto Blue Jays and Philadelphia Phillies star had received the plane from ICON on Oct. 10, and was one of the first to receive the model. In one of many enthusiastic tweets about the plane, Halladay said it felt "like flying a fighter jet." He had about 700 hours of flight time after getting his license in 2013, the report says. He had 51 hours in ICON A5s, including 14 in the plane that crashed.

Rolled out in 2014, the A5 is an amphibious aircraft meant to be treated like an ATV, a piece of weekend recreational gear with folding wings that can easily be towed on a trailer to a lake where it can take off from the water.

The man who led the plane's design, 55-year-old John Murray Karkow, died while flying an A5 over California's Lake Berryessa on May 8, a crash the NTSB attributed to pilot error.

Another A5 crashed in April, making a hard landing in the water off Key Largo, Florida, injuring the pilot and his passenger. The pilot told investigators the plane descended faster than he expected.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 28 of 32

Halladay, an eight-time All-Star, pitched a perfect game and a playoff no-hitter in 2010. He played for the Blue Jays from 1998 to 2009 and for the Phillies from 2009-13, going 203-105 with a 3.38 ERA.

Trump promises Americans 'huge tax cut' for Christmas

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Monday promised a tax overhaul by Christmas, even as a nonpartisan tax analysis group said the Senate package would leave half of taxpayers facing higher levies by 2027.

Speaking before a Cabinet meeting, Trump said, "We're going to give the American people a huge tax cut for Christmas — hopefully that will be a great, big, beautiful Christmas present."

Trump spoke as the Tax Policy Center said that while all income groups would see tax reductions, on average, under the Senate bill in 2019, 9 percent of taxpayers would pay higher taxes that year than under current law. By 2027, that proportion would grow to 50 percent, largely because the legislation's personal tax cuts expire in 2026, which Republicans did to curb budget deficits the bill would create.

The policy center, a joint operation of the liberal-leaning Urban Institute and Brookings Institution, found that low-earners would generally get smaller tax breaks than higher-income people.

In 2019, those making less than \$25,000 would get an average \$50 tax reduction, or 0.3 percent of their after-tax income. Middle-income earners would get average cuts of \$850, while people making at least \$746,000 would get average cuts of \$34,000, or 2.2 percent of income.

The center also said the Senate proposal would generate enough economic growth to produce additional revenue of \$169 billion over a decade. That's far short of closing the near \$1.5 trillion in red ink that Congress' nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation has estimated the bill would produce over that period.

The top Democrat on the Senate Finance panel, Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, said the study showed that "middle-class Americans will ultimately see a tax hike under Republicans' plan while corporate sponsors line their own pockets with multi-trillion-dollar giveaways."

Antonia Ferrier, spokeswoman for Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., cited a separate study by the Tax Foundation. That conservative-leaning group has said the Senate bill would produce higher wages, nearly 1 million new jobs and enough economic growth to generate nearly \$1.3 trillion in federal revenue.

"The Tax Foundation has laid out in unambiguous terms how critical the Senate tax bill is to hard-working families and job creators," Ferrier said.

The House approved a tax measure Thursday slicing corporate and personal taxes by \$1.5 trillion over the coming decade. That evening, the Senate Finance Committee approved a similar plan, which like the House version devotes the bulk of its reductions to corporations and other businesses.

The Senate bill would repeal a requirement that Americans have health insurance or pay a fine. The provision is not in the version of the tax overhaul passed last week by the House.

Striking the health care provision might satisfy some GOP moderates who oppose repealing the language, but would also blow a hole in the senators' tax cut plan, leaving them \$338 billion short of their revenue goal over the next 10 years.

Trump did not directly address the issue Monday. He said that the administration would focus on health care, infrastructure and welfare "soon after taxes."

Trump's budget director, Mick Mulvaney, said Sunday that the White House is open to scrapping the provision, which would repeal a key component of the health care law enacted by President Barack Obama. Trump had pressed for the provision to be added to the bill, partly to show progress on the GOP goal of undoing the health care law following Congress' failed attempts to repeal it earlier this year.

"If it becomes an impediment to getting the best tax bill we can, then we're OK with taking it out," he added.

Moderate Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, whose vote the White House needs, said Sunday the tax advantage that some middle-income consumers would reap under the tax bill could be wiped out by repealing the mandate under the Affordable Care Act.

Collins is among several GOP senators who say they've not decided how to vote on the bill. Republicans hold a slim 52-48 Senate majority.

Mulvaney and Collins were interviewed on CNN's "State of the Union." Collins also appeared on ABC's "This Week."

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

New allegation against Franken, this time met with silence

By KYLE POTTER, Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — A woman says Al Franken pulled her in tightly and put his hand on her buttocks in 2010 while posing for a picture at the Minnesota State Fair, the second allegation of improper conduct against the Democrat and first involving his time as a senator.

Lindsay Menz told CNN last week for a report broadcast Monday that the interaction with the Minnesota senator made her feel "gross." She said she immediately told her husband that Franken had "grabbed" her bottom and that she posted about it on Facebook.

Menz's story comes days after a Los Angeles broadcaster, Leeann Tweeden, accused Franken of forcibly kissing her during a 2006 USO tour. Franken already faced a Senate ethics investigation over Tweeden's allegation, but the Menz allegation is potentially more damaging for Franken because it would be behavior that occurred while he was in office.

Franken, a Democrat, told CNN he didn't remember taking the photo with Menz, but said in a statement to the network that he feels badly that she felt disrespected.

"I take thousands of photos at the state fair surrounded by hundreds of people, and I certainly don't remember taking this picture," Franken told CNN. "I feel badly that Ms. Menz came away from our interaction feeling disrespected."

Franken's office did not respond to repeated Associated Press messages seeking comment.

With the Capitol empty due to Thanksgiving break, reaction to the latest allegation against Franken were muted compared to an outcry last week — and Democrats nationally and in Minnesota were silent.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, repeated a statement from Thursday calling for an ethics investigation of Franken. After publicly denouncing Franken's conduct and supporting that investigation last week, no powerful Democrats had spoken out by Monday afternoon about Menz's allegations.

Menz, 33, who now lives in Frisco, Texas, said her father's business was sponsoring a radio booth at the Minnesota fair and that she took photos with several elected officials and political candidates as they stopped at the booth.

She said as she posed with Franken, he "pulled me in really close, like awkward close, and as my husband took the picture, he put his hand full-fledged on my rear," Menz said. "It was wrapped tightly around my butt cheek."

Menz said she told her husband, Jeremy Menz, and father Mark Brown about it right away. Both men affirmed that to CNN. Menz also said she posted the photo with Franken on Facebook on Aug. 27, 2010, and when her sister commented on the photo, she replied: "Dude -- Al Franken TOTALLY molested me! Creeper!"

The AP was not able to immediately view her account to verify the post.

Franken, 66, is the latest public figure to be caught in the deluge of accusations of sexual harassment and misconduct nationwide.

He has apologized to Tweeden, and she has accepted the apology, but a handful of Democrats have called for him to resign. Republicans, still forced to answer for the multiple allegations facing Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore, joined in pressing for an expected investigation by the Senate Ethics Committee. Franken said he would welcome it.

Franken canceled a sold-out book festival appearance scheduled for Monday in Atlanta to speak and promote his book, "Al Franken, Giant of the Senate." He hasn't appeared in public since Tweeden's allegation.

This story has been corrected to show that Menz talked to CNN last week, not Monday.

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

Before elephants, US loosened limits on lion trophies

By MICHAEL BIESECKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — One month before the Trump administration sparked outrage by reversing a ban on trophies from threatened African elephants, federal officials quietly loosened restrictions on the importation of heads and hides of lions shot for sport.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began issuing permits Oct. 20 for lions killed in Zimbabwe and Zambia between 2016 and 2018. The agency is also currently studying whether to add three additional countries to the list — Mozambique, Namibia and Tanzania.

Previously, only wild lions killed in South Africa were eligible to be imported.

In a pair of recent tweets, President Donald Trump said he will delay the new policy on allowing elephant trophies, but he made no mention of lions. Trump, whose adult sons are avid big-game hunters, also expressed skepticism about his own administration's claim that killing threatened animals could help save them by helping raise money for conservation programs.

"Big-game trophy decision will be announced next week but will be very hard pressed to change my mind that this horror show in any way helps conservation of Elephants or any other animal," the president tweeted on Sunday.

Trump weighed in after a strong public backlash against reversing an Obama-era ban on elephant trophies, which became public through a written notification posted in the Federal Register. Officials said there was no such legal requirement for notifying the public about the policy change on lions.

In late 2015, the Obama administration added two subspecies of African lion to the list of animals protected under the Endangered Species Act. Due to poaching and habitat loss, the number of lions living in the wild is in sharp decline — from an estimated 200,000 a century ago to less than 20,000 today.

The additional protections were added a few months after Minnesota dentist Walter Palmer sparked international outcry by killing Cecil, a beloved 13-year-old lion who lived in Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park. Palmer paid \$54,000 to bow-hunt Cecil on private land just outside the park.

A photo of Donald Trump Jr. holding a knife and the bloody severed tail of an elephant he reportedly killed in Zimbabwe in 2011 has also drawn ire from animal rights activists.

Wayne Pacelle, the president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, said he is encouraged that the president is taking a second look at the issue.

"Keeping elephants and lions alive is a key to economic progress in so many African nations," Pacelle said. "Trophy hunting robs these nations of their greatest resources, diminishing the wildlife-watching experiences of so many tourists. Any U.S. sanctioning of trophy hunting sends a particularly contradictory message at a time when the world has been rallying to save elephants and lions."

Follow Associated Press environmental reporter Michael Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck>

Asian shares advance as Wall Street regains ground

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares edged mostly higher Tuesday after Wall Street regained lost ground overnight amid subdued trading ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 1 percent to 22,488.38 in morning trading, while the Kospi in South Korea added 0.1 percent to 2,530.64. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.9 percent to

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 31 of 32

29,522.24. Australia's S&P ASX 200 climbed 0.3 percent to 5,962.00. The Shanghai Composite index surged 0.7 percent to 3,414.57. Southeast Asian shares were mixed.

WALL STREET: U.S. trading has been relatively light ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index picked up 0.1 percent to 2,582.14. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 0.3 percent to 23,430.33. The Nasdaq composite advanced 0.1 percent to 6,790.71. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks climbed 0.7 percent to 1,503.40.

NORTH KOREA: Nervousness about North Korea did little to dampen investor sentiments in Asia, and instead lifted defense-related stock in Japan. President Donald Trump put North Korea on America's terrorism blacklist, despite questions about Pyongyang's support for international attacks beyond the assassination of its leader's half brother in February. IHI Corp. gained 1.3 percent, while Mitsubishi Heavy Industries edged up 0.8 percent.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude oil gained 7 cents to \$56.49 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It lost 29 cents to \$56.49 on Monday. Brent crude oil, the international standard, climbed 11 cents to \$62.33 per barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar slipped to 112.53 yen from 112.62 late Monday. The euro rose to \$1.1739 from \$1.1733.

Follow Yuri Kageyama on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

Her work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/yuri%20kageyama>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 21, the 325th day of 2017. There are 40 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 21, 1942, the Alaska Highway, also known as the Alcan Highway, was formally opened at Soldier's Summit in the Yukon Territory.

On this date:

In 1789, North Carolina became the 12th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed a letter expressing condolences to Lydia Bixby, a Boston widow whose five sons supposedly died while fighting in the Civil War. (As it turned out, only two of Mrs. Bixby's sons had been killed.)

In 1922, Rebecca L. Felton, a Georgia Democrat, was sworn in as the first woman to serve in the U.S. Senate; her term, the result of an interim appointment, ended the following day as Walter F. George, the winner of a special election, took office.

In 1927, picketing strikers at the Columbine Mine in northern Colorado were fired on by state police; six miners were killed.

In 1934, the Cole Porter musical "Anything Goes," starring Ethel Merman as Reno Sweeney, opened on Broadway.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Air Quality Act.

In 1969, the Senate voted down the Supreme Court nomination of Clement F. Haynsworth, 55-45, the first such rejection since 1930.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon's attorney, J. Fred Buzhardt (buh-ZAHRDT'), revealed the existence of an 18-1/2-minute gap in one of the White House tape recordings related to Watergate.

In 1974, bombs exploded at a pair of pubs in Birmingham, England, killing 21 people. (Six suspects were convicted of the attack, but the convictions of the so-called "Birmingham Six" were overturned in 1991.)

In 1980, 87 people died in a fire at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. An estimated 83 million TV viewers tuned in to the CBS prime-time soap opera "Dallas" to find out "who shot J.R." (The shooter turned out to be J.R. Ewing's sister-in-law, Kristin Shepard.)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 135 ~ 32 of 32

In 1985, U.S. Navy intelligence analyst Jonathan Jay Pollard was arrested, accused of spying for Israel. (Pollard later pleaded guilty to espionage and was sentenced to life in prison; he was released on parole on Nov. 20, 2015.)

In 1992, a three-day tornado outbreak that struck 13 states began in the Houston area before spreading to the Midwest and eastern U.S.; 26 people were killed. Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., issued an apology but refused to discuss allegations that he'd made unwelcome sexual advances toward ten women over the years. (Faced with a threat of expulsion, Packwood ended up resigning from the Senate in 1995.)

Ten years ago: New Hampshire set its earliest-ever presidential primary, deciding on Jan. 8, 2008. Officials announced the recall of more than a half-million pieces of Chinese-made children's jewelry contaminated with lead. Engineer Herbert Saffir, who created the five-category system used to describe hurricane strength, died in Miami at age 90.

Five years ago: Two weeks after he was re-elected to a ninth full term in Congress, Democratic Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. of Illinois quietly resigned in a letter in which he acknowledged an ongoing federal investigation. (Jackson would eventually be sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison for illegally spending campaign money.) Israel and the Hamas militant group in Gaza agreed to a cease-fire to end eight days of the fiercest fighting in nearly four years.

One year ago: President-elect Donald Trump held court from his perch high above Manhattan, receiving a line of former rivals, longtime allies and TV executives while overseeing his White House transition. An elementary school bus crash in Chattanooga, Tennessee, claimed the lives of six children.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Joseph Campanella is 93. Actor Laurence Luckinbill is 83. Actress Marlo Thomas is 80. Actor Rick Lenz is 78. Singer Dr. John is 77. Actress Juliet Mills is 76. Basketball Hall of Famer Earl Monroe is 73. Television producer Marcy Carsey is 73. Actress Goldie Hawn is 72. Movie director Andrew Davis is 71. Rock musician Lonnie Jordan (War) is 69. Singer Livingston Taylor is 67. Actress-singer Lorna Luft is 65. Actress Cherry Jones is 61. Rock musician Brian Ritchie (The Violent Femmes) is 57. Gospel singer Steven Curtis Chapman is 55. Actress Nicollette Sheridan is 54. Singer-actress Bjork (byork) is 52. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Troy Aikman is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chauncey Hannibal (BLACKstreet) is 49. Rock musician Alex James (Blur) is 49. Baseball Hall of Famer Ken Griffey Jr. is 48. TV personality Rib Hillis is 47. Rapper Pretty Lou (Lost Boyz) is 46. Football player-turned-TV personality Michael Strahan (STRAY'-han) is 46. Actress Rain Phoenix is 45. Country singer Kelsi Osborn (SHeDAISY) is 43. Actor Jimmi Simpson is 42. Singer-actress Lindsey Haun is 33. Actress Jena Malone is 33. Pop singer Carly Rae Jepsen is 32. Actor-singer Sam Palladio is 30.

Thought for Today: "You simply cannot hang a millionaire in America." — Bourke Cockran, American politician and orator (1854-1923).