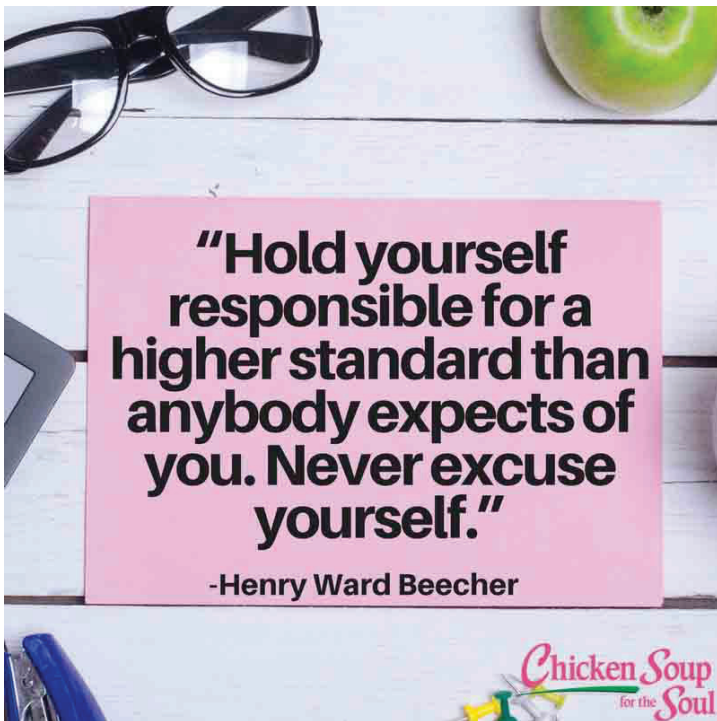


Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 1 of 43



- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Frost Construction Ad
- 1- Blocker Construction Thanksgiving Ad
- 2- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted Ad
- 3- JK Students featured - Part 2
- 3- Lori's Pharmacy ad
- 3- Full Circle ad
- 4- Doug Abeln Seed Company ad
- 4- Cheri's on Main ad
- 5- Mayou is new Sully County Deputy
- 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

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Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 3 of 43

Groton Area
Junior
Kindergarten
wish you a
Happy
Thanksgiving!

Part 2



Cheyenne Powell, child of Amber Hommel and John Powell. "My whole family."



Emmett Zoellner, child of Casey and Kayla Zoellner. "My mommy."



Caelynn Pullan, child of Jason and Dannielle Pullan. "My family and my dog."



Here's hoping all your prayers are answered during this holiday season. We're counting our blessings and your friendship is at the top of the list!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Lori's Pharmacy

Happy Thanksgiving, Friends!



This Thanksgiving, we're counting our many blessings, and your friendship is at the top of the list! Please accept our heartfelt gratitude, and may you enjoy a truly happy Thanksgiving celebration.



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Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 4 of 43



Tori Schuster, child of Tom and Sarah Schuster. "My family, toys, and my house."



Jaela Flihs, child of Lance and JoAnn Flihs. "My dog and he is brown."



Easton Larson, child of Josh and Desa Larson. "My baby brother, my dad, my mom and my whole family."



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Throughout the year we reflect on the things that make us happy. This Thanksgiving season, I am thankful for the wonderful patrons!



Happy Thanksgiving

**Cheri's
on Main**

7 N Main
397-2491



Pictured in the middle is the new Sully County Deputy Tonya Mayou and her father, Groton Chief of Police Stacy Mayou (left) presenting her certificate with AG Jackley (right). (Courtesy Photo)

Attorney General's Law Enforcement Training Division Graduates 47 Officers

PIERRE, S.D.- The South Dakota Law Enforcement Training Academy graduated 43 officers from across the state. Tonya Mayou of the Sully County Sheriff's Office was among the graduating class and is pictured with South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley. All graduates of the basic course must complete a 13-week program. The basic certification course is overseen by the South Dakota Law Enforcement Training Academy under the Office of the Attorney General.

"Congratulations to the graduating class for receiving their law enforcement certificate. On behalf of the law enforcement community and the people of the State of South Dakota, I thank you for your dedication to public service," said Attorney General Marty Jackley.



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***Farmers Union's
PSA: Courtesy Merle
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the right thing to do")**

Today in Weather History

November 22, 1979: Snow began falling during the morning hours on the 21st and continued until the evening hours on the 22nd. Snowfall totals were in the 6 to 13-inch range with thirteen inches at Sioux Falls being the largest amount reported. Moderate winds of 20 to 35 mph made travel tough. Approximately 50 percent of the corn remained in the fields. The snow did not harm the corn, so most of it was still harvested.

November 22, 1985: Extreme cold temperatures occurred over South Dakota from November 22nd through the 28th, with low temperatures dropping well below zero. Record low temperatures were set in most areas, and Aberdeen set a record low for five of the seven days. Three of those five record lows still stand today: -17 on the 23rd, -18 on the 27th, and -21 on the 28th. The other records set at the time (-16 on both the 24th and 26th), were both broken in November 1996.








November 22, 2003: Heavy snow of 6 to 10 inches fell across Big Stone and Traverse counties in Minnesota, as well as northeastern South Dakota, from the evening of the 22nd to the afternoon of the 23rd. Dumont received 6 inches of snow, with 10 inches reported in Ortonville. Six inches of snow was also reported in Wilmot, White Rock, Estelline, and near Stone Bridge; 7 inches was reported Toronto; 8 inches in Big Stone City; and 9 inches at Clear Lake. Heavy snow of 6 to 9 inches also fell in Corson and Lyman counties in South Dakota. Some other snowfall amounts included 8 inches northwest of Presho, Kennebec, and near Iona; and 9 inches southwest of Keldron.

1992: 45 tornadoes touched down in the Tennessee and Ohio Valleys. Georgia was hard hit with two F4, one F3 and three F2 tornadoes that killed six people and injured 144. Indiana had a total of 15 tornadoes on this day to set a record for an outbreak in November and for the month of November. One, an F4 multiple-vortex type, cut a 22-mile path through extreme southeastern Indiana and northern Kentucky. This tornado debunked the myth that twisters don't cross rivers, as this devastating tornado crossed the Ohio River twice. Indiana had a total of 15 tornadoes on this day to set two state records, the largest November tornado outbreak, and the most tornadoes in November. This tornado outbreak made a significant contribution to what was to become the biggest November ever for the U.S. concerning the number of tornadoes.




2010: A rare November ice storm prompts Fairbanks officials to advised residents to stay off the roads. Ice storm advisories are hoisted across a 950 mile stretch of the state that extends from Anchorage to Nome. The 0.39 inches of rain which fall at Fairbanks rates as that city's greatest November rainfall since November 1936.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 7 of 43

Today	Tonight	Thanksgiving Day	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Decreasing Clouds	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Breezy. Slight Chance Rain then Sunny	Mostly Clear and Blustery then Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 43 °F	Low: 22 °F	High: 51 °F	Low: 37 °F	High: 54 °F	Low: 27 °F	High: 43 °F

Warmer Today
And For The Holiday Weekend

Today	Thursday	Friday
35 - 65°	45 - 70°	50 - 60°
		
Warmest Over S Central SD	Warmest Over S Central SD	Slight Chance Of Light Rain

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr

GRAPHIC CREATED: 11/22/2017 5:23 AM

Published on: 11/22/2017 at 5:32AM

An area of low pressure will cross the region today. This system will bring warmer temperatures into the area with highs ranging from the mid-30s, in western Minnesota, to 60 degrees, west of the Missouri River. Above normal temperatures will continue through the Holiday weekend. Friday will feature strong northwesterly winds.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 8 of 43

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 34.2

Low Outside Temp: 7.3

High Gust: 43

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 66° in 1904

Record Low: -14° in 1895

Average High: 35°F

Average Low: 16°F

Average Precip in Nov: .57

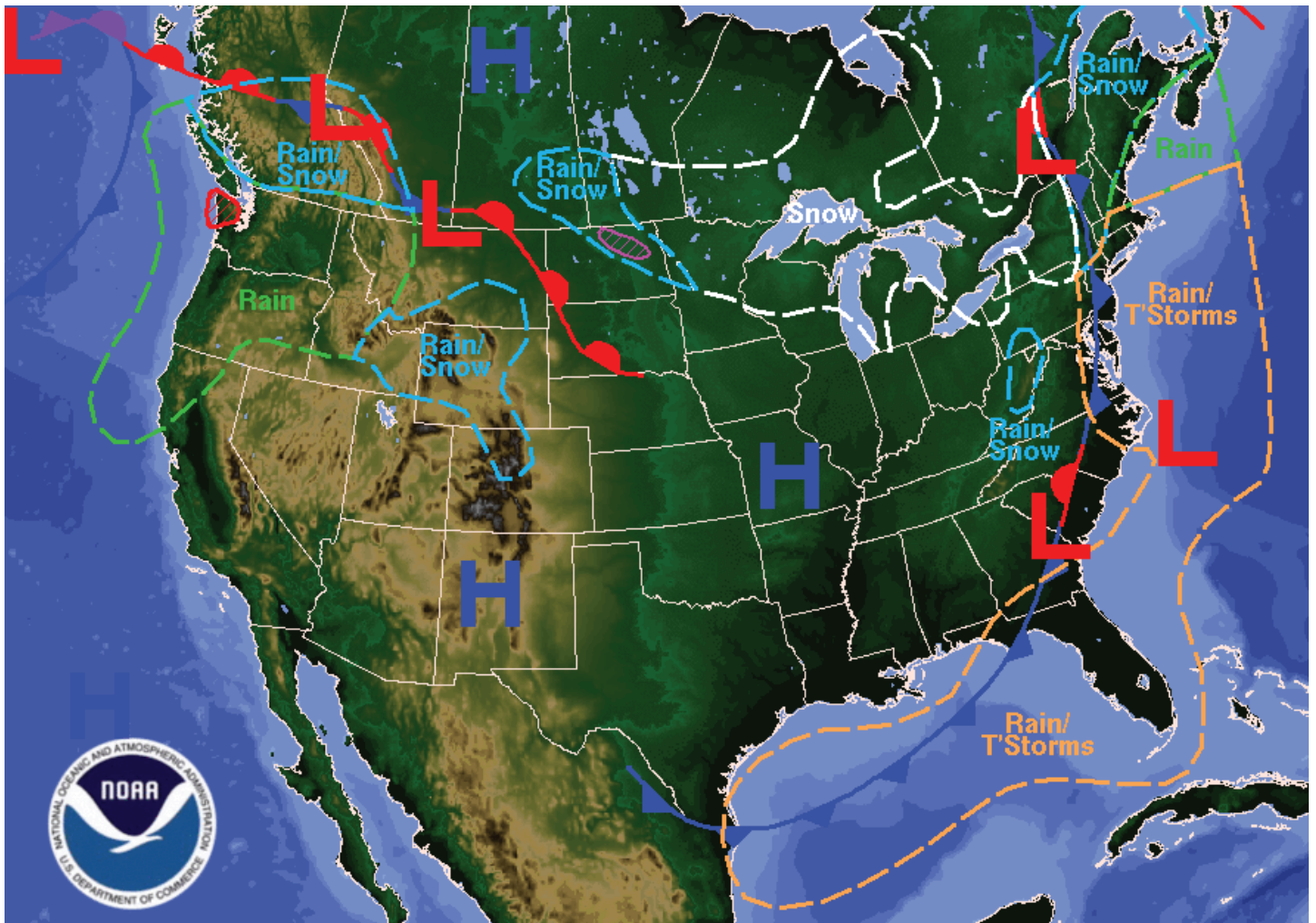
Precip to date in Nov: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.04

Precip Year to Date: 13.47

Sunset Tonight: 4:57 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:43 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Nov 22, 2017, issued 4:38 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

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 9 of 43



HE WILL BE KING!

A comedian was known to have a quick mind and could turn any subject into a joke. On one occasion he said to his audience, "I can make a joke on any subject. Try me!"

A gentleman stood up and shouted, "The subject is The King."

Quickly he replied, "The King can never be a subject!"

There is a Psalm that reflects this truth. The people of Israel had an unpredictable relationship with God. There were times when He was indeed their Lord and there were times when they refused to allow Him to be their King. They wanted their own way. They wanted Him to be subject to them.

But the writer of the Psalm was different. He said, "But God is my King from long ago; He brings salvation to the earth." He wanted God to be His Ruler – His King.

Jesus was born to be King. There were twelve whom He chose to become His disciples. And there were many who followed Him, listened to Him, believed in Him – yet never fully surrendered their hearts and lives to Him. They did not allow Him to be their King and refused to become His subjects. One day they shouted: "We will not have this Man rule over us!" And they crucified Him.

Many years ago hundreds of college students from around the world met in London before going to their mission fields. The group from Japan could not attend but sent a message that read, "Make Jesus King!"

We can change the world if Jesus becomes King of our lives.

Prayer: Come, Lord Jesus, and rule in our hearts. May we serve You as loyal subjects and honor Your Name forever. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 74:12 But God is my King from long ago; he brings salvation on the earth.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Tuesday:

Mega Millions

03-07-22-27-50, Mega Ball: 3, Megaplier: 3

(three, seven, twenty-two, twenty-seven, fifty; Mega Ball: three; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$106 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$134 million

Tribe's marijuana consultant pays fine, court costs

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A cannabis cultivation expert who was prosecuted in South Dakota after working with a Native American tribe trying to open the nation's first marijuana resort will see his drug case dismissed.

A sentence handed down Tuesday for Jonathan Hunt caps the state's prosecution of two consultants who worked with the Flandreau Santee Sioux on an ambitious venture that the tribe once dubbed an "adult playground" that could bring in \$2 million a month.

The plan for a resort north of Sioux Falls was ultimately abandoned after fears of a federal raid culminated with the tribe burning its marijuana crop in 2015.

A state judge agreed to Hunt's request for a suspended imposition of sentence, allowing the case to be dismissed and the record to be sealed after he met the conditions of paying a \$500 fine and about \$100 in court costs, according to Hunt's attorney, Clint Sargent.

"I feel free," Hunt told The Associated Press. "I think the whole thing never should have happened."

Hunt, 44, and Eric Hagen worked for Colorado-based Monarch America, a marijuana consulting company, when they were charged last year after assisting the tribe. The two consultants faced charges for their roles in the cannabis-growing operation.

Hagen, the president and CEO of Monarch America, fought his charges at trial and a jury cleared him of several felony drug counts.

Hunt pleaded guilty to felony conspiracy to possess marijuana after agreeing to cooperate with authorities. He had overseen the Santee Sioux's marijuana crop before it was burned. Hunt, who no longer works with Monarch America, said he now plans to work in the medical and recreational cannabis industry in California.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley confirmed that Hunt had been sentenced, saying he was held accountable for his role in the Flandreau marijuana case.

"A marijuana resort is a violation of both federal and South Dakota law that would further create public health and safety issues across our state," Jackley told the AP.

The Santee Sioux announced its plan for the resort in 2015, setting the stage for a collision between the tribe's hopes for economic development and state and federal law.

The tribe began the marijuana growing operation after the Justice Department outlined a new policy clearing the way for American Indian tribes to grow and sell marijuana under the same conditions as some states that have legalized pot.

When tribal leaders initially touted their plan to open the resort on tribal land in Flandreau, tribal President Anthony Reider said they wanted it to be "an adult playground."

The tribe projected as much as \$2 million in monthly profits. The plans included creating a smoking lounge with a nightclub, bar and food service, and eventually an outdoor music venue. The tribe planned to use the money for community services and to provide income to tribal members.

Tribal leaders take aim at oil and gas development

By **SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN, Associated Press**

BERNALILLO, N.M. (AP) — Native American activists and tribal leaders from around New Mexico are joining the chorus of environmentalists who have been fighting for years to stop oil and gas development.

This time, opponents are spurred by a proposed ordinance that would regulate drilling in one sparsely populated county.

They are part of a groundswell as tribes across the U.S. organize around land issues, from a pipeline in North Dakota and the disputed boundaries of a national monument in Utah to concerns about the encroachment of energy development in an area of the Southwest dotted with archaeological sites tied to a civilization that gave rise to many of the region's modern tribes.

At a contentious meeting late last week, Ahjani Yepa of Jemez Pueblo spoke about the connection between her people and the land, spurring fellow activists in the crowd to raise their fists in solidarity.

"As with many cultures and religions, we do not have a book to guide us. The land is our Bible. Once it is gone, you cannot print another copy," she told members of the Sandoval County Commission.

Her almost breathless plea came as Native Americans wage their latest battle against policymakers over drilling regulations.

There are concerns that the Trump administration will relax rules that have provided a buffer around Chaco Culture National Historical Park in northwestern New Mexico, and that altering the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument in Utah could lead to more development and compromise the aboriginal lands of the five tribes that sought the monument designation.

In the Dakotas, tribes are still pushing to bolster water protections following the completion of a pipeline that spurred months of protests and resulted in hundreds of arrests.

University of Colorado law professor Sarah Krakoff, who specializes in American Indian law and natural resources and public land law, said the protests, resolutions and other showings by tribal leaders and activists represent the latest manifestation of self-determination for Native Americans.

"What's interesting about this next phase of tribal self-determination and self-governance is the recognition that a lot of what tribes care about and a lot of what affects them deeply are decisions about the land outside of their official reservation boundaries," she said.

Sandoval County, home to a dozen tribes, currently doesn't have any rules governing the oil and gas industry. The commission has been working for the past two years to craft regulations that would apply to drilling in unincorporated areas of the county. The rules would not usurp state or federal regulations already on the books.

It was decided at last week's meeting that a final vote will be taken in January.

Tribal leaders are still demanding meaningful consultation with the county.

After offering a prayer for the commissioners in his native language, Santo Domingo Pueblo Gov. Robert Coriz said he was among those who weren't consulted.

"We have to base this on honest, open, respectful communication," he said.

County officials say they have met with tribes and other stakeholders over the course of drafting the ordinance. They argue it would fill a regulatory void and act as an extra layer of protection above requirements already imposed by state regulators and the federal government.

In New Mexico, the oil and gas industry employs tens of thousands of workers and contributes about one-third of the revenue used to fund education and other state government services each year.

For tribes with fossil fuel deposits on their lands, balancing development with environmental protection also is challenging. The Navajo Nation, for example, is grappling with the loss of coal mining jobs and revenues as utilities look to shutter power plants in New Mexico and Arizona. The tribe also is concerned

about drilling in the Chaco region.

Krakoff said that while the challenges transcend jurisdictions, tribal leaders are looking for "a real voice" when it comes to setting policy.

"Tribes are tired of check-the-box kind of consultation," she said. "What they want are convenings in which the tribe's views are actually considered and taken into account."

TransCanada: Keystone oil leak a sudden, 'immediate' event

BRITTON, S.D. (AP) — A TransCanada Corp. official says he believes an estimated 210,000-gallon oil leak discovered last week in South Dakota from the Keystone pipeline was a sudden and "immediate" event.

The American News reports that Erik Tatarchuk, a TransCanada vice president, said at a Marshall County Commission meeting Tuesday that it is unlikely oil leaked long enough to soak into the soil.

TransCanada spokeswoman Jacquelynn Benson says the cause of the leak won't be known until further investigation.

Officials say TransCanada has about 165 people working on cleanup and assessment at the Marshall County leak site.

Tatarchuk says the section of pipeline that leaked was under about four feet of soil. The damaged pipe will be cut out and sent to the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration for analysis.

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

Jenkins leads Jackrabbits past Iowa 80-72

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands (AP) — Freshman David Jenkins Jr. scored a season-high 23 points, including big baskets down the stretch, and South Dakota State fended off Iowa 80-72 in a consolation-bracket semifinal at the Cayman Islands Classic on Tuesday.

Tevin King, a junior, added a career-high 16 points with seven rebounds and five steals. Reed Tellinghuisen scored 15 points and Mike Daum 10. The Jackrabbits, preseason favorites in the Summit League, shot 44 percent but were 10 of 20 from the arc and 16 of 19 from the free-throw line.

Isaiah Moss' basket got the Hawkeyes within 66-64 with 3½ minutes left but Jenkins' hit a 3-pointer and converted a three-point play, and King added a layup with two minutes left for a 74-66 lead. The Jackrabbits made 6 of 8 free throws from there to hold off the Hawkeyes.

The Jackrabbits (4-2) led 36-33 at halftime but Moss tied it with a 3-pointer in the first minute of the second half. Jenkins gave the Jackrabbits the lead for good at 54-52 with a basket with 12 minutes to go. South Dakota State gradually built an eight-point lead with 8½ minutes left but then went nearly four minutes without scoring with Ahmad Wagner drawing the Hawkeyes, 63-62, within a point with a 3-pointer before King ended the drought with a layup and free throw.

The victory was South Dakota State's fourth in 11 meetings with Iowa and seventh against a Power Five school since joining the Summit League in 2007.

Moss led Iowa (3-2) with 18 points, Jack Nunge added 14 and Tyler Cook and Wagner 11 apiece. Luka Garza grabbed 10 rebounds while Jordan Bohannon dished seven assists. The Hawkeyes shot 51 percent but committed 15 turnovers that led to 25 points.

"We have to be better, get better, and even though we have a young team, we have to play like a veteran team in close games late," Iowa coach Fran McCaffery said. "We didn't do that yesterday or today. We made runs, were right there and could have won either game, but we didn't win either game. You have to understand what you have to do in those situations better. That's execute; good teams execute their stuff.

"We have been talking about our defense and how we haven't been as connected as we need to be. That's true, but we weren't connected offensively. We moved the ball, kind of executed, and didn't execute other times. When you're behind, you have to execute every time you get the ball and be connected every time they get the ball."

South Dakota State will play for fifth place on Wednesday while Iowa will try to end a two-game losing

streak in the game for seventh place.

South Dakota board finds 11 school districts owe teacher pay

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A state board is demanding that nearly a dozen South Dakota school districts increase teacher pay to make up for more than \$300,000 owed in teachers' salaries this year.

The School Finance Accountability Board has identified 11 districts that violated teacher pay requirements in state law, the Argus Leader reported. The board asked districts to review teacher contracts to ensure money meant for their salaries is used as intended.

Board members said none of the schools intentionally avoided salary increases.

"I'm very, very confident about the intent of the people in the school districts to do everything they could to improve teacher salaries," said Terry Nebelsick, the board's president.

Legislation approved last year raised teacher salaries through a half-cent increase in sales tax. The legislation also set guidelines for how districts should use 85 percent of the new money for teacher pay.

Affected districts must increase teacher pay by Feb. 1 or risk losing up to half of their new funding.

The board granted waivers to several districts that had a valid excuse for failing to meet teacher pay requirements. The Garretson school district wasn't one of them. Garretson, among the shrinking school districts that have seen a decline in enrollment over the past year, owes \$62,000 in teacher salaries.

Teacher pay targets are determined by prior year enrollment. Superintendent Guy Johnson said his district was "put in a tough spot" with limited guidance on how to apply funding. The district will have to pay their instructors more before the deadline.

"If we've got to increase our spending without the revenue there, we'll solve that problem ... but that's one of the difficult pieces of this," said Johnson. "We really felt like we had done things right."

The board will send a report the Joint Committee on Appropriations after a final meeting next week.

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

Miesbauer named Presentation College head football coach

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Former Presentation College defensive coordinator Chuck Miesbauer has been named head coach.

Miesbauer has been serving as interim head coach since Andy Carr resigned in July to take positions with the University of South Dakota. Presentation has now removed the "interim" from Miesbauer's title and also named him assistant athletic director.

Miesbauer is only the second head coach in the history of the program whose inaugural season was in 2011. The Aberdeen school has since transitioned from NCAA Division III to the NAIA.

School: Recent graduate killed in interstate crash

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Administrators at a Sioux Falls high school say the person who died in an interstate crash was a recent graduate.

Lincoln High School assistant principal Lance Luitjens told staff that Alex Lorang was the victim of the accident on Interstate 229 in Sioux Falls Tuesday morning. Lorang was a 2017 Lincoln graduate and was involved in band and ROTC.

The Argus Leader says the high school newspaper says Lorang enlisted in the Air Force.

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

Petition wants charges dropped against pipeline protesters

MANDAN, N.D. (AP) — Prosecutors in a North Dakota county have been given a petition asking that all charges be dropped against remaining defendants charged in Dakota Access Pipeline protests.

The Bismarck Tribune reports the petition containing about 55,000 signatures was presented by representatives of the Lakota People's Law Project to the Morton County State's Attorney's Office on Monday.

Morton County Assistant State's Attorney Brian Grosinger confirmed receipt of the petition, but declined additional comment.

Court records show 493 pipeline-related cases have closed, 237 are open, 98 are inactive and three are on appeal.

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

Judge: Court needs more time, evidence in death penalty case

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota judge says the court needs more time and evidence before deciding whether convicted prison guard killer Rodney Berget is mentally disabled, which would bar his execution.

The Argus Leader reports that attorneys made arguments Monday about Berget's mental capabilities and rights. Judge Doug Hoffman set another hearing for late January.

Berget and another inmate, Eric Robert, were convicted of killing guard Ronald Johnson in 2011. Robert was executed in 2012.

The state says that Berget doesn't have an intellectual disability. Berget had appealed his death penalty verdict but later withdrew it, clearing the way for his execution.

Berget's attorney, Eric Schulte, disagreed and told a judge last year that he wanted to evaluate Berget's mental capacity to determine if he was eligible for the death penalty.

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

Fall harvest in South Dakota close to wrapping up

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The fall harvest in South Dakota is close to wrapping up.

The federal Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that the sunflower harvest is 89 percent complete, the sorghum harvest 90 percent done and the corn harvest 92 percent complete.

The report says weather over the week was favorable for farmers finishing their harvest, completing fall tillage and applying fertilizer.

The state's winter wheat crop is rated 57 percent fair, good or excellent.

In the ranching community, pasture and range conditions are rated 52 percent poor or very poor. Stock water supplies are 48 percent short or very short.

Semitrailer crash in Turner County kills 56-year-old man

MARION, S.D. (AP) — A semitrailer crash in Turner County killed a 56-year-old man.

The Highway Patrol says the man failed to negotiate a curve on a road about 10:30 a.m. Monday, and his rig rolled before starting on fire.

He was pronounced dead at the scene about 5 miles north of Marion. His name wasn't immediately released.

Animal feed ingredient maker expands to South Dakota

LUVERNE, Minn. (AP) — A Minnesota animal feed ingredient manufacturer is expanding to South Dakota.

Great Plains Processing, based in Luverne, says it's setting up operations in Yankton, South Dakota where it's purchased a building and nearly 20 acres of land. Great Plains Processing is a custom spray drying and

animal feed ingredient manufacturer.

GPP President Quintin Honerman says state and local officials helped make expansion plans seamless.

The 40,000 square-foot facility in Yankton will initially create 20 full-time jobs with the potential of doubling employment in three to five years.

GPP products can be found in feeds for many species, including bovine, equine, swine and domesticated pets.

Mother, then-boyfriend sentenced in reservation child death

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A mother and her then-boyfriend have been sentenced in the beating death last fall of a 5-year-old girl on the South Dakota side of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

Both 26-year-old Desarae Makes Him First and 32-year-old Matthew St. Pierre pleaded guilty to murder in the October 2016 death of Gracie Kills in Water, who authorities said died of a tear in her abdomen that led to internal bleeding.

The American News reports Makes Him First was sentenced Monday to serve 30 years in federal prison and St. Pierre 40 years. Both will have to spend five years on supervised release after their prison terms.

Judge Charles Kornmann said the abuse case is as bad as any he's seen in 22 years on the bench.

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

Zimbabwe's incoming leader Mnangagwa jets from South Africa

By FARAI MUTSAKA and CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA, Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Zimbabwe's incoming leader Emmerson Mnangagwa met in South Africa with President Jacob Zuma Wednesday before taking a private jet to return to Zimbabwe.

Mnangagwa, 75, is to be sworn in as Zimbabwe's new leader Friday, following Robert Mugabe's stunning resignation amid impeachment proceedings against him.

After meeting with Zuma in Pretoria, Mnangagwa went to Johannesburg's Lanseria airport where he boarded a jet that took off for Harare. Mnangagwa is expected to arrive at Manyame Air Base in the capital, Harare, where crowds have already gathered.

He is to be sworn in as Zimbabwe's new president Friday, said the speaker of parliament after the ruling ZANU-PF party notified him of its nomination of Mnangagwa to replace Mugabe until the end of the term next year.

Singing and cheering, several hundred people have gathered outside the air force base in anticipation of Mnangagwa's arrival.

Some carried printed signs with images of Mnangagwa, suggesting a significant level of organization behind the jubilant turnout. Signs read "Welcome back, our hero" and "True to your word, you're back. Welcome."

A man in the crowd, Godwin Nyarugwa, said he was "very ecstatic" and that "we need change in this country, change in everything."

Zimbabwe has been through "crisis after crisis" and Mnangagwa seems best suited to lead the country forward, said Nyarugwa, who has several university degrees but no job.

"We have to try him and see," he said. "If he doesn't come up with something, we need to change him as well."

The air force base where demonstrators are congregating is adjacent to Harare's international airport.

Zimbabweans are still reeling from Mugabe's resignation Tuesday. They cheered and danced in the streets of Harare late into the night, thrilled to be rid of a leader whose early promise after the end of white minority rule in 1980 was overtaken by economic collapse, government dysfunction and human rights violations.

Now the focus turns to Mnangagwa, Mugabe's longtime deputy who was pushed aside earlier this month as unpopular first lady Grace Mugabe positioned herself to replace him and succeed her husband. Mnangagwa

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 17 of 43

gagwa fled the country, claiming threats against his life.

That led the military to step in a week ago, opening the door for the ruling party and the people to publicly turn against the president.

It was not clear what the 93-year-old Robert Mugabe and his wife would do next. Mugabe, who was the world's oldest head of state, said in his resignation letter that legal procedures should be followed to install a new president "no later than tomorrow."

The privately run Newsday newspaper reported that Mnangagwa would be met on arrival in Harare by army commander Constantino Chiwenga and ruling party officials and then was expected "to meet Mugabe for a briefing."

Zimbabweans woke up to the first day in 37 years without Mugabe in power. With some nursing hangovers, they looked over newspaper headlines such as "Adios Bob and Ta-ta President."

"I think this change of government is like a new breath of fresh air right across the country," said Patrick Musira on the streets of the capital. "Everyone was engulfed with excitement and they are looking for a better future, a brighter future with work."

Zimbabwe's new leaders are faced with a once-prosperous nation whose economy has collapsed, sending well-educated but frustrated young people into desperate work as street vendors. Many have left the country altogether.

Mnangagwa is a former justice and defense minister who served for decades as Mugabe's enforcer, a role that earned him the nickname "Crocodile." Many opposition supporters believe he was instrumental in the army killings of thousands of people when Mugabe moved against a political rival in the 1980s.

So far in the current political turmoil Mnangagwa has used inclusive language, saying in a statement hours before Mugabe's resignation that all Zimbabweans should work together to advance their nation.

"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," Mnangagwa said.

In a new commentary, the state-run Zimbabwe Herald newspaper stressed the importance of presidential term limits, saying Zimbabweans will "never again go back into a box of silence."

It added: "We hope that when (Mnangagwa) finishes his stint in State House the cheers will be for a job well done ... He has the best wishes of most Zimbabweans, at least today."

AP journalist Andrew Meldrum reported from Johannesburg.

US Navy plane with 11 aboard crashes into Pacific; 8 rescued

By KEN MORITSUGU, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Eight people were rescued and three remained missing after a U.S. Navy plane crashed into the western Pacific Ocean on Wednesday, the Navy said.

The C-2 "Greyhound" transport aircraft came down about 500 nautical miles (925 kilometers) southeast of Okinawa as it was bringing passengers and cargo from Japan to the USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier, the Navy said in a statement.

The Reagan was operating in the Philippine Sea during a joint exercise with Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force when the twin-propeller plane crashed at 2:45 p.m. Japan time. The cause of the crash was not immediately clear and the incident will be investigated, the Navy said.

Eight people were rescued about 40 minutes later. They were taken to the Reagan for medical evaluation and are in good condition, the Navy said.

U.S. and Japanese naval ships and aircraft are searching for the missing. Japan's Defense Ministry said the crash site is about 150 kilometers (90 miles) northwest of Okinotorishima, a Japanese atoll.

The names of the crew and passengers are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Philippine military spokesman Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla said his military alerted its ships and aircraft shortly after learning about the crash but could not provide help because of the distance from the country.

The Nov. 16-26 joint exercise in waters off Okinawa has been described by the Navy as the "premier

training event" between the U.S. and Japanese navies, designed to increase defensive readiness and interoperability in air and sea operations.

The Navy's Japan-based 7th Fleet has had two fatal accidents in Asian waters this year, leaving 17 sailors dead and prompting the removal of eight top Navy officers from their posts, including the 7th Fleet commander.

The USS John S. McCain and an oil tanker collided near Singapore in August, leaving 10 U.S. sailors dead. Seven sailors died in June when the USS Fitzgerald and a container ship collided off Japan.

The Navy has concluded that the collisions were avoidable and resulted from widespread failures by the crews and commanders, who didn't quickly recognize and respond to unfolding emergencies. A Navy report recommended numerous changes to address the problems, ranging from improved training to increasing sleep and stress management for sailors.

Associated Press writers Yuri Kageyama in Tokyo and Jim Gomez in Manila, Philippines, contributed to this story.

In surprise reversal, Lebanese PM puts resignation on hold

By SARAH EL DEEB and ZEINA KARAM, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri announced Wednesday he was putting his resignation on hold to give way for more consultations nearly three weeks after he unexpectedly announced he was stepping down — a stunning reversal and embarrassment to Saudi Arabia, which was widely seen as having orchestrated his resignation.

In surprise conciliatory comments from the presidential palace, Hariri said he is putting Lebanon's interest first and is looking forward to a "real partnership with all political forces to put Lebanon's higher interest before any other interests."

He said he presented his resignation to President Michel Aoun at the presidential palace, but then responded to Aoun's request to take more time for consultations, "hoping it will constitute a serious opening for a responsible dialogue."

"Our beloved nation needs in this critical period exceptional efforts from everyone to protect it in the face of dangers and challenges," Hariri said in a statement from the presidential palace.

He reiterated the need for Lebanon to remain neutral on regional disputes and conflicts "and all that undermines internal stability and brotherly relations with Arab brothers."

Hariri's reversal represents the latest Saudi foreign policy overreach under its young Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is seen as being behind most of the country's major decisions.

Under the bullish crown prince, who has the blessing of his father King Salman, Saudi Arabia has taken a much harder line against Iran. He has a reputation for being both decisive and impulsive.

Hariri's mysterious televised resignation from Saudi Arabia had sparked a political and diplomatic crisis as Lebanese officials accused the Gulf kingdom, which is feuding with Iran for influence in the region, of pressuring the Sunni, Saudi-aligned politician to resign.

Top Lebanese officials accused Hariri's patron, Saudi Arabia, of then detaining him in the kingdom for days. Feeling insulted, the Lebanese rallied around Hariri, unanimously calling for his return from Saudi Arabia in what became an embarrassment to the kingdom.

Posters have been erected around Beirut and other cities welcoming Hariri's return.

Hariri's reversal appears also to be a culmination of nearly three weeks of international pressure for Lebanon's delicate political balance to hold, though Saudi Arabia likely knew in advance of Hariri's decision to withdraw his resignation.

It constitutes a win a win for French President Emmanuel Macron, whose mediation succeeded in getting Hariri out of Saudi Arabia to Paris for few days. He returned to Lebanon on Tuesday night following brief stops in Egypt and Cyprus.

Following Hariri's announcement from the presidential palace Wednesday, hundreds of people converged

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 19 of 43

on his residence in central Beirut amid tightened security, in a show of support.

"We've been waiting for him for three weeks. We hope he continues the path of the martyr (Saad Hariri's father) Rafik Hariri because Lebanon needs men like this ... and we hope he does not leave Lebanon again," said Hussein Zaarour, a school teacher and supporter who came from eastern Lebanon with his wife and three kids.

Earlier on Wednesday, Hariri participated in Independence Day celebrations, his first official appearance since his resignation.

Hariri's resignation on Nov. 4 was not accepted by President Michel Aoun, who said he wanted to hear from Hariri in person first.

The premier had cited Iran and its Lebanese proxy Hezbollah's meddling in the region as a reason for his decision to step down, and also cited concerns for his own safety in Lebanon. Hezbollah is a partner in the coalition government formed by Hariri a year ago.

His resignation plunged Lebanon in turmoil and triggered concern that the tiny country, which has enjoyed relative calm amid a Middle East on fire, would again be dragged to the forefront of the intensifying regional rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

It set off international efforts, led by France, to prevent the upending of the country's delicate sectarian-based political order.

The announcement that he was stepping down was followed by sharp Saudi rhetoric against Hezbollah, which the kingdom accuses of meddling on Iran's behalf in regional affairs.

Hezbollah has been fighting on the side of Syrian President Bashar Assad in that country's six-year civil war, where many of Assad's enemies are rebels backed by Saudi Arabia. The kingdom says Hezbollah is also advising Houthi rebels waging a war against Yemen's Saudi-backed government. Hezbollah denies it is militarily supporting the Houthis.

Hezbollah says Saudi Arabia is sowing instability in Lebanon, and accused the kingdom of partnering with Israel to start a war with Lebanon.

Hariri, in his only in depth interview since announcing his resignation, told his media station Future TV that he could retract his resignation if a deal could be struck with his opponents to distance Lebanon from regional conflicts.

Upon arriving in Beirut Tuesday night, Hariri went straight from the airport to pray at the grave of his father, the late Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, assassinated in 2005. He then retired to his home in central Beirut.

Associated Press writers Philip Issa in Beirut and Aya Batrawy in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed reporting.

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. UN COURT CONVICTS MLADIC OF GENOCIDE OVER BOSNIA'S HORRORS; SENTENCED TO LIFE

The Bosnian Serb military chief commanded forces responsible for the 1995 massacre of some 8,000 Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica, Europe's worst mass killing since World War II.

2. ZIMBABWE POISED TO SWEAR IN NEW PRESIDENT

Emmerson Mnangagwa, recently fired as vice president, is set to return to be sworn in as the country's new leader Friday after Mugabe's stunning resignation.

3. US NAVY PLANE WITH 11 CRASHES INTO PACIFIC; 8 FOUND ALIVE

Their C-2 "Greyhound" transport aircraft crashed while on its way to the USS Ronald Reagan about 90 miles northwest of Okinotorishima, a Japanese atoll.

4. TRUMP FINALLY SPEAKS UP FOR MOORE

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 20 of 43

The president discounts accusations of sexual misconduct against the Alabama Republican Senate candidate, telling voters not to support his "liberal" rival.

5. WHO'S NOT RESIGNING NOW IN MAJOR REVERSAL

Lebanon's Prime Minister Hariri, back in Beirut, announces he will put his resignation on hold to give way for more consultations — a blow for Saudi Arabia where he initially made his announcement recently.

6. MEDIA CUTS STARS LOOSE OVER SEX CLAIMS

News organizations face particular pressure to act or else risk their journalistic credibility in covering the scandals sweeping through the media, Hollywood and politics.

7. BRING ON THE TURKEY — BUT MAYBE HOLD THE POLITICS

Democrats are slightly more likely than Republicans to say they're uneasy talking politics, and women are more likely than men to say they dread any political discussion over the traditional meal, an AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research survey finds.

8. AP SOURCE: GYMNASTICS DOCTOR SET TO PLEAD GUILTY TO SEX CHARGES

Dr. Larry Nassar is accused of molesting several girls while working for USA Gymnastics and Michigan State University and faces at least 25 years in prison.

9. UBER REVEALS COVER-UP OF HACK AFFECTING 57 MILLION RIDERS, DRIVERS

So far, there's no evidence that the data taken has been misused, Uber's new CEO says, and the ride-hailing service acknowledges paying the hackers \$100,000 to destroy the stolen information.

10. DAVID CASSIDY, 'PARTRIDGE FAMILY' STAR, DIES AT 67

The teen and pre-teen idol who starred in the 1970s sitcom sold millions of records as the musical group's lead singer.

UN court convicts Mladic of genocide over Bosnia's horrors

By MIKE CORDER, Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The United Nations' Yugoslav war crimes tribunal convicted Bosnian Serb military chief Gen. Ratko Mladic on Wednesday of genocide and crimes against humanity, and sentenced him to life in prison for atrocities during Bosnia's 1992-1995 war.

Mladic, 75, was found guilty of commanding forces responsible for crimes including the worst atrocities of the war — the deadly three-year siege of the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, and the 1995 massacre of some 8,000 Muslim men and boys in the eastern enclave of Srebrenica, which was Europe's worst mass killing since World War II.

A three-judge panel at the court formally known as the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia convicted Mladic of 10 of 11 counts in a dramatic climax to a groundbreaking effort to seek justice for the wars in the former Yugoslavia.

Presiding Judge Alphons Orié read out the judgment Wednesday after ordering Mladic out of the courtroom for the final verdict over an angry outburst.

"The crimes committed rank among the most heinous known to humankind," he said.

Mothers of Srebrenica's victims clapped when the convictions were read out. Mladic's son Darko said: "I'm not surprised. The court was totally biased from the start."

Bosniaks and Serbs watched from near and far as the long-awaited climax approached. Wednesday's judgment marks the end of the final trial at the tribunal, which was set up in 1993, while fierce fighting was still raging in Bosnia.

Emotions ran high outside the courtroom, with a small skirmish reflecting lingering tensions between Serbs and Bosniaks over the trial and the war.

Despite ailing health, Mladic looked relaxed, greeting lawyers and giving a thumbs-up to photographers in court. He nodded regularly as presiding Judge Alphons Orié read out descriptions of atrocities by Bosnian Serb forces, one by one.

Then Mladic's lawyer asked for a delay because the general was suffering high blood pressure. The judge refused, and Mladic burst out with criticism and was ordered to leave the room.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 21 of 43

Prosecutors had sought a life sentence, while Mladic's defense lawyers said he should be acquitted on all counts.

Orie said the court confirmed that "genocide, persecution, extermination, murder and the inhuman act of forcible transfer were committed in or around Srebrenica" in 1995. Previous judgments have said it was genocide. However, Orie said the court is "not convinced" of genocidal intent in six other municipalities, in line with previous judgments.

The conflict in the former Yugoslavia erupted after the breakup of the former multi-ethnic federation in the early 1990s, with the worst crimes taking place in Bosnia. More than 100,000 people died and millions lost their homes before a peace agreement was signed in 1995. Mladic went into hiding for around ten years before his arrest in Serbia in May 2011.

Mladic's political master during the war, former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic was also convicted last year for genocide and sentenced to 40 years. He has appealed the ruling.

The man widely blamed for fomenting wars across the Balkans, former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, died in his UN cell in 2006 before tribunal judges could reach verdicts in his trial.

Jovana Gec and Dusan Stojanovic in Belgrade and Angela Charlton in Paris contributed.

Cold War drama caught on video as N. Korean soldier escapes

By FOSTER KLUG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — It's 3:11 p.m. on a cold, gray day on the North Korean side of the most heavily armed border in the world, and a lone soldier is racing toward freedom.

His dark olive-green jeep speeds down a straight, tree-lined road, past drab, barren fields and, headlights shining, across the replacement for the Bridge of No Return, which was used for prisoner exchanges during the Korean War. The shock of soldiers watching the jeep rush by is palpable from the video released Wednesday, and no wonder: They're beginning to realize that one of their comrades is defecting to the South.

They sprint after him.

The jeep slows and turns at a monument to North Korean founder Kim Il Sung, the staging point for North Korean tours of the area.

The border is near, South Korea just beyond it.

Four North Korean soldiers, weapons in their hands, race by the blue huts that straddle the line and are familiar to anyone who has toured the only spot on the border where North and South Korean soldiers face off within spitting distance of each other. There are no tourists this day.

Right at the line that divides North from South, the defector crashes the jeep into a ditch. Seconds pass as he tries in vain to gun the vehicle out of the gully before leaping out and sprinting into the South. He kicks up leaves, ducking below a tree branch just as the North Korean soldiers skid into view.

Muzzles flash. The North Korean soldiers, one of whom drops flat into the leaves, fire at the defector at close range with handguns and AK-47 assault rifles — about 40 rounds, the South says.

Suddenly, two of the North Koreans run away while the soldier in the leaves jumps up and dashes across the dividing line into South Korean territory before stopping, turning on his heels and sprinting back to the northern side after his comrades. The defector falls stretched out and unmoving in a pile of leaves against a small wall on the South Korean side.

The entire sequence, from the first appearance of the jeep to the soldier's frenzied crossing, lasts four minutes.

It unfolded Nov. 13 in the Joint Security Area, which is overseen by both the American-led U.N. Command and North Korea and lies inside the 4-kilometer (2 1/2-mile) -wide Demilitarized Zone that has been the de facto border between the Koreas since the war.

Forty minutes later, the video has switched to infrared to show the heat signatures of two South Korean

soldiers as they crawl on their hands and knees, using a wall as cover, toward the prone defector. They grab hold of the defector and drag him to safety. Not far away, heavily armed North Korean troops begin to gather near the Kim Il Sung monument.

For the moment, the border is quiet again.

Surprisingly, North and South Korean soldiers didn't exchange fire during the shooting, the first in the area in more than three decades. The bullets went in only one direction.

The defection, subsequent surgeries and slow recovery of the soldier have riveted South Korea. But his escape is a huge embarrassment for the North, which claims all defections are the result of rival Seoul kidnapping or enticing North Koreans. Pyongyang has said nothing about the defection so far.

North Korea's actions during the defector's escape at the Panmunjom border village violated the armistice agreement ending the Korean War because North Korean soldiers fired across and physically crossed the border in pursuit of the soldier, U.S. Col. Chad Carroll, a spokesman for the U.N. command, told reporters in a live TV briefing Wednesday. A U.N. Command statement said a meeting had been requested with the North's military to discuss the violations.

After undergoing two surgeries last week to repair internal organ damage and other injuries, the soldier has regained consciousness and is no longer relying on a breathing machine. His doctor said Wednesday he is enjoying watching American movies and shows such as "Transformers," "CSI," and "Bruce Almighty," and listening to South Korean pop songs such as "Gee" by popular female band "Girls' Generation."

"His condition has become much better since yesterday. We've turned on the TV for him since yesterday," doctor Lee Cook-jong told reporters.

"He said it was so painful when he was shot by bullets but that he doesn't feel pain now," he said.

Doctors plan to keep him at an intensive care unit for at least several more days to guard against possible infection, hospital official Shin Mi-jeong said.

While treating the wounds, surgeons earlier removed dozens of parasites from the soldier's ruptured small intestine, including presumed roundworms that were as long as 27 centimeters (10.6 inches), which may reflect poor nutrition and health in North Korea's military. The soldier is 1.7 meters (5 feet, 7 inches) tall but weighs just 60 kilograms (132 pounds).

About 30,000 North Koreans have fled to South Korea, mostly across the porous border with China, since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. Now add one more to that tally — a man in uniform, fleeing gunfire toward a new life one overcast afternoon across the world's most uneasy border.

Associated Press writers Hyung-jin Kim and Kim Tong-hyung contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to fix the spelling of the doctor's name to Lee Cook-jong instead of Lee Guk-jong.

Trump speaks up for Moore, warns against his 'liberal' rival

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Silent for more than a week, President Donald Trump all but endorsed embattled Alabama Republican Senate nominee Roy Moore, discounting the sexual assault allegations against him and insisting repeatedly that voters must not support Moore's "liberal" rival.

The president said he would announce next week whether he will campaign for Moore, who faces Democrat Doug Jones in a Dec. 12 special election to fill the seat once held by Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Trump, who won election despite facing more than a dozen accusations of sexual misconduct himself, dismissed questions from reporters about backing a Republican accused of sexual assault over a man who is a Democrat. Trump pointed to Moore's assertions that he did nothing wrong.

"Roy Moore denies it, that's all I can say," Trump said Tuesday. In fact, he repeated 10 times in a 5-minute session outside the White House that the GOP candidate has denied any wrongdoing.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 23 of 43

Two Alabama women have accused Moore of assault or molestation — including one who says she was 14 at the time — and six others have said he pursued romantic relationships when they were teenagers and he was a deputy district attorney in his 30s.

Trump didn't explicitly say he was endorsing Moore, but he said with emphasis, "We don't need a liberal person in there. ... We don't need somebody who's soft on crime like Jones."

He also noted that the allegations came from behavior alleged to have happened decades ago.

"Forty years is a long time," Trump said, questioning why it took so long for Moore's accusers to come forward.

Former Sen. Sessions has said he has no reason to doubt the allegations against Moore, Republican leaders in Washington have called for Moore to leave the race, and the White House has repeatedly said Trump himself felt Moore would "do the right thing and step aside" if the allegations proved true.

But Trump had been publicly silent until Tuesday when he exchanged questions and answers with reporters, shouting to be heard over the noise of his Marine helicopter, waiting to take him to Air Force One, which then flew him to his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida, for Thanksgiving.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan, both Republicans, have called on Moore to leave the race in light of the accusations. The Republican National Committee and the National Republican Senatorial Committee have pulled their support for his campaign.

Trump backed incumbent Sen. Luther Strange in a September Republican primary, but moved quickly to embrace Moore after he won. A White House official said Tuesday that Trump's attack on Jones did not amount to a formal endorsement of Moore, only that Trump was communicating that sending the Democrat to Washington would hamper his agenda.

Republican leaders briefly explored the possibility of seeking a write-in candidate but have determined those efforts would only increase Jones' chances by splitting the GOP vote in the Republican state. Sessions has resisted pleas to mount a last-minute campaign for his old seat.

The allegations against Moore come amid a national reckoning over misdeeds by powerful men in media, business and politics.

Just Tuesday, longtime Michigan Rep. John Conyers acknowledged that his office settled a sexual harassment complaint involving a former staffer, though he "vehemently" denied allegations in the complaint.

BuzzFeed reported that Conyers' office paid a woman more than \$27,000 under a confidentiality agreement to settle a complaint in 2015 that she was fired from his Washington staff because she rejected the Democrat's sexual advances.

Trump said he was "very happy" that women are speaking out about their experiences.

"I think it's a very special time because a lot of things are coming out, and I think that's good for our society and I think it's very, very good for women," he said.

More than a dozen women came forward in the waning days of the 2016 presidential election to say that Trump had sexually assaulted or harassed them over the years. He denied it. A tape was also released catching him boasting in 2005 that he could grab women's private parts with impunity. "When you're a star, they let you do it," Trump said on the "Access Hollywood" tape.

Trump, who has said all of his accusers lied, declined to answer Tuesday when asked why he does not believe Moore's accusers.

Jones, Moore's senatorial opponent, served as a federal prosecutor in Alabama, where he brought charges against two Ku Klux Klan members over their roles in killing four girls in the 1963 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham.

Jones began airing a new ad Monday that features statements made by Sessions, Alabama Sen. Richard Shelby and first daughter Ivanka Trump responding to the allegations against Moore.

Shelby, a fellow Republican, said he will "absolutely not" vote for Moore. Ivanka Trump said there's "a special place in hell" for people who prey on children.

"I've yet to see a valid explanation, and I have no reason to doubt the victims' accounts," Ivanka Trump told the AP last week.

The ad was the first direct assault by the Jones camp against Moore on the allegations.

Moore's camp has begun firing back at the media and one of the accusers. His campaign held an afternoon news conference to vigorously question the account of Beverly Nelson, who said Moore assaulted her when she was a 16-year-old waitress.

The campaign quoted two former restaurant employees and a former customer who said they did not remember Nelson working there or Moore eating there.

AP writers Kim Chandler in Montgomery, Alabama, and Corey Williams in Detroit contributed.

Teen idol David Cassidy, 'Partridge Family' star, dies at 67

By HILLEL ITALIE, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — David Cassidy, the teen and pre-teen idol who starred in the 1970s sitcom "The Partridge Family" and sold millions of records as the musical group's lead singer, died Tuesday at age 67.

Cassidy, who announced earlier this year that he had been diagnosed with dementia, died surrounded by his family, a family statement released by publicist JoAnn Geffen said. No further details were immediately available, but Geffen said on Saturday that Cassidy was in a Fort Lauderdale, Florida, hospital suffering from organ failure.

"David died surrounded by those he loved, with joy in his heart and free from the pain that had gripped him for so long," the statement said. Thank you for the abundance and support you have shown him these many years."

"The Partridge Family" aired from 1970-74 and was a fictional variation of the '60s performers the Cowsills, intended at first as a vehicle for Shirley Jones, the Oscar winning actress and Cassidy's stepmother. Jones played Shirley Partridge, a widow with five children with whom she forms a popular act that travels on a psychedelic bus. The cast also featured Cassidy as eldest son and family heartthrob Keith Partridge; Susan Dey, later of "L.A. Law" fame, as sibling Laurie Partridge and Danny Bonaduce as sibling Danny Partridge.

It was an era for singing families — the Osmonds, the Jacksons. "The Partridge Family" never cracked the top 10 in TV ratings, but the recordings under their name, mostly featuring Cassidy, Jones and session players, produced real-life musical hits and made Cassidy a real-life musical superstar. The Partridges' best known song, "I Think I Love You," spent three weeks on top of the Billboard chart at a time when other hit singles included James Taylor's "Fire and Rain" and Smokey Robinson and the Miracles' "The Tears of a Clown." The group also reached the top 10 with "I'll Meet You Halfway" and "Doesn't Somebody Want to be Wanted" and Cassidy had a solo hit with "Cherish."

"In two years, David Cassidy has swept hurricane-like into the pre-pubescent lives of millions of American girls," Rolling Stone magazine noted in 1972. "Leaving: six and a half million long-playing albums and singles; 44 television programs; David Cassidy lunch boxes; David Cassidy bubble gum; David Cassidy coloring books and David Cassidy pens; not to mention several millions of teen magazines, wall stickers, love beads, posters and photo albums."

Cassidy's appeal faded after the show went off the air, although he continued to tour, record and act over the next 40 years, his albums including "Romance" and the awkwardly titled "Didn't You Used To Be?" He had a hit with "I Write the Songs" before Barry Manilow's chart-topping version and success overseas with "The Last Kiss," featuring backing vocals from Cassidy admirer George Michael. He made occasional stage and television appearances, including an Emmy-nominated performance on "Police Story."

Meanwhile, "The Partridge Family" remained popular in re-runs and Cassidy, who kept his dark bangs and boyish appearance well into middle age, frequently turned up for reunions and spoke often about his early success.

"So many people come up to me and talk to me about the impact it (the show) had," he told Arsenio Hall in 1990.

Even while "The Partridge Family" was still in primetime, Cassidy worried that he was mistaken for the wholesome character he played. He posed naked for Rolling Stone in 1972, when he confided that he had

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 25 of 43

dropped acid as a teenager and smoked pot in front of the magazine's reporter as he watched an episode of "The Partridge Family" and mocked his own acting. Cassidy maintained an exhausting schedule during the show's run, filming during the week and performing live shows over the weekend, but had plenty of time to indulge himself. In the memoir "Could It Be Forever," he wrote of his prolific sex life and of rejecting Dey's advances because she lacked the "slutty aspect of a female that I always found so attractive."

Cassidy would endure personal and financial troubles. He was married and divorced three times, battled alcoholism, was arrested for drunk driving and in 2015 filed for bankruptcy. Cassidy had two children, musician Beau Cassidy and actress Katie Cassidy, with whom he acknowledged having a distant relationship.

"I wasn't her father. I was her biological father but I didn't raise her," he told People magazine in 2017. "She has a completely different life."

Cassidy himself was estranged from his father. Born in New York City in 1950, he was the son of actors Jack Cassidy and Evelyn Ward and half-brother of entertainer Shaun Cassidy. David Cassidy's parents split up when he was 5 and he would long express regret about Jack Cassidy, who soon married Shirley Jones, being mostly absent from his life. David Cassidy stayed with his mother and by the early 1960s had moved to Los Angeles.

Kicked out of high school for truancy, David Cassidy dreamed of becoming an actor and had made appearances on "Bonanza," "Ironside" and other programs before producers at ABC television asked him to audition for "The Partridge Family," unaware that he could sing and intending at first to have him mime songs to someone else's voice. Cassidy, who only learned during tryouts that Jones would play his mother, worried that Keith Partridge would be a "real comedown" from his previous roles.

"I mean, how much could an actor do with a line like, 'Hi, Mom, I'm home from school,' or 'Please pass the milk?'" he wrote in his memoir. "I didn't see how it could do much for me. After all, I wasn't the star of it. Shirley had top billing; I was just one of the kids."

VA study shows parasite from Vietnam may be killing vets

By MARGIE MASON and ROBIN McDOWELL, Associated Press

HEROLD, W.Va. (AP) — A half century after serving in Vietnam, hundreds of veterans have a new reason to believe they may be dying from a silent bullet — test results show some men may have been infected by a slow-killing parasite while fighting in the jungles of Southeast Asia.

The Department of Veterans Affairs this spring commissioned a small pilot study to look into the link between liver flukes ingested through raw or undercooked fish and a rare bile duct cancer. It can take decades for symptoms to appear. By then, patients are often in tremendous pain, with just a few months to live.

Of the 50 blood samples submitted, more than 20 percent came back positive or bordering positive for liver fluke antibodies, said Sung-Tae Hong, the tropical medicine specialist who carried out the tests at Seoul National University in South Korea.

"It was surprising," he said, stressing the preliminary results could include false positives and that the research is ongoing.

Northport VA Medical Center spokesman Christopher Goodman confirmed the New York facility collected the samples and sent them to the lab. He would not comment on the findings, but said everyone who tested positive was notified.

Gerry Wiggins, who served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969, has already lost friends to the disease. He was among those who got the call.

"I was in a state of shock," he said. "I didn't think it would be me."

The 69-year-old, who lives in Port Jefferson Station, New York, didn't have any symptoms when he agreed to take part in the study, but hoped his participation could help save lives. He immediately scheduled further tests, discovering he had two cysts on his bile duct, which had the potential to develop into the cancer, known as cholangiocarcinoma. They have since been removed and — for now — he's doing well.

Though rarely found in Americans, the parasites infect an estimated 25 million people worldwide, mostly in Asia.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 26 of 43

Endemic in the rivers of Vietnam, the worms can easily be wiped out with a handful of pills early on, but left untreated they can live for decades without making their hosts sick. Over time, swelling and inflammation of the bile duct can lead to cancer. Jaundice, itchy skin, weight loss and other symptoms appear only when the disease is in its final stages.

The VA study, along with a call by Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer of New York for broader research into liver flukes and cancer-stricken veterans, began after The Associated Press raised the issue in a story last year. The reporting found that about 700 veterans with cholangiocarcinoma have been seen by the VA in the past 15 years. Less than half of them submitted claims for service-related benefits, mostly because they were not aware of a possible connection to Vietnam. The VA rejected 80 percent of the requests, but decisions often appeared to be haphazard or contradictory, depending on what desks they landed on, the AP found.

The number of claims submitted reached 60 in 2017, up from 41 last year. Nearly three out of four of those cases were also denied, even though the government posted a warning on its website this year saying veterans who ate raw or undercooked freshwater fish while in Vietnam might be at risk. It stopped short of urging them to get ultrasounds or other tests, saying there was currently no evidence the vets had higher infection rates than the general population.

"We are taking this seriously," said Curt Cashour, a spokesman with the Department of Veterans Affairs. "But until further research, a recommendation cannot be made either way."

Veteran Mike Baughman, 65, who was featured in the previous AP article, said his claim was granted early this year after being denied three times. He said the approval came right after his doctor wrote a letter saying his bile duct cancer was "more likely than not" caused by liver flukes from the uncooked fish he and his unit in Vietnam ate when they ran out of rations in the jungle. He now gets about \$3,100 a month and says he's relieved to know his wife will continue to receive benefits after he dies. But he remains angry that other veterans' last days are consumed by fighting the same government they went to war for as young men.

"In the best of all worlds, if you came down with cholangiocarcinoma, just like Agent Orange, you automatically were in," he said, referring to benefits granted to veterans exposed to the toxic defoliant sprayed in Vietnam. "You didn't have to go fighting."

Baughman, who is thin and weak, recently plucked out "Country Roads" on a bass during a jam session at his cabin in West Virginia. He wishes the VA would do more to raise awareness about liver flukes and to encourage Vietnam veterans to get an ultrasound that can detect inflammation.

"Personally, I got what I needed, but if you look at the bigger picture with all these other veterans, they don't know what necessarily to do," he said. "None of them have even heard of it before. A lot of them give me that blank stare like, 'You've got what?'"

Follow Robin McDowell and Margie Mason on Twitter: @robinmcdowell and @MargieMasonAP

AP Explains: The search for Argentina's missing submarine

By **LUIS ANDRES HENAO**, Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — The Argentine submarine ARA San Juan went missing in the South Atlantic last week with 44 crew members aboard. Here's a look at the submarine and the round-the-clock international maritime search.

THE VESSEL

The German-built diesel-electric TR-1700 class submarine was commissioned in 1985 and was most recently refit in 2014.

The retrofitting cost about \$12 million and took more than 500,000 work hours. The boat was cut in half and had its engines and batteries replaced.

Refits can be difficult because they involve integrating systems produced by different manufacturers,

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 27 of 43

said Rockford Weitz, director of the Fletcher School's maritime studies program at Tufts University.

"The cost of even the smallest mistake during this cutting phase of the operation is enormous - threatening the life and safety of the ship's crew," Weitz said.

LOST AT SEA

The Argentine navy says it lost contact with the submarine on Nov. 15. It had sailed from the extreme southern port of Ushuaia on Nov. 8 after a training exercise and was heading for its base at Mar del Plata, about 250 miles (400 kilometers) southeast of Buenos Aires.

Most submarines can deploy a location beacon to the surface that can emit emergency signals via satellite, but there is no sign the San Juan did so.

The sub carried enough food, oxygen and fuel for the crew to survive about 90 days on the sea's surface, but the navy said it had only enough oxygen to last seven days if submerged. Other experts, however, said that if the sub sank but was still structurally intact, the crew could have 7 to 10 days of oxygen.

The amount of oxygen would depend on when the San Juan last resurfaced to recharge its batteries and other factors. "But it is clear that time for a successful rescue operation is very, very limited," Weitz said.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

The submarine's captain reported a battery failure and the vessel was on its way to the navy base in Mar del Plata when it went missing. Authorities have no specific details of the problem.

Argentine naval protocol says that when a sub loses communications, it should surface. But navy spokesman Enrique Balbi said the crew might have remained submerged to protect the sub from stormy weather that has caused waves of more than 20 feet (6 meters).

INTERNATIONAL HELP

More than a dozen vessels and aircraft are searching off the coast of the Patagonia region in southern Argentina. The sub's last known position has been combed fully, and the search area has been expanding. The effort has been hindered by the bad weather, though forecasters say conditions should improve in the coming days.

Britain has sent a polar exploration vessel, the HMS Protector, and the U.S. Navy deployed its Undersea Rescue Command, which includes remotely operated vehicle and vessels capable of rescuing people from bottomed submarines.

FALSE ALARMS

Hopes were buoyed after brief satellite calls were received and when sounds were detected deep in the South Atlantic. But experts later determined that neither was from the missing sub.

A U.S. Navy P-8 Poseidon aircraft spotted white flares, but the Argentine navy said they were unlikely to be from the San Juan, which carried red and green flares. The navy said a life raft that was found in the search area early Tuesday didn't belong to the submarine and likely fell off another vessel.

CREW AND FAMILIES

The San Juan had a crew of 44, which included Eliana Krawczyk, Argentina's first female submarine officer.

Worried relatives of the missing sailors have gathered at the Mar Del Plata Navy Base to receive psychological counseling and anxiously wait for news about their loved ones.

"We can make up a thousand movies with happy and sad endings, but the reality is that the days pass by and not knowing anything kills you," said Carlos Mendoza, the brother of submarine officer Fernando Ariel Mendoza. "Every minute is oxygen that's worth gold."

Associated Press writer Almudena Calatrava in Buenos Aires and AP video journalist Paul Byrne in Mar del Plata, Argentina, contributed to this report.

Uber reveals cover-up of hack affecting 57M riders, drivers

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Uber is coming clean about its cover-up of a year-old hacking attack that stole personal information about more than 57 million of the beleaguered ride-hailing service's customers and drivers.

So far, there's no evidence that the data taken has been misused, according to a Tuesday blog post by Uber's recently hired CEO, Dara Khosrowshahi. Part of the reason nothing malicious has happened is because Uber acknowledges paying the hackers \$100,000 to destroy the stolen information.

The revelation marks the latest stain on Uber's reputation.

The San Francisco company ousted Travis Kalanick as CEO in June after an internal investigation concluded he had built a culture that allowed female workers to be sexually harassed and encouraged employees to push legal limits.

It's also the latest major breach involving a prominent company that didn't notify the people that could be potentially harmed for months or even years after the break-in occurred.

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Khosrowshahi criticized Uber's handling of its data theft in his blog post.

"While I can't erase the past, I can commit on behalf of every Uber employee that we will learn from our mistakes," Khosrowshahi wrote. "We are changing the way we do business, putting integrity at the core of every decision we make and working hard to earn the trust of our customers."

That pledge shouldn't excuse Uber's previous regime for its egregious behavior, said Sam Curry, chief security officer for the computer security firm Cybereason.

"The truly scary thing here is that Uber paid a bribe, essentially a ransom to make this breach go away, and they acted as if they were above the law," Curry said. "Those people responsible for the integrity and confidentiality of the data in-fact covered it up."

The heist took the names, email addresses and mobile phone numbers of 57 million riders around the world. The thieves also nabbed the driver's license numbers of 600,000 Uber drivers in the U.S.

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Kalanick, who still sits on Uber's board of directors, declined to comment on the data breach that took place in October 2016. Uber says the response to the hack was handled by its chief security officer, Joe Sullivan, a former federal prosecutor whom Kalanick lured away from Facebook in 2015.

As part of his effort to set things right, Khosrowshahi extracted Sullivan's resignation from Uber and also jettisoned Craig Clark, a lawyer who reported to Sullivan.

Clark didn't immediately respond to a request for comment sent through his LinkedIn profile. Efforts to reach Sullivan were unsuccessful.

Uber's silence about its breach came while it was negotiating with the Federal Trade Commission about its handling of its riders' information.

Earlier in 2016, the company reached a settlement with the New York attorney general requiring it to take steps to be more vigilant about protecting the information that its app stores about its riders. As part of that settlement, Uber also paid a \$20,000 fine for waiting to notify five months about another data breach that it discovered in September 2014.

Dramatic video shows escape, shooting of N. Korean defector

By FOSTER KLUG and HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A North Korean soldier races for the border in a jeep and then on foot before his former comrades shoot him at least five times as he limps into South Korea, where he collapses and is dragged to safety by southern soldiers on a dramatic video released by the U.S.-led U.N. command Wednesday.

The defection, subsequent surgeries and slow recovery of the soldier have riveted South Korea, but it will be a huge embarrassment for the North, which claims all defections are the result of rival Seoul kidnapping or enticing North Koreans to defect. Pyongyang has said nothing about the defection so far.

North Korea's actions during the defector's Nov. 13 escape at Panmunjom violated the armistice agreement ending the 1950-53 Korean War because North Korean soldiers fired across and physically crossed the border in pursuit of the soldier, U.S. Col. Chad G. Carroll, a spokesman for the U.N. command, told reporters in a live TV briefing.

The video shows the soldier speeding down a tree-lined road, headlights on, past dun-colored fields and shocked North Korean soldiers who begin to run after him. He crashes the jeep into a ditch near the line that divides North and South and the blue huts familiar to anyone who's toured the area. It is the part of the border where North and South Korean soldiers face each other at their closest distance just meters (feet) apart. There were no tour groups at the time of the defection, Carroll said.

Soldiers from the North sprint to the area, firing handguns and AK rifles — about 40 rounds, the South says — at the defector; one hurries across the dividing line before running back to the northern side. South Korean soldiers then crawl up to the defector, who has fallen injured in a mass of leaves against a small wall. They drag him to safety as North Korean troops begin to gather on their side of the line.

A U.N. Command helicopter later transported him to the Ajou University Medical Center near Seoul.

Surprisingly, North and South Korean soldiers didn't exchange fire in the first shooting in the area in more than three decades. In 1984, North Korean and U.N. Command soldiers traded shots when a Soviet citizen defected by sprinting to the South Korean sector of Panmunjom. Three North Korean soldiers and one South Korean soldier were killed.

About 30,000 North Koreans have fled to South Korea, mostly via China, since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. A North Korean soldier defected via Panmunjom in 1998 and another in 2007 but neither of those events involved gunfire between the rivals.

Carroll said the North violated the armistice by "one, firing weapons across the MDL, and two, by actually crossing the MDL temporarily," referring to the military demarcation line that bisects the Koreas.

A U.N. Command statement said officials notified the North's military of these violations and requested a meeting to discuss the investigation results and measures to prevent future such violations.

Panmunjom is inside the 4-kilometer (2 1/2-mile) -wide Demilitarized Zone that is jointly overseen by the American-led U.N. Command and by North Korea. Guarded by mines, barbed wire fences, tank traps and combat troops on both sides, the DMZ is the world's most heavily fortified border.

Panmunjom was the site of some bloodshed during the Cold War but there hasn't been major violence there in recent years. In 1976, North Korean soldiers axed two American army officers to death and the United States responded by flying nuclear-capable B-52 bombers toward the DMZ in an attempt to intimidate the North.

After undergoing two surgeries last week to repair internal organ damage and other injuries, the soldier is now conscious and no longer relies on a breathing machine, according to hospital official Shin Mi-jeong. While his condition is improving, doctors plan to keep him at the intensive care unit for at least several more days to guard against possible infections.

While treating the wounds, surgeons removed dozens of parasites from the soldier's ruptured small intestine, including presumed roundworms that were as long as 27 centimeters (10.6 inches), which may reflect poor nutrition and health in North Korea's military. The soldier is 1.7 meters (5 feet, 7 inches) tall but weighs just 60 kilograms (132 pounds).

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 30 of 43

Associated Press writer Kim Tong-hyung contributed to this report.

Lewis, Urlacher, Moss, Seymour among hall semifinalists

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — First-year eligibles Ray Lewis and Randy Moss are among 27 semifinalists for induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The hall said Tuesday that all ties for the 25th spot in the semifinals also advance.

Others in their initial year of eligibility who made this cut are Brian Urlacher, Richard Seymour, Steve Hutchinson and Ronde Barber.

Four previously eligible players made the semifinals for the first time: LeRoy Butler, Leslie O'Neal, Simeon Rice and Everson Walls. All others on the 2018 list have reached the semifinals in previous years.

Already chosen as finalists are Bobby Beathard as a contributor, and Robert Brazile and Jerry Kramer as senior candidates.

The other semifinalists are Steve Atwater, Tony Boselli, Isaac Bruce, Don Coryell, Roger Craig, Brian Dawkins, Alan Faneca, Torry Holt, Joe Jacoby, Edgerrin James, Jimmy Johnson, Ty Law, John Lynch, Kevin Mawae, Karl Mecklenburg, Terrell Owens and Hines Ward.

The election for the class of 2018 will be held Feb. 3, the day before the Super Bowl, in Minneapolis. Induction ceremonies in Canton, Ohio, will be in August.

Two coaches, Coryell and Johnson, made the cut. In all, there are 12 offensive players (five linemen, five receivers, two running backs) and 13 on defense (seven backs, three linebackers, three linemen).

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

Uber reveals cover-up of hack affecting 57M riders, drivers

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

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Trump all but endorses GOP's Moore despite sex accusations

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Silent for more than a week, President Donald Trump all but endorsed embattled Alabama Republican Senate nominee Roy Moore on Tuesday, discounting the sexual assault allegations against him and insisting repeatedly that voters must not support Moore's "liberal" rival.

The president said he would announce next week whether he will campaign for Moore, who faces Democrat Doug Jones in a Dec. 12 special election to fill the seat once held by Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Trump, who won election despite facing more than a dozen accusations of sexual misconduct himself, dismissed questions from reporters about backing a Republican accused of sexual assault over a man who is a Democrat. Trump pointed to Moore's assertions that he did nothing wrong.

"Roy Moore denies it, that's all I can say," Trump said. In fact, he repeated 10 times in a 5-minute session outside the White House that the GOP candidate has denied any wrongdoing.

Two Alabama women have accused Moore of assault or molestation — including one who says she was 14 at the time — and six others have said he pursued romantic relationships when they were teenagers and he was a deputy district attorney in his 30s.

Trump didn't explicitly say he was endorsing Moore, but he said with emphasis, "We don't need a liberal person in there. ... We don't need somebody who's soft on crime like Jones."

He also noted that the allegations came from behavior alleged to have happened decades ago.

"Forty years is a long time," Trump said, questioning why it took so long for Moore's accusers to come forward.

Former Sen. Sessions has said he has no reason to doubt the allegations against Moore, Republican leaders in Washington have called for Moore to leave the race, and the White House has repeatedly said Trump himself felt Moore would "do the right thing and step aside" if the allegations proved true.

But Trump had been publicly silent until Tuesday when he exchanged questions and answers with reporters, shouting to be heard over the noise of his Marine helicopter, waiting to take him to Air Force One, which then flew him to his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida, for Thanksgiving.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan, both Republicans, have called on Moore to leave the race in light of the accusations. The Republican National Committee and the National Republican Senatorial Committee have pulled their support for his campaign.

Trump backed incumbent Sen. Luther Strange in a September Republican primary, but moved quickly to embrace Moore after he won. A White House official said Tuesday that Trump's attack on Jones did

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 32 of 43

not amount to a formal endorsement of Moore, only that Trump was communicating that sending the Democrat to Washington would hamper his agenda.

Republican leaders briefly explored the possibility of seeking a write-in candidate but have determined those efforts would only increase Jones' chances by splitting the GOP vote in the Republican state. Sessions has resisted pleas to mount a last-minute campaign for his old seat.

The allegations against Moore come amid a national reckoning over misdeeds by powerful men in media, business and politics.

Just Tuesday, longtime Michigan Rep. John Conyers acknowledged that his office settled a sexual harassment complaint involving a former staffer, though he "vehemently" denied allegations in the complaint.

BuzzFeed reported that Conyers' office paid a woman more than \$27,000 under a confidentiality agreement to settle a complaint in 2015 that she was fired from his Washington staff because she rejected the Democrat's sexual advances.

Trump said he was "very happy" that women are speaking out about their experiences.

"I think it's a very special time because a lot of things are coming out, and I think that's good for our society and I think it's very, very good for women," he said.

More than a dozen women came forward in the waning days of the 2016 presidential election to say that Trump had sexually assaulted or harassed them over the years. He denied it. A tape was also released catching him boasting in 2005 that he could grab women's private parts with impunity. "When you're a star, they let you do it," Trump said on the "Access Hollywood" tape.

Trump, who has said all of his accusers lied, declined to answer Tuesday when asked why he does not believe Moore's accusers.

Jones, Moore's senatorial opponent, served as a federal prosecutor in Alabama, where he brought charges against two Ku Klux Klan members over their roles in killing four girls in the 1963 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham.

Jones began airing a new ad Monday that features statements made by Sessions, Alabama Sen. Richard Shelby and first daughter Ivanka Trump responding to the allegations against Moore.

Shelby, a fellow Republican, said he will "absolutely not" vote for Moore. Ivanka Trump said there's "a special place in hell" for people who prey on children.

"I've yet to see a valid explanation, and I have no reason to doubt the victims' accounts," Ivanka Trump told the AP last week.

The ad was the first direct assault by the Jones camp against Moore on the allegations.

Moore's camp has begun firing back at the media and one of the accusers. His campaign held an afternoon news conference to vigorously question the account of Beverly Nelson, who said Moore assaulted her when she was a 16-year-old waitress.

The campaign quoted two former restaurant employees and a former customer who said they did not remember Nelson working there or Moore eating there.

AP writers Kim Chandler in Montgomery, Alabama, and Corey Williams in Detroit contributed.

CBS News and PBS cut ties to Rose following sex allegations

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS News and PBS both cut ties to Charlie Rose on Tuesday, less than 24 hours after several women who worked with him on his PBS interview show alleged a pattern of sexual misconduct, including groping and walking naked in front of them.

Both organizations stressed the importance of providing a safe, professional workplace.

Rose joins a lengthening list of media figures who have lost jobs because of workplace behavior, including Fox News CEO Roger Ailes, Fox host Bill O'Reilly, NBC News political reporter Mark Halperin and National Public Radio news chief Michael Oreskes. The reckoning has come to entertainment, too, led by the assault allegations against Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 33 of 43

After he was fired, CBS News said three women at the network came forward with complaints about Rose's behavior. The network gave no other details. Prior to that, the accusations about his behavior were all by women who worked or sought work at "Charlie Rose" on PBS.

"Despite Charlie's important journalistic contribution to our news division, there is absolutely nothing more important, in this or any organization, than ensuring a safe, professional workplace—a supportive environment where people feel they can do their best work," CBS News President David Rhodes said in a memo to staff on Tuesday. "We need to be such a place."

Rhodes said it was important to maintaining credibility in reporting allegations involving media figures elsewhere that CBS manage basic standards of behavior at its own shop. Rose hosted "CBS This Morning" each weekday and was a contributor to "60 Minutes."

Rose had no immediate reaction to his firing. In a statement late Monday, he apologized for his actions and said he was "deeply embarrassed."

Several women have accused Rose of touching them on the breasts, buttocks or thigh, emerging naked from a shower when they were working at his residence and, in one case, calling a 21-year-old staffer to tell his fantasies of seeing her swim in the nude. A former associate producer for Rose's PBS show, Reah Bravo, told the Washington Post: "He was a sexual predator, and I was his victim."

PBS said it had not been aware about Rose's alleged behavior until the Post report.

PBS didn't technically fire Rose, since the 75-year-old newsman owns the company that produces his show. Since 1991, Rose has interviewed leading figures in politics, entertainment, business, the media and government at a depth not usually seen on television.

His show aired in 94 percent of the country. PBS said it hasn't yet considered what will replace the show; the service is providing member stations reruns of programs like "This Old House" and "Finding Your Roots" to fill holes in their schedule this week.

Rose's downfall hits CBS hard. Since its start in 2012, "CBS This Morning" has been a critical hit with a newsier format compared to better-known rivals at ABC and NBC. Until recently, CBS has rarely been competitive in the lucrative morning show competition but the program has been on a ratings upswing, too.

In an extraordinary broadcast Tuesday, Rose's co-hosts Gayle King and Norah O'Donnell worked without a substitute and sharply took their former colleague to task. The story about Rose led the show. In the 90-second "eye-opener" segment that collected clips of the day's news, two pundits were quoted speculating the charges would end Rose's career. "He's toast," said one off-screen voice.

"This is a moment that demands a frank and honest assessment about where we stand and more generally the safety of women," O'Donnell said. "Let me be very clear. There is no excuse for this alleged behavior."

King said she had gotten less than two hours of sleep since the story broke, and her buddy Oprah Winfrey even called to check in on her. She said she considered Rose a friend and held him in high regard, but was struggling because "what do you say when someone that you deeply care about has done something so horrible?"

"How do you wrap your brain around that?" she said. "I'm really grappling with that. That said, Charlie does not get a pass here. He doesn't get a pass from anyone in this room."

She said that while the story described a Rose she did not know, "I'm also clearly on the side of the women who have been very hurt and damaged by this." O'Donnell also said that women cannot achieve equality in the workplace until men take responsibility for their behavior. Rhodes' note, too, illustrated the rapidly changing workplace environment.

"I've often heard that things used to be different," the news division president said. "And no one may be able to correct the past. But what may once have been accepted should not ever have been acceptable."

FCC chairman sets out to scrap open internet access rules

By RYAN NAKASHIMA and MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writers

MENLO PARK, Calif. (AP) — The chairman of the Federal Communications Commission set out Tuesday to scrap rules around open internet access, a move that would allow giant cable and telecom companies to throttle broadband speeds and favor their own services if they wish.

Ajit Pai followed through on a pledge to try to repeal “net neutrality” regulations enacted under the Obama administration. The current rules treat internet service providers such as Comcast, AT&T and Verizon as if they were utility companies that provide essential services, like electricity. The rules mandate that they give equal access to all online content and apps.

Pai said those rules discourage investments that could provide even better and faster online access. Instead, he said new rules would force ISPs to be transparent about their services and management policies, and then would let the market decide.

“Under my proposal, the federal government will stop micromanaging the internet,” Pai said in a statement.

Pai distributed his alternative plan to other FCC commissioners Tuesday in preparation for a Dec. 14 vote. Pai promised to release his entire proposal Wednesday. Although the FCC’s two Democrats said they will oppose the proposal, the repeal is likely to prevail as Republicans dominate 3-2. The vote for net neutrality in 2015 was also along party lines, but Democrats dominated then.

Equal treatment for all web traffic has been a fundamental principle of the internet since its creation but companies have increasingly put their thumb on the scales of access. AT&T, for example, doesn’t count use of its streaming service DirecTV Now against wireless data caps, potentially making it seem cheaper to its cellphone customers than rival TV services. Rivals would have to pay AT&T for that privilege.

Regulators, consumer advocates and some tech companies are concerned that repealing net neutrality will give ISPs even more power to block or slow down rival offerings.

A repeal also opens the ability for ISPs to charge a company like Netflix for a faster path to its customers. Allowing this paid-priority market to exist could skew prices and create winners and losers among fledgling companies that require a high-speed connection to end users.

Pai, who was appointed by President Donald Trump, said in an interview on Fox News Radio that Trump did not have any input on his proposal. Asked whether deregulation would result in higher prices and put speedy internet access out of the reach of blue-collar Americans, Pai said “it’s going to mean exactly the opposite.”

“These heavy-handed regulations have made it harder for the private sector to build out the networks especially in rural America,” Pai said.

In a Wall Street Journal editorial published Tuesday, Pai cited a report by a nonprofit think tank, the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation, that said investment by the dozen largest ISPs fell about 2 percent from 2015 to 2016, to \$61 billion. The group didn’t link the drop solely to the stiffer rules introduced in 2015.

The attempt to repeal net neutrality has triggered protests from consumer groups and internet companies. A data firm called Emprata that was backed by a telecom industry group found in August that after filtering out form letters, the overwhelming majority of comments to the FCC — about 1.8 million — favored net neutrality, compared with just 24,000 who supported its repeal.

Carmen Scurato, director of policy and legal affairs for the National Hispanic Media Coalition, said ISPs’ ability to impose monthly caps on data use already act to raise prices and limit access. Repealing net neutrality, she said, “is just erecting more barriers.”

Among those that will be hit hardest are startups that depend on high-speed internet connections for growth, said Colin Angle, co-founder and CEO of iRobot, maker of the Roomba robot vacuum cleaners. He said his own company wouldn’t be dramatically affected in the near term, but the nascent robotics industry overall might.

“The need for these robots to consume bandwidth is certainly on the rise,” Angle said.

Google said in a statement that net neutrality rules “are working well for consumers and we’re disap-

pointed in the proposal announced today.”

Other tech companies were more muted, with some referring instead to their trade group, the Internet Association. Netflix, which had been vocal in support of the rules in 2015, tweeted that it “supports strong #NetNeutrality” and opposes the rules rollback.

But the streaming-video company said in January that weaker net neutrality wouldn’t hurt it because it’s now too popular with users for broadband providers to interfere.

AT&T executive vice president Joan Marsh said new rules requiring ISPs to disclose their management practices will keep them honest. “Any ISP that is so foolish as to seek to engage in gatekeeping will be quickly and decisively called out,” she said in a statement.

Comcast said its commitment to consumers will remain the same. “We do not and will not block, throttle, or discriminate against lawful content,” Comcast’s senior executive vice president David Cohen said.

Pai’s plan also restores the Federal Trade Commission as the main watchdog to protect consumers and promote competition.

But Democratic Commissioner Mignon L. Clyburn said the proposal was “a giveaway to the nation’s largest communications companies.”

Pai’s proposal on net neutrality comes after the Republican-dominated commission voted 3-2 last week to weaken rules meant to support independent local media, undoing a ban on companies owning newspapers and broadcast stations in a single market.

Liedtke reported from San Francisco. AP Technology Writers Matt O’Brien in Boston and Tali Arbel in New York also contributed to this report.

Conyers confirms harassment settlement; ethics probe opens

By COREY WILLIAMS, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — John Conyers has dealt with various ethics investigations and a public corruption case that landed his wife in prison during a U.S. House career spanning more than five decades — longer than any other current member.

Allegations that the 88-year-old Michigan Democrat sexually harassed female staff members may be the toughest opponent yet for the party’s top member on the House Judiciary Committee.

“He’s not as sharp as he used to be,” said Adolph Mongo, a longtime follower of Detroit politics who has worked on mayoral campaigns. “This is a young person’s game now. You hate to see somebody who has put in 50 years ... go out like this.”

Leaders of the House Ethics Committee announced Tuesday that the panel had begun an investigation into Conyers after receiving allegations of sexual harassment and age discrimination involving staff members as well as using “official resources for impermissible personal purposes.”

Conyers said he would fully cooperate.

News website BuzzFeed reported Monday night that Conyers’ office paid a woman more than \$27,000 under a confidentiality agreement to settle a complaint in 2015 that she was fired from his Washington staff because she rejected his sexual advances.

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.”

When questioned at his home Tuesday morning by The Associated Press, Conyers denied settling any harassment complaint and other allegations of inappropriate touching of staffers. The reporter repeated to Conyers the claims made in the BuzzFeed report.

Conyers’ office said in a statement that he was under the impression the AP reporter was speaking of “recent allegations of which he was unaware of and denied.”

“In this case, I expressly and vehemently denied the allegations made against me, and continue to do

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 36 of 43

so," Conyers said later Tuesday in his statement about the settlement. "My office resolved the allegations — with an express denial of liability — in order to save all involved from the rigors of protracted litigation."

Court documents show that another ex-staffer attempted to file a federal lawsuit in Washington alleging sexual harassment, retaliation and a hostile work environment.

The woman claimed in the proposed filing from February that Conyers began making sexual advances and inappropriate comments shortly after she was hired in 2015. She also said Conyers blew kisses when "others' backs were turned" and would "rub her shoulders, kiss her forehead and attempt to hold her hand."

The woman wanted to file a lawsuit under seal to avoid embarrassing Conyers, but a judge denied the request. No further action has been taken since March.

Conyers' office said in an email Tuesday night to the AP that "the former staffer voluntarily decided to drop the case." A message left Tuesday evening at the number listed for the woman wasn't immediately returned.

Since Conyers arrived in Congress in 1965, he has easily won re-election bids, usually with more than 80 percent of the vote.

In 2006, the House Ethics Committee closed an investigation after three former aides said Conyers used them as baby sitters and personal servants while they were supposed to be working in his Michigan offices. The aides also said Conyers had them pay restaurant and motel bills. Conyers agreed to clarify work rules with his staff to ensure his office was in compliance with ethics regulations.

He emerged unscathed after his wife, Monica Conyers, pleaded guilty in 2009 to conspiracy to commit bribery as a member of the Detroit City Council. She admitted to taking bribes in exchange for her vote on a \$47 million sludge hauling contract. She entered prison in 2010 and was released to a Detroit halfway house in January 2012.

In August, the ethics committee said it was extending an investigation into John Conyers over payments to his former chief of staff. A report submitted by the independent Office of Congressional Ethics said there was substantial reason to believe that Conyers paid his former chief of staff for work she did not perform.

Joe Lanier, owner of hair stylist shop Terry's Place in Detroit, said he hates to hear about the allegations against Conyers "because he's been a force in the community for many, many years."

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.

Conyers has earned the benefit of the doubt, said the Rev. Horace Sheffield, who lost to him in the 2014 Democratic primary.

"I don't condone the conduct if it's true," Sheffield said, also noting the increasing numbers of claims of harassment, sexual misconduct and even rape being made against politicians, Hollywood elites and others.

"We're at a point, too, where we have to look at the nature of these allegations," said Sheffield, pastor of New Destiny church in Detroit. "Some stuff may be considered flirtations as opposed to things that are predatory."

If Conyers makes it through the current scandal, he likely will retain his seat in Congress if he seeks re-election again, Sheffield added.

"I think Conyers will be there until the day he dies," Sheffield said. "The voters have proven that."

AP reporters Juliet Linderman in Washington and Mike Householder in Detroit contributed to this report.

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Haitians relieved to stay in US for now, upset status to end

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Yolnick Jeune couldn't sleep for days, anxious over the fate of a program that has staved off the deportations of both herself and tens of thousands of other Haitians in the U.S.

Then, President Donald Trump's administration this week announced one last 18-month extension of the Temporary Protected Status that has allowed her to work and provide for her five children, including a 7-year-old, U.S.-born girl.

"I can breathe a little and get some rest. This buys me time to figure out what's next," Jeune said Tuesday in Miami's Little Haiti community, standing next to her daughter Lagranda.

But at the same time, Jeune is upset that the government on Monday said she and nearly 60,000 Haitians must return home July 2019, ruling out any further extensions of the immigration benefits given to Haitians who came before and in the aftermath of the Caribbean country's 2010 earthquake.

"I am very depressed to know that within 18 months, I have to go back," she said.

Having been in Miami since 2009, Jeune has not returned to Haiti but hears from her sister and other relatives back in her native Port-de-Paix that conditions have not improved for those whose lives were upended by the earthquake.

In Little Haiti, the mood was of both relief and anger. Many of the dozens lined up to receive turkeys at the cultural center ahead of Thanksgiving were confused over whether the program was in fact extended or ended and were hesitant to speak about immigration.

"This decision has thrown these families in complete whirlwind," said Marleine Bastien, executive director of the advocacy group Haitian Women of Miami, at a press conference Tuesday in Little Haiti.

"President Trump you did promise when you were campaigning that you would be Haiti's best champion," she said. "Is this your idea of being our champion? I beg to differ."

The Department of Homeland Security said on Monday that conditions in Haiti have improved significantly since the earthquake. The announcement came 60 days before temporary status is set to expire, but many in Miami were expecting a shorter extension because in May the agency had only given six months instead of the usual 18.

The program protects from deportation 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 the U.S. who would otherwise have had to go home. He renewed it every time it ran out.

Ira Kurzban, a lawyer who has represented former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in the U.S., called Trump administration's decision "ill-advised" and "morally bankrupt" and said he would challenge it in court. Although it remains one of the poorest nations in the world, Haiti has made advances spurred by international aid since the quake. The United Nations last month ended a peacekeeping mission in Haiti that, at its peak, included more than 10,000 troops.

But Kurzban said people from the Caribbean nation still deserved temporary protection, because of political instability and other natural disasters such as Hurricane Matthew that tore through southern Haiti in October 2016, killing more than 500.

Haiti wasn't the first country to be canceled. Trump has ended temporary permit programs for people from Sudan and Nicaragua. He postponed a decision until next July on how to deal with 86,000 Hondurans. About 300 people rallied a mile away from Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort on Tuesday before his scheduled arrival, demanding residence for those immigrants under the refugee programs.

Jeune and others are hoping these 18 months are enough for Congress to find a permanent solution for 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. But Kurzban said the likelihood of legislation passing before the 2019 deadline is small.

It's also not easy for refugees to change their temporary immigration status to a permanent one on their own, with only certain circuit courts in the nation allowing it, and not the appeals court that rules over

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 38 of 43

Florida, Georgia and Alabama.

Florida is the state with the most program holders of Haitian nationality. The Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank, estimates 32,500 Haitians in Florida have temporary protected status, with 18,800 U.S.-born children living in those households. But there are also thousands in states like New York and Massachusetts.

In Massachusetts, where about 4,700 Haitians enjoy the protected status, Marianne Jeune said Trump's decision was a welcome development. The longtime health care worker said she will have enough time to hopefully make arrangements to remain in the U.S. with her three children, one of them born in the U.S.

"This is good news. Very, very good news," she said. She plans to marry the father of her 5-year-old daughter, who has U.S. citizenship, and seek permanent residency.

In Little Haiti, Ronyde Christina Ponthieux, a 10-year-old fifth-grade student, was devastated. She cried on her father's shoulder on Tuesday when contemplating the possibility her parents may lose their immigration benefits.

"I have trouble sleeping at night sometimes, because I know that here's a possibility me and my family may be deported," Ronyde said. "A couple of months ago, my dad, he had high-blood pressure. People are stressing because knowing that there may be a possibility of them being deported is a huge thing. I love my dad, I love my parents, and all of these people they are important to me."

Associated Press writers Terry Spencer in West Palm Beach, and Philip Marcelo in Boston contributed to this report.

US slaps new sanctions on North Korean, Chinese companies

By **MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration imposed new sanctions Tuesday on a slew of North Korean shipping firms and Chinese trading companies in its latest push to isolate the rogue nation over its nuclear weapons development and deprive it of revenue.

The Treasury Department also designated a North Korean corporation involved in exporting workers overseas. The action came a day after the United States returned North Korea to its list of state sponsors of terrorism.

"These designations include companies that have engaged in trade with North Korea cumulatively worth hundreds of millions of dollars," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement. "We are also sanctioning the shipping and transportation companies, and their vessels, that facilitate North Korea's trade and its deceptive maneuvers."

Among the companies targeted were four Chinese-based companies and one Chinese individual said to have deep commercial ties with North Korea. The sanctions were imposed under a September executive order that opened the way for the U.S. to punish foreign companies dealing with the North. It bars those sanctioned from holding U.S. assets or doing business with Americans.

The Dandong Kehua Economy & Trade Co. Ltd., Dandong Xianghe Trading Co. Ltd., and Dandong Hongda Trade Co. Ltd. are alleged to have exported about \$650 million worth of goods to North Korea and imported more than \$100 million from North Korea since 2013. The goods included notebook computers, anthracite coal, iron and other commodities and ferrous products.

Also sanctioned were Chinese national Sun Sidong and his company, Dandong Dongyuan Industrial Co., said to have exported more than \$28 million worth of goods to the North.

The targeting of Chinese companies is a sore point with 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.

"China firmly opposes unilateral sanctions out of the U.N. Security Council framework," the Chinese Embassy in Washington said Tuesday, "especially the imposition of the so-called 'long-arm jurisdiction' by

other countries in accordance with their domestic laws.”

As part of its effort to stymie North Korean transportation networks, the Treasury Department sanctioned North Korea’s Maritime Administration and its transport ministry, six North Korean shipping and trading companies and 20 of their vessels, which are all North Korean-flagged.

It accused North Korea of deceptive shipping practices, including ship-to-ship transfers, which is prohibited under U.N. sanctions that have been imposed in response to Pyongyang’s rapid tempo of nuclear and ballistic missile tests. The Treasury statement included aerial photos of what it said was Korea Kumbyol Trading Company’s vessel Rye Song Gang 1 possibly transferring oil to evade sanctions that have restricted fuel exports to the North.

Also sanctioned was the Korea South-South Cooperation Corporation, said to have exported North Korean workers to China, Russia, Cambodia and Poland to generate revenue for the government.

When President Donald Trump announced the terror designation of North Korea on Monday, he promised to intensify the “maximum pressure” campaign against Pyongyang with the “highest level” of sanctions yet — part of a rolling effort to compel it to negotiate over its nuclear program, which poses an emerged threat to the U.S. mainland.

An editorial Tuesday in North Korea’s ruling party newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, called Trump a “heinous criminal” who had insulted the dignity of the country’s supreme leadership and its socialist system during his recent visit to South Korea. The editorial, carried by the state-run news agency, threatened “merciless punishment.” It did not mention the terror designation or the threat of new sanctions.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson acknowledged Monday a two-month pause in the North’s nuclear and missile tests and said there was still hope for diplomacy. With tougher sanctions in the offing, he warned North Korean leader Kim Jong Un: “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 joined Iran, Sudan and Syria on America’s terror blacklist, a position it has occupied 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.

Trump, Putin discuss Syria, NKorea, more in hour-plus call

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and Russia’s Vladimir Putin discussed efforts to bring peace to war-torn Syria during an hour-plus phone call on Tuesday. Iran, North Korea and Ukraine also were on the agenda, the White House said.

Trump called it a “great call” Tuesday afternoon as he left the White House to spend Thanksgiving in Florida. Noting the length, he said he and Putin spoke “very strongly about bringing peace to Syria” and “very strongly about North Korea.”

Trump’s phone call with the Russian president came a day after Putin met with Syrian President Bashar Assad. Putin hosted Assad at a Black Sea resort ahead of a summit later this week with Russia, Turkey and Iran. Assad was called to Russia to get him to agree to potential peace initiatives drafted by the other three countries, the Kremlin said.

The Kremlin said Putin briefed Trump in the phone call about his talks with Assad and plans for a political settlement in Syria. Putin also called for coordination of anti-terror efforts with the U.S., the Kremlin said, adding that Afghanistan was also discussed.

Trump and Putin spoke informally several times earlier this month when they attended a summit in Vietnam. They agreed on a number of principles for the future of Syria.

Big Tobacco's anti-smoking ads begin after decade of delay

By MATTHEW PERRONE, AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Decades after they were banned from the airwaves, Big Tobacco companies return to prime-time television this weekend — but not by choice.

Under court order, the tobacco industry for the first time will be forced to advertise the deadly, addictive effects of smoking, more than 11 years after a judge ruled that the companies had misled the public about the dangers of cigarettes.

But years of legal pushback by the industry over every detail means the ads will be less hard-hitting than what was proposed. Tobacco control experts say the campaign — built around network TV and newspapers — will not reach people when they are young and most likely to start smoking.

"Their legal strategy is always obstruct, delay, create confusion and buy more time," said Ruth Malone, of the University of California, San Francisco, who has studied the industry for 20 years. "So by the time this was finally settled, newspapers have a much smaller readership, and nowadays, who watches network TV?"

The new spots, which begin Sunday, lay out the toll of smoking in blunt text and voiceover statements: "More people die every year from smoking than from murder, AIDS, suicide, drugs, car crashes and alcohol, combined."

Companies will also acknowledge their role in making cigarettes addictive: "Cigarette companies intentionally designed cigarettes with enough nicotine to create and sustain addiction."

Smoking remains the nation's leading preventable cause of death and illness, causing more than 480,000 deaths each year, even though smoking rates have been declining for decades. Last year, the adult smoking rate hit a new low of 15 percent, according to government figures. That's down from the 42 percent of adults who smoked in the mid-1960s.

Experts attribute the decline to smoking bans, cigarette taxes and anti-smoking campaigns by both nonprofit groups like the American Cancer Society and the federal government.

The new ads are the result of a 1999 lawsuit filed by the Justice Department under President Bill Clinton which sought to recover some of the billions the federal government spent caring for people with smoking-related illnesses.

A federal judge ultimately sided with the government in 2006, ruling that Big Tobacco had "lied, misrepresented and deceived the American public" about the effects of smoking for more than 50 years. The decision came nearly a decade after U.S. states reached legal settlements with the industry worth \$246 billion.

But under the racketeering laws used to prosecute the federal case, the judge said she could not make the companies pay, instead ordering them to publish "corrective statements" in advertisements, as well as on their websites, cigarette packs and store displays.

The campaign will be paid for by Altria Group, owner of Philip Morris USA, and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., a division of British American Tobacco.

Altria, maker of Marlboros, referred inquiries to a statement it issued last month: "We remain committed to aligning our business practices with society's expectations of a responsible company. This includes communicating openly about the health effects of our products."

Reynolds, which sells Camel cigarettes, did not respond to a request for comment.

Originally the U.S. government wanted companies to state that they had lied about smoking risks. But the companies successfully challenged that proposal, arguing that it was "designed solely to shame and humiliate." An appeals court ruled the ads could only be factual and forward-looking.

Even the phrase "here's the truth," was disputed and blocked. "Here's the truth: Smoking is very addictive. And it's not easy to quit," read one proposed message.

"This was a classic case of a very wealthy set of defendants willing to appeal every conceivable issue time and time again," said Matthew Myers of the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, one of several anti-tobacco groups who intervened in the court case.

More than half a century ago, American media was saturated with tobacco advertising. Cigarettes were

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 41 of 43

the most advertised product on TV and tobacco companies sponsored hundreds of shows, including "I Love Lucy," "The Flintstones" and "Perry Mason." People smoked almost everywhere, in restaurants, airplanes and doctor's offices.

Congress banned cigarette advertising from radio and TV in 1970 and subsequent restrictions have barred the industry from billboards and public transportation. Yet companies still spend more than \$8 billion annually on marketing, including print advertising, mailed coupons and store displays.

Anti-tobacco advocates estimate the upcoming TV advertisements will cost companies a tiny fraction of that, about \$30 million. The broadcast ads will air five times per week for one year and the newspaper ads will run five times over several months in about 50 national daily papers.

Robin Koval, president of Truth Initiative, has seen mock-ups of the TV ads in court and says they are not very engaging.

"It's black type scrolling on a white screen with the most uninteresting voice in the background," said Koval, whose group runs educational anti-tobacco ads targeting youngsters.

Nine of 10 smokers begin smoking before age 18, which is why most prevention efforts focus on teenagers. Yet less than 5 percent of today's network TV viewers are under 25, according to Nielsen TV data cited by Koval's group. While lawyers were hammering out the details of the TV advertisements, consumers increasingly switched to online social media sites and streaming services like Facebook, YouTube and Netflix.

A former smoker who was shown the mock-up ads called them terrible.

"They weren't very compelling ads," said Ellie Mixter-Keller, 62, of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, who smoked a pack a day for 30 years before quitting 12 years ago. "I just don't know if I would have cared about any of that."

Associated Press writer Carrie Antfingher contributed to this report.

Self-harm, suicide attempts climb among US girls, study says

By LINDSEY TANNER, AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Attempted suicides, drug overdoses, cutting and other types of self-injury have increased substantially in U.S. girls, a 15-year study of emergency room visits found.

It's unclear why, but some mental health experts think cyberbullying, substance abuse and economic stress from the recent recession might be contributing.

The rising rates "should be of concern to parents, teachers, and pediatricians. One important reason to focus on reducing self-harm is that it is key risk factor for suicide," said Dr. Mark Olfson, a Columbia University psychiatry professor who was not involved in the study.

The sharpest increase occurred among girls aged 10 to 14, nearly tripling from 2009 to 2015, from about 110 visits per 100,000 to almost 318 per 100,000.

Older teen girls had the highest rates — 633 visits per 100,000 in 2015, but the increase after 2008 was less steep.

Drug overdoses and other self-poisonings were the most common method among girls and boys, followed by intentional cutting with sharp objects. The study doesn't include information on which methods were most common by age nor on how many injuries were severe or required hospitalization.

All the injuries were intentional, but not all were suicide attempts, said lead author Melissa Mercado, a behavioral scientist.

The study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association. The trend parallels rising reports of teen depression and suicide, the researchers noted.

The researchers analyzed 2001-2015 data on nonfatal self-inflicted injuries treated in emergency rooms among ages 10 to 24. Nearly 29,000 girls with self-inflicted injuries and about 14,000 boys were treated in emergency rooms during the study years.

Rates among boys didn't change much during those years. Rates in girls were also stable until around

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 42 of 43

2008. ER visits for self-injury among young women aged 20 to 24 also increased but at a slower pace, rising from 228 per 100,000 in 2001 to 346 per 100,000 in 2015.

The results underestimate the problem since they don't include self-injuries treated in doctors' offices or elsewhere, Mercado said.

Researchers said the findings underscore the need to beef up prevention efforts including finding ways to help at-risk kids feel less isolated and more connected to their peers, and teaching coping and problem-solving skills.

Follow Lindsey Tanner on Twitter: @LindseyTanner. Her work can be found here .

This story has been updated to correct that only intentional injuries were included in the study.

Asian stocks rise after Wall Street gain

By **JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer**

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stocks rose Wednesday after Wall Street hit new highs ahead of the two-day U.S. break for the Thanksgiving holiday.

KEEPING SCORE: The Shanghai Composite Index rose 0.5 percent to 3,427.66 and Tokyo's Nikkei 225 gained 0.7 percent to 22,579.18. Hong Kong's Hang Seng advanced 0.9 percent to 30,087.73 and Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 added 0.6 percent to 5,996.90. Seoul's Kospi climbed 0.4 percent to 2,540.66 and benchmarks in New Zealand, Taiwan and Southeast Asia also rose.

WALL STREET: U.S. stock indexes set new records as technology and health care stocks rose, adding to gains for this year's biggest gainers. Apple, Facebook, Microsoft and Amazon all rose more than 1 percent. Basic materials companies rose while telecoms companies declined. The Standard & Poor's 500 index advanced 0.7 percent to 2,599.03. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 0.7 percent to 23,590.83. The Nasdaq composite index added 1.1 percent to 6,862.48.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "One can say that the leads we have today for Asia are about as upbeat for risk appetite as the bulls could hope for," said Chris Weston of IG in a report. "Emerging markets are flying and this is where traders are really generating outperformance. Asia, in particular, is looking super strong."

U.S. FED WATCH: Chair Janet Yellen said the Federal Reserve needs to craft an interest rate policy that avoids putting the economy through a "boom-bust" cycle. Yellen's speech Tuesday echoed previous remarks on inflation, reinforcing expectations the Fed will continue with gradual rate hikes. Yellen is due to leave the Fed next year but economists expect no major changes in policy.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 91 cents to \$57.74 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 41 cents on Tuesday to close at \$56.83. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained 42 cents to \$62.99 in London. It advanced 35 cents the previous session to \$62.57.

CURRENCY: The dollar declined to 112.29 yen from Tuesday's 112.44 yen. The euro was little-changed at \$1.1741.

Today in History

By **The Associated Press**

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 22, the 326th day of 2017. There are 39 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 22, 1963, John F. Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States, was assassinated while riding in a motorcade in Dallas; Texas Gov. John B. Connally, in the same car as Kennedy, was seriously wounded; a suspect, Lee Harvey Oswald, was arrested; Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn in as president.

On this date:

In 1718, English pirate Edward Teach — better known as "Blackbeard" — was killed during a battle off present-day North Carolina.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 136 ~ 43 of 43

In 1890, French president Charles de Gaulle was born in Lille, France.

In 1914, the First Battle of Ypres (EE'-pruh) during World War I ended with an Allied victory against Germany.

In 1928, "Bolero" by Maurice Ravel (rah-VEL') had its premiere at the Paris Opera.

In 1935, a flying boat, the China Clipper, took off from Alameda, California, carrying more than 100,000 pieces of mail on the first trans-Pacific airmail flight.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek (chang ky-shehk) met in Cairo to discuss measures for defeating Japan. Lyricist Lorenz Hart died in New York at age 48.

In 1954, the Humane Society of the United States was incorporated as the National Humane Society.

In 1967, the U.N. Security Council approved Resolution 242, which called for Israel to withdraw from territories it had captured the previous June, and implicitly called on adversaries to recognize Israel's right to exist. The Mel Brooks film comedy "The Producers," starring Zero Mostel and Gene Wilder, had its world premiere in Pittsburgh.

In 1975, Juan Carlos was proclaimed King of Spain.

In 1977, regular passenger service between New York and Europe on the supersonic Concorde began on a trial basis.

In 1980, death claimed actress Mae West at her Hollywood residence at age 87 and former Democratic House Speaker John W. McCormack in Dedham, Massachusetts, at age 88.

In 1990, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, having failed to win re-election of the Conservative Party leadership on the first ballot, announced she would resign.

Ten years ago: Retailers lured shoppers to stores and online on Thanksgiving Day ahead of the traditional Black Friday kick-off. A man shot and killed his ex-wife, their three children, ages 12, 10 and 6, and himself in a park in Laytonsville, Maryland. French rail workers who'd staged a nine-day-old strike voted to return to the job.

Five years ago: Two people died and more than 80 people were hurt when at least 140 vehicles collided on a stretch of highway near Beaumont, Texas, in foggy conditions. In a series of constitutional amendments, Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi granted himself sweeping new powers and placed himself above judicial oversight.

One year ago: President Barack Obama awarded the nation's highest civilian honor to 21 groundbreaking actors, musicians, athletes and others; among those receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom were Tom Hanks, Robert De Niro, Robert Redford, Michael Jordan, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Bruce Springsteen, Diana Ross, Bill and Melinda Gates, Ellen DeGeneres and broadcaster Vin Scully. A magnitude-7.4 earthquake struck northeastern Japan, the strongest since a devastating quake and tsunami five years earlier.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Michael Callan is 82. Actor Allen Garfield is 78. Animator and movie director Terry Gilliam is 77. Actor Tom Conti is 76. Singer Jesse Colin Young is 76. Astronaut Guion Bluford is 75. International Tennis Hall of Famer Billie Jean King is 74. Rock musician-actor Steve Van Zandt (a.k.a. Little Steven) is 67. Rock musician Tina Weymouth (The Heads; Talking Heads; The Tom Tom Club) is 67. Retired MLB All-Star Greg Luzinski is 67. Actress Lin Tucci is 66. Rock musician Lawrence Gowan is 61. Actor Richard Kind is 61. Actress Jamie Lee Curtis is 59. Alt-country singer Jason Ringenberg (Jason & the Scorchers) is 59. Actress Mariel Hemingway is 56. Actor Winsor Harmon is 54. Actor-turned-producer Brian Robbins is 54. Actor Stephen Geoffreys is 53. Rock musician Charlie Colin is 51. Actor Nicholas Rowe is 51. Actor Michael K. Williams is 51. Actor Mark Ruffalo is 50. International Tennis Hall of Famer Boris Becker is 50. Actress Sidse (SIH'-sa) Babett Knudsen is 49. Country musician Chris Fryar (Zac Brown Band) is 47. Actor Josh Cooke is 38. Actor-singer Tyler Hilton is 34. Actress Scarlett Johansson is 33. Actor Jamie Campbell Bower is 29. Singer Candice Glover (TV: "American Idol") is 28. Actor Alden Ehrenreich is 28. Actress Mackenzie Lintz is 21.

Thought for Today: "If we are strong, our strength will speak for itself. If we are weak, words will be no help." — From the address President Kennedy never got to deliver in Dallas on November 22, 1963.