

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 1 of 38



“As the sun makes
ice melt, kindness
causes
misunderstanding,
mistrust, and
hostility to
evaporate.”

-Albert Schweitzer

*Chicken Soup
for the Soul*

- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1-Dakota Tree Company Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 2- No. 2 Wolves down Beavers in Friday NSIC play
- 2- Elementary Preschool Screening
- 3- Bates Township Weed Notice
- 3- Bjorkman fundraiser in Groton
- 4- Football Stat Sheet
- 5- Groton beats Chamberlain
- 6- Obit: Michael Seurer
- 7- Drought impacts trees
- 7- Groton Care & Rehab Ad
- 8- Today in Weather History
- 9- Today's Forecast
- 10- Yesterday's Weather
- 10- National Weather map
- 10- Today's Weather Almanac
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 13- News from the Associated Press

Groton Area

Schedule of Events

Saturday, September 15, 2018

- 1:00pm: Soccer: Girls Varsity Match vs. Garretson @ Groton Area High School
- 3:00pm: Soccer: Boys Varsity Match vs. Freeman Academy @ Freeman Academy
- 9:30am: Groton Black 5th grade football hosts WVYF Gold; 9:30 a.m.: Groton Gold 5th grade football at Sisseton.
- 9:30am: Groton 3rd-4th grade football hosts WVYF Black.

Monday, September 17, 2018

- 3:00pm: Golf: Boys JH Meet @ Groton Area High School
- 4:00pm: Cross Country: Varsity Meet vs. Deuel @ Clear Lake Golf Course

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

- 4:30pm: Football: Boys 7th/8th Game vs. Milbank @ Groton Area High School, Doney Field
- 4:30pm: Volleyball Warner at Groton Area: 7th grade and C match at 4:30 p.m., 8th grade and JV match at 6 p.m. followed by varsity match.

Thursday, September 20, 2018

- 10:00am: Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Sisseton @ Sisseton Golf Course
- 4:00pm: Football: Boys 7th Game vs. Aberdeen

Closed: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



No. 2 Wolves down Beavers in Friday NSIC play

Aberdeen, S.D. – The No. 2 Northern State University volleyball team swept Bemidji State on Friday with set scores of 25-15, 25-17, 25-9. With the win, the Wolves improve to 12-0 overall and 4-0 in the league.

Northern hit .312 as a team in the match, as the Beavers were stagnant offensively hitting .011 and negative in two of the three sets. The Wolves combined for 41 kills, 42 digs, seven aces, and six blocks, while the Beavers tallied just 24 kills, 37 digs, and three blocks. NSU hit a match high .542 in the third and final set, with 16 total kills.

Sally Gaul led the team, as the only Wolf in double figures, with 11 kills, while hitting a team second best .429. Jenna Reiff hit a team high .667 in the win, and notched nine kills. Laura Snyder added nine kills of her own, hitting .353, while Hailey Busch and Morgan Baufield rounded out the team total with seven and five kills apiece.

Ashley Rozell recorded all 40 assists for the Wolves, averaging 13.33 per set. The junior also added a team high three blocks, as well as five digs. Jaiden Langlie led the defense, with a match high 14 digs, followed by Lexi Boesl and Busch with six each. Reiff also recorded three blocks, while Baufield and Busch notched two apiece.

Bry Goar and Langlie led the Wolves at the service line, with three aces each, followed by Boesl with one. Goar also added four digs, alongside her career high ace total.

Northern returns to action today versus Minnesota Crookston. Match start is schedule for 3 p.m. from Wachs Arena.



2018 Groton Area Elementary Preschool Developmental Screening for 3 year olds September 19

Parents of children age 3 in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to either confirm their screening time or set up a time. Letters will be send out the week of September 10. If your child is already receiving services or enrolled at Groton Elementary School they will not need to be screened. If your child has already been screened but you have concerns please contact the elementary school. If you are new to the district and have a child under the age of 5, we also ask you to contact the elementary school.

The Developmental Screening will take place at Groton Area Elementary School.



Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 3 of 38

Please Come to a Meet & Greet & Campaign Fundraiser

with



**Monday, Sept. 17, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Groton American Legion Hall**

Hors d'oeuvres and walking tacos will be served

Co-Hosted by:

**Mike & JoAnn Nehls ~ Doug & Mel Sombke
Dennis & Shirley Larson ~ Dale & Susan Kurth**

BATES TOWNSHIP WEED NOTICE

OWNERS & TENANTS of Bates Township are hereby notified and required, according to law, to cut all weeds and grass in road ditches adjacent to their property or tenanted by them within Bates township on or before October 1, 2018 or same will be hired done by the township board and assessed property taxes at the rate of \$300 per half mile.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors reminds all landowners and tenants that the road right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center of the township road. This ditch is to be maintained and mowed. Any crops planted in the road right-of-way will be mowed and charged to the landowner. Landowner is responsible for spraying all noxious weeds.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors
Betty Geist
Township Clerk

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 5 of 38

Groton Area gridiron improves to 3-2 with win over Chamberlain



Jonathan Doeden gets ready to throw the ball to a receiver. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

The second touchdown came on a Lucas Hinman 20 yard run with 20 seconds left in the first quarter. The second touchdown came on a Lucas Hinman 20 yard run with 20 seconds left in the first quarter. The second touchdown came on a Lucas Hinman 20 yard run with 20 seconds left in the first quarter.

Chamberlain would score with 1:19 left in the third quarter when Remington Rossow scored on a five yard run. The Cubs went with the two point conversion handing the ball to Nash Hutmacher, who, with his 305 pounds, carried the whole Tiger defensive line right into the endzone.

The Cubs threatened to score again late in the fourth quarter. The Tiger defense held Chamberlain on fourth and five on their own 19 yard line. Warner said, "We needed to get a couple of first downs to wind the clock down. I have to give credit to our defense and then to the offense for getting the ball in the endzone."

"I was proud of the way our kids played. Payton Johnson had some nice punts late in the game that pushed them back."

Groton Area took over on downs with 1:47 left in the game and Doeden would escape for an 11 yard run. Hunter Schaller kicked all three of Groton Area's PATs.

Seven of Groton's 11 first downs came in the first half while the Cubs had eight first downs.

Groton Area, now 3-2, will travel to Moberidge-Pollock on Friday.

Friday's matchup in Chamberlain ended up being a defensive struggle as there was a total of 411 yard offense between the two teams. Groton Area came home with a 21-8 win.

Groton Area had the edge in rushing, 136-135, and in passing, 88-52. Groton scored two touchdowns in the first quarter and one in the fourth.

Groton Area's two touchdowns in the first quarter. The first was set up when Austin Jones made a big catch to take the ball down to the Cubs' one yard line. Jones made the touchdown catch on the next play. Jones said he was wearing different gloves and he said that Jonathan told him to keep wearing those gloves. Jones was the leading receiver with three catches for 55 yards.

"Jonny made some nice passes," said Coach Shaun Warner. "Jonny has to stop, turn his body and look for guys coming across from the opposite side of the formation. Jonny stopped, he had some time, he saw Austin open. Jonny had a good pass and Austin had a great catch."

The second touchdown came on a Lucas Hinman 20 yard run with 20 seconds left in the first quarter.



Darien Shabazz got a first down for the Tigers on this run. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

The Life of Michael Seurer

Michael Raymond Seurer passed away August 26, 2018, in Reading, PA at the age of 53. A Memorial service will be held September 21, 2018 at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel in Groton at 2:00 p.m. Father Mike Kelly will officiate, with a time of sharing to follow. Please also join us for fellowship after the services. Private burial will be held at a later date.

Michael was born October 22, 1964, in Sioux Falls, SD. At age 3, he was adopted by Richard and Wava Seurer of Groton.

He attended the school for the Blind and Visually Handicap in Aberdeen, SD until he was in junior high. He came home to go to school at Groton Public School until his senior year. Mike returned to SDSBVH and graduated from there in 1982. He furthered his education at Presentation College for one year and a semester at Northern State College.

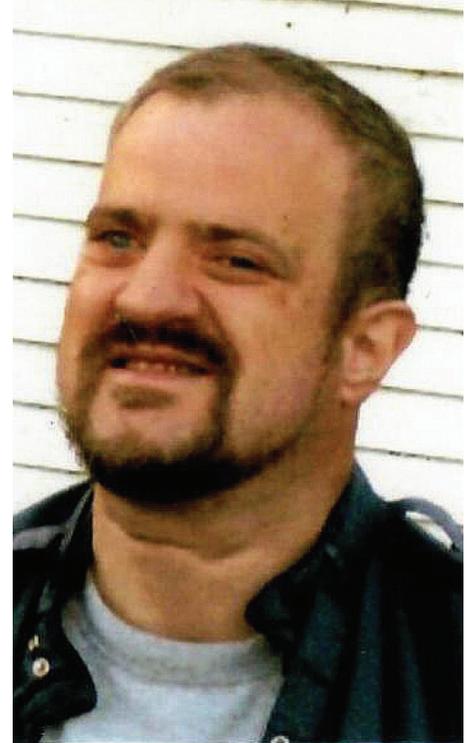
Michael went to Sioux Falls and was affiliated with a state run Learning Center for the handicapped. At this time, Michael had his own apartment. While there he learned about a school in Little Rock, Arkansas, for computer training. After training, he was hired by the IRS in Brooklyn, NY. On August of 1987 Mike moved to Brooklyn, NY and was employed by the IRS for 18 years.

Michael had a son Jake Michael Seurer, who was the most important person in his life. Also in his life was Jake's half-brothers Gilberto and Jonathan Guilbe whom he helped raise as his own.

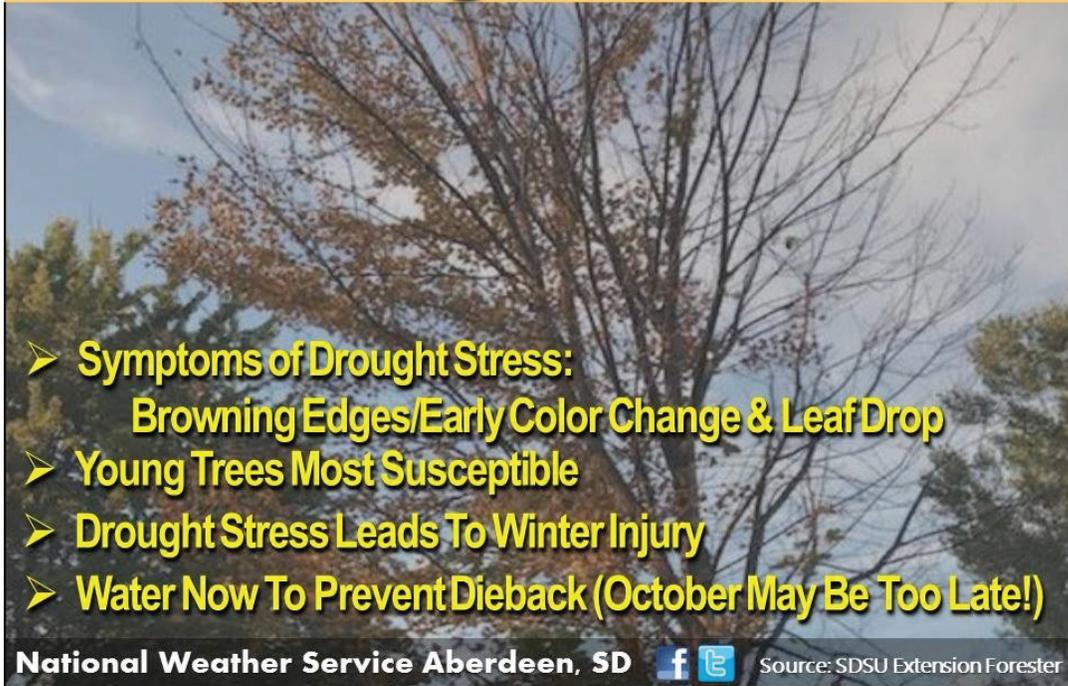
In 2015 Michael moved to Reading, PA where he was associated with a Blind Group that met socially. He was vice president of this group.

Survivors are his parents Dick and Wava Seurer of Groton, his son Jake Seurer of Brooklyn NY, his sister Marti Ann Seurer of Britton SD, niece Willow Seurer of Watertown and nephew Boady Looney of Springfield VA and two "special sons" Gilberto of Rockaway, NY and Jonathan Guilbe of Austin, TX and three aunts, Carol Seurer, Elta Helgelien and Mary Kay Flihs.

Preceding him in death were his grandparents Philip and Fern Seurer, Orley and Lavera Skogen, Ernest Klapperich and Martin and Phyllis Huber, also three uncles Kenneth Seurer, Daryl Helgelien, Darrel Flihs.



Drought Impacted Trees Showing Their Colors



- Symptoms of Drought Stress:
Browning Edges/Early Color Change & Leaf Drop
- Young Trees Most Susceptible
- Drought Stress Leads To Winter Injury
- Water Now To Prevent Dieback (October May Be Too Late!)

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Source: SDSU Extension Forester

Published on: 09/14/2018 at 11:44AM

You might notice the leaves are falling rather early in the Aberdeen area and surrounding communities. A lack of moisture is the reason, and drought stress is not good for trees as they prepare for winter. The early leaf drop is just an early sign that the tree is stressed, however more alarming symptoms - such as branch dieback and tree death - can be expected in the spring and summer of next year if precautions are not taken. Simply watering the tree now will put it in a better position to survive the winter!

We Are Hiring!

Housekeeping

Laundry

Stop in or call

We are an equal employment opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law.



GROTON

CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

1106 N 2nd Street ~ Groton, SD ~ 605-397-2365

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 8 of 38

Today in Weather History

September 15, 1977: Sioux Falls residents received a rude awakening during the morning hours as thunderstorms rolled through the city. Over two and one-half inches of rain fell in the city in an hour and 15 minutes. A large amount of rain in a short period led to street flooding in some areas. Lightning strikes from the storms also started several small fires.

1752 - A great hurricane produced a tide along the South Carolina coast which nearly inundated downtown Charleston. However, just before the tide reached the city, a shift in the wind caused the water level to drop five feet in ten minutes. (David Ludlum)

1747: Some historical accounts of a hurricane caused flooding on the Rappahannock River in Virginia. A slave ship was overturned, and several fatalities were reported.

1910 - Rains of .27 inch on the 14th and .73 inch on the 15th were the earliest and heaviest of record for Fresno CA, which, along with much of California, experiences a ""rainy season"" in the winter. (The Weather Channel)

1939 - The temperature at Detroit MI soared to 100 degrees to establish a record for September. (The Weather Channel)

1945: A hurricane entered the south Florida coast at Homestead, curving northward right up through the center of Florida, remaining over land, and exited near Jacksonville Beach with winds gusting to 170 mph. The following is from the Homestead Air Reserve Base. "On Sept. 15, 1945, three years to the day after the founding of the Homestead Army Air Field, a massive hurricane roared ashore, sending winds of up to 145 miles per hour tearing through the Air Field's buildings. Enlisted housing facilities, the nurses' dormitory, and the Base Exchange were all destroyed. The roof was ripped from what would later become building 741, the Big Hangar. The base laundry and fire station were both declared total losses. The few remaining aircraft were tossed about like leaves."

1982 - A snowstorm over Wyoming produced 16.9 inches at Lander to establish a 24 hour record for September for that location. (13th-15th) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - The first snow of the season was observed at the Winter Park ski resort in Colorado early in the day. Eight inches of snow was reported at the Summit of Mount Evans, along with wind gusts to 61 mph. Early morning thunderstorms in Texas produced up to six inches of rain in Real County. Two occupants of a car drowned, and the other six occupants were injured as it was swept into Camp Wood Creek, near the town of Leakey. Late afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in central and northeastern Oklahoma. Wind gusts to 70 mph and golf ball size hail were reported around Oklahoma City OK. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms brought much needed rains to parts of the central U.S. Rainfall totals of 2.87 inches at Sioux City IA and 4.59 inches at Kansas City MO were records for the date. Up to eight inches of rain deluged the Kansas City area, nearly as much rain as was received the previous eight months. Hurricane Gilbert, meanwhile, slowly churned toward the U.S./Mexican border. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms produced locally heavy rain in the Central Appalachians. Virgie VA received 2.60 inches of rain during the evening hours, and Bartlett TN was deluged with 2.75 inches in just ninety minutes. Heavy rain left five cars partially submerged in high water in a parking lot at Bulls Gap TN. Thunderstorms over central North Carolina drenched the Fayetteville area with four to eight inches of rain between 8 PM and midnight. Flash flooding, and a couple of dam breaks, claimed the lives of two persons, and caused ten million dollars damage. Hugo, churning over the waters of the Caribbean, strengthened to the category of a very dangerous hurricane, packing winds of 150 mph. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 9 of 38

Today



Patchy Fog
then Partly
Sunny

High: 88 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 69 °F

Sunday



Hot and
Breezy

High: 93 °F

Sunday
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 57 °F

Monday



Chance
Showers

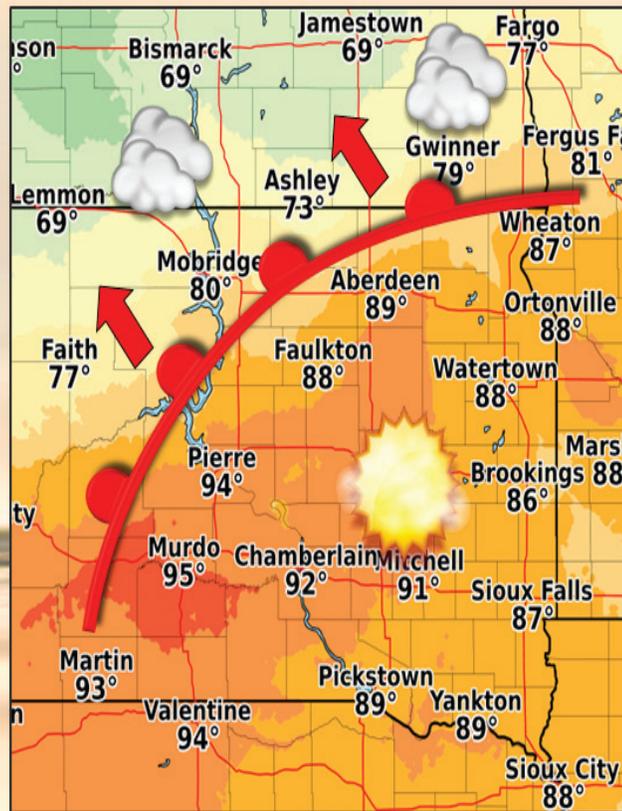
High: 73 °F

Summer's Last Gasp?

Saturday: Clouds clear and temps heat up as a warm front lifts north. High temps →

Sunday: Breezy, clear, highs in the upper 80s/lower 90s

Monday and Beyond: Pattern change with much cooler, cloudier and wetter weather



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
Updated: 9/15/2018 5:48 AM Central

Published on: 09/15/2018 at 5:59AM

A warm front will track northwest today. Clouds and cool air will remain until (if) it passes you, and then skies will clear and temperatures will climb. All will experience the heat and sunshine on Sunday though with highs in the mid 80s to low 90s, before a pattern change takes hold for the work-week and beyond. We're talking highs in the 60s by Tuesday...

Groton Daily Independent

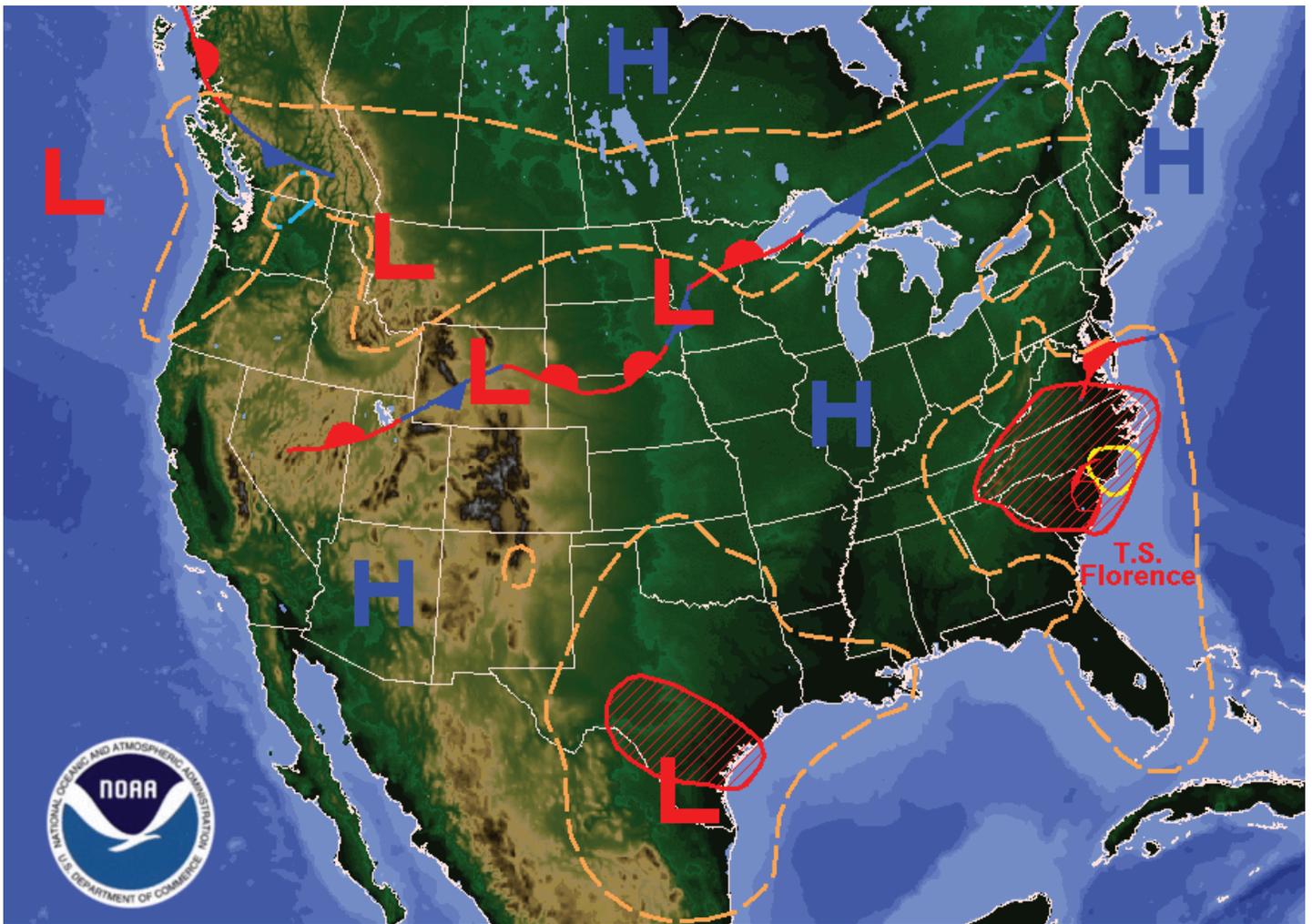
Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 10 of 38

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 76.1 F at 4:26 PM
Low Outside Temp: 58.8 F at 8:34 AM
High Gust: 22.0 Mph at 8:54 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 100° in 1948, 1955
Record Low: 24° in 1964, 1916
Average High: 73°F
Average Low: 46°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 1.05
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.10
Average Precip to date: 17.34
Precip Year to Date: 11.36
Sunset Tonight: 7:45 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:13 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Sep 15, 2018, issued 4:50 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 11 of 38



WHATS WRONG WITH BEING HAPPY?

A friend sitting next to me in church one Sunday commented, Larry, if you turn around and look at the people here this morning, it looks as if they all have stomach aches, toothaches, facing a prison term or are here under duress.

I didnt have to turn around and look. I noticed it when I walked into the sanctuary. Someone once said to me that Of all the groups of people in the world, Christians seem to be the most unhappy. They seem to be joyless and miserable. If being a Christian is so terrible, why dont they give up their faith and try something else?

Some Christians are like a person with a headache: They dont want relief, but it hurts to keep it. Can we expect others to want to become Christians if we appear to be miserable and hopeless? Things are bad without Christ. Why invite Him into our lives if things will only get worse?

Blessed - or happy - are the people whose God is the Lord. To experience the fullness that the Lord has to give us requires that we surrender our lives to Him and become dependent on Him for everything. Some who profess to be people of God do not experience the blessings of God - or are not happy in their Christian faith - because they try to live the half-life. Half a conversion is like half a lifeboat: it wont save you!

Happiness, or Gods best blessings, will not come to the half-hearted Christian. Caleb had the secret: I wholly followed the Lord. What a difference it will make. Try it!

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to give it up and surrender all that we are and all that we have to You and enjoy life! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 144:15b Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 12 of 38

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)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 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)
- 7/4/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 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)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party

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

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 13 of 38

News from the Associated Press

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL(equals)

Aberdeen Central 28, Rapid City Stevens 12
Arlington/Lake Preston 44, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 13
Avon 26, Centerville 12
Belle Fourche 49, Spearfish 7
Bon Homme 54, Lower Brule 0
Brandon Valley 47, Rapid City Central 7
Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan 26, Elk Point-Jefferson 10
Brookings 27, Watertown 14
Canistota 54, Viborg-Hurley 6
Canton 28, Beresford 14
Clark/Willow Lake 58, Dakota Hills 7
Colman-Egan 50, Estelline/Hendricks 0
Colome 68, Gayville-Volin 16
Corsica/Stickney 54, Scotland 6
Dakota Valley 25, Tri-Valley 7
Dell Rapids St. Mary 30, DeSmet 20
Deubrook 14, Elkton-Lake Benton 6
Deuel 46, Florence/Henry 6
Dupree 30, Standing Rock, N.D. 14
Dupree 30, Standing Rock, N.D. 14
Eureka/Bowdle 48, Langford 14
Faith 34, Edgemont 6
Faulkton 22, Hitchcock-Tulare 14
Garretson 47, Hanson 6
Gordon/Rushville, Neb. 28, Bennett County 6
Gregory 50, Rapid City Christian 0
Groton Area 21, Chamberlain 8
Hamlin 56, Great Plains Lutheran 6
Harding County 34, Herreid/Selby Area 22
Harrisburg 48, Douglas 0
Hot Springs 56, Custer 13
Howard 60, Irene-Wakonda 57
Lead-Deadwood 58, Crow Creek 6
Lyman 60, Hill City 19
Madison 40, Vermillion 0
McCook Central/Montrose 21, Wagner 8
Milbank Area 45, Aberdeen Roncalli 26
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 54, Flandreau 7
New Underwood 60, Newell 6
Parker 38, Menno/Marion 16
Parkston 38, Platte-Geddes 20
Pierre 34, Huron 7
Red Cloud 57, St. Francis Indian 0

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 14 of 38

Sioux Falls Christian 47, Sioux Valley 6
Sioux Falls O’Gorman 39, Sioux Falls Lincoln 7
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 35, Yankton 22
Sioux Falls Washington 49, Mitchell 12
Sisseton 50, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 0
Stanley County 14, Mobridge-Pollock 8
Sturgis 33, St. Thomas More 20
Sully Buttes 58, Warner 40
Sunshine Bible Academy 55, Iroquois 14
Tea Area 40, Lennox 15
Timber Lake 52, Bison 0
Tripp-Delmont/Armour/Andes Central/Dakota Christian 40, Burke/South Central 32
Waverly-South Shore 25, Tri-State 24
West Central 42, Dell Rapids 14
Winner 26, Valentine, Neb. 20
Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 14, Redfield/Doland 8

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

Volleyball

Sioux Falls Roosevelt Triangular
Rapid City Stevens def. Sioux Falls O’Gorman, 27-29, 9-25, 25-15, 25-21, 15-10
Rapid City Stevens def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 25-14, 25-18, 25-21
Sioux Falls O’Gorman def. Rapid City Central, 25-18, 25-19, 23-25, 25-18
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Rapid City Central, 25-14, 25-21, 25-21

South Dakota business struggles amid road construction

By PATRICK ANDERSON, Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — It’s possible to get to Kaladi’s Bistro without navigating orange cones on Minnesota Avenue.

The coffee shop and other nearby businesses have a parking lot with access to Dakota Avenue — no need to worry at all about congestion on Minnesota.

That’s what Mark Gillespie tells people.

Road construction just outside the cafe’s main entrance has been hurting his business, said Gillespie, who co-owns Kaladi’s and manages daily operations.

“We’re trying to stay as positive as we can,” Gillespie told the Argus Leader .

Crews have already been busy for months upgrading the road surface and underground utilities along Minnesota Avenue, between 22nd and 28th streets, and occasionally as far south as 41st Street.

And they have months to go.

The \$3 million upgrade started in May and is scheduled to last until November.

It’s a busy stretch of road that served more than 27,000 drivers a day before construction started. Nearby 26th Street is also an otherwise popular roadway where it connects with Minnesota, serving about 27,000 drivers per day.

The work was needed to replace the old pavement and underground sewer lines, while updating the streetlights and traffic signals, according to the city.

Construction has had a dampening effect on what typically a bustling commercial area. The corridor is home to a gas station, a car dealership, restaurants, banks, coffee shops, administrative offices and other locally run businesses.

Piper Custom Framing and Fine Art Gallery opened near the corner of Minnesota and 27th about 14

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 15 of 38

years ago, and this is at least the third time the street out front has undergone construction, owner Jon Piper said.

Thankfully his business is more of a destination for customers, including corporate clients who use Piper's for its art consulting services, Piper said. He has noticed fewer drop-in customers, even though they're only a portion of his business.

"I'm patient, and you know to have any progress you're going to have to put up with the pains," Piper said.

For Kaladi's, sales have slowed enough to cause uncertainty for staff, who rely on tips as part of their wage, Gillespie said. Summer is already one of the bistro's slowest seasons, and there are even fewer customers this year as drivers avoid Minnesota Avenue.

It's not as much of a problem of access than it is a problem of perception. Sioux Falls residents are just avoiding the area because they know traffic is affected.

"People get construction in their heads," Gillespie said. "They think it's probably more difficult than it is."

Strange thing about less business: It actually creates more work for Kaladi's management. The cafe's leadership has worked hard to counteract the effect of construction. They've focused more on catering and delivery, adjusted staffing levels and limited business hours.

Kaladi's is closing an hour earlier during the week. It also closes Saturday afternoons instead of staying open Saturday night as it did prior to construction.

Gillespie expects full Saturday hours to resume later this month. He hopes business picks up in the next couple of months even though construction will continue into the fall. Autumn is usually Kaladi's busiest season, Gillespie said.

"We're a little worried we're going to lose out on our September and October," Gillespie said.

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

Couple reopens brewery in South Dakota after 20 years

By JIM HOLLAND, Rapid City Journal

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Brian and Janet Boyer were at the forefront of the fledgling craft-beer movement when they opened the Mt. Rushmore Brewing Company in Hill City in 1997.

Brian Boyer said that venture may have been ahead of its time. They eventually sold the Hill City brewery to another couple who operated it for a year or two, before they also shut it down.

The Boyers had moved on to other businesses, including running a weekly newspaper in Hill City.

They sold the newspaper, and with the craft-beer movement now in full growth mode in the Black Hills, decided to revive and re-trademark the Mt. Rushmore Brewing name and reopen in a renovated, spacious, almost-cavernous location in Custer.

"This came up and we decided to do it a little bigger and better this time," Brian Boyer told the Rapid City Journal.

Bigger and better are indeed operative words for the new brewing company, which began pouring a new line of ales, lager- and pilsner-style beers crafted by brewers Hanje Ehrlich and Tom Robbins just before Memorial Day.

Both Ehrlich and Robbins said they began dabbling in home-brewed beer before they were legally able to consume it.

Ehrlich's family background includes home brewers in every generation back to the early 1900s in Holland. She learned the craft from an older brother out of what she called "teenage curiosity" and later began working as a restaurant and bar manager and consultant in her home state of Florida.

She moved to South Dakota in 2011 to take a seasonal job with the Sylvan Lake Lodge, fell in love with the slower pace and wide-open spaces of the Black Hills, and never left.

The reopening of the Mt. Rushmore Brewery was a tailor-made opportunity for her, but first the Boyers and another partner, Johnathan Stahl, needed some convincing.

"When I heard they were going to open a brewery, I pretty much pestered them almost every week until

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 16 of 38

they realized I was good fit for the job," Erlich said. "I convinced them I could help them in a number of ways, and eventually they came around."

Robbins, originally from Rapid City, also began brewing as a hobby with home-brewing hobby kits while living in Alaska, where he taught English as a second-language class. He moved around a lot over more than a decade, also teaching ESL classes in South Korea, China, Japan and eastern Canada.

He began brewing beer full-time 2.5 years ago and saw the opportunity to work close to home with Mt. Rushmore Brewing, where he specializes in more traditional English beers and German lagers.

"I like to think of it as boring old-man beer, stuff that's hard to make and subtle," he said, with a laugh.

Working with Ehrlich, however, they are developing new variations based on foraging for local flavorings, including incorporating fresh lavender, lemon, and even sage, juniper berries, raspberries, pine and spruce to add a unique note to their beers.

Their flagship beers include American Fabius Blond Ale, Long Tom APA (American Pale Ale), Trust Buster Scottish Ale, and Rail Splitter Porter.

Seasonal offerings include a just released Dirty Politics Double Black Oatmeal Stout and a Lavender & Lemon Verbena Kolsch.

Soon they'll be pouring a new Raspberry Sage Pale Ale, made from locally grown wild raspberries and sage Erlich harvested during a recent bicycle trek on the Mickelson Trail.

Their 10-barrel, six-fermenter system foregoes the process of kegging before serving.

Beer is served directly from what is called a brite tank, where the carbonation process takes place.

"It's as fresh as the beer can get," Boyer said. "We're not even putting it in a keg."

Keeping the alcohol-by-volume content of their beers in the 5 percent to 6 percent range improves what Boyer calls "session-ability," meaning patrons can enjoy a variety of their selection while keeping the alcohol consumption in moderation.

"We want the average person to enjoy a couple of beers, and try out the different flavors," Boyer said.

The building, formerly a restaurant and, briefly, a western-themed tourist attraction, offers enough space for a first-floor tasting room with a small kitchen and the brewery with a spacious outdoor deck.

Planned for the second floor next year is a full restaurant along with an event space for hosting wedding receptions, banquets and other gatherings.

After a busy first summer, Mt. Rushmore Brewing will gradually scale back their hours of operation to afternoons and evenings in September and weekends in October.

Once November comes, they'll switch to brewing for wholesale distribution for local bars and restaurants, including their Buglin' Bull Sports Bar & Restaurant in Custer. They also own a seasonal Mexican bistro called the Begging Burro in Custer.

While their initial outing with a craft brewery may have been ahead of its time, Boyer said the revived Custer brewery is tapping into a healthy local industry, with local brewpubs spread throughout the Black Hills, from Hot Springs, Custer, Hill City to Rapid City, Sturgis, Lead and Spearfish.

"We were 20 years too early," he said. "But now there is at least one brewery in every town."

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

23-30-40-43-66, Mega Ball: 13, Megaplier: 4

(twenty-three, thirty, forty, forty-three, sixty-six; Mega Ball: thirteen; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$227 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$147 million

Rodgers questionable for Packers game with Vikings

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Still no answers on A-Rod.

Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers is questionable for Sunday's NFC North showdown with Minnesota. Rodgers, who missed the end of the first half of the Week 1 victory against Chicago with an injured left knee, did not practice Wednesday and Thursday and would not have practiced on Friday.

"Aaron's getting better," coach Mike McCarthy said Friday. "I would say he feels better than he did at the beginning of the week. (Saturday's) practice will be a pretty big indicator. ... nothing has changed. He's clearly day to day. Hopefully, he'll be able to do work (Saturday)."

Even if Rodgers doesn't practice on Saturday, he could play on Sunday.

"You'd like to walk off the field Saturday and have your plan set, but this is the National Football League, things happen," McCarthy said. "We'll be ready for anything, but I know he wants to play."

Rodgers was injured on a sack by Roy Robertson-Harris with about nine minutes to go in the first half against Chicago. He was carted into the locker room for examination, returned for the start of the third quarter and led the Packers back from a 20-0 deficit by throwing for 273 yards and three touchdowns in the second half.

"His competitive nature kind of takes over," offensive coordinator Joe Philbin said Thursday. "He's obviously got exceptional talent. You don't have to be an expert to figure that out. But I think the thing that separates a lot of great players from good players in this league is that competitive spirit. You certainly saw that in full force in the second half. Some of the things he did were pretty special."

After the game Sunday, Rodgers compared his mobility to that of a "statue." One of Rodgers' greatest assets is his ability to move in the pocket and extend plays out of the pocket. Any lack of mobility could play into the favor of a Vikings defense that led the NFL in points allowed last season, and intercepted San Francisco's Jimmy Garoppolo three times in Week 1.

"There's two kinds of mobility," Rodgers said Wednesday. "In the pocket, (the) subtle movements that allow you to have a clean launch point, and then there's movement that allows you to get outside the pocket, which allows you to extend plays and take shots down the field or run. And we'll see what kind of mobility I'm allowed to have."

If Rodgers can't play, DeShone Kizer would get the start. Kizer had the NFL's worst passer rating and lost all 15 starts as a rookie with Cleveland last season. The Packers acquired him in an offseason trade, and he beat out Brett Hundley, who went 3-6 in nine starts last season with Rodgers sidelined by a broken collarbone. In his first two series against Chicago, Kizer lost a fumble and threw an interception that was returned for a touchdown.

"I think obviously we have the best player in the league in our locker room," Kizer said of Rodgers. "If he's ready to go, I'm looking forward to cheering him on and doing whatever I can to help him. It's also my duty and job to make sure I'm ready to go just in case he's not."

NOTES: Also questionable for the Packers are receiver Davante Adams (shoulder) and linebacker Oren Burks (shoulder). Safety Josh Jones (ankle) will miss a second consecutive game.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/tag/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

South Dakota special session on online sales taxes cost \$35K

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A legislative administrator says it cost roughly \$35,000 to hold this week's special session on sales taxes for online purchases.

Legislative Research Council Director Jason Hancock said Friday that legislator pay and per diem made up over \$31,000 of that price tag.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 18 of 38

Lawmakers gathered Wednesday for the session, approving three bills, including Gov. Dennis Daugaard's measure allowing South Dakota to collect sales taxes from many out-of-state online retailers starting Nov. 1.

The session followed a Supreme Court ruling in South Dakota's favor allowing states to force online shoppers to pay sales tax. Daugaard's chief of staff, Tony Venhuizen, says the benefits of implementing the ruling this fall outweigh the session's cost.

Hancock says he doesn't expect his agency will need to request extra funding to cover the cost. The previous special session, held in 2017, cost about \$37,500.

Quad-City company, Microsoft to improve broadband access

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A Quad-Cities company is partnering with Microsoft to improve rural broadband access to about 126,000 people in Iowa, Illinois and South Dakota.

Illinois-based Network Business Systems will work to expand access to Iowa residents in Scott, Muscatine and Clinton counties, The Des Moines Register reported. The partnership is through Microsoft's Airband initiative, which aims to expand broadband service to 2 million people living in rural areas of the U.S. by 2022.

However, David Peters, an associate professor of sociology at Iowa State University, said the three selected Iowa counties aren't rural. Microsoft officials said urban counties have rural residents who struggle to find internet service.

"Most counties have a mix of people who live in urban areas and rural areas," said Shelly McKinley, Microsoft's head of technology and corporate responsibility.

More than 60 percent of rural residents in Muscatine County didn't have access to high-speed internet in 2016, according to the Federal Communications Commission. Less than 30 percent of Clinton County residents didn't have access, while more than 20 percent didn't have access in Scott County.

Microsoft will give Network Business Systems technical support and the ability to use its recognizable name with customers and regulators, said Kari Hofmann, general manager at Network Business Systems.

"Let's face it, everybody knows who Microsoft is," Hoffman said. "If they go to bat for us with the FCC or even a government agency in our own state, they'll probably listen to them before they will us."

This story has been corrected to show that the Illinois company is called Network Business Systems, not Network Business Solutions.

Information from: The Des Moines Register, <http://www.desmoinesregister.com>

Standing Rock Sioux considers Lake Oahe bridge idea

FORT YATES, N.D. (AP) — The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is seeking a \$6.7 million grant to research building a bridge across the Missouri River's Lake Oahe.

The tribe has applied for a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation that's for projects with a significant local or regional impact, the Bismarck Tribune reported.

The tribe hopes to use the grant funding to commission an environmental impact statement on a proposed crossing near Fort Yates. The statement process is expected to take about six years, which would then position the project for full design and construction.

Lake Oahe cut transportation connections between the west side of the Missouri River in Sioux County and Emmons County to the east when it was created in 1958. The bridge idea was introduced as early as the 1970s but floundered mainly due to concerns over the disruptions to burial sites and other cultural issues, said Ron His Horse Is Thunder, the tribe's director of transportation planning and development.

The tribe's concerns have been eased because technology now allows for a more complete search of burial sites, he said.

"The tribe is a little bit more receptive to the idea that, OK, if we do this bridge, we'll use this new technology and these cultural sites will be found and they will be protected," His Horse Is Thunder said.

A bridge would support the Standing Rock Reservation's agriculture and ranching economy as well as communities surrounding the reservation and across the river, His Horse Is Thunder said.

"It's not just about the reservation economy, it's about the whole area's economy and how it ties to the national economy," he said. "It would be great for ag producers in terms of opening up their markets."

His Horse Is Thunder said the tribe won't know if it received the grant until November.

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

Last defendant in large Jamaican lottery scam convicted

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A federal jury in North Dakota on Friday convicted a Rhode Island woman of helping scam elderly Americans out of millions of dollars, capping a large-scale Jamaican lottery scam case that authorities have been investigating and prosecuting for six years.

Jurors found Melinda Bulgin, 28, guilty of 15 counts of conspiracy, fraud and money laundering, after 3 1/2 hours of deliberations over two days. Defense attorney Kevin Chapman said he likely will appeal.

The Providence woman was the last of 27 defendants. The others all pleaded guilty or were convicted earlier in the scam that authorities say bilked at least 90 mostly elderly Americans out of more than \$5.7 million. Authorities identified victims in at least five states: North Dakota, South Dakota, South Carolina, Texas and Arizona.

Authorities say scammers called victims about bogus lottery winnings, persuading them to send advance fees or so-called taxes to receive the purported winnings, then keeping the money without paying anything to the victims.

"When they (elderly) were vulnerable, Melinda Bulgin and these other co-conspirators preyed on them," Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan O'Konek told jurors.

The case is believed to be the first large-scale Jamaican lottery scam tried in U.S. courts. It began in September 2011, when then-82-year-old Edna Schmeets, of Harvey, North Dakota, was scammed out of about \$400,000. During emotional testimony Thursday she described cleaning out her life savings, borrowing money from family and borrowing from the bank, so that she could continue sending checks.

"After that I was broke," she said.

Bulgin was accused of collecting money and funneling it between the U.S. and Jamaica via cheap flights she got through her job with an airline. She eventually was caught at a Jamaican airport in 2015 with nearly \$15,000 she hadn't declared to customs officials.

That money came from Nancy Bauke, a 78-year-old widow in Tempe, Arizona, prosecutors said.

Bauke testified she was duped by the scammers even though she had worked as a financial adviser and taught financial planning classes. She said she sent a total of \$25,000 to Bulgin and "did not receive one penny" in prize money.

Chapman told jurors that Bulgin's identity could have easily been used by other suspects in the scam, and that when she made admissions to authorities after her arrest in Jamaica she was "a young woman, scared, in a foreign country."

"We cannot trust the evidence in this case," he said.

The Federal Trade Commission estimates lottery scams could be a billion-dollar-a-year industry in Jamaica. The investigation into this scam began in 2012 and has involved the FBI, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the U.S. Justice Department.

"I'm happy for the victims, that we can bring some justice to them," Assistant U.S. Attorney Clare Hochhalter said outside the courtroom.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

Sign up for the AP's weekly newsletter showcasing our best reporting from the Midwest and Texas:

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

Sioux Falls poverty rate down, but still plenty are in need

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — New data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that the number of people in the Sioux Falls metropolitan area living in poverty reached a 10-year low in 2017.

Despite the 6.8 percent poverty rate for the area, organizers who work directly with those in need say more residents are eating free meals at outreach locations and more are homeless.

The Argus Leader says the federal poverty line is about \$25,000 for a family of four.

The Community Outreach coordinator Peter Nord says people coming to his facility aren't necessarily unemployed. He says they have an income, but it doesn't meet all of their needs.

Tamara Jerke-Liesinger is director of The Banquet which served about 198,000 meals last year. She says families are struggling to pay rent, bills, car repairs and put food on the table.

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

South Dakota college golfers treated after Iowa collision

WESTFIELD, Iowa (AP) — Authorities say members of a South Dakota college golf team were treated at a hospital after a collision between their van and a sport utility vehicle in northwest Iowa.

The Plymouth County Sheriff's Office says the accident occurred around 6:30 p.m. Thursday about a mile (2 kilometers) north of Westfield on Iowa Highway 12. The sheriff's office says the northbound SUV crossed the centerline and struck the oncoming van carrying the team from Mount Marty College in Yankton, South Dakota.

The SUV driver was taken to Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City, and all six people on the van were treated at a Hawarden hospital and released.

The names of those involved have not been released.

The college's Andy Bernatow (bur-NAH'-toh) says the team was returning from a tournament in the area.

Want to buy a racetrack? Brandon speedway up for auction

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Badlands Motor Speedway in Brandon goes up for auction Saturday, with a minimum bid of \$3.15 million.

Payday loan mogul Chuck Brennan bought the speedway in 2015 and added it to his Badlands empire, which include the massive Badlands Pawn shop, venue and gun range. After South Dakota voters capped payday loan interest rates in 2016, Brennan has worked to liquidate his properties.

The Argus Leader reports the speedway's sale went on hold earlier when Minnehaha County officials said it had lost the grandfathered noise ordinance exemption letting it operate. The county later rescinded the decision.

The speedway last hosted a race in May 2017.

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

9-year-old autistic boy found safe after nightlong search

LETCHER, S.D. (AP) — A 9-year-old boy with autism who went missing in rural Davison County was found safe after a nightlong search.

Eastin Dorr was last seen about 5 p.m. Wednesday. Sheriff's Deputy Josh Peterson found the boy walking along the side of a road about 9 a.m. Thursday.

Peterson tells The Daily Republic that Dorr had spent the night "in the weeds and the bushes" but basically was in good health. A medical team examined the boy and found him to be uninjured.

The Sanborn and Jerauld County sheriff's offices, Davison County Search and Rescue and the Mitchell

Department of Public Safety also were involved in the ground and aerial search.

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

Acting leader of Regional Health gets job permanently

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The woman named acting president and CEO of Rapid City-based Regional Health in July has been given the job permanently.

Paulette Davidson took over as leader of the health system after then-CEO Brent Philips left in a move the board would describe only as a "personnel issue."

The board of directors issued a statement Thursday removing the "acting" portion of Davidson's title.

Davidson has been with Regional Health since 2015, serving as chief operating officer and later being named president of Rapid City Hospital and the Rapid City market. She has 30 years of experience in health care.

Regional Health is the largest private employer in western South Dakota, operating five hospitals and 24 clinics that employ nearly 5,000 doctors and caregivers.

Powerful typhoon lashes Philippines, killing at least 12

By AARON FAVILA and JOEAL CALUPITAN, Associated Press

TUGUEGARAO, Philippines (AP) — Typhoon Mangkhut lashed the northern Philippines with destructive winds and heavy rain that set off landslides and destroyed homes on Saturday, leaving at least 12 people dead, as Hong Kong and other parts of southern China braced for the powerful storm.

The most ferocious typhoon to hit the disaster-prone Philippines this year slammed ashore before dawn in Cagayan province on the northeastern tip of Luzon island, a breadbasket that is also a region of flood-prone rice plains and mountain provinces with a history of deadly landslides.

China and the Philippines agreed to postpone a visit by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi that was to start Sunday due to the onslaught, which caused nearly 150 flights, a third of them international, to be canceled and halted sea travel.

Presidential adviser Francis Tolentino said the 12 died mostly in landslides and houses that got pummeled by the storm's fierce winds and rain. Among the dead were an infant and a 2-year-old child who died with their parents after the couple refused to immediately evacuate from their high-risk community in a mountain town in Nueva Vizcaya province, Tolentino said.

"They can't decide for themselves where to go," he said of the children, expressing frustration that the tragedy was not prevented.

Tolentino, who has been assigned by President Rodrigo Duterte to help coordinate disaster response, said at least two other people were missing and added that the death toll could climb to at least 16 once other casualty reports were verified.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan said at least three people died and six others were missing in his mountain city of Baguio after strong winds and rain destroyed several houses and set off landslides, which also blocked roads to the popular vacation destination. It was not immediately clear whether the deaths and missing cited by Domogan had been included in Tolentino's count.

Authorities were verifying the drownings of three people, including two children who reportedly died as the typhoon approached. About 70 men reportedly returned to their coastal village in Cagayan to check on their homes as the typhoon drew closer Friday, but Tolentino said he had received no report of the men figuring in an accident.

Mangkhut's sustained winds weakened to 170 kilometers (105 miles) per hour with gusts of up to 260 kph (161 mph) after it sliced northwestward across Luzon before blowing out to the South China Sea, aiming at Hong Kong and elsewhere in southern China.

About 87,000 people evacuated from high-risk areas of the Philippines. Tolentino and other officials

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 22 of 38

advised them not to return home until the lingering danger had passed.

"It's still a life and death situation," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said by phone, citing past drownings in swollen rivers in mountain provinces after storms had passed.

Storm warnings remained in effect in 10 northern provinces, including Cagayan, which could still be lashed by devastating winds, forecasters said. Thousands of people in the typhoon's path had been evacuated.

At daybreak in Cagayan's capital, Tuguegarao, Associated Press journalists saw a severely damaged public market, its roof ripped apart and wooden stalls and tarpaulin canopies in disarray. Outside a popular shopping mall, debris was scattered everywhere and government workers cleared roads of fallen trees.

Many stores and houses were damaged but most residents remained indoors as occasional gusts sent small pieces of tin sheets and other debris flying dangerously.

The Tuguegarao airport terminal was badly damaged, its roof and glass windows shattered by strong winds that also sent chairs, tables and papers flipping about inside, Lorenzana said.

The typhoon struck at the start of the rice and corn harvesting season in Cagayan, a major agricultural producer, prompting farmers to scramble to save what they could of their crops, Cagayan Gov. Manuel Mamba said.

A government damage assessment was underway except in areas still being battered by winds and rain. Two air force C-130 cargo planes and 10 helicopters were on standby in Manila, the Philippines' capital, to help transport rescuers and aid supplies.

More than 5 million people were at risk from the storm, which the Hawaii-based Joint Typhoon Warning Center downgraded from a super typhoon. Mangkhut, however, was still punching powerful winds and gusts equivalent to a Category 4 Atlantic hurricane.

In Hong Kong, Security Minister John Lee Ka-chiu urged residents to prepare for the worst as the storm barreled toward the southern Chinese city.

Cathay Pacific said all of its flights would be canceled between 2:30 a.m. local time on Sunday and 4 a.m. Monday.

"Because Mangkhut will bring winds and rains of extraordinary speeds, scope and severity, our preparation and response efforts will be greater than in the past," Lee told a briefing on Friday. "Each department must have a sense of crisis, make a comprehensive assessment and plan, and prepare for the worst."

In nearby Fujian province in China, 51,000 people were evacuated from fishing boats and around 11,000 vessels returned to port on Saturday morning.

China's National Meteorological Center issued an alert saying Mangkhut would make landfall somewhere on the coast in Guangdong province on Sunday afternoon or evening.

Ferry services in the Qiongzhou Strait in southern China were halted on Saturday and helicopters and tugboats were dispatched to Guangdong to transfer offshore workers to safety and warn ships about the typhoon, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Mangkhut, the Thai word for mangosteen fruit, is the 15th storm this year to batter the Philippines, which is hit by about 20 a year and is considered one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan left more than 7,300 people dead or missing, flattened villages, swept ships inland and displaced more than 5 million in the central Philippines.

Associated Press writers Jim Gomez in Manila, Philippines, and Gillian Wong in Beijing contributed to this report.

Florence, a wet and unwanted visitor, besieges Carolinas

By JEFFREY COLLINS and JONATHAN DREW, Associated Press

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP) — Florence, now a tropical storm, swirled at a near-standstill over the Carolinas on Saturday, dumping non-stop rain over areas already flooded by seawater and swelling rivers and creeks across both states.

Some towns have already been soaked by more than 2 feet (60 centimeters) of drenching rains, and

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 23 of 38

forecasters warned that totals could reach 3½ feet (1 meter), unleashing floods well inland through early next week. At least four people have died, a toll authorities fear will rise as the storm crawls westward across South Carolina.

At 8 a.m. Saturday, Florence stalled about 35 miles (55 kilometers) west of Myrtle Beach, moving forward at just 2 mph (4 kph), with top sustained winds of 50 mph (80 kph).

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper called Florence an “uninvited brute” that could wipe out entire communities as it grinds its way across land.

“The fact is this storm is deadly and we know we are days away from an ending,” Cooper said.

With tropical storm-force winds swirling 350 miles (560 kilometers) wide, Florence continued deluging the Carolinas on Saturday morning after pushing surging seas far ashore. Rescue crews used boats to carry more than 360 people from rising water in the river town of New Bern, North Carolina, while many of their neighbors awaited help. Dozens more were pulled from a collapsed motel.

Florence flattened trees, buckled buildings and crumpled roads. The storm knocked out power to nearly 930,000 homes and businesses, and the number could keep rising.

A mother and baby were killed when a tree fell on a house, according to a tweet from Wilmington police. A 77-year-old man was apparently knocked down by the wind and died after going out to check on his hunting dogs, Lenoir County authorities said. The governor’s office said a man was electrocuted while trying to connect extension cords in the rain.

Storm surges — the bulge of ocean water pushed ashore by the hurricane — were as high as 10 feet (3 meters).

Shaken after seeing waves crashing on the Neuse River just outside his house in New Bern, restaurant owner and hurricane veteran Tom Ballance wished he had evacuated.

“I feel like the dumbest human being who ever walked the face of the earth,” he said.

Florence peaked at a terrifying Category 4 with top winds of 140 mph (225 kph) over warm ocean water before making landfall as a Category 1 hurricane at 7:15 a.m. at Wrightsville Beach, a few miles (kilometers) east of Wilmington and not far from the South Carolina line. It blew ashore along a mostly boarded-up, emptied-out stretch of coastline.

But it was clear that this was really about the water, not the wind.

Morehead City, North Carolina, had received 23 inches (58 centimeters) of rain by Friday night, and forecasters warned Saturday morning that parts of the Carolinas could get up to 15 inches (38 centimeters) more.

At times, Florence was moving forward no faster than a human can walk, and it has remained such a wide storm that its counter-clockwise winds keep scooping up massive amounts of moisture from the sea. The flooding began on barrier islands in North Carolina and then spread into coastal and river communities there and in South Carolina, swamping the white sands and golf courses in North Myrtle Beach.

For people living inland in the Carolinas, maximum peril could come days later as all that water drains, overflowing rivers and causing flash floods.

Authorities warned, too, of risks of mudslides and environmental disasters from floodwaters washing over industrial waste sites and hog farms.

About 9,700 National Guard troops and civilians were deployed with high-water vehicles, helicopters and boats.

Florence could become a major test for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which was heavily criticized as slow and unprepared last year for Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, where the death toll was put at nearly 3,000.

The hurricane center said the storm will eventually break up over the southern Appalachians and make a right hook to the northeast, its rainy remnants moving into the mid-Atlantic states and New England by the middle of next week.

Meteorologist Ryan Maue of weathermodels.com calculated that Florence could dump a staggering 18 trillion gallons (68 trillion liters) of rain over a week on North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia,

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 24 of 38

Tennessee, Kentucky and Maryland. That's enough to fill the Chesapeake Bay, or cover the entire state of Texas with nearly 4 inches (10 centimeters) of water.

North Carolina alone is forecast to get 9.6 trillion gallons (36 trillion liters), enough to cover the Tar Heel state to a depth of about 10 inches (25 centimeters).

In Jacksonville, North Carolina, next to Camp Lejeune, firefighters and police fought wind and rain as they went door to door to pull more than 60 people out as the Triangle Motor Inn began to crumble.

In New Bern, population 29,000, flooding on the Neuse River left 500 people in peril.

"WE ARE COMING TO GET YOU," the city tweeted during the height of the storm. "You may need to move up to the second story, or to your attic, but WE ARE COMING TO GET YOU."

Boat teams including volunteers rescued some 360 residents, including Sadie Marie Holt, 67, who first tried to row out of her neighborhood during Florence's assault.

"The wind was so hard, the waters were so hard ... We got thrown into mailboxes, houses, trees," said Holt, who had stayed at home because of a doctor's appointment that was later canceled. She was eventually rescued by a boat crew; 140 more awaited help.

Ashley Warren and boyfriend Chris Smith managed to paddle away from their home in a boat with their two dogs, and were left shaken.

"Honestly, I grew up in Wilmington. I love hurricanes. But this one has been an experience for me," she said. "We might leave."

Associated Press writers Seth Borenstein in Washington; Allen G. Breed in New Bern, North Carolina; Jeffrey Collins in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; Jennifer Kay in Miami; Tamara Lush in Jacksonville, Florida; Gary Robertson in Raleigh, North Carolina; Sarah Rankin and Denise Lavoie in Richmond, Virginia; Meg Kinnard in Columbia, South Carolina; Skip Foreman in Charlotte, North Carolina; Jeff Martin in Hampton, Georgia; David Koenig in Dallas; Gerry Broome at Nags Head, North Carolina; and Jay Reeves in Atlanta contributed to this report.

For the latest on Hurricane Florence, visit <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Hurricanes>

Manafort plea deal begs key question: What does he know?

By ERIC TUCKER, CHAD DAY and MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Trump associates folded one by one over the last year under the pressure of federal investigators, there was always Paul Manafort.

Until suddenly there wasn't.

Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, who for months stood resolute in his innocence and determined to fight charge upon charge even as fellow onetime loyalists caved, reached an extraordinary plea agreement with special counsel Robert Mueller's office on Friday that requires him to assist the Russia investigation and converts him into a potentially vital government cooperator.

The deal, struck in Washington just days before Manafort was to have faced a second trial, is tied to Ukrainian political consulting work and unrelated to the Trump campaign.

The question remains what information Manafort, 69, is able to provide about the president, as well as whether the Trump election effort coordinated with Russia.

Manafort's leadership of the campaign at a time when prosecutors say Russian intelligence was working to sway the election, and his involvement in episodes under scrutiny, may make him an especially insightful witness.

Manafort was among the participants in a June 2016 Trump Tower meeting in New York with Russians and Trump's oldest son and son-in-law that was arranged for the campaign to receive derogatory information about Democratic president nominee Hillary Clinton.

He was also a close business associate of a man who U.S. intelligence believes has ties to Russian intelligence. While he was working on the campaign, emails show Manafort discussed providing private

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 25 of 38

briefings for a wealthy Russian businessman close to Vladimir Putin.

"The expectations around Manafort's cooperation are likely at a level beyond anyone else to date who has agreed to cooperate," said Jacob Frenkel, a Washington lawyer not involved in the case. "Whether those expectations will be met is the great unknown."

Manafort had long resisted the idea of cooperating even as prosecutors stacked additional charges against him in Washington and Virginia. Trump had saluted that stance, publicly praising him and suggesting Manafort had been treated worse than gangster Al Capone. Trump's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, had suggested a pardon might be a possibility after the investigation was concluded.

Then came Friday's development.

Manafort agreed to provide any information asked of him, testify whenever asked and even work undercover if necessary. The cooperation ensures the investigation will extend far beyond the November elections despite entreaties from the president's lawyers that Mueller bring it to a close.

The agreement makes Manafort the latest associate of Trump, a president known to place a premium on loyalty among subordinates, to admit guilt and work with investigators in hopes of leniency.

Mueller had already secured cooperation from a former Trump national security adviser who lied to the FBI about discussing sanctions with a Russian ambassador; a Trump campaign aide who broached the idea of a meeting with Putin; and another aide who was indicted alongside Manafort but ultimately turned on him. Trump's former personal lawyer has separately pleaded guilty in New York.

Manafort was convicted last month of eight financial crimes in a separate trial in Virginia and faces an estimated seven to 10 years in prison in that case. The two conspiracy counts he admitted to on Friday carry up to five years, though Manafort's sentence will ultimately depend on his cooperation.

"He wanted to make sure that his family was able to remain safe and live a good life. He's accepted responsibility. This is for conduct that dates back many years and everybody should remember that," Manafort attorney Kevin Downing said outside court.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders insisted the Manafort case was unrelated to Trump. Giuliani said he spoke to Trump on Friday about Manafort's plea.

"The president was OK with it," he said. "In a way, it's another indication there is no evidence of collusion. All of these charges predate the time Paul spent with the president. And there's nothing in what he pleaded about collusion."

It's unclear how the deal might affect any Manafort pursuit of a pardon from Trump, though Giuliani told Politico before the deal that a plea without a cooperation agreement wouldn't foreclose the possibility of a pardon.

Under the terms of the deal, Manafort was allowed to plead guilty to just two counts, though the crimes he admitted largely overlap with the conduct alleged in an indictment last year. He abandoned his right to appeal his sentences in Washington and Virginia and agreed to forfeit homes in New York, including a condo in Trump Tower.

But the guilty plea spares Manafort the cost of a weekslong trial that could have added years to the prison time he's already facing following the Virginia guilty verdicts. A jury there found him guilty of filing false tax returns, failing to report foreign bank accounts and bank fraud. Jurors deadlocked on 10 other counts.

Prosecutors on Friday presented new information about allegations they were prepared to reveal at trial, which was to have focused on Manafort's political consulting and lobbying work on behalf of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich and the pro-Russian Party of Regions.

That case alleged that Manafort directed a large-scale U.S. lobbying operation for Ukrainian interests but never registered with the Justice Department as a foreign agent despite being required to do so under the law, and that he concealed millions of dollars in income for the consulting work from the IRS.

He also failed to disclose his involvement in lobbying efforts made through a group of former European politicians, known as the Hapsburg Group, who pushed policies beneficial to Ukraine, prosecutors said Friday.

In 2013, one of the politicians and his country's prime minister met with then-President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden in the Oval Office. Manafort was later sent an email that the politicians had

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 26 of 38

"delivered the message of not letting 'Russians Steal Ukraine from the West.'"

Another allegation revealed Friday concerns Manafort's efforts to peddle stories to discredit Yanukovich's opponent, Yulia Tymoshenko, and undermine U.S. government support for her.

Prosecutors said he spread stories and secretly coordinated with an Israeli government official to publicize the idea that a U.S. Cabinet official was an anti-Semite for supporting Tymoshenko, "who in turn had formed a political alliance with a Ukraine party that espoused anti-Semitic views," court documents said.

"I have someone pushing it on the NY Post. Bada bing bada boom," Manafort wrote to a colleague, prosecutors say.

Online: Read the charges against Manafort: <http://apne.ws/M1oQRia>

Moon faces toughest challenge yet in 3rd summit with Kim

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The first inter-Korean summit of 2018, a sunny spectacle in late April, reduced war fears on the peninsula. The second, an emergency one in May, helped ensure a historic meeting between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump came off.

Now, at his third summit with Kim next week in Pyongyang, South Korean President Moon Jae-in faces his toughest challenge yet: delivering something substantive that goes beyond previous vague statements on denuclearization and helps get U.S.-North Korea talks back on track.

Negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang have sputtered in recent weeks, raising doubts about whether Kim is truly willing to relinquish his nuclear arsenal and putting pressure on Moon to broker progress once again.

The result will likely be a crucial indicator of how the larger nuclear negotiations with the United States will proceed. Moon will try to get Kim to express more clearly that he's prepared to abandon his nuclear weapons, which could create momentum for a second Kim-Trump summit.

Whether Moon succeeds, fails or falls somewhere in between, the third inter-Korean summit could help answer a persistent question: When Kim says he supports the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," what does he actually mean?

DENUCLEARIZATION DEBATE

Moon heads to Pyongyang on Tuesday facing lingering questions over his claim that Kim, during his conversations with South Korean officials, has privately expressed a genuine interest in dealing away his nuclear weapons and missiles.

The wave of optimism that surrounded the first two inter-Korean summits in April and May and the Singapore meeting between Trump and Kim in June conveniently overlooked disagreements about what exactly Kim had committed to.

"The third summit will bring more clarity to what North Korea means with the complete denuclearization of the peninsula," said Kim Taewoo, former president of Seoul's government-funded Korea Institute for National Unification. "If the North has been negotiating with goodwill all this time, Moon will be able to return with good results. But, regrettably, I see that possibility as low."

He said it will be crucial for Moon to get Kim Jong Un to give a clearer signal that he is willing to accept credible actions toward denuclearization, such as providing a detailed description of North Korea's nuclear program, a key first step toward inspecting and dismantling of it.

At his meetings with Moon and Trump, Kim signed statements pledging the complete denuclearization of the peninsula. But the North for decades has been pushing a concept of denuclearization that bears no resemblance to the American definition, vowing to pursue nuclear development until the United States removes its troops from South Korea and the nuclear umbrella defending South Korea and Japan.

The differences prompted Trump to cancel Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's planned visit to North Korea last month. After an earlier Pompeo visit, Pyongyang accused Washington of making "unilateral

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 27 of 38

and gangster-like" demands on denuclearization and bristled at the idea that it must take significant steps toward dismantling its nuclear program before a peace treaty is signed or international sanctions are lifted.

Moon, the son of North Korean war refugees, is eager to keep the nuclear diplomacy alive, not just to keep a lid on tensions, but also to advance his ambitious plans for engagement with the North, including joint economic projects and reconnecting inter-Korean roads and railways. These projects are held back by the sanctions against North Korea.

"What the South and North now needs is not just another joint declaration, but finding ways to substantially develop relations," Moon said in a Cabinet meeting Tuesday. "We cannot cease our efforts to mediate and facilitate talks from the middle until dialogue and communication between North Korea and the United States flow smoothly."

GETTING IT IN WRITING

The issue of declaring a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War will be high on the agenda in Pyongyang. The fighting stopped with an armistice that has left the peninsula technically at war.

Both Koreas are calling for a declaration by the end of the year, but the U.S. wants to see more concrete steps toward denuclearization first, and some analysts say a declaration could put pressure on the U.S. to withdraw its troops from South Korea.

"With the declaration, North Korea's trying to put itself on equal footing with the United States so it could turn the process into a bilateral arms reduction negotiation between two nuclear states," Kim, the security expert, said. "The process can't have anything to do with a plan to denuclearize unilaterally."

Chung Eui-yong, Moon's national security adviser, met Kim in Pyongyang earlier this month, and said the North Korean leader told him that an end-of-war declaration would not weaken the U.S.-South Korea alliance or lead to a withdrawal of U.S. troops. Chung also said Kim wishes to realize denuclearization before the end of Trump's first term.

Chung conveyed similarly promising comments from Kim after a previous visit in March, when South Korean officials shuttled between Pyongyang and Washington to set up the Trump-Kim meeting.

He said then that Kim had said the North would not need to keep its nuclear weapons if it received a credible security guarantee and that the North Korean leader understood that U.S.-South Korea joint military exercises must continue. The comments were seen as an important departure from North Korea's previous stance.

But Kim has never made similar comments publicly or in writing.

If Moon can't convince Kim to express a commitment to concrete denuclearization steps, he will at least have to get Kim to put the things Chung has said he was told in a written agreement, said Du Hyeogn Cha, a visiting scholar at Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies.

That would provide a starting point for establishing a timeline for denuclearization, reduce concerns over North Korea's intent and make it clearer that the North bears the greater responsibility in the efforts to resolve the nuclear crisis, Cha said.

"The Panmunjom Declaration after the first summit only provided a time limit for the end-of-war declaration, which was the end of 2018; on denuclearization, the statement just said the Koreas would jointly work toward it," Cha said. "A failure to get something more specific out of Kim could cause the diplomatic efforts to lose much of their force."

Follow Kim Tong-hyung on Twitter at @KimTongHyung

Trump, Pompeo bash ex-Secretary of State Kerry on Iran talks

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has unloaded on his Obama-era predecessor John Kerry for "actively undermining" U.S. policy on Iran by meeting several times recently with the Iranian foreign minister, who was his main interlocutor in the Iran nuclear deal negotiations.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 28 of 38

In unusually blunt and caustic language, Pompeo said Friday that Kerry's meetings with Mohammad Javad Zarif were "unseemly and unprecedented" and "beyond inappropriate." President Donald Trump had late Thursday accused Kerry of holding "illegal meetings with the very hostile Iranian Regime, which can only serve to undercut our great work to the detriment of the American people."

Pompeo said he would leave "legal determinations to others" but slammed Kerry as a former secretary of state for engaging with "the world's largest state-sponsor of terror" and telling Iran to "wait out this administration." He noted that just this week Iranian-backed militias had fired rockets at U.S. diplomatic compounds in Iraq.

"You can't find precedent for this in U.S. history, and Secretary Kerry ought not to engage in that kind of behavior," an agitated Pompeo told reporters at the State Department. "It's inconsistent with what foreign policy of the United States is as directed by this president, and it is beyond inappropriate for him to be engaged."

Kerry, who is promoting his new book "Every Day is Extra," tweeted a response to Trump that referred to the president's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, who agreed on Friday to cooperate with the special counsel's investigation into Russia interference in the 2016 presidential election and possible coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign.

"Mr. President, you should be more worried about Paul Manafort meeting with Robert Mueller than me meeting with Iran's FM. But if you want to learn something about the nuclear agreement that made the world safer, buy my new book," said Kerry.

He has been harshly critical of the president and his decision in May to withdraw from the Iran deal but denies "coaching" Tehran.

In a statement, his spokesman, Matt Summers, said: "There's nothing unusual, let alone unseemly or inappropriate, about former diplomats meeting with foreign counterparts. Secretary (Henry) Kissinger has done it for decades with Russia and China. What is unseemly and unprecedented is for the podium of the State Department to be hijacked for political theatrics."

Pompeo also took to task former Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and ex-Iran deal negotiator Wendy Sherman for joining Kerry at a meeting with Zarif and other Iranian officials earlier this year at a security conference in Munich — though Sherman said Friday she wasn't with Kerry and Moniz when she met Zarif there. Along with Kerry, Moniz and Sherman played key roles in negotiating the 2015 agreement between Iran and several world powers that lifted sanctions against Tehran in exchange for restrictions on its nuclear program.

"I wasn't in the meeting, but I am reasonably confident that he was not there in support of U.S. policy with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran," Pompeo said.

"Former secretaries of state — all of them, from either political party — ought not to be engaged in" this kind of activity, he said. "Actively undermining U.S. policy as a former secretary of state is literally unheard of."

Meetings between a private U.S. citizen and foreign official are not against the law and not necessarily inappropriate or a violation of federal regulations, but Trump, Pompeo and several GOP lawmakers say they are evidence Kerry and former Obama administration officials are trying to subvert Trump's hard line on Iran.

"John Kerry had illegal meetings with the very hostile Iranian Regime, which can only serve to undercut our great work to the detriment of the American people," Trump tweeted late Thursday. "He told them to wait out the Trump Administration! Was he registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act? BAD!"

The law Trump invoked — the Foreign Agents Registration Act, or FARA — requires registration and transparency by people or companies acting on behalf of foreign governments, political parties or individuals.

But Josh Rosenstein, a partner with the Washington law firm Sandler Reiff and a specialist in lobbying compliance, said there are too many unanswered questions to know whether the law applies to Kerry's interactions with Zarif. FARA's provisions don't extend to activities conducted entirely overseas, so where Kerry interacted with him matters. Also unclear is whether any Iranians specifically asked Kerry for advice.

"The devil's always in the details," Rosenstein said. "Simply offering advice to a foreign government

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 29 of 38

doesn't make you a foreign agent."

When reports of Kerry's ex-officio contacts with Zarif first surfaced in May, Trump tweeted similar thoughts. "John Kerry can't get over the fact that he had his chance and blew it! Stay away from negotiations John, you are hurting your country!" he said on May 8. A day earlier, he tweeted: "The United States does not need John Kerry's possibly illegal Shadow Diplomacy on the very badly negotiated Iran Deal. He was the one that created this MESS in the first place!"

Trump and Pompeo's criticism came after Kerry told conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt on Wednesday that earlier reports of his meetings with Zarif were correct: They had met three or four times since Kerry left office but not since Pompeo took the job in April. One of those meetings took place in Oslo, Norway, and another in Munich, he said. A third is reported to have occurred at the United Nations headquarters, which is not technically on U.S. soil.

Kerry told Hewitt that he was not coaching the Iranians on how to deal with the Trump administration. "That's not my job, and my coaching him would not, you know, that's not how it works," he said in the interview. "What I have done is tried to elicit from him (Zarif) what Iran might be willing to do in order to change the dynamic in the Middle East for the better."

Associated Press writer Richard Lardner contributed to this report.

Scientists: World's warming; expect more intense hurricanes

By SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A warmer world makes for nastier hurricanes. Scientists say they are wetter, possess more energy and intensify faster.

Their storm surges are more destructive because climate change has already made the seas rise. And lately, the storms seem to be stalling more often and thus dumping more rain.

Study after study shows that climate change in general makes hurricanes worse. But determining the role of global warming in a specific storm such as Hurricane Florence or Typhoon Mangkhut is not so simple — at least not without detailed statistical and computer analyses.

The Associated Press consulted with 17 meteorologists and scientists who study climate change, hurricanes or both. A few experts remain cautious about attributing global warming to a single event, but most of the scientists clearly see the hand of humans in Florence.

Global warming didn't cause Florence, they say. But it makes the system a bigger danger.

"Florence is yet another poster child for the human-supercharged storms that are becoming more common and destructive as the planet warms," said Jonathan Overpeck, dean of the environment school at University of Michigan. He said the risk extends beyond the Atlantic Ocean, such as Typhoon Mangkhut, which hit the Philippines on Friday.

For years, when asked about climate change and specific weather events, scientists would refrain from drawing clear connections. But over the past few years, the new field of attribution studies has allowed researchers to use statistics and computer models to try to calculate how events would be different in a world without human-caused climate change.

A couple of months after Hurricane Harvey, studies found that global warming significantly increased the odds for Harvey's record heavy rains.

"It's a bit like a plot line out of 'Back to the Future,' where you travel back in time to some alternate reality" that is plausible but without humans changing the climate, said University of Exeter climate scientist Peter Stott, one of the pioneers of the field.

A National Academy of Sciences report finds these studies generally credible. One team of scientists tried to do a similar analysis for Florence, but outside experts were wary because it was based on forecasts, not observations, and did not use enough computer simulations.

As the world warms and science advances, scientists get more specific, even without attribution studies. They cite basic physics, the most recent research about storms and past studies and put them together

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 30 of 38

for something like Florence.

"I think we can say that the storm is stronger, wetter and more impactful from a coastal flooding standpoint than it would have been BECAUSE of human-caused warming," Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann wrote in an email. "And we don't need an attribution study to tell us that in my view. We just need the laws of thermodynamics."

Georgia Tech climate scientist Kim Cobb looks not just at basic physics but all the peer-reviewed studies that especially link climate change to wetter storms.

"We have solid data across decades of rainfall records to nail the attribution — climate change is increasing the frequency of extreme rainfall events," Cobb said.

Several factors make scientists more confident in pointing the climate-change finger at Florence.

For every degree the air warms, it can hold nearly 4 percent more water (7 percent per degree Celsius) and offer measurably more energy to goose the storm, scientists said.

"The amount of water that comes out of hurricanes is certainly the most robust connection that we have," National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration climate scientist Jim Kossin said.

And to look at Florence specifically, "it's very likely that climate change has warmed the ocean such that the hurricane's intense rainfall is more destructive than without global warming," said Weather Underground Meteorology Director Jeff Masters, a former hurricane hunter.

The warmer air and water also makes storms more intense or stronger, Stott said.

A Kossin study this year showed that tropical cyclones — a category that includes hurricanes and typhoons — are moving slower and even stalling. Kossin said "it's happening a lot more than it used to." Several studies agree that climate change is to blame but differ slightly in their conclusions.

With the emergence of Florence, some place in the U.S. has been drenched because of a stalled hurricane for four years in a row, storm surge expert Hal Needham said.

Kossin and Overpeck also pointed to studies that show storms are intensifying more rapidly than they used to.

Just like in Superstorm Sandy, scientists said it is clear that hurricane storm surge is worsened by sea level rise because the power of 6 to 10 feet of water comes on top of seas that were considerably lower decades ago. An extra 8 inches or so can mean the difference between staying dry or getting damaged, Masters said.

In the Carolinas, natural and temporary climate factors added to the "march upwards" from global warming. Because of that, the seas have risen nearly 5 inches in five years, said Andrea Dutton of the University of Florida.

Meteorologist Ryan Maue of weathermodels.com cautioned that observers should "stick to overall trends around the world and not individual cases."

University of Miami hurricane expert Brian McNoldy said there are too many ever-changing factors that make it hard to blame climate change specifically.

"If you are trying to make climate policy," Maue said Friday, "you don't want to make it on a storm-by-storm basis."

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

The Associated Press Health & Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

For the latest on Hurricane Florence, visit <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Hurricanes> .

Kavanaugh denies allegation of sexual misconduct in school

By LISA MASCARO, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh has denied an allegation of sexual misconduct from when he was in high school, seeking to defuse a potential threat to his confirmation as a handful of key senators remained silent on whether they would vote for him.

In a statement released by the White House Friday, Kavanaugh said: "I categorically and unequivocally deny this allegation. I did not do this back in high school or at any time."

Senate Republicans insist Kavanaugh's confirmation remains on track. But the allegation has inflamed an already intense political battle over President Donald Trump's nominee. It also pushes the #MeToo movement into the court fight, less than two months before congressional elections that have seen a surge of female Democratic candidates.

The New Yorker magazine reported that the alleged incident took place at a party when Kavanaugh, now 53, was attending Georgetown Preparatory School. The woman making the allegation attended a nearby school.

The magazine says the woman sent a letter about the allegation to Democrats. A Democratic aide and another person familiar with the letter confirmed Friday to The Associated Press that the allegation is sexual in nature. Two other people familiar with the matter confirmed it concerned an incident alleged to have occurred in high school. They were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The AP has not confirmed the details of the incident alleged in The New Yorker's account. The New Yorker did not name the woman.

Rallying to Kavanaugh's defense, 65 women who knew him in high school issued a letter saying Kavanaugh has "always treated women with decency and respect." The letter was circulated by Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"We are women who have known Brett Kavanaugh for more than 35 years and knew him while he attended high school between 1979 and 1983," wrote the women, who said most of them had attended all-girl high schools in the area. "For the entire time we have known Brett Kavanaugh, he has behaved honorably and treated women with respect."

The show of support for Kavanaugh was organized by his former law clerks. Three women reached by the AP said they were first asked to sign the letter on Thursday.

Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, a Republican member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he won't let Kavanaugh's confirmation be stalled by the allegation, which he called "wholly unverifiable."

"Every accuser deserves to be heard. But a process of verification is also necessary," Hatch said.

The swift pushback comes after the committee's top Democrat, Dianne Feinstein of California, notified federal investigators about information she received on the nominee.

Feinstein won't disclose the information publicly, but the FBI confirmed it has included it in Kavanaugh's background file at the committee, now available confidentially to all senators.

Kavanaugh's nomination has divided the Senate, and the new information complicates the process, especially as key Republican senators, including Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, are under enormous pressure from outside groups seeking to sway their votes on grounds that a Justice Kavanaugh might vote to undercut the Roe v. Wade ruling. One activist group favoring abortion choice, NARAL, called on Kavanaugh to withdraw from consideration.

The Judiciary Committee, which has finished confirmation hearings for Kavanaugh, still plans to vote next Thursday on whether to recommend that he be confirmed by the full Senate, a spokesman said.

The White House called Feinstein's move an "11th hour attempt to delay his confirmation."

Collins held an hourlong phone call with Kavanaugh on Friday, her spokeswoman confirmed. It had been a previously scheduled follow-up to an initial visit that Kavanaugh made to her office in August. It was not immediately clear if they discussed the new information.

If Collins or Murkowski should vote for Kavanaugh, he is likely to be confirmed. Every other Republican in the Senate is expected to vote yes — and some Democrats from Trump-won states may join them — though it remains to be seen if the misconduct allegation will cost him any support.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 32 of 38

Feinstein said in a statement Thursday that she "received information from an individual concerning the nomination." She said the person "strongly requested confidentiality, declined to come forward or press the matter further, and I have honored that decision."

The FBI confirmed that it received the information Wednesday evening and included it in Kavanaugh's background file, which is maintained as part of his nomination. The agency said that is its standard process.

Feinstein's statement that she had "referred the matter to federal investigative authorities" jolted Capitol Hill and threatened to disrupt what had been a steady path toward confirmation for Kavanaugh by Republicans eager to see the conservative judge on the court.

A spokeswoman for Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Calif., declined to confirm reports that the congresswoman had forwarded a letter containing the allegations to Feinstein. The spokeswoman said the office has a confidentiality policy regarding casework for constituents.

A White House spokeswoman, Kerri Kupec, said the FBI has vetted Kavanaugh "thoroughly and repeatedly" during his career in government and the judiciary.

The allegation against Kavanaugh prompted a public statement from Anita Hill, who famously accused Justice Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment during his confirmation hearings in 1991. He denied those allegations and was confirmed.

Hill, who is now a professor at Brandeis University, urged the Senate to put in place a process for people to come forward.

"Even in the #MeToo era, it remains incredibly difficult to report harassment, abuse or assault by people in power," she said.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Michael Balsamo, Mary Clare Jalonick, Zeke Miller and Alan Fram contributed to this report.

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Everyone wants answers: State, feds hunt for gas blast cause

By **BOB SALSBERG**, Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Mass. (AP) — Investigators worked Friday to pinpoint the cause of a series of fiery natural gas explosions that killed a teen driver in his car just hours after he got his license, injured at least 25 others and left dozens of homes in smoldering ruins.

Authorities said an estimated 8,000 people were displaced at the height of Thursday's post-explosion chaos in three towns north of Boston rocked by the disaster. Most were still waiting, shaken and exhausted, to be allowed to return to their homes.

Gov. Charlie Baker said Friday that hundreds of gas technicians were being deployed throughout the night and into Saturday to make sure each home is safe to enter.

Even after residents return and their electricity is restored, gas service won't be turned on until technicians can inspect every connection in each home — a process that could take weeks.

"This remains a tremendous inconvenience for many people," Baker said. "It's essential for the crews to get this right."

The National Transportation Safety Board sent a team to help investigate the blasts in a state where some of the aging gas pipeline system dates to the 1860s.

The rapid-fire series of gas explosions that one official described as "Armageddon" ignited fires in 60 to 80 homes in the working-class towns of Lawrence, Andover and North Andover, forcing entire neighborhoods to evacuate as crews scrambled to fight the flames and shut off the gas and electricity.

Gas and electricity remained shut down Friday in most of the area, and entire neighborhoods were eerily deserted.

Authorities said Leonel Rondon, 18, of Lawrence, died after a chimney toppled by an exploding house

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 33 of 38

crashed into his car. He was rushed to a Boston hospital and pronounced dead Thursday evening.

Rondon, a musician who went by the name DJ Blaze, had just gotten his driver's license hours earlier, grieving friends and relatives told The Boston Globe. "It's crazy how this happened," said a friend, Cassandra Carrion.

The state Registry of Motor Vehicles said Rondon had been issued his driver's license only hours earlier Thursday.

The NTSB said Friday that its team should on the scene for a week. The agency said the team will be gathering perishable evidence from the accident site and pulling together information from federal, state, and local agencies, and from Columbia Gas.

The agency said among the issues to be examined are the design of the pipeline system, any upgrades and the operator's management of the pipeline. A review of the emergency response of the operator and local first responders will also be conducted.

Massachusetts State Police urged all residents with homes serviced by Columbia Gas in the three communities to evacuate, snarling traffic and causing widespread confusion as residents and local officials struggled to understand what was happening. Some 400 people spent the night in shelters, and school was canceled Friday as families waited to return to their homes.

The governor said state and local authorities were investigating but it could take days or weeks before they turn up answers. He declared a state of emergency for the affected area so the state could take over recovery efforts.

Baker authorized the utility Eversource to take management control over the effort to restore services.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency blamed the fires on gas lines that had become over-pressurized but said investigators were still examining what happened.

Capturing the mounting sense of frustration, Democratic U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton tweeted that he had called the utility's president several times with no response. "Everyone wants answers. And we deserve them," Moulton said.

Columbia Gas President Steve Bryant wouldn't comment on the suspected cause of the blasts, deflecting questions about his company's response but saying it had "substantive, lengthy conversations" with the authorities.

The Massachusetts gas pipeline system is among the oldest in the country, as much as 157 years old in some places, according to the Conservation Law Foundation, an environmental advocacy group.

Columbia Gas had announced earlier Thursday that it would be upgrading gas lines in neighborhoods across the state, including the area where the explosions happened. It was not clear whether work was happening there Thursday, and a spokeswoman did not return calls seeking comment.

U.S. Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey said they are calling on the Senate's Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee to hold a hearing to determine what went wrong and how to make sure it doesn't happen again.

At least one story of heroism emerged from the ashes: that of Lawrence police officer Ivan Soto. His house burned nearly to the ground, but after rushing home to check on his family and warn his neighbors to evacuate, he went back on patrol.

"He actually stayed on duty even though his house was burning down" neighbor Christel Nazario told The Associated Press. "I don't know how he did it."

The three communities house more than 146,000 residents about 26 miles (40 kilometers) north of Boston, near the New Hampshire border. Lawrence, the largest, is a majority Latino city with a population of about 80,000.

Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera reassured immigrants who might not be living in his city legally that they had nothing to fear.

"Do not be afraid. Stay in the light. We will support you and your family," Rivera said at a news conference Friday, speaking in English and Spanish. "Lawrence is one community."

Authorities said all of the fires had been extinguished overnight and the situation was stabilizing. But Rivera criticized the gas utility for poor communications and accused the company of "hiding from the problem."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 34 of 38

On Thursday, Andover Fire Chief Michael Mansfield described the unfolding scene as "Armageddon." "There were billows of smoke coming from Lawrence behind me. I could see pillars of smoke in front of me from the town of Andover," he told reporters.

Aerial footage of the area showed some homes that appeared to be torn apart by the blasts.

Brenda Charest stood anxiously on her front porch while a crew checked her undamaged home before giving her the all-clear to return Friday. On Thursday, she had come home to a hissing sound in her basement and a strong odor of natural gas.

"We took off. I said, 'Pack up, we're out of here,'" said Charest, who went with her 93-year old father and cat to a relative's home. "It was scary. We didn't know anything."

Columbia Gas was fined \$100,000 by the state for a variety of safety violations since 2010, including \$35,000 in 2016 for failing to follow company and pipeline safety regulations when responding to an outage and repairing a leak in Taunton.

The company was sued in 2014 after a strip club was destroyed in a natural gas explosion in Springfield, Massachusetts, after a Columbia employee accidentally punctured a gas line while probing for a leak. The November 2012 blast leveled the Scores Gentleman's Club, injuring about 20 people and damaging dozens of other buildings. The club owner and the gas company eventually settled the case.

Gas explosions have claimed lives and destroyed property around the U.S. in recent years.

In 2016, a buildup of natural gas triggered an explosion and fire that killed seven people in apartments in Silver Spring, Maryland.

In 2014, a gas explosion in New York City's East Harlem neighborhood killed eight people and injured about 50. Consolidated Edison later agreed to pay \$153 million to settle charges after the state's Public Service Commission found it had violated state safety regulations. A gas leak had been reported before that blast.

A 2011 natural gas explosion killed five people in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and that state's largest gas utility was fined by regulators, who called the company's safety record "downright alarming."

Associated Press writers Philip Marcelo in Lawrence, Alanna Durkin Richer, Collin Binkley and Steve LeBlanc in Boston, Mary Schwalm in North Andover and Randy Herschaft in New York contributed to this report.

WHAT'S HAPPENING: Tree falling in Florence kills mom, baby

By JENNIFER KAY, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — It's about the water, not the wind, with Florence making an extended stay along the North Carolina coast. Forecasters say "it cannot be emphasized enough that the most serious hazard posed by the slow-moving storm is extremely heavy rainfall, which will cause disastrous flooding that will be spreading inland." Officials also have confirmed the hurricane's first known fatalities.

BY THE NUMBERS

—Storm deaths: 4 fatalities confirmed

—Intensity: Florence came ashore with top winds of 90 mph (145 kph), below the 111 mph (178 kph) threshold for a "major" hurricane but still extremely dangerous. It was downgraded Friday afternoon to a tropical storm with winds of 70 mph (110 kph) before its core slogged into coastal South Carolina hours later.

—Still big: tropical-force winds extending out up to 175 miles (280 kilometers) from the center.

—Heavy rains: Up to 18 trillion gallons falling on seven states over seven days, as much water as there is the entire Chesapeake Bay

—So far: roughly 15 inches (38 centimeters) of rain have fallen north of Swansboro, North Carolina, and it's only going to get worse

—Storm surge: up to 13 feet (nearly 4 meters), and seawaters could push inland 2 miles (more than 3 kilometers), depending on how long Florence lingers

—Stalled: Florence was nearly at a standstill Friday afternoon, moving at just 3 mph (6 kph)

—In the dark: about 890,000 outages, mostly in North Carolina, as of Friday evening, with Duke Energy

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 35 of 38

anticipating 1 million to 3 million homes and businesses losing power

—Protected: More than 19,000 people in shelters in North Carolina, 6,400 in South Carolina and 400 in Virginia

—Populated coastline: 11 million Americans live in areas that were under storm watches and warnings

—Grounded: nearly 2,400 flights canceled

—Potential losses: estimated \$10 billion to \$60 billion in economic damages

—Rescued: more than 400 people needed help in high waters in New Bern and Jacksonville, North Carolina

FACES OF FLORENCE

Images captured by Associated Press journalists show last-minute preparations to secure homes and businesses and families settling into storm shelters as rain and storm surge began.

STORM DEATHS

Police in Wilmington, North Carolina, tweeted that a mother and infant died when a tree fell on their house; the baby's father was injured. Officials also said one person was electrocuted in Lenoir County while plugging in a generator in the rain, and a man died after being blown to the ground while checking on his hunting dogs.

BUSY TROPICS

Typhoon Mangkhut slammed into the Philippines, ripping off tin roof sheets and knocking out power in an agricultural region of flood-prone rice plains and landslide-prone mountain provinces. In the Atlantic Ocean, the Azores could get gusty winds and heavy rains from Tropical Storm Helene this weekend, while Isaac regained tropical storm strength after earlier weakening in the Caribbean Sea.

STAGGERING STATS

Picture the entire state of Texas covered with roughly 4 inches (10 centimeters) of water: that's Florence's rainfall forecast over a week. Meteorologist Ryan Maue of weathermodels.com estimates Florence could dump about 18 trillion gallons (68 trillion liters) of rain. That's still less than the 25 trillion gallons (95 trillion liters) Hurricane Harvey dropped last year in Texas and Louisiana.

FEMA RUMORS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has set up a "rumor control" website to quash false information in Florence's wake. The page says service animals aren't barred from evacuation shelters, beaches shouldn't be used for sand bags, and evacuation orders aren't enforced by FEMA. It also responds to criticism about money diverted from FEMA to federal immigration authorities.

SHIFTING SANDS

If Florence doesn't wipe out oceanfront homes on stilts along the Carolinas coast, rising sea levels will. Florence lashed low-lying barrier islands that experience some of the fastest rates of sea level rise observed anywhere in the world, nearly an inch (2.5 centimeters) a year.

DAMAGE REPORTS

The city of New Bern, North Carolina, reported more than 1,200 911 calls in a 12-hour span, and roughly 4,300 residences and 300 commercial buildings damaged. That count is expected to rise significantly.

TO THE RESCUE

"WE ARE COMING TO GET YOU" — that's what the city of New Bern, North Carolina, tweeted after hundreds of people needed rescue from rising waters from the Neuse River, and a TV station had to evacuate its newsroom in the middle of its hurricane coverage. The National Weather Service measured storm surge in New Bern at 10 feet (3 meters) deep.

THE POWER OF WATER

Scientists can't say — yet — that climate change helped make Florence worse. But previous research has shown that the strongest hurricanes are getting wetter, more intense and intensifying faster due to human-caused warming. Sea level rise also adds to storm surge damage: When Hurricane Sandy hit in 2012, a study found sea-level rise over the 20th century caused more than \$2 billion in additional damage in New York City due to the "extra" storm surge it generated.

ESCAPING TO FLORIDA

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 36 of 38

Hurricanes usually drive people away from Florida, but Florence is making the Sunshine State into a refuge for people from the Carolinas. Cruise ships have diverted to Florida away from the storm's path, and some hotels are offering special discounts for evacuees. What could be better than riding out a hurricane at Walt Disney World ?

For the latest on Hurricane Florence, visit <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Hurricanes>

Small-company stocks shine on an otherwise ho-hum day

By MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks hardly moved Friday as the market wrapped up a solid week. Smaller companies rose following signs of sustained economic growth and reports that more tariffs on Chinese goods could be on the way.

Stocks rose in early trading after the Federal Reserve said production of cars and energy jumped in August. The Commerce Department said sales by retailers grew only slightly in August after a big gain in July.

"It's a reflection of stronger economic growth," said Kate Warne, an investment strategist for Edward Jones. "It continues to bode well for strength going into the fall and later in the year.

Warne said she expects the U.S. economy to grow about 3 percent this year, which is what most experts are forecasting. She said growth will be a bit weaker than in 2019, but that would still be better than most of the previous years since 2009.

Bond yields jumped Friday as investors interpreted the Federal Reserve report as a sign the economy will keep growing and interest rates will keep rising. That helped bank stocks, but it hurt high-dividend stocks.

Retailers and health care stocks also took small losses.

The S&P 500 index rose 0.80 points to 2,904.98. The index rose all five days this week after a four-day losing streak last week.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 8.68 points to 26,154.67. The Nasdaq composite slipped 3.67 points to 8,010.04.

The combination of trade worries and positive economic news helped smaller companies, which do more business in the U.S. than larger companies do. That makes them less vulnerable to flare-ups in trade tensions. The Russell 2000 index gained 7.40 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,721.72.

Bloomberg News reported that President Donald Trump has told aides to go ahead with tariffs on \$200 billion in imports from China. The report said the administration may be having difficulty finding products it can tax that won't result in major complaints from consumers and businesses.

China said Thursday the U.S. had reached out to open a new round of trade talks. The new round of tariffs would represent a major escalation in the U.S.-China conflict, which has lasted for most of this year.

Industrial companies also rose after the Federal Reserve's report. Aerospace company Boeing jumped 1.2 percent to \$359.80 and shipbuilder Huntington Ingalls gained 1.6 percent to \$252.90.

The industrial data is a sign the U.S. economy is likely to keep growing, which means the Federal Reserve is likely to continue raising interest rates. It is expected to raise interest rates later this month, the third increase this year out of an expected four.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.99 percent from 2.96 percent late Thursday.

Banks and financial companies rose, as higher long-term interest rates help them make more money from mortgages and other types of loans. Prudential Financial added 2.9 percent to \$99.86 and SVB Financial Group LendingTree gained 1.4 percent to \$319.29.

A series of gas explosions killed one person and injured at least 10 and forced evacuations in three communities north of Boston. The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency blamed the fires on gas lines that had become over-pressurized.

They are served by Columbia Gas, a unit of NiSource. NiSource's stock plunged 11.7 percent to \$24.79.

Hurricane Florence came ashore in North Carolina Friday morning, and while its winds have weakened, experts say the storm surge is a significant threat. The storm is slow moving, meaning North and South

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 37 of 38

Carolina could get days of heavy rain.

While Florence could do significant damage to the region, it's not expected to have a big effect on the overall economy. Economists at IHS Markit said the hurricane might slow down growth in the third quarter a bit but would likely contribute to growth in the fourth quarter.

Shares in British Columbia marijuana company Tilray, which have made huge gains in the last two months, slumped after Politico reported that the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol may ban people who work in the marijuana industry from entering the country.

Canada is set to legalize marijuana in October and stocks in the industry have soared recently. Tilray slumped 8.9 percent to \$109.05. The stock was valued at \$17 when Tilray went public in July.

Two competitors, Canopy Growth and Cronos Group, continued to rise. Canopy has doubled in valued this year and Cronos is up 34 percent.

Benchmark U.S. crude added 0.6 percent to \$68.99 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, dipped 0.1 percent to \$78.09 a barrel in London.

Wholesale gasoline lost 1.1 percent to \$1.97 a gallon and heating oil fell 0.6 percent to \$2.21 a gallon. Natural gas dropped 1.8 percent to \$2.77 per 1,000 cubic feet.

The dollar rose to 112.03 yen from 111.88 yen. The euro slipped to \$1.1632 from \$1.1692.

Gold lost 0.6 percent to \$1,201.10 an ounce. Silver fell 0.7 percent to \$14.14 an ounce. Copper sank 1.4 percent to \$2.65 a pound.

The German DAX added 0.6 percent and the French CAC rose 0.5 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 index picked up 0.3 percent.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 gained 1.2 percent and South Korea's Kospi advanced 1.4 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 1 percent.

AP Markets Writer Marley Jay can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MarleyJayAP> His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/marley%20jay>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Sept. 15, the 258th day of 2018. There are 107 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 15, 1972, a federal grand jury in Washington indicted seven men in connection with the Watergate break-in.

On this date:

In 1776, British forces occupied New York City during the American Revolution.

In 1789, the U.S. Department of Foreign Affairs was renamed the Department of State.

In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr was acquitted of a misdemeanor charge two weeks after he was found not guilty of treason.

In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws deprived German Jews of their citizenship.

In 1940, during the World War II Battle of Britain, the tide turned as the Royal Air Force inflicted heavy losses upon the Luftwaffe.

In 1942, during World War II, the aircraft carrier USS Wasp was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine; the U.S. Navy ended up sinking the badly damaged vessel.

In 1950, during the Korean conflict, United Nations forces landed at Incheon in the south and began their drive toward Seoul (sohl).

In 1961, the United States began Operation Nougat, a series of underground nuclear explosions in the Nevada Test Site, two weeks after the Soviet Union resumed testing its nuclear weapons.

In 1963, four black girls were killed when a bomb went off during Sunday services at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. (Three Ku Klux Klansmen were eventually convicted for their

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 068 ~ 38 of 38

roles in the blast.)

In 1981, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted unanimously to approve the Supreme Court nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor.

In 1982, Iran's former foreign minister, Sadegh Ghotbzadeh (sah-DEK' goht-BZAH'-deh), was executed after he was convicted of plotting against the government. The first edition of USA Today was published.

In 2001, President George W. Bush ordered U.S. troops to get ready for war and braced Americans for a long, difficult assault against terrorists to avenge the Sept. 11 attack. Beleaguered Afghans streamed out of Kabul, fearing a U.S. military strike against Taliban rulers harboring Osama bin Laden.

Ten years ago: On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 504.48, or 4.42 percent, to 10,917.51 while oil closed below \$100 a barrel for the first time in six months amid upheaval in the financial industry as Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. filed for bankruptcy protection and Merrill Lynch & Co. was sold to Bank of America. Richard Wright, a founding member of Pink Floyd, died at age 65.

Five years ago: Hundreds of people, black and white, many holding hands, filled the Alabama church that was bombed by the Ku Klux Klan 50 years earlier to mark the anniversary of the blast that killed four little black girls and became a landmark moment in the civil rights struggle. Jackie Lomax, 69, a singer-songwriter who'd worked with the Beatles and had a long solo career, died in Wirral, England.

One year ago: North Korea fired an intermediate-range missile over Japan into the northern Pacific, its longest-ever such flight. A bomb partially detonated on a London subway car, injuring 51 people, including those hurt fleeing the train. (An 18-year-old Iraqi asylum-seeker, Ahmed Hassan, was convicted of attempted murder and sentenced to a minimum of 34 years in prison.) Character actor Harry Dean Stanton died in Los Angeles at the age of 91. Harvard University reversed its decision to name as a visiting fellow Chelsea Manning, the former soldier who'd been convicted of leaking classified information. The Cleveland Indians saw their winning streak end at 22, an American League record, as they lost 4-3 to the Kansas City Royals. NASA's Cassini spacecraft disintegrated in the skies above Saturn after a journey of 20 years; it was the only spacecraft ever to orbit Saturn and sent back images of the planet, its rings and its moons.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Forrest Compton is 93. Comedian Norm Crosby is 91. Actor Henry Darrow is 85. Baseball Hall of Famer Gaylord Perry is 80. Actress Carmen Maura is 73. Opera singer Jessye Norman is 73. Writer-director Ron Shelton is 73. Actor Tommy Lee Jones is 72. Movie director Oliver Stone is 72. Rock musician Kelly Keagy (KAY'-gee) (Night Ranger) is 66. Rock musician Mitch Dorge (Crash Test Dummies) is 58. Football Hall of Famer Dan Marino is 57. Actor Danny Nucci is 50. Rap DJ Kay Gee is 49. Actor Josh Charles is 47. Singer Ivette (EE'-veht) Sosa (Eden's Crush) is 42. Actor Tom Hardy is 41. Actress Marisa Ramirez is 41. Pop-rock musician Zach Filkins (OneRepublic) is 40. Actor Dave Annable is 39. Actress Amy Davidson is 39. Britain's Prince Harry is 34. TV personality Heidi Montag is 32. Actress Kate Mansi is 31.

Thought for Today: "You cannot survive if you do not know the past." — Oriana Fallaci, Italian journalist (1929-2006).