

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 1 of 57

- 1- Frost Construction Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 2- Coming up on GDILIVE.COM
- 2- Be Careful Grazing the Green This Fall
- 3- Mobridge-Pollock advances to second round playoffs
- 4- 11B Football Bracket
- 5- Fjeldheim for County Commission ad
- 6- Winter 2018 Precipitation outlook
- 7- Winter 2018 Temperature Outlook
- 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

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



Friday, October 19, 2018

6:00pm: Volleyball at Milbank. C and JV matches at 6 p.m. followed by varsity match.

Saturday, October 20, 2018

State Cross Country at Sioux Falls.

Oral Interp at Florence

Robotics at Groton Area

Monday, October 22, 2018

Oral Interp at Brookings High School

6:00pm: Volleyball: Girls Varsity Match at Deuel High School. C & JV matches start at 6pm followed by varsity match.

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

End of 1st Quarter

5:30pm- 6:30pm: Title 1 Open House Groton Area Elementary School for parents and families in JK-5th.

Thursday, October 25, 2018

All State Chorus and Orchestra at the Rapid City Civic Center

Football: Boys Varsity Playoffs 2nd Round

Friday, October 26, 2018

All State Chorus and Orchestra at the Rapid City Civic Center

Saturday, October 27, 2018

ACT Test (Cancelled) Groton Area High School (This testing center has been closed for this test by ACT due to low registration numbers. Students will be notified by ACT of their new testing center assignment.)

All State Chorus and Orchestra at the Rapid City Civic Center

Oral Interp (Pumpkinstakes) at Watertown High School

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 2 of 57

It's Volleyball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Milbank
Bulldogs**

VS

Groton Area Tigers



Friday, Oct. 19, 2018
7:15 p.m. at Milbank High School

Be Careful Grazing the Green This Fall

BROOKINGS, S.D. - This fall, South Dakota livestock producers need to be careful when grazing the fall green up of cool season grasses.

"Some areas of South Dakota have been blessed with plenty of precipitation this year, making it tempting to heavily graze cool season grasses. But, extreme diligence must be taken not to overgraze during the fall green up of cool season grasses," said Sean Kelly, SDSU Extension Range Management Field Specialist.

Kelly explained that during the fall green up, cool season grasses are storing their energy reserves to ensure health through the dormant season and vigor next spring when the growing season starts again (Figure 2). Whereas, warm season grasses grow later in the season during the summer and late summer and do not get another green up in the fall of the year.

Leave 6 inches

Cool season grasses have two growing seasons (Figure 1).

"They grow in the spring and early summer and then get another growth spurt in the fall," Kelly said. "Tremendous damage to cool season grasses can happen if they are overgrazed during the fall green up and they are unable to build those root reserves."

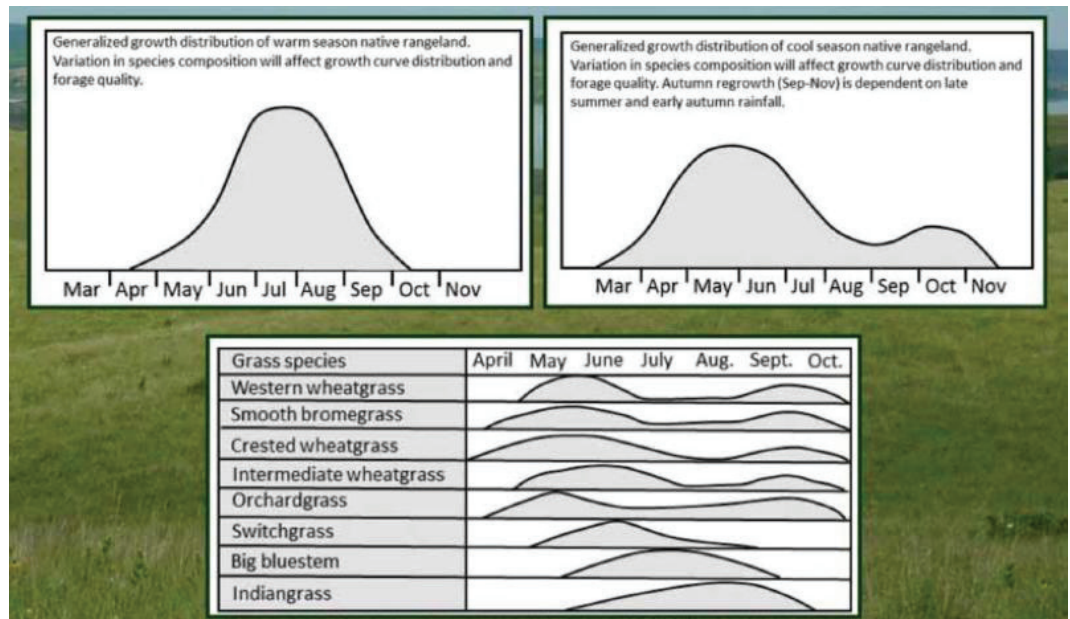
He explained that if overgrazed in the fall, cool season plants will have less vigor the following spring and may die out completely during the dormant season.

To ensure cool season grasses are not overgrazed, a best management practice is to leave at least 6-inches.

"Native cool season grasses should not be grazed shorter than 6 inches in plant height," Kelly said.

There are yet other benefits to leaving sufficient plant height into the dormant season.

"The soil surface will be protected from erosion and will optimize snow capture during the winter," Kelly said.



Source: South Dakota Grassland Coalition Healthy Grasslands Figure 1. Warm season and cool season growth curves.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 3 of 57

Mobridge-Pollock advances to second round playoffs

Mobridge-Pollock edged out Groton Area, 13-7, in the first round of the football playoffs held Thursday in Groton. Lady luck seemed to side with the Mobridge-Pollock Tigers, especially when a Mobridge-Pollock throw into the endzone was deflected by a Groton player, but then was caught by Mobridge-Pollock's Bryston Goehring. A Groton fumble set up the visiting Tigers in good field position which led to another touchdown and it was 13-0 with just under three minutes to go in the first quarter.

Groton Area would score in the third quarter when Jonathan Doeden would run for 71 yards and Hunter Schaller would kick the PAT to make it 13-7. Groton Area had the final drive of the game and was down to the Mobridge-Pollock 20 yard line, but the Mobridge-Pollock defense stopped the Groton Area drive with less than a minute to go in the game.

Wyatt Locke set a new school record for most sacks in a season with 14, breaking a record set by Bryce Raap of 13 in 2011.

Doeden had 189 yards rushing and 10 tackles. Lucas Hinman had 28 yards rushing. Hinman and Thomas Cranford each had an interception while Kaden Kurtz and Brody DeHoet each had two sacks and Wyatt Locke had one.

This was the first time in 10 games that Mobridge-Pollock had defeated Groton Area.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Groton Area	0	0	7	0	7
Mobridge-Pollock	13	0	0	0	13

	Groton Area	Milbank
First Downs	10.....	14
Rushing	31-216.....	35-124
	Jonathan Doeden 22-189, 1 TD	Issac Olson 13-67
	Lucas Hinman 6-28	Caden Halsey 18-52
	Darien Shabazz 3-(-1)	
Passing	Jonathan Doeden: 2-9-3, 3 Int.	Caden Halsey 8-17-113, 1 TD
Receivers	Lucas Hinman 2-3	Reese Cerney 5-74
Fumbles	Had 2, lost 1.....	Had 0, lost 0
Penalties	5-35.....	7-45
Defense	Kaden Kurtz 16 tackles, 2 sacks	Parker Mentz 7 tackles
	Brody DeHoet 12 tackles, 2 sacks	Jimmy Richards 7 tackles
	Austin Jones 11 tackles	
	Jonathan Doeden 10 tackles	
	Wyatt Locke 8 tackles, 1 sack	
	Thomas Cranford, 1 interception	
	Lucas Hinman, 1 interception	
Next Game	Done	at Canton
Record	5-4	6.3
Scoring		
First Quarter.....	3:11 Mobridge-Pollock: Bryston Goehring, 10 yard pass from Caden Halsey	
	PAT: Noah Feyereisen kick	
First Quarter.....	2:45 Mobridge-Pollock: Reese Cerney 30 yard pass from Caden Halsey.	
	PAT: Kick no good	
Third Quarter	11:05 Groton Area: Jonathan Doeden, 71 yard run.	
	PAT: Hunter Schaller kick	

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 4 of 57

1st Round
Thursday, October 18th

Quarterfinal Round
Thursday, October 25th

Semifinal Round
Friday, November 2nd

Championship Round
Friday, November 9th

Region 1

7:00 PM CT @ Aberdeen

#1 Aberdeen Roncalli	28
#4 Elk Point-Jefferson*	7

6:00 PM CT @ Groton

#2 Groton Area	7
#3 Mobridge-Pollock	13

Region 2

7:00 PM CT @ Canton

#1 Canton	54
#4 Sioux Valley*	14

7:00 PM CT @ Beresford

#2 Beresford	21
#3 SF Christian	28

Region 3

7:00 PM CT @ Bridgewater

#1 Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan	46
#4 Woon./Wess. Spr./San. Cent.	0

7:00 PM CT @ Mt. Vernon

#2 Mt. Vernon/Plankinton	42
#3 Stanley County*	21

Region 4

7:00 PM CT @ Winner

#1 Winner	50
#4 Custer*	0

6:00 PM MT @ Deadwood

#2 Lead-Deadwood	40
#3 Red Cloud	12

#1 Canton	
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#8 Aberdeen Roncalli	
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#4 SF Christian	
-----------------	--

#5 Winner	
-----------	--

#2 Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan	
----------------------------	--

#7 Mobridge-Pollock	
---------------------	--

#3 Mt. Vernon/Plankinton	
--------------------------	--

#6 Lead-Deadwood	
------------------	--



2018 Class 11B Football Playoffs

1:00 PM CT @ DakotaDome

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Quarterfinal Teams

Canton	9-0	47.625
Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan	8-1	44.875
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton	8-1	43.750
SF Christian	7-2	43.500
# Winner	7-2	43.125
Lead-Deadwood	7-2	43.125
^ Mobridge-Pollock	6-3	41.375
Aberdeen Roncalli	6-3	41.375

* Denotes at-large team (cannot host 1st round game)

tie broken by average of opponents' seed points
^ tie broken by result of head-to-head competition

> Teams are re-seeded after 1st Round



Doug **Fjeldheim** County Commission

**A devoted FAMILY MAN,
a FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE leader,
and a Commissioner who will make
decisions based on COMMON SENSE.**

My fellow taxpayers of Brown County:

I am seeking re-election to the Brown County Commission because I believe I can and have contributed to the greater good by spending our tax dollars wisely.

As a farmer I know how important it is to have good roads and to have a county government that works with the people of the area to protect their interests.

I would be honored to serve another 4 years as a commissioner and treat your tax dollars as my own because just like you, some of them are!

On November 6th, please cast your ballot for Doug Fjeldheim for Brown County Commission.

Doug Fjeldheim

Paid for by Fjeldheim for County Commission

Doug **Fjeldheim** County Commission

Doug Fjeldheim is seeking to be re-elected to the Brown County Commission. Having over 32 years of management experience in business, 30 years of farming experience, and as the Westport Township Clerk since 2003, Doug is familiar with the challenges each township faces.

As your County Commissioner, Doug Fjeldheim pledges to continue being prudent with how the tax dollars of Brown County are spent.

Groton Daily Independent

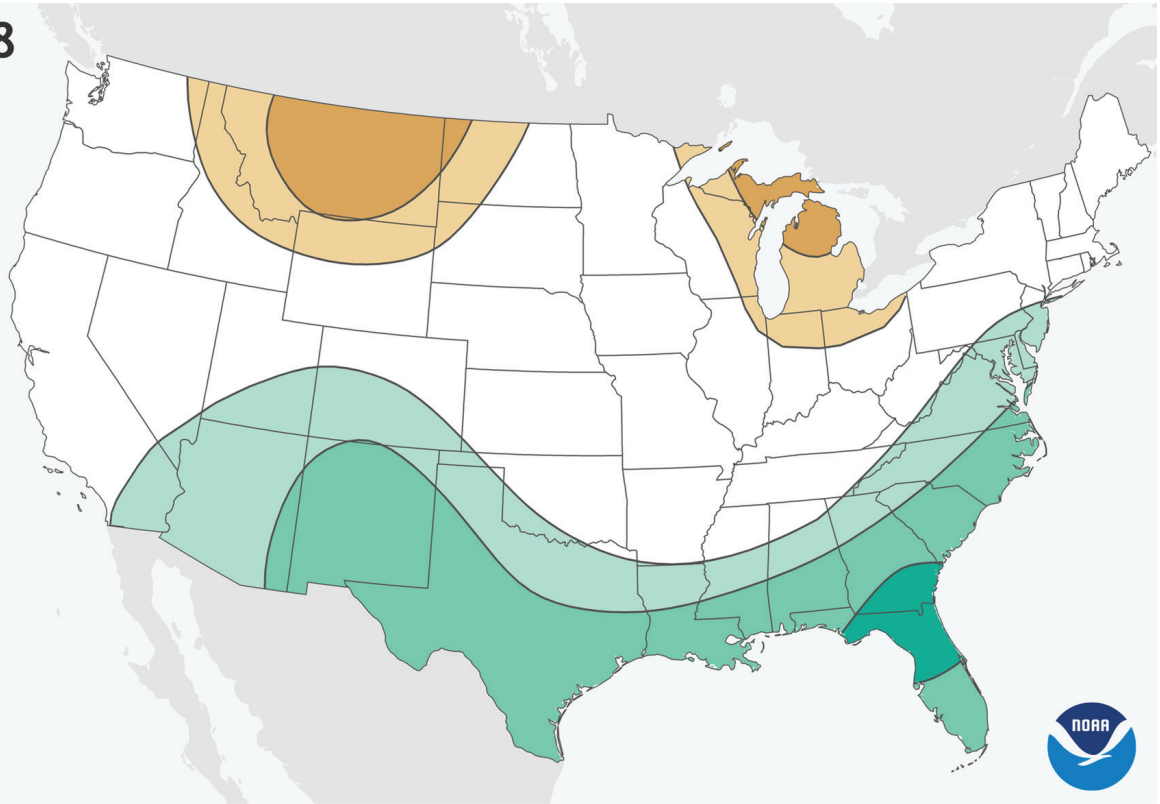
Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 6 of 57

Winter 2018

U.S. Precipitation Outlook

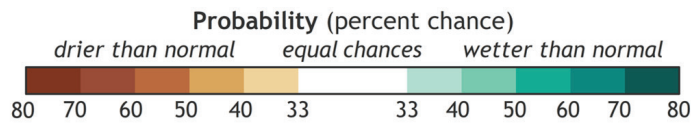


AK and HI not to scale



Precipitation Outlook
for Dec 2018 – Feb 2019
Issued 18 October 2018

NWS Climate Prediction Center
Map by NOAA Climate.gov



Precipitation

Wetter-than-average conditions are favored across the southern tier of the U.S., and up into the Mid-Atlantic. Northern Florida and southern Georgia have the greatest odds for above-average precipitation this winter.

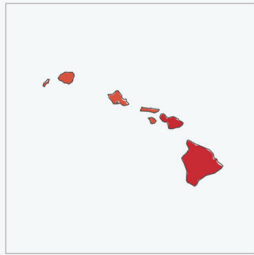
Drier-than-average conditions are most likely in parts of the northern Rockies and Northern Plains, as well as in the Great Lakes and northern Ohio Valley.

Groton Daily Independent

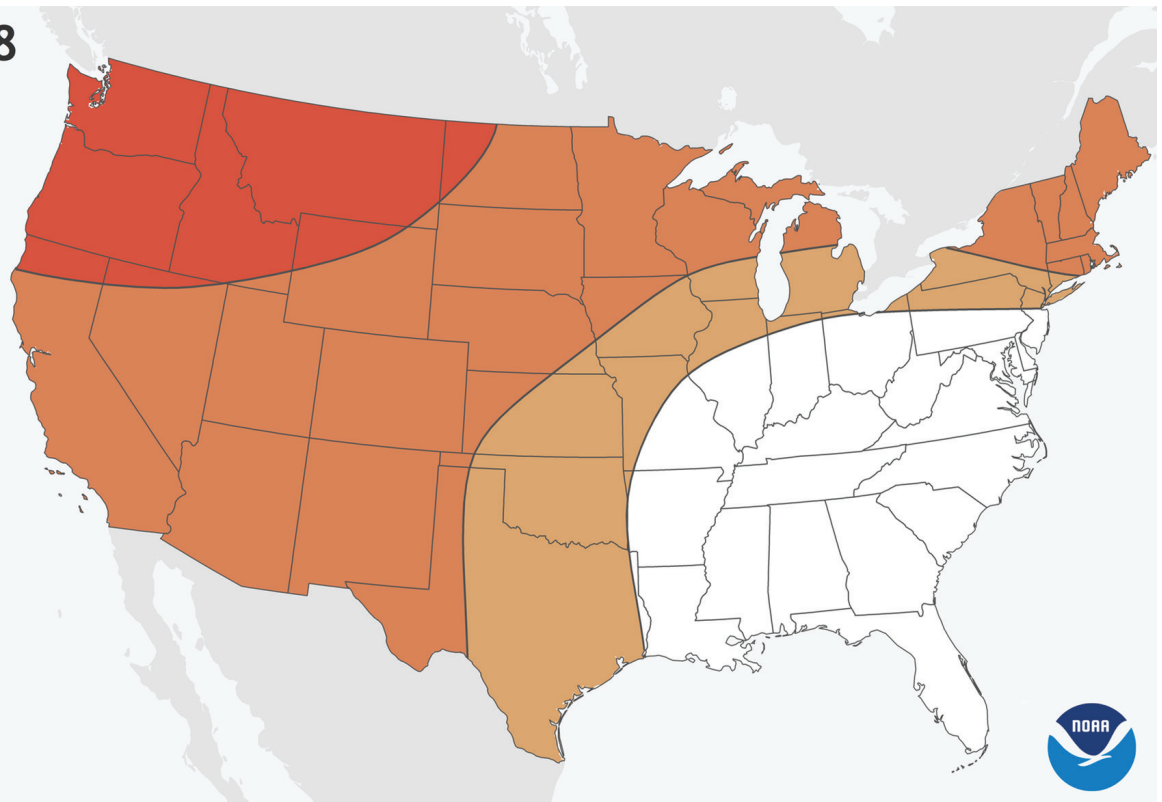
Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 7 of 57

Winter 2018

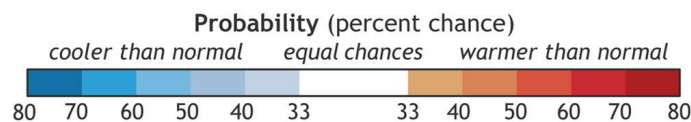
U.S. Temperature Outlook



AK and HI not to scale



Temperature Outlook
for Dec 2018 - Feb 2019
Issued 18 October 2018



NWS Climate Prediction Center
Map by NOAA Climate.gov

Temperature

Warmer-than-normal conditions are anticipated across much of the northern and western U.S., with the greatest likelihood in Alaska and from the Pacific Northwest to the Northern Plains.

The Southeast, Tennessee Valley, Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic all have equal chances for below-, near- or above-average temperatures.

No part of the U.S. is favored to have below-average temperatures.

Drought

Drought conditions are likely to persist across portions of the Southwest, Southern California, the central Great Basin, central Rockies, Northern Plains and portions of the interior Pacific Northwest.

Additional detail, including an informational video, can be found here: <https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/winter-outlook-favors-warmer-temperatures-for-much-of-us>

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 8 of 57

Today in Weather History

October 19, 1982: An early fall snowstorm dropped 3 to 12 inches of wet snow over the southeastern corner of South Dakota. The wet snow combined with the gusty winds of 20 to 40 mph dropped wind chills to around zero. Numerous trees snapped downing power lines. Power outages were extensive from Vermillion to Mitchell. Thunder rumbled, and lightning flashed amidst the height of the snowstorm. Almost a foot of snow fell in northern Union and southern Lincoln counties. High wind gusts knocked out television and radio transmitters in Sioux Falls. The weight of the snow collapsed a panel on the covered stadium at the University of South Dakota at Vermillion.

1996: The opening game of World Series between the Braves and Yankees in New York was postponed by heavy rains and high wind from a major storm system affecting the East Coast, marking the third time in history that the World Series opener had been postponed. Overall, nine of the 22 games that have been canceled in Series history were scheduled in New York or Brooklyn.

2007: A total of 87 tornadoes were reported in the United States from Oct. 17-19, a new record outbreak for the month, according to NOAA's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma. The outbreak also contributed to the monthly total of 105 tornado reports – the second highest for October, behind the 117 tornadoes in October 2001. Records date back to 1950.

1844 - The famous "Lower Great Lakes Storm" occurred. Southwesterly winds were at hurricane force for five hours, driving lake waters into downtown Buffalo NY. The storm drowned 200 persons. (David Ludlum)

1961 - Rain changed to a record early season, heavy wet snow over the southern mountains of West Virginia. Leaves were still on trees, resulting in the worst forest disaster since the fires of 1952 and 953. One to two feet of snow fell near Summersville and Richwood. (19th-20th) (The Weather Channel)

1984 - Thunderstorms deluged the town of Odem, TX (located 15 miles northwest of Corpus Christi) with 25 inches of rain in just three and a half hours. Most businesses in Odem were flooded, as were 1000 homes in nearby Sinton. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A cold front brought rainshowers to parts of the central U.S., and ushered cool Canadian air into the Great Plains Region. Daytime highs were only in the 30s in North Dakota and eastern Montana. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced high winds in eastern Colorado, with gusts to 63 mph reported at La Junta. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

Broton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 9 of 57

Today



Sunny and Breezy

High: 61 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 34 °F

Saturday



Sunny

High: 46 °F

Saturday Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 29 °F

Sunday



Sunny

High: 65 °F

Today
55 to 65°

afternoon winds out of the Northwest



20 to 25 mph
gusts **30 to 40 mph**

Very High Grassland Fire Danger



across portions of western and central South Dakota



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

Published on: 10/19/2018 at 4:06AM

Windy, with Elevated Fire Danger today! Cooler air will sweep in on windy northwest winds, with highs in the mid 50s to mid 60s. Winds of 20 to 25 mph, with gusts of 30 to 40 mph are expected this afternoon. The grassland fire danger index will reach the very high category today across portions of western and central South Dakota, as the stronger winds combine with ongoing dry conditions, and lower relative humidity levels.

Groton Daily Independent

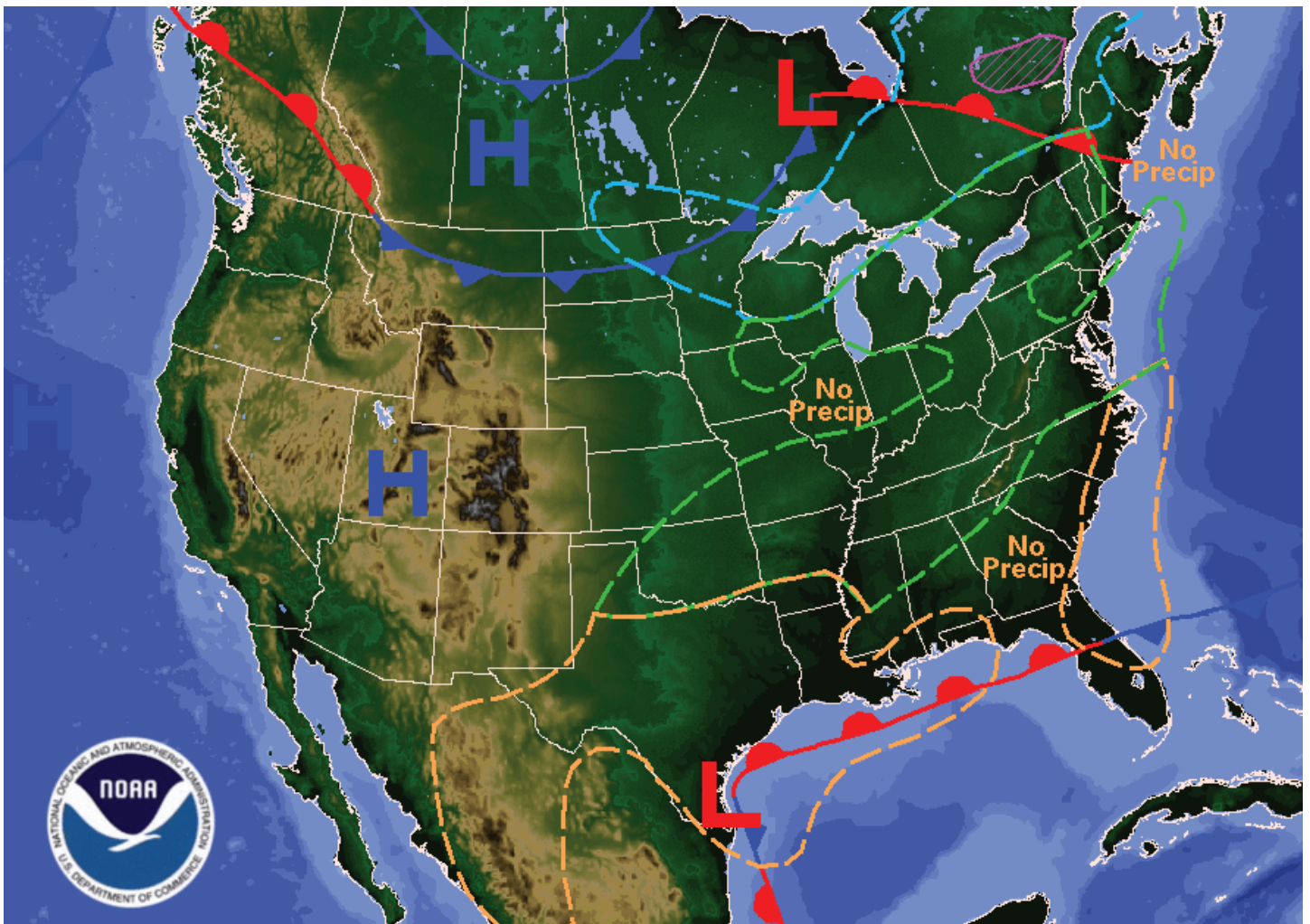
Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 10 of 57

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 74 °F at 3:58 PM
Low Outside Temp: 38 °F at 8:05 AM
High Gust: 36 mph at 4:13 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 86° in 1958, 1942
Record Low: 10° in 1917
Average High: 56°F
Average Low: 32°F
Average Precip in Oct.: 1.30
Precip to date in Oct.: 1.42
Average Precip to date: 19.78
Precip Year to Date: 15.03
Sunset Tonight: 6:41 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:57 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Oct 19, 2018, issued 4:39 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

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 11 of 57



A REASON TO SING

Robert Lowry, a pastor in New York City, was going through a difficult time during an epidemic. Many who were suffering would die in a matter of hours. Day after day he stood beside the graves of those who had died and tried to give hope to their loved ones. On one occasion, however, his faith was deeply challenged, and he cried out to God, Shall we meet again? Really? Can a gracious God do this to good people? We are parting at the river of death. Will we ever meet again at the river of life? He took his doubt seriously and began to read his Bible on his knees. Finally, he found Gods answer, went to his organ, sat down and wrote the words and music to the great old hymn, Yes, well gather at the river that flows by the throne of God.

The Steds were enjoying a beautiful day of sun and sand on the Long Island Sound. Suddenly, they heard a cry for help. With no thought for his safety, Mr. Sted ran into the water to rescue the boy - but failed. Mrs. Steds heart was broken when she returned to her empty home.

She fell on her knees and began to pray. God heard and helped her and gave her hope. She sat at her piano and wrote the beautiful hymn, Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Bicker, missionaries to Peru, were waiting to board a ship that would take them home for a vacation. Just before boarding the ship, Mr. Bicker was killed in an accident. To comfort his wife, and now fatherless children, Dr. Oswald Smith wrote the poem, God Understands and Cares.

Said the Psalmist, Sing for joy on beds of pain. He understands and cares!

Prayer: How grateful we are Lord for the assurance of Your presence and peace, even when life seems senseless. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 149:5b Sing for joy on beds of pain.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 12 of 57

2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- Nov./Dec./Jan./Feb./Mar. 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)
- Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 9/7/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching 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

News from the Associated Press

Teen found dead at Northern State died of heart defect

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — The mother of a Minnesota teen found dead in his dorm room at Northern State University in South Dakota says her son died of an undetected heart defect.

Eighteen-year-old Curtis LeMair, of Prior Lake, Minnesota, was found unresponsive by a wrestling teammate Wednesday. Mona LeMair said she spoke to a police sergeant present at her son's autopsy. She posted on Facebook that Curtis was looking forward to going hunting this weekend with his father, Chad LeMair.

The university held a candlelight vigil Wednesday night in the teen's honor.

LeMair was a 2018 Prior Lake High School graduate and accomplished wrestler. He was a three-time Minnesota state medalist and a two-time Fargo All-American. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Monday morning at St. Michael Catholic Church in Prior Lake.

Iowa-based Hy-Vee recalls several products

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Hy-Vee has recalled six meat and potato products for possible salmonella and listeria contamination.

The company says the potential danger was discovered when McCain Foods, a Hy-Vee supplier, announced it was recalling its caramelized mushrooms and fire-roasted tomatoes, which are ingredients used in the Hy-Vee products.

No illnesses have been reported.

The Hy-Vee products are:

- Hy-Vee Bacon Wrapped Cowgirl Chicken Grillers — 8 ounce each, UPC Code 023092600000
 - Hy-Vee Fire Roasted Tomato, Spinach, Mozzarella Twice Baked Potato — 5 ounce each, UPC Code 023755400000
 - Hy-Vee Cowgirl Chicken Griller Patty — 6 ounce each, UPC Code 023100200000
 - Hy-Vee Gourmet Steakhouse Mushroom & Swiss Burger — 6 ounce each, UPC Code 023168400000
 - Hy-Vee Ground Beef Sliders Mushroom & Swiss — 2 ounce each, UPC Code 023164300000
 - Hy-Vee Ground Beef Sliders Mushroom & Swiss — 12 count, 30 ounces, UPC Code 023266600000
- The products have a "best if used by" date of Oct. 22, 2018, or sooner.
The items can be returned to Hy-Vee stores for a full refund.

Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Brandon Valley 40, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 15
Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan 46, Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 0
Brookings 21, Huron 7
Madison 28, Dell Rapids 7
Mitchell 41, Spearfish 7
Pierre 30, Aberdeen Central 0
Rapid City Central 35, Rapid City Stevens 25
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 29, Watertown 15
Sioux Falls Washington 45, Sioux Falls Lincoln 7
St. Thomas More 31, Todd County 14
Tea Area 27, Dakota Valley 14
Tri-Valley 26, Milbank Area 14

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 14 of 57

Vermillion 54, St. Francis Indian 0
West Central 34, Lennox 22
Yankton 28, Harrisburg 26
Class 11B
First Round
Aberdeen Roncalli 28, Elk Point-Jefferson 7
Bridgewater-Emery 46, Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 0
Canton 54, Sioux Valley 14
Lead-Deadwood 40, Red Cloud 12
Mobridge-Pollock 13, Groton Area 7
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 42, Stanley County 14
Sioux Falls Christian 28, Beresford 21
Winner 50, Custer 0
Class 9AA
First Round
Arlington/Lake Preston 55, Elkton-Lake Benton 20
Bon Homme 50, Deuel 12
Garretson 24, Hamlin 20
Gregory 51, Baltic 0
Irene-Wakonda 51, Tripp-Delmont/Armour/Andes Central/Dakota Christian 0
Kimball/White Lake 48, Jones County/White River 6
Webster 42, North Border 0
Wolsey-Wessington 60, Miller/Highmore-Harrold 6
Class 9A
First Round
Alcester-Hudson 47, Platte-Geddes 30
Britton-Hecla 66, Potter County 20
Canistota 58, Ipswich/Edmunds Central 6
Corsica/Stickney 30, Lyman 14
Howard 73, Deubrook 36
New Underwood 44, Lemmon/McIntosh 0
Timber Lake 36, Philip 26
Warner 28, Clark/Willow Lake 14
Class 9B
First Round
Burke 51, Sunshine Bible Academy 22
Castlewood 36, Dell Rapids St. Mary 12
Colman-Egan 60, Bison 10
Colome 62, Gayville-Volin 8
Faulkton 40, Langford 8
Kadoka Area 12, Harding County 8
Sully Buttes 46, Hitchcock-Tulare 8
Wall 57, Faith 6

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

Volleyball

Brookings def. Aberdeen Central, 25-19, 18-25, 25-12, 26-24
Marty Indian def. Crazy Horse, 25-7, 25-13, 25-16
Oelrichs def. Takini, 25-7, 25-10, 28-26

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 15 of 57

Rapid City Christian Triangular
Edgemont def. Newell, 25-19, 24-26, 25-15, 25-17
Rapid City Christian def. Edgemont, 25-13, 25-13, 25-12

Banker survey: Farmland prices expected to drop in 10 states

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A new survey says farmland prices are expected to continue their decline in parts of 10 Plains and Western states.

The latest Rural Mainstreet survey shows that on average, bank CEOs in the region estimated farmland prices declined by 4 percent over the past 12 months. They expect farmland prices to fall by another 3.2 percent over the next 12 months.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss says the survey also shows the farm sector is being weakened by negative impacts of tariffs and low agriculture commodity prices.

The overall economic index for the region increased slightly to 54.3 from 51.5 in September. That score still suggests growth because it is above 50, while any score below 50 indicates a shrinking economy.

Bankers from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming were surveyed.

Construction begins on new South Dakota School for the Blind

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired has started construction on a new \$13 million school to replace its existing facility.

School officials, along with leaders from Northern State University, held a groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday. The new facility is being built in partnership with the university and is expected to be completed next year, Aberdeen American News reported.

The school and the university are jointly fundraising for the project, which is being built on the university's campus. The School for the Blind is being moved from its current location just south of the university's campus.

The fundraising is part of a \$45 million capital campaign that the university is overseeing. About \$35 million has been raised so far, according to Northern State. The city of Aberdeen recently pledged \$5 million to the campaign, which was followed by a \$2.5 million commitment from Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

"We have a responsibility to make life better for people if we have the ability to do it," said Aberdeen Mayor Mike Levsen. "In my mind, we have a responsibility to take the resources we have and do absolutely as much as we can, absolutely as fast as we can."

The new school represents a continuation of a partnership with Northern State University that started in 1961, said Marje Kaiser, superintendent of the School for the Blind.

Kaiser said she hopes the facility features subtle ways to help students navigate their new environment and learn to live independently.

Northern State officials followed Wednesday's ceremony by announcing plans to expand the university's master's program in special education to include an emphasis on teaching students with visual impairments.

"The School of Education is working hard to see how we can make a more robust program," said Northern State President Tim Downs.

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

Deadly deer virus found in Minnesota for the first time

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Deer from a private herd on a Minnesota farm have contracted a deadly virus that until now has not yet been seen in the state.

Minnesota Board of Animal Health officials say the virus was confirmed in seven deer on a Goodhue County farm and six have died. The virus, called epizootic hemorrhagic disease, or EHD, is carried by biting

flies and causes rapid death from internal bleeding. No vaccine is available for infected animals.

State wildlife officials say there's no indication the virus is present in the wild deer population. And, although it's the first time the virus has been detected in deer in Minnesota, it has been present in the Dakotas, Wisconsin and Iowa.

The Star Tribune reports there are no known health risks to humans.

Information from: Star Tribune, <http://www.startribune.com>

Preschool employee sentenced for sexually assaulting boys

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Box Elder man who worked at a preschool and in youth sports has been sentenced to 40 years in prison for sexually assaulting two boys.

Twenty-eight-year-old Trevor Lone Hill was sentenced Wednesday in Seventh Judicial Circuit Court. Judge Craig Pfeifle said Lone Hill caught the boys in his "evil web" by purposely seeking them out and grooming them.

The Rapid City Journal reports Lone Hill's attorney Travis Jones argued for leniency because his client admitted to his crimes and regrets them.

As part of a plea deal, Lone Hill pleaded guilty to first-degree rape, which occurred in Pennington County between 2010 and 2014 and involved a boy who was 4 to 9 years old during that time. He also pleaded guilty to have sexual contract with a boy under 16 between 2014 and 2017.

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

Rapper's motion for drug charge dismissal denied

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A judge in South Dakota has denied a motion to dismiss a drug charge against rapper Chief Keef.

The rapper, whose legal name is Keith Cozart, was arrested in June 2017 at the Sioux Falls airport when drugs were found in his carry-on bag after he performed at the University of Sioux Falls. He later pleaded not guilty to felony and misdemeanor charges for possessing marijuana, edibles and drug paraphernalia.

The Argus Leader reports that a Second Circuit Court judge last week denied Cozart's motion to dismiss a charge of possession of a controlled substance, saying the THC-infused edibles he was carrying are not considered marijuana under South Dakota law because they contained no plant material.

Chief Keef, a Chicago native, lives in Los Angeles.

Transgender rights lie in the hands of a state's electorate

By **BOB SALSBERG, Associated Press**

BOSTON (AP) — Nicole Talbot isn't quite old enough to vote next month, but she isn't shy about urging Massachusetts residents who are to keep a state law that protects transgender people from discrimination, including the right to use restrooms and locker rooms that match their gender identity.

It makes her feel safe, Talbot said, which wasn't always the case for the teenager, an accomplished singer with dreams of a Broadway career. For as long as she can remember, she felt she was a girl — like the time she insisted upon being a princess at a preschool Halloween party — even when the world beyond her mother subjected her to taunts and discrimination.

Now, 17, Talbot, who began her transition in the seventh grade, is lending her name and story to the campaign against a ballot question that would repeal the 2016 law.

"It allows me to live as who I am and have every right that every other person in the state has," said Talbot.

Setting the stage for the first-ever statewide referendum in the U.S. on a transgender rights law, opponents collected enough signatures to place a repeal question on the Nov. 6 ballot. Transgender rights supporters worry — and opponents of the laws hope — that if the repeal passes in Massachusetts, the

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 17 of 57

first state to legalize gay marriage and among the most LGBT-friendly, it could unleash a cascade of similar efforts elsewhere.

"For this to happen in Massachusetts, where we have this reputation of being an inclusive state dedicated for equality and dignity for all people, to see what happens on this (question) is really going to be an important moment for transgender rights nationally," said Mason Dunn, executive director of the Massachusetts Trans Political Coalition.

A spokeswoman for the group leading the repeal effort declined to speculate on the potential impact of the referendum on 19 other states with similar transgender-rights laws.

"Nationally, we're not trying to change anything; we are trying to change Massachusetts," said Yvette Ollada, of Keep Massachusetts Safe. "This law goes too far."

Repeal backers argue their intention is not to strip protections for transgender people or legalize discrimination. Instead, in what trans rights supporters describe as a familiar but unjustified fear tactic, they say they want to protect women from being harassed or assaulted by criminals falsely claiming to identify as female.

One ad backing repeal depicts a sketchy-looking man entering a women's locker room as a frightened-looking young woman begins to undress.

"That is what the law allows for, and if it's scary, then that is because we are talking about something that is scary," Ollada said.

Had the Legislature adopted a proposal to exclude registered sex offenders from the law's protections, there likely would not have been a referendum, she said.

The law, though, already allows for the prosecution of any person "whose assertion of a gender identity is for an improper purpose."

The Associated Press requested records from the state attorney general's office and the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, which turned up only a handful of complaints directly related to the 2-year-old law, and none alleging predation in bathrooms or locker rooms.

But neither do records suggest widespread discrimination against transgender people over access to bathrooms or locker rooms.

Of the fewer than 10 complaints filed with the state anti-discrimination agency, probable cause was found in only one case, involving a transgender man who claimed he was barred from the men's section of a facility that provides free clothing for the poor.

Repeal backers also say some businesses may be reluctant to report abuse of the law because they fear doing so would leave them vulnerable to charges of discrimination and possible fines.

In one case to which the law's critics point, a transitioning woman with male genitalia filed a complaint against a day spa with a female clientele that declined her request for a so-called "full Brazilian" bikini wax. The complaint is unresolved.

Though referred to derisively by opponents as "the bathroom bill," supporters note the law more widely prohibits discrimination against transgender people in public accommodations, including restaurants, parks and entertainment venues. A prior state law outlawed bias in employment and housing.

Jeanne Talbot, Nicole's mother, calls herself an "accidental activist."

"When people meet a transgender person, all of their fears sort of wash away," Jeanne Talbot said. "They suddenly realize that there is a person. It's not just the term transgender or an identifier, there's a human being."

Since transitioning, Nicole said, she has been mostly welcomed at her private school in Beverly, which caters to students with dyslexia. In February, she was selected after a competition to sing the national anthem before a Boston Bruins game.

The group Freedom for All Massachusetts, which wants to keep the law, reported raising just under \$3.9 million through Oct. 1, compared with the \$542,000 raised by Keep Massachusetts Safe, with much of the latter coming from two affiliated conservative organizations and some board members.

Public opinion polls in recent months show voters leaning toward keeping the law, with some showing

wider margins than others. But supporters warn against overconfidence.

One area of concern is potential confusion over the wording of the question. A yes vote is for keeping the law; a no vote is for repeal. In contrast, voters in 2014 were told to vote yes if they wanted to repeal the state's casino gambling law; the noes won.

The transgender law has broad support from Democratic elected officials in Massachusetts, and from Republican Gov. Charlie Baker, who signed the bill in 2016.

"Support for the LGBTQ community is about more than just politics — it's personal," Baker wrote in a recent op-ed published by The Rainbow Times. The governor's brother is gay and married.

But not everyone sharing the GOP ticket with Baker next month shares his view.

"It's not the transgenders that we're concerned about, it's the men who are using it and are claiming to be transgender," said Jay McMahan, the Republican nominee for attorney general, in a recent debate.

Turkey suggests Khashoggi's remains taken out of consulate

By AYSE WIETING and SUZAN FRASER, Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — A Turkish official said Friday that investigators are looking into the possibility that missing Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi's remains may have been taken to a forest on the outskirts of Istanbul or to another city — if and after he was killed in Istanbul earlier this month. Ankara's top diplomat, meanwhile, denied sharing any audio from the Saudi consulate with U.S. officials.

The official told The Associated Press that police have established that two vehicles belonging to the consulate, left the building on Oct. 2 — the day Khashoggi had walked into the consulate and vanished.

One of the vehicles traveled to the nearby Belgrade Forest while the other traveled to the city of Yalova, across the Sea of Marmara from Istanbul, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the secrecy of the ongoing investigation.

It was not immediately clear if police had already searched the areas.

Turkish reports say Khashoggi was brutally murdered and dismembered inside the consulate by members of an assassination squad with ties to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The Saudis have dismissed those reports as baseless but have yet to explain what happened to Khashoggi, a columnist for The Washington Post who wrote critically of Prince Mohammed's rise to power.

President Donald Trump, who first came out hard on the Saudis over the disappearance but had since has backed off, said Thursday that it "certainly looks" as though Khashoggi is dead, and that the consequences for the Saudis "will have to be very severe" if they are found to have killed him.

Saudi Arabia has not responded to repeated requests for comment from The Associated Press over recent days over Khashoggi's disappearance.

The pro-government Turkish newspaper Yeni Safak on Wednesday reported that an audio recording of Khashoggi's slaying suggests a Saudi team accosted him after he entered the consulate, cutting off his fingers and later decapitating him.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who visited Saudi Arabia and Turkey this week, told reporters on a plane to Mexico that he's neither seen nor heard such a recording. Citing an anonymous senior Turkish official, ABC News reported on Thursday that Pompeo heard the alleged recording during meetings in Turkey and received a transcript of it.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu also denied sharing any audio recordings with U.S. officials. During a visit to Albania on Friday, Cavusoglu said Turkey would share "with the world" the results of its investigation into Khashoggi's disappearance.

Also Friday, Turkey's pro-government Sabah newspaper printed more surveillance camera photographs allegedly showing members of a Saudi team that was brought in to Turkey to dispose of Khashoggi.

A leaked surveillance photo published by the same paper on Thursday showed that a member of Prince Mohammed's entourage during several trips abroad had walked into the Saudi consulate, just before the writer disappeared there on Oct. 2.

The man, identified by Turkish officials as Maher Abdulaziz Mutreb, has been photographed in the back-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 19 of 57

ground of Prince Mohammed's trips to the United States, France and Spain this year.

This week, Turkish crime-scene investigators searched the Saudi consul general's residence in Istanbul and carried out a second search of the consulate itself. Authorities have not said specifically what they found, although technicians carried out bags and boxes from the consul general's home. He left Turkey on Tuesday.

In related developments, senior government officials from the United States, France, Britain and the Netherlands cancelled out of an investment conference in Saudi Arabia amid questions over the kingdom's involvement in Khashoggi's disappearance.

The kingdom had hoped to use the event, due to be held in Riyadh on Oct. 23-25, to boost its global image. Several top business executives have also cancelled their plans to attend, as has the head of the International Monetary Fund, Christine Lagarde.

On Friday, Pakistan's foreign ministry said Prime Minister Imran Khan would travel to Saudi Arabia next week to attend the conference. It said Khan would also meet King Salman.

Khan has been trying to secure bailout loans from IMF to avoid an economic meltdown and is also seeking loans from Riyadh.

Associated Press writer Munir Ahmed in Islamabad contributed to this report.

Far from fame, poverty blossoms in 'forgotten California'

By BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press

HURON, Calif. (AP) — A rooster signals the start of the day as workers wearing sombreros and ball caps emerge from the shadows and shuffle past boarded-up businesses in this tiny farm town. They converge on a dimly lit dirt lot outside Panaderia de Dios, a bakery sweetening the air with the aroma of Mexican cookies and bread as workers catch rides to the fields.

Little else is sweet in Huron, where jobs not displaced by automation in farming are mostly done by hand, and residents struggle to scrape by.

"As soon as you make the money, the money goes away," Martin Castro said before spending the day repeatedly bending to slice cantaloupes from vines. "I don't like the life."

California may be famous for its wealth, but there is a distinctly different part of the state where poverty prevails: places like this one halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The Central Valley has long been short on resources no matter which political party is in power. Democratic and Republican candidates for Congress have blamed incumbents for doing little to create higher-paying jobs, curb homelessness, clean up blight or solve disparities in health care and access to good schools.

Despite a big voter-registration advantage for Democrats in the district that includes Huron, they have struggled to unseat a three-term GOP congressman. In mid-September, campaign signs were nonexistent in town, where residents either can't vote because they're in the U.S. illegally or don't vote because they're more concerned about putting food on the table.

Despite Democrats' 16-point registration advantage, Rep. David Valadao easily won re-election with the third-lowest vote count of any member of Congress in 2016. That's despite Hillary Clinton carrying the district by 15 points.

"It's a definite Democratic advantage, and that's what is so bewildering to people who think Valadao should be unseated," Fresno State political science professor Jeff Cummins said. "It's extremely high poverty and low education and has a significantly Latino percentage, and all those factors contribute to incredibly low voter turnout. That offsets that advantage Democrats have with registration."

Huron was founded in 1888 as a water stop for steam trains on the Southern Pacific Railroad. It became a destination for migrant laborers as crops blossomed and is now home to 7,000 people.

The region is unrivaled for farm production, but the rich earth has not given back equally to those who toil out of view of millions of tourists and Californians who pass through the valley each year.

Nearly 40 percent of Huron residents — and almost half of all children — live below the poverty line,

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 20 of 57

according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That's more than double the statewide rate of 19 percent reported last month, which is the highest in the U.S. The national average is 12.3 percent.

"We're in the Appalachians of the West," Mayor Rey Leon said. "I don't think enough urgency is being taken to resolve a problem that has existed for way too long."

Multiple families and boarders pack rundown homes, only about a quarter of residents have high school diplomas and most lack adequate health care in an area plagued with diabetes and high asthma rates in one the nation's most polluted air basins.

Fresno businessman T.J. Cox, a Democrat who heads a community development organization that helps fund health clinics, has made the lack of affordable medical care a signature issue in his run against Valadao.

Cox calls Valadao a "rubberstamp Republican" for President Donald Trump who has hurt poor constituents by voting to cut Medicaid and other social programs and failing to bring money to the district.

"We don't get the dollars that go to Washington," Cox said. "Appalachia, which is a very similar region, gets twice as much federal investment as the Central Valley of California."

Valadao, who lives in nearby Hanford, comes from a dairy farming family and touts his farm credentials. He bucked his party in voting for immigration reform, which is important to farmers who need laborers.

The farm that Valadao and his family own was seized and auctioned earlier this year for failure to repay \$8 million in loans, according to court documents. Valadao declined repeated requests to be interviewed for this story.

Huron feels like a village in Mexico, which is where most of its inhabitants hail or descend from. Nearly all residents are Latino, and Spanish is the primary language.

"We didn't go to school, we didn't study, so we're here," Benito Bautista, 63, said in Spanish, shooing flies with a cowboy hat as he sat in the shade of an apartment building.

Picking or packing crops pays about \$11 to 12.50 an hour, but jobs are seasonal, and many people go months without work.

Signs of hard times are easy to spot. More than three dozen cars gathered dust outside Ralph's Triangle Service, waiting for their owners to earn enough to pay for repairs.

A shuttered melon packing shed down the road has become a homeless encampment where several men and a woman live in large boxes under a roof hanging over a loading dock. One man pointed to five empty King Cobra beer bottles to explain his absence from the fields that day.

At a laundromat where a Mexican soccer match was on TV, 23-year-old Paola Espinoza said she wanted to move out of town. Espinoza, who works as a medical assistant at nearby Naval Air Station Lemoore earning about \$20 an hour, fears a lack of things to do could lead to bad influences on her two young daughters.

There are only a few playgrounds and no arcade or movie theater, though a soccer league was started last year to keep kids from joining gangs.

"There's nothing for the kids to do," said Espinoza, who grew up in Huron. "We're in the middle of nowhere."

The 1.5-square-mile (4-square-kilometer) city is surrounded by lettuce, cotton and tomato fields, where technology has replaced the work of many hands.

"There's less need for us," said Higinio Castillo Ruiz, 73, who only works occasionally. "That's the way things are."

Large harvesters that cost \$450,000 spit out 26 tons (24 metric tons) of tomatoes every 15 to 20 minutes. In a pistachio orchard, machines throttle tree trunks, sending nuts raining down and dust clouds rising up.

Stuart Woolf, who runs a family farm spanning 30,000 acres, said planting nut trees instead of seasonal row crops like lettuce or asparagus allows farmers to earn more per acre.

Those changes have brought harder times for towns like Huron, which once doubled in size during late fall and early spring when Fresno County supplied most of the nation's lettuce.

Leon, the mayor, blames farmers for putting profits over workers who helped build their empires.

"Orchards ... give a lot to the owner, but not the people," Leon said. "They do it at a sacrifice — a sacrifice to the people on the ground."

Woolf is concerned about the impact of his operations on small communities, though he sees it more as

an issue of diminishing water supplies because of drought and policies protecting threatened fish.

Woolf said he employs about 450 locals, mostly full time, noting that whatever criticisms there are about farm work, "it's better than not having a farm job."

He pays union-scale wages at his tomato and almond processing plants, offers scholarships to employees' children and donates 300,000 pounds to 400,000 pounds (136,000 to 181,400 kilograms) of produce to a food bank each year.

"It's only getting tougher, I think, for people to live in those areas when there are fewer and fewer jobs," Woolf said. "I do think it's a forgotten part of California."

Associated Press photographer Marcio Jose Sanchez contributed to this story.

This report is part of a series on how California's struggles with soaring housing costs, job displacement and a divide over liberal policies are affecting the November election. See full coverage at: <https://www.apnews.com/CaliforniaataCrossroads>

Trump praises Montana congressman who body-slammed reporter

By ZEKE MILLER and ASHLEY THOMAS, Associated Press

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) — President Donald Trump praised a Republican congressman for body-slaming a reporter last year, calling him a "tough cookie" and saying he thinks it might have helped him win election in Montana.

At a campaign rally in Missoula Thursday, Trump lauded Rep. Greg Gianforte, who pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault for an attack on Guardian reporter Ben Jacobs. The attack came a day before Gianforte won a 2017 special election to serve the remaining 18 months in the House term vacated by now-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

"Any guy that can do a body slam — he's my kind of guy," Trump said to cheers and laughter from the crowd. "He's a great guy, tough cookie."

His remarks praising Gianforte come amid an international furor over the apparent assassination of a Washington Post columnist, who, according to an account in Turkey's Yeni Safak newspaper, allegedly had his fingers cut off and was decapitated inside a Saudi consulate in Istanbul two weeks ago.

In the case of Gianforte, witnesses including members of a Fox News crew say Gianforte became enraged over what he perceived as biased coverage before body-slaming Jacobs, throwing him to the ground and punching him.

Gianforte initially misled investigators about what had happened, falsely claiming that Jacobs had grabbed him by the wrist and pulled both of them to the floor, according to documents released under a court order following requests from news agencies.

The president said he was in Rome with other world leaders when he heard about what had happened. "And I said, oh, this is terrible. He's going to lose the election," Trump recalled. "And then I said, well, wait a minute. I know Montana pretty well. I think it might help him. And it did."

Gianforte pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor assault charge in June 2017 and said in an apology letter that he alone was responsible for the attack. He paid a \$385 fine and completed 40 hours of community service and 20 hours of anger management counseling. He also donated \$50,000 to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Trump referenced Gianforte again later in the rally when discussing former Vice President Joe Biden, who once said he would "beat the hell out of" Trump if they were in high school.

On Biden challenging him to a fight, Trump said, "He'd be down, faster than Greg would take him down."

Gianforte, who attended the rally with the president, is up for re-election in November and faces former state legislator Kathleen Williams. The president's next stop on his three-day trip out West is Arizona.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 22 of 57

Thomas reported from Washington.

Afghans set to vote despite Taliban threats, corruption

By KATHY GANNON, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Most Afghans will return to the polls for parliamentary elections on Saturday, hoping to bring change to a corrupt government that has lost nearly half the country to the Taliban.

Voters in Kandahar, however, will have to wait a week after the province's police chief was assassinated, resulting in the vote there being postponed.

In the eight years since Afghanistan last held parliamentary elections, a resurgent Taliban have carried out near-daily attacks on security forces, seizing large swathes of the countryside and threatening major cities. An even more radical Islamic State affiliate has launched a wave of bombings targeting the country's Shiite minority, killing hundreds. Both groups have threatened to attack anyone taking part in the vote.

In areas where the government still provides relative security, Afghans face a different array of challenges. Widespread corruption forces people to pay bribes for shabby public services, and increasingly influential ultraconservative clerics blame the country's many ills on years of Western influence, threatening to roll back the limited gains made by women and civil society since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

Many of those Afghans brave enough to defy the death threats hope to vote in a new generation of younger and better-educated leaders. But they fear that former warlords and the corrupt political elite will cling to power by lavishing entertainment and cash handouts on impoverished voters.

"I am still not hopeful it will be fair," said Saeed Matin, a fruit seller in a mostly Shiite neighborhood of Kabul who was bundled up against the chilly autumn evening. He waved off the threats from the Taliban and said he hoped for new leadership, pointing to campaign posters showing younger candidates.

"They are young and educated and I wish they could do something, but 100 percent I am worried the warlords and the corrupt people will not give them a chance," he said. "These corrupt people are paying 3,000 Afghanis (nearly \$50) for each vote. They are not interested in the country, only in what they can put in their pocket."

Afghanistan is ranked among the most corrupt countries in the world by Transparency International, which last year called efforts by President Ashraf Ghani's government to stem runaway corruption "insufficient." Poor governance has also confounded Washington's efforts to find a peaceful exit from the 17-year war — the longest in American history — which has cost the United States more than 2,400 lives and over \$900 billion.

The Taliban point to the government's dysfunction as proof of its illegitimacy, and have rejected international demands to hold peace talks with the authorities in Kabul, who they view as Western puppets. They say they will only negotiate directly with the United States, which they view as an occupying power.

Religious conservatives, even those who have not taken up arms, are increasingly echoing the Taliban's rhetoric, saying years of Western influence have eroded the country's values — a mix of Islamic teachings and tribal traditions — causing a breakdown of society.

Abdul Wadood Pedram, who heads the Human Rights and Eradication of Violence Organization, said religious clerics use their weekly sermons in mosques throughout the capital to rail against Western influence.

"Our society is growing very radical, day by day, because the government has no control of the mosques and the madrassas (religious schools)," he said. He said clerics routinely inveigh against women's participation in the workforce — a rare bright spot in Afghanistan's recent history — as well as independent media and human rights activists.

Despite the widespread pessimism, analysts and activists say the elections — which were delayed for three years because of insecurity — send an important message to the Taliban that no matter how unpopular the current government is, the political system is here to stay.

"It is very important to indicate to the Taliban that the government is functioning, the institutions in Afghanistan are functioning and that the political process ... is also functioning," said Kabul-based analyst Haroun Mir. "It will be a clear message to the insurgents and to the Taliban that they have to deal with

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 23 of 57

the political process that is accepted by the majority of the Afghan people.”

In the heavily fortified offices of the Independent Election Commission, Wasima Badghisy is working on final preparations for the vote.

“Young people are voting for the first time and many are worried about the corruption, yet they still feel it is important to participate,” she said. “They feel that it will take time but gradually with every election it will get better. For many this election is like a practice for their future. Their energy inspires me to try to make it better.”

The most pressing concern is security. Earlier this week, the Taliban warned students and teachers not to vote and not to allow their schools to be used as polling stations. Militant attacks have killed seven candidates, both before and after the 20-day campaign period started. Two candidates have been abducted, their fates unknown, and three others have been wounded in violence.

On Thursday, Afghanistan’s powerful Kandahar provincial police chief Gen. Abdul Raziq was killed along with at least one other senior provincial official, in a brazen attack by one of their own guards during a meeting to discuss security ahead of the vote. The Taliban claimed responsibility, saying their target was U.S. Gen. Scott Miller, the commander of U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan, who was unharmed.

As a result of the attack, Afghanistan’s Independent Election Commission on Friday postponed polling in the province for one week.

Security fears have already forced the commission to close about 2,000 polling centers. It has cancelled the vote in 11 of the country’s nearly 400 districts, as well as in the entire eastern province of Ghazni, where the Taliban control the countryside and laid siege to the provincial capital for five days in July. More than 50,000 security forces will be deployed to defend polling stations.

With 8.8 million registered voters, Badghisy said turnout will reflect Afghans’ confidence in the system. “If 5 million voters turn out that will be very good,” she said. “Those who vote, I feel they are very, very brave.”

Associated Press writer Amir Shah in Kabul, Afghanistan contributed to this report.

Afghanistan postpones election in Kandahar after attack

By KATHY GANNON and AMIR SHAH, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghanistan’s election commission on Friday postponed elections in Kandahar for a week, following a brazen attack on a high-profile security meeting there with a U.S. delegation that killed at least two senior provincial officials, including the province’s police chief.

The development came as mourners gathered for the funeral of police chief Gen. Abdul Raziq, assassinated in Thursday’s attack. The Taliban have claimed responsibility for the assault, saying they targeted the top U.S. commander in the country, Gen. Scott Miller, who was at the meeting but was unharmed.

The Independent Election Commission’s deputy spokesman Aziz Ibrahimi said the postponement was meant to allow mourners to observe funeral rights for the slain officials.

Also killed in Thursday’s attack was the Kandahar intelligence chief, Abdul Mohmin, but the condition of the province’s governor, Zalmay Wesa, who was wounded, has been shrouded in mystery since the assault. Some reports say Wesa has been transferred to a NATO hospital outside Kandahar.

The Kandahar meeting, convened to discuss security plans for Saturday’s parliamentary elections, had just concluded when an elite Afghan guard turned his gun on the departing delegation.

Two Afghan policemen were also killed and three were wounded in the attack, according to a Kandahar hospital official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn’t authorized to talk to reporters.

Three Americans — a U.S. service member, a coalition contractor and an American civilian — were wounded and in stable condition, NATO said.

The funeral prayers for Raziq, who had been credited with single-handedly keeping the Taliban at bay in a province the insurgents once considered their spiritual heartland, were being held Friday at Kandahar’s most famous shrine, Khareq Mubarak, said to contain the cloak of the Prophet Muhammad.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 24 of 57

A Kandahar lawmaker running for parliament, Khaled Pashtun, said the one-week postponement in the polling was meant to give voters who might have stayed at home on Saturday, afraid so soon after the attack, the chance to vote in the elections.

Nevertheless, the attack, more than 17 years after the Taliban were driven from power, underscores the harrowing insecurity in Afghanistan ahead of the elections.

According to an AP television cameraman who was at the meeting, the delegates had just gathered for a group photo when gunfire broke out inside the provincial governor's compound in Kandahar city. Everyone scattered, and the U.S. participants scrambled toward their helicopter. But a firefight broke out between the U.S. service members and Afghan police when they tried to stop the U.S. delegation from reaching their helicopter, said the cameraman.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi said the militant group carried out the attack and that Miller was the target.

But U.S. Army Col. David Butler, who attended the meeting with Miller, said Raziq was clearly the target, not the U.S. general. Butler said the assailant shot at Raziq and then appeared to spray the area with gunfire before he was killed.

He said Miller and the Afghan leaders had moved outside the palace after several hours of meetings and were standing in small groups in the compound. He said he heard several shots "and we all took cover. It was over in seconds."

Butler added that Miller made sure the scene was secure and the wounded were taken away by medivac before he left the area and returned to Kabul.

Raziq was a close U.S. ally despite widespread allegations of corruption. He ruled Kandahar with an iron fist and had survived several past assassination attempts, including one last year that killed five diplomats from the United Arab Emirates.

The Taliban have vowed to disrupt Saturday's parliamentary elections, warning teachers and students not to allow schools to be used for polling and warning Afghans to stay away from the polls.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's adviser, Ziaulhaq Amarkhil, said the attack was meant to disrupt elections and urged voters to defy Taliban threats, saying casting their ballot "would be a big slap on the face of the enemy."

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said the killing of the Kandahar police chief is unlikely to fundamentally weaken the security situation. Speaking while in Singapore for a conference on Thursday, Mattis called Raziq's death a tragic loss but said he believes the Afghan security forces have matured to the point where they can continue fighting the Taliban without him.

The U.N. Security Council condemned the attacks and others recently in Afghanistan and said violence or threats intended to disrupt the elections were unacceptable.

Pakistan closed its two official border crossings with Afghanistan, the foreign ministry said. The development came at the request of the Afghan government, which routinely accuses Pakistan of harboring Taliban militants, a charge Islamabad denies. The crossings would remain closed Friday and Saturday.

Security has been steadily deteriorating in Afghanistan with increasingly audacious attacks by insurgents and Afghanistan's security forces have been on high alert ahead of Saturday's elections.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. TURKEY SAYS SAUDI CONSULATE AUDIO NOT SHARED WITH US OFFICIALS

Ankara's foreign minister says the country will share the results of the investigation with the world as police probe whether Jamal Khashoggi's remains may have been taken to forest near Istanbul.

2. TRUMP PRAISES CONGRESSMAN WHO BODY-SLAMMED REPORTER

The president praised a Republican congressman for body-slammng a reporter last year, calling him a "tough cookie," saying he thinks it might have helped him win Montana election.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 25 of 57

3. MIGRANTS, POLICE MASS IN TOWN ON GUATEMALA-MEXICO BORDER

Members of a 3,000-strong migrant caravan have massed in this Guatemalan border town across the muddy Suchiate River from Mexico.

4. POVERTY BLOSSOMS IN 'FORGOTTEN CALIFORNIA'

California leads the nation with nearly 1 in 5 residents living below the poverty line, but it's far worse in some small towns.

5. STATES AND FEDS UNITE ON ELECTION SECURITY

Election officials and federal cybersecurity agents alike tout improved collaboration aimed at confronting and deterring election tampering.

6. WHAT LIFE HAS BECOME AFTER HURRICANE

For residents of the storm-ravaged Florida Panhandle, everyday life is rife with fears, frustrations and the troubles of just trying to get by in a ruined landscape.

7. AFGHANS SET TO VOTE DESPITE TALIBAN THREATS, CORRUPTION

Afghans will return to the polls for parliamentary elections, hoping to bring change to a corrupt government that has lost nearly half the country to the Taliban.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP CONDEMNS GOP PANEL'S FOREIGN AGENT PROBE

An environmental group denounced a House oversight committee for suggesting the organization's efforts to block construction of a U.S. military base on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa may require it to register as foreign agent.

9. FEDS: CHILD EXPLOITATION FOCUS OF PENNSYLVANIA CHURCH PROBE

A federal prosecutor in Pennsylvania is taking aim at the Roman Catholic church by opening a grand jury investigation centered on child exploitation.

10. RED SOX HEAD TO WORLD SERIES

David Price put his postseason woes behind him, pitching the Boston Red Sox back into another World Series with a 4-1 victory over the defending champion Houston Astros.

States and feds unite on election security after '16 clashes

By COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Weeks before the 2016 election, federal officials started making mysterious calls to the head of elections in Inyo County, California. They asked her to contact them if she noticed anything unusual. But they wouldn't elaborate.

"I asked them: 'How am I going to be able to protect against it if I don't know what it is?'" said the official, Kammi Foote.

Now, Foote communicates regularly with federal officials. They came to her small county of about 10,000 registered voters to analyze the security of her ballot system. She participates in state and federal information-sharing groups that didn't exist two years ago and is getting a sensor that can help detect unwanted intrusions.

"I'm feeling optimistic," Foote said about the Nov. 6 election. "I feel like the entire field of election administration has grown and matured in their ability to understand the cyber component and cyberthreats."

Election officials and federal cybersecurity agents alike tout improved collaboration aimed at confronting and deterring election tampering. Granted, the only way to go was up: In 2016, amid Russian meddling, federal officials were accused first of being too tight-lipped on intelligence about possible hacking into state systems and later for trying to seize control from the states.

Officials from Homeland Security, the department tasked with helping states secure elections, say the midterms will be the most secure vote in the modern era. They said they haven't yet seen the type of infiltrations that happened in 2016.

Still, cybersecurity experts aren't so sure the improved security and local-federal cooperation will be enough, given the breadth of threats that electoral systems may face.

States run elections, a decentralized process that makes it harder for anyone to conduct a nationwide

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 26 of 57

attack on the electoral system. The downside is there is no national playbook. The 10,000 or so election jurisdictions use a combination of paper ballots scanned into computers, entirely computerized ballots stored online and old-school paper ballots, marked and hand-counted by humans.

With the realization that Russian-backed agents were interfering with the 2016 vote, then-Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson designated election systems as "critical infrastructure," a change that allowed the federal government more leeway to help states. There is no evidence that votes were altered in 2016, but intelligence officials say all 50 states had some type of intrusion, though only a few were compromised, like in Illinois, where records on 90,000 voters had been downloaded.

Johnson's decision irked some local officials concerned about the federal government meddling in their elections.

"We don't like to be told what to do without any say," said John Merrill, Alabama's secretary of state.

Federal officials concede the beginning was rocky. "Communication was not a key element of the initial rollout," Christopher Krebs, Homeland Security's cybersecurity chief, said at a recent election security conference. "When I look at where we are right now, the single most important factor that has been established ... with our state and local partners is trust."

States are managing antiquated machinery, built by a few unregulated and secretive vendors. The outdated software is highly vulnerable to cyberattacks. Online voter registration databases are frequent targets.

Election systems are constantly under fire — efforts to steal sensitive data, disrupt services and undermine voter confidence.

"We experience thousands of attempts every day," Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos said. In one example, he said his state recently reported that it had blocked two intrusion attempts into its online voter registration database. The federal government, using data from the sensors, traced the attempts to addresses that originated in Russia.

State election officials aren't cyber experts and government jobs don't pay enough to attract high-level private-sector information technology workers.

To assist states, Homeland Security offered them vulnerability assessments and help responding to incidents — so far, 37 states have signed up. Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen has urged states to make their systems auditable. Her department has funded "Albert sensors," systems that can detect attempts to hack into networks. So far, 31 states and 61 counties have installed sensors.

"They are valuable because they give visibility to us, to DHS about what's going on," said John Gilligan, executive chairman of the Center for Internet Security, a cybersecurity venture funded by government, academia and the private sector.

State officials say the sensors, while limited, work to paint a picture of what's happening across the country.

"It doesn't offer a specific defense," said Noah Praetz, elections director for Cook County, Illinois. "But it does offer the potential for information."

Cybersecurity experts warn, however, that the Albert sensors won't detect all forms of intrusion.

"If something more sophisticated gets in ... it's going to be very, very difficult to detect them," said Bob Stasio, a former National Security Agency supervisor.

The department this year created the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center to help state and local election jurisdictions share information on cyberthreats and security. The Center for Internet Security runs it, and more than 1,100 counties in 50 states are signed up.

Foote, of Inyo County, said her partnerships with other states have increased her trust of federal officials. She reached out to colleagues in Colorado when she invited federal agents into her county.

"I was still nervous about it," she said. "But when they got here, what really set my mind at ease was these were not partisan, ideologue people. These are the rank-and-file. They're experts in cybersecurity."

Federal officials are handing out security clearances to state and local officials so some can read in on classified briefings, but so far, fewer than 100 have been given. And local officials still know very little about what happened in 2016.

"I never received any information and still — to this day — I have no inside access to anything more

than what's reported in the media and the general public on what those threats are," Foote said.

Associated Press writers Deb Riechmann in Washington, Christina A. Cassidy in Atlanta, Frank Bajak in Boston and Wilson Ring in Montpelier, Vermont, contributed to this report.

Trump: 'Severe' consequences if Saudis murdered Khashoggi

By MATTHEW LEE and DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has acknowledged it "certainly looks" as though missing Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi is dead, and he threatened "very severe" consequences if the Saudis are found to have murdered him. His warning came as the administration toughened its response to a disappearance that has sparked global outrage.

Before Trump spoke Thursday, the administration announced that Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin had pulled out of a major upcoming Saudi investment conference and a U.S. official said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had warned the Saudi crown prince that his credibility as a future leader is at stake.

Pompeo said the Saudis should be given a few more days to finish and make public a credible investigation before the U.S. decides "how or if" to respond. Trump's comments, however, signaled an urgency in completing the probe into the disappearance of the journalist, last seen entering the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2.

The messaging underscored the administration's concern about the effect the case could have on relations with a close and valuable strategic partner. Increasingly upset U.S. lawmakers are condemning the Saudis and questioning the seriousness with which Trump and his top aides are taking the matter, while Trump has emphasized the billions of dollars in weapons the Saudis purchase from the United States.

Turkish reports say Khashoggi, who had written columns critical of the Saudi government for The Washington Post over the past year while he lived in self-imposed exile in the U.S., was killed and dismembered inside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul by members of an assassination squad with ties to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The Saudis have dismissed those reports as baseless but have yet to explain what happened to the writer.

Trump, who has insisted that more facts must be known before making assumptions, did not say on what he based his latest statement about the writer's likely demise.

Asked if Khashoggi was dead, he said, "It certainly looks that way. ... Very sad."

Asked what consequence Saudi leaders would face if they are found to be responsible, he replied: "It will have to be very severe. It's bad, bad stuff. But we'll see what happens."

Vice President Mike Pence said earlier in Colorado that "the world deserves answers" about what happened to Khashoggi, "and those who are responsible need to be held to account."

In Istanbul, a leaked surveillance photo showed a man who has been a member of the crown prince's entourage during trips abroad walking into the Saudi Consulate just before Khashoggi vanished there — timing that drew the kingdom's heir-apparent closer to the columnist's apparent demise.

Turkish officials say Maher Abdulaziz Mutreb flew into Istanbul on a private jet along with an "autopsy expert" Oct. 2 and left that night.

In Washington, Pompeo, who was just back from talks with Saudi and Turkish leaders, said of the investigations in Istanbul:

"I told President Trump this morning that we ought to give them a few more days to complete that so that we, too, have a complete understanding of the facts surrounding that, at which point we can make decisions about how, or if, the United States should respond to the incident surrounding Mr. Khashoggi."

Although Pompeo suggested the U.S. could wait longer for results, an official familiar with his meetings in Riyadh and Ankara said the secretary had been blunt about the need to wrap the probe up quickly.

The official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss details of the private meetings and spoke on condition of anonymity, said Pompeo told the crown prince that "time is short." The official added Pompeo had warned him that it would be "very difficult for you to be a credible king" without a credible investiga-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 28 of 57

tion. The prince is next in line for the throne held by his aged father King Salman.

Shortly after Trump and Pompeo met at the White House, Mnuchin announced that after consulting the president and his top diplomat "I will not be participating in the Future Investment Initiative summit in Saudi Arabia."

The Saudis had hoped to use the forum, billed as "Davos in the Desert," to boost their global image. But a number of European finance ministers and many top business executives have pulled out as international pressure on Riyadh has intensified over Khashoggi.

Pompeo said that whatever response the administration might decide on would take into account the importance of the long-standing U.S.-Saudi partnership. He said, "They're an important strategic ally of the United States, and we need to be mindful of that."

Red Sox finish off Astros in 5 games, head to World Series

By KRISTIE RIEKEN, AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — What a birthday present for rookie manager Alex Cora. He's taking the Boston Red Sox back to the World Series.

David Price put his postseason woes behind him, pitching the Red Sox past the defending champion Houston Astros 4-1 Thursday night in Game 5 of the AL Championship Series.

Next stop for the 108-win Red Sox is Fenway Park for the World Series opener Tuesday night against either the Los Angeles Dodgers or Milwaukee Brewers.

But before leaving Minute Maid Park, the Red Sox surrounded the 43-year-old Cora in the clubhouse and heartily sang "happy birthday!" Wearing goggles and championship gear, the team saluted the first manager from Puerto Rico to lead a team to the World Series.

Cora was hired a year ago as he prepared to go to the Series as Houston's bench coach. He got the job a month after Hurricane Maria devastated his island homeland, and immediately went to work helping with relief efforts.

"I know right know for everything that we're going through as a nation, as a country, for me to stand up here with this trophy, I know there's a lot of people proud of me in Puerto Rico," he said.

Rafael Devers hit a three-run homer as the Red Sox stunned Justin Verlander to win the best-of-seven set 4-1.

ALCS MVP Jackie Bradley Jr. , outfielder Mookie Betts and the Red Sox will try to bring Boston its fourth crown in 15 years — this is their first trip since winning it all in 2013.

Los Angeles has a 3-2 lead in the NLCS going into Game 6 on Friday night at Miller Park.

"We got four more wins. That was very, very special, absolutely. But we want more," Price said.

Pitching on only three days' rest after Boston ace Chris Sale was ruled out while recovering from a stomach illness, Price struck out nine in six shutout innings of three-hit ball . The left-hander, who has had a rough time in Boston since signing a \$217 million contract before the 2016 season, entered 0-9 with a 6.16 ERA in 11 career postseason starts.

Price was thrilled that he won't be questioned anymore about not having a postseason win as a starter.

"That's awesome," he said. "I don't have to prepare myself for it in spring training on Feb. 20 or September when I've still got five regular-season starts. I don't have to answer that question anymore. And man, it feels good."

Price was warming in the bullpen as Game 4 ended, perhaps jeopardizing his readiness for Thursday. Instead, that session may have keyed his dominant performance.

"It felt good. Honestly, it really started last night in the bullpen. Threw quite a few pitches to come in for the next hitter, found something out while doing that and kind of just carried that over to today," Price said.

Price tipped his cap to a few hundred Red Sox fans assembled behind the Boston dugout while they cheered as he walked off the field following postgame interviews.

The only time thing that didn't go smoothly for Price came when he brought 1-year-old son Xavier into the postgame news conference and the little one wouldn't quit shrieking and wriggling away from him .

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 29 of 57

Price pulled him back onto his lap, repeating the words: "This is big, dude. This is big."

After dropping the opener at home, Boston took four straight — including three in a row in Houston to improve to 5-0 on the road in these playoffs.

The Red Sox are the first team to win four straight postseason games against a 100-win club since the 2004 Red Sox against both the Yankees and Cardinals, STATS said.

"Since Day One, we knew we had something special. We just needed to stay healthy and go out and execute," Bradley said.

Left fielder Andrew Benintendi caught a long fly for the last out — not nearly as dramatic as his game-saving diving grab the previous night. Just the same, it capped off a win.

"The last out yesterday was like around 12:10. So we won two on my birthday. I'll take it. I'll take it," Cora said.

There was a smattering of boos from the home crowd as the Red Sox charged onto the field, embracing as they jumped around near the middle of the diamond. They posed for a team picture on the mound a couple of minutes later as members of Houston's pitching staff slowly walked by, glancing at the revelry on their way back from the bullpen.

"They beat us. We ran out of wins," Astros manager AJ Hinch said .

Despite leading the majors in wins during the regular season, the Red Sox were underdogs against a Houston team that defeated the Dodgers in last year's World Series and romped past Cleveland in the Division Series this month.

But stars Jose Altuve, Carlos Correa and the Astros hobbled to the finish in a humbling defeat. Still, no team has repeated as World Series champs since the New York Yankees won three straight from 1998-2000.

Altuve, last year's AL MVP, didn't want to make excuses but said this was "absolutely" the worst pain he's ever played with.

"I feel really, really bad for not being on the field for my team, but one thing you can know is that I gave everything I had, healthy, not healthy that was all I have," he said still wearing his uniform long after the game had ended.

Red Sox slugger J.D. Martinez hit an early homer off Verlander , and Price made the lead stand up into the late innings. Craig Kimbrel worked the ninth for his third save of the series.

Red Sox president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski is taking his third organization to the World Series. He won two championships as general manager of the Florida Marlins, then oversaw two pennants as GM of the Detroit Tigers. Dombrowski was hired by Boston in 2015.

It was the 14th pennant for the Red Sox, who are 8-4 in World Series appearances. They took the American League flag in 1904, but the World Series wasn't played that year.

Boston ended an 86-year championship drought in 2004.

Verlander had pitched 24 scoreless innings over his previous three starts with his team facing postseason elimination, and he came in 4-1 with a 1.21 ERA in five potential elimination games during his career.

Houston's only run came on a homer by Marwin Gonzalez in the seventh off Matt Barnes .

Devers connected in the sixth for a 4-0 lead.

Devers, who turns 22 on Wednesday, has 12 RBIs in 10 postseason games. He joined Mickey Mantle, Andruw Jones and Miguel Cabrera as the only players in major league history to have nine or more RBIs in the postseason at age 21 or younger.

UP NEXT

Sale, who spent Sunday night in a hospital because of a stomach illness, has recovered and is set to start Game 1 of the World Series. Cora said Sale threw off flat ground on Thursday and was feeling better after he was unable to start on Wednesday because of the issue.

More AP baseball: <https://apnews.com/MLBbaseball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 30 of 57

Post-Michael Florida: Fear, frustration and life on the edge

By JAY REEVES, Associated Press

MEXICO BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Missing relatives and worries that looters are just outside the door. Dirty clothes. Hours-long lines for gasoline, insurance adjusters, food and water. No power, no air conditioning, no schools, no information and little real improvement in sight.

Daily life is a series of fears and frustrations, both large and small, for thousands of people living on the edge, more than a week after Hurricane Michael flattened thousands of square miles in the hurricane zone of the Florida Panhandle.

Erin Maxwell waited in line for fuel for more than an hour Thursday at a gasoline station that never opened. "I'm tired and want to go to sleep. I don't want to wait in another line," said Maxwell, eyes closed and her head tilted back on the seat.

Meanwhile, husband Mickey Calhoun fretted over the fate of his mother, Anita Newsome, 74. The retired sheriff's deputy was last seen when officers took her to a hospital the day before Michael made landfall, her son said.

"We can't find her or get word anywhere," said an exasperated Calhoun, 54, wearing stained khaki pants and a dingy towel draped around his neck.

A few miles away, 70-year-old Ed Kirkpatrick and his 72-year-old wife, Sandra Sheffield, huddle together in a splintered mobile home surrounded by fallen pine trees. A noisy generator powers the old box fan blowing warm air across their den. They're both afraid to leave because of widespread reports of looting.

The man, a diabetic who has a big scar down the middle of his chest from heart surgery, needs medical attention and ice to refrigerate his insulin, said Sheffield, who has a pacemaker. But getting out in traffic takes hours and precious fuel, she said, and looters could show up at any time.

"I don't want to go anywhere because I know I'm safe here," said Sheffield, burying her head in a twisted towel to cry.

Michael slammed into Florida's Panhandle with 155 mph winds on Oct. 10 and retained hurricane-force winds deep into southern Georgia, also affecting the Carolinas and Virginia. Florida authorities on Thursday say the storm killed 24 people in the state, bringing the overall death toll to at least 34.

With power still out in much of the Panhandle and thousands of buildings destroyed or damaged by Michael, almost nothing is normal. Even simple tasks are difficult or impossible.

Driving times are doubled or tripled because roads are clogged with police and fire vehicles, utility trucks, returning residents and people seeking help. Lines are long outside a discount store where more than two dozen insurance, financial services and cellphone companies have set up in a temporary village of open-sided tents erected on asphalt.

Unseasonably warm temperatures in the 80s are adding to the misery because so few people can cool down with air conditioning. Bottled water is plentiful at roadside aid stations; ice is another matter.

Spotty cellphone service leaves those most vulnerable with little information to help them get by. Residents in Panama City eagerly ask for information about what happened about 20 miles away in devastated Mexico Beach, and for tips on finding pharmacies, coin-operated laundries and stores that might sell batteries to power flashlights with fading beams.

Kelli Ladik is living with four daughters and her husband in a camper parked outside their bayside home, which has severe water damage from rain that poured in when the roof failed. Ladik is so, so tired of the grime.

"We need running water more than anything. To be able to shower after a full day of cleaning would be great," said Ladik.

Her kids, three of whom are school age, are all out of class and it's unclear when classes might resume. Some school buildings are heavily damaged and leaders are still trying to account for all the teachers, administrators and others who are needed to get the system running again.

Watching friends and loved ones suffer is the hardest part for Nancy Bartice, who used to live near Ed Kirkpatrick and his wife. Feeling helpless to assist the couple, Bartice was trying to get to nearby Panama

City Beach to get them gasoline and, perhaps, a better place to stay. Who knows how long the 16-mile journey could take.

"They have been the most blessed couple," said Bartice, fighting away tears. "They helped me in a lot of bad situations, and I want to do the same in return."

Associated Press writers Brendan Farrington in Tallahassee, Florida, and Freida Frisaro in Miami contributed to this report.

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

Migrants, police mass in town on Guatemala-Mexico border

By SONIA PEREZ D., Associated Press

TECUN UMAN, Guatemala (AP) — Members of a 3,000-strong migrant caravan have massed in this Guatemalan border town across the muddy Suchiate River from Mexico, as U.S. President Donald Trump threatens retaliation if they continue toward the United States.

The first members of the group began arriving in Tecun Uman on buses and trucks early Thursday, but the bulk of the caravan sloshed into town on foot in a downpour late in the afternoon and into the evening. Hundreds walked to the river's edge where they sang the national anthems of Honduras and Guatemala.

A smaller group walked to the border crossing but was blocked by Guatemalan police. They eventually retreated to await the rest of the caravan.

The exhausted travelers, the majority from Honduras, dispersed to the local migrant shelter and parks where volunteers offered them food.

Jonathan Perales, 22, arrived with his wife Heidy and their daughters ages 2 and 4. They'd been traveling since 4 a.m. and arrived at the border after dark. They paid for bus tickets they could ill afford.

"It was a great sacrifice, but it's all for a better life," he said. "It's not all good. We're wet and we still don't have a place to sleep."

On the Mexican side, the foreign ministry said its government was in constant communication with members of the caravan explaining the migrants' options. It said officials were already assisting some migrants who had crossed and requested refugee status.

Trump has made it clear to Mexico that he is monitoring its response. Early Thursday, he threatened to close the U.S. border if Mexico let the migrants advance. Later, he retweeted a video of Mexican federal police arriving at the Guatemalan border and wrote: "Thank you Mexico, we look forward to working with you!"

Two busloads of those police were visible on the Mexican side of the bridge from Tecun Uman Thursday. Metal barricades were stored to one side, but not yet deployed.

Edgar Corzo of Mexico's National Human Rights Commission expressed concern about the police deployment in Ciudad Hidalgo.

"We hope that the immigration officials and federal police have a humanitarian understanding," Corzo said. He said they were "worried that things could escape rational margins."

Mexico's southern border is notoriously porous and it was unclear how many of the migrants would attempt to cross legally at the bridge.

Some migrants crossed the river at a point where they could walk through shallow water Thursday, Corzo said. Others could opt for the rafts that ferry people — and historically migrants — daily across the river.

"How they're going to cross is what we're anxious about," he said.

Tensions rose Thursday when an immigration activist who led a migrant caravan through Mexico last spring was arrested by federal police and immigration agents in Ciudad Hidalgo on the Mexican side of the border.

Irineo Mujica's organization, Pueblo sin Fronteras or People without Borders, said he was detained during a peaceful march. Video circulating on social media saw several police and immigration agents pushing

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 32 of 57

Mujica into an immigration agency van in a crowd of people. Mujica appeared to be resisting.

Corzo said police accused Mujica of slashing the tires of an immigration vehicle. Immigration officials said later in a statement that Mujica, who has dual U.S.-Mexican citizenship, is accused of property damage. It said Mujica attacked immigration agents, as well as local and federal police, after he was asked for his identification.

Mexico has said the Hondurans would not be allowed to enter as a group and would either have to show a passport and visa — something few have — or apply individually for refugee status, a process that can mean waiting for up to 90 days for approval. They also said migrants caught without papers would be deported.

Thursday night, a man from Pueblo Sin Fronteras who did not give his name, told migrants in Tecun Uman that they would try to cross en masse on Saturday morning.

In April, Mexican immigration officials had some success in dispersing the smaller caravan by processing many who decided to seek refugee status in Mexico, but some did continue on to the U.S. border where they were processed over several days.

Three weeks before U.S. midterm elections, Trump has seized on the caravan as a political winner for Republicans.

Early Thursday he tweeted: "I must, in the strongest of terms, ask Mexico to stop this onslaught — and if unable to do so I will call up the U.S. Military and CLOSE OUR SOUTHERN BORDER!" Trump tweeted, adding that he blamed Democrats for what he called "weak laws!"

Marcelo Ebrard, who is set to become foreign relations secretary when President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador takes office Dec. 1, said Trump's tweets need to be understood in the context of the upcoming U.S. midterm elections.

"The electoral process is very near, so he is making a political calculation," Ebrard said in an interview with Radio Centro.

Trump's stance, he said, was "what he has always presented," adding he saw "nothing surprising in it."

Current Foreign Relations Secretary Luis Videgaray was also sanguine and viewed things through the lens of U.S. politics.

"Nobody likes them (Trump's comments). There's no reason to give them greater transcendence or importance," Videgaray said from the United Nations where he sought the world body's help processing asylum requests from the migrants. "What is important to us is the migrants, respect for human rights, their due protection, particularly the most vulnerable."

Like Guatemala and Honduras, Mexico is a country of many migrants, raising the question of whether the political will exists for a confrontation.

Lopez Obrador wants to avoid repression against migrants and also to avoid angering the United States. He said this week that Mexico would offer jobs to Central Americans.

"Anyone who wants to work in our country ... will have a work visa," he said.

Juan Escobar, 24, said he had heard about Trump's comments but said they would not dissuade the migrants from continuing their journey.

"Only God on high can stop us," Escobar said.

— Maria Verza in Mexico City contributed to this report.

Taliban attack kills top Afghan officials, US general unhurt

By KATHY GANNON and AMIR SHAH, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A high-level meeting on security plans for Afghanistan's parliamentary elections had just concluded when an elite Afghan guard turned his gun on the departing delegation Thursday, killing the powerful Kandahar police chief but missing the top U.S. commander in the country, Gen. Scott Miller.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 33 of 57

At least one other senior Afghan official was killed in the audacious assassination strike that was claimed by the Taliban and underscored the harrowing insecurity in Afghanistan two days before the elections and more than 17 years after the militant group was driven from power. A Taliban spokesman said Miller was the intended target.

However, Army Col. David Butler, who attended the meeting with Miller, said the powerful Kandahar police chief, Abdul Raziq, was clearly the target, not the U.S. general.

"It was pretty clear he was shooting at Raziq," Butler told The Associated Press, adding that Miller was nearby but not in the line of fire.

The delegates had just gathered for a group photo when gunfire broke out inside the provincial governor's compound in Kandahar city, according to an AP television cameraman who was there. Everyone scattered, and the U.S. participants scrambled toward their helicopter. But a firefight broke out between the U.S. service members and Afghan police when they tried to stop the U.S. delegation from reaching their helicopter, said the cameraman.

Besides Raziq, Kandahar's intelligence chief, Abdul Mohmin was killed in the attack, according to deputy provincial governor Agha Lala Dastageri. He said Kandahar Gov. Zalmay Wesa also died after being taken to a hospital, although security officials in the capital maintained Wesa was wounded but survived.

Three Americans — a U.S. service member, a coalition contractor and an American civilian — were injured and in stable condition, said NATO spokesman U.S. Col. Knut Peters.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi said the militant group carried out the attack, and Miller was the target.

Butler, however, said the assailant shot at Raziq and then appeared to spray the area with gunfire before he was killed.

He said Miller and the Afghan leaders had moved outside the palace after several hours of meetings and were standing in small groups in the compound. He said he heard several shots "and we all took cover. It was over in seconds."

"We stabilized and treated the wounded and secured the area," said Butler, adding that Miller made sure the scene was secure and the wounded were taken away by medivac before he left the area and returned to Kabul.

Raziq was a particularly powerful figure in southern Kandahar and a close U.S. ally despite widespread allegations of corruption. He ruled the former Taliban heartland with an iron fist and had survived several past assassination attempts, including one last year that killed five diplomats from the United Arab Emirates.

Raziq's killing "may have major implications on the security situation in southern Afghanistan. As the chief of police in Kandahar, he has kept a lid on the Taliban's insurgency, which has intensified over the past several years," analyst Bill Roggio wrote in the Long War Journal.

The Taliban have vowed to disrupt Saturday's parliamentary elections, warning teachers and students not to allow schools to be used for polling and warning Afghans to stay away from the polls.

Within hours of the attack, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani addressed the nation to assure Kandahar residents it was safe to go to the polls. In an AP interview, his adviser, Ziaulhaq Amarkhil, said the attack was meant to disrupt elections and urged voters to defy Taliban threats, saying casting their ballot "would be a big slap on the face of the enemy."

At a news conference in Kabul, army chief Gen. Mohammad Sharif Yaftali said additional troops had been moved from neighboring Helmand province to Kandahar.

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said the killing of the Kandahar police chief is unlikely to fundamentally weaken the security situation. Speaking while in Singapore for a conference, Mattis called Raziq's death a tragic loss but said he believes the Afghan security forces have matured to the point where they can continue fighting the Taliban without him.

The U.N. Security Council condemned the attacks and others recently in Afghanistan and said violence or threats intended to disrupt the elections were unacceptable.

Pakistan's new prime minister, Imran Khan, and its military chief condemned the assault.

"The people and the security forces of Afghanistan have been paying a heavy price due to continued

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 34 of 57

instability and threats from the enemies of peace," Khan said in a statement. "Pakistan stands by the government and the people of Afghanistan in their quest for lasting peace and stability."

Security has been steadily deteriorating in Afghanistan with increasingly brazen attacks being carried out by insurgents and Afghanistan's security forces have been on high alert ahead of Saturday's elections.

Late Wednesday, a NATO convoy was attacked near the Afghan capital, killing two civilians and injuring five Czech troops, Afghan officials and the Czech military said Thursday.

The attack in the Bagram district of Parwan province, also wounded three Afghan civilians, said Wahida Shakar, spokeswoman for the provincial governor.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in Bagram, which is the home of a sprawling U.S. military base.

In recent months, Afghan troops have come under near-daily attacks. NATO troops, which handed over security to Afghan forces at the end of 2014, mostly train and assist with air power. So far this year, eight U.S. soldiers and three other NATO service members have died in Afghanistan.

Associated Press writers Lolita Baldor in Washington and Karel Janicek in Prague, Czech Republic, contributed to this report.

Booker stirs South Carolina Democrats in pre-midterm debut

By **BILL BARROW**, Associated Press

ORANGEBURG, S.C. (AP) — Cory Booker had hundreds of Democratic activists nodding, applauding and eventually roaring — complete with a sermon-style call-and-response — as he entertained the Orangeburg County party barbecue to put the exclamation point on his first day in South Carolina as a potential presidential contender.

The New Jersey senator's two-day swing to the South's first primary state is ostensibly about the upcoming midterm elections. But Booker's visit — like California Sen. Kamala Harris's trip to follow on Friday — is heavy with the overtones of a looming Democratic free-for-all as the party looks for a leader to take on President Donald Trump in 2020.

"Excellent job, hit all the points: health care, prejudice, young people killing each other, all of it," said Nathaniel McFadden, 59, after Booker's spent 15 minutes on stage at the Orangeburg County Democratic Party's annual gala.

Johnny Spells, a 60-year-old local businessman, went higher with his praise. "He reminds me of a young Barack Obama. And write this down: He's the next president of the United States."

There's a long way to go before Spells can know whether he's prescient or just smitten. Booker said himself he won't decide his next move until after the Nov. 6 midterms.

To be sure, Booker is just one of several potential White House contenders swarming South Carolina. Besides Harris, former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg was in Columbia earlier Thursday. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who sought the Democratic nomination in 2016, has Saturday stops scheduled. Former Vice President Joe Biden was here last weekend.

But whether Democrats nominate Booker or someone else, South Carolina will be key. It's the first state, and the only one of the first four to cast primary or caucus ballots, to feature a significant number of black voters. South Carolina went heavily for Obama in 2008 and for Hillary Clinton in 2016, previewing Southern sweeps that propelled each to the nomination.

"We know how important we have become," said state Rep. Jerry Govan, a local representative and incoming chairman of the state's legislative Black Caucus.

Govan said the influence gives South Carolina Democrats the freedom to be choosy. "We're doing the senator a favor here," Govan said, pointing out the nearly 1,000 party activists gathered in Orangeburg.

Booker seemed to know as much Thursday, taking every opportunity to connect his experience with the voters in front of him.

"I was raised in the black church," he told overwhelmingly black audiences in Orangeburg and at previ-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 35 of 57

ous stops — one across town at South Carolina State University, another at Columbia's Allen University. Both are historically black schools.

As he often does, he freely quoted African-American luminaries from Martin Luther King Jr. to poet Maya Angelou and writer Langston Hughes.

He recounted being mayor of Newark, New Jersey, "a majority black city," and noted he's "the only senator in Washington, D.C., who still lives in a majority black neighborhood." Booker is one of three black senators. The other two: Harris, who will appear Friday in South Carolina, and Tim Scott of South Carolina.

Booker, 49, also leaned heavily on his lineage, mentioning grandparents from Louisiana and Alabama. At the barbecue, he recalled his father humorously. The man wasn't just poor as a child, Booker explained. He was "po' — p.o. ... couldn't afford the other two letters." Another Booker household mantra: "Boy, don't walk around here like you hit a triple. You were born on third base."

Margaret Frazier, sat in the front row, steps from the flatbed where Booker held court. "That's just what we need to take out the president," she said afterward, arguing that Booker can mix aggressiveness with charm.

Speaking earlier to students, Booker detailed how his father became the first man in his family to break from generations of poverty that stretched back to slavery. He wove that story into a litany of national blights, from the wealth gap between whites and black and escalating college costs for everyone to mass incarcerations and the infant mortality rate.

"If America hasn't broken your heart, you don't love her enough," he said in Columbia, painting a dire-yet-hopeful image of a country still trying to reach its potential.

He didn't necessarily place blame where his partisan audience might expect. "Republicans didn't do this to us; we did it to ourselves," by not voting in strong enough numbers.

Randall Washington, a 20-year-old student in Orangeburg who asked Booker about barriers facing young black children, stopped short of saying he'd back Booker for president but said he was struck by Booker's outlook: "It's important to me to have someone who understands our experience, and he's lived it."

Not every Democrat who heard Booker on Thursday is ready to jump on board.

Govan, who initially backed Biden in 2008 before he joined Obama's ticket, said Booker's ability to fire up the base is obvious.

"But I'm not sure we can base this party in the Northeast and on the West Coast and win," he said. "We've got to win in places like the South, and that takes more than black and brown and liberal."

Follow Barrow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP>.

Pressure turns to Mexico as migrant caravan heads for border

By **SONIA PEREZ D., PETER ORSI and MARK STEVENSON, Associated Press**

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — As some 3,000 Hondurans made their way through Guatemala, attention turned to Mexico, after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened Thursday to close the U.S.-Mexico border if authorities there fail to stop them — a nearly unthinkable move that would disrupt hundreds of thousands of legal freight, vehicle and pedestrian crossings each day.

With less than three weeks before the Nov. 6 midterm elections, Trump seized on the migrant caravan to make border security a political issue and energize his Republican base.

"I must, in the strongest of terms, ask Mexico to stop this onslaught — and if unable to do so I will call up the U.S. Military and CLOSE OUR SOUTHERN BORDER!" Trump tweeted, adding that he blamed Democrats for what he called "weak laws!"

The threat followed another one earlier this week to cut off aid to Central American countries if the migrants weren't stopped. Trump made a similar vow over another large migrant caravan in April, but didn't follow through and it largely petered out in Mexico.

On Thursday, Mexico's foreign ministry said the government was assisting members of the caravan who had already crossed into Mexican territory. It was explaining the options to migrants and helping those

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 36 of 57

who chose to apply for refugee status to navigate the lengthy process.

Mexico had also dispatched additional police to its southern border after the Casa del Migrante shelter on the Guatemalan side of the border reported that hundreds of Hondurans had already arrived there.

Apparently pleased with that response, in the evening Trump retweeted a BuzzFeed journalist's tweet of a video clip showing the police deployment, adding his own comment: "Thank you Mexico, we look forward to working with you!"

Mexican federal police and immigration officials also detained immigration activist Irineo Mujica, who led a caravan of migrants through Mexico last spring.

His organization Pueblo Sin Fronteras, or People without Borders, said via Twitter that he was arrested Thursday in Ciudad Hidalgo on the Mexico-Guatemala border while participating in a peaceful march.

Mexican immigration officials said Mujica, who has dual U.S.-Mexican citizenship, was accused of property damage and resisting arrest. A statement from the officials said Mujica attacked immigration agents, as well as local and federal police, after he was asked for his identification as he gathered foreigners for a protest.

Mexican officials had said the Hondurans would not be allowed to enter as a group and would either have to show a passport and visa — something few have — or apply individually for refugee status, a process that can mean waiting for up to 90 days for approval. They also said migrants caught without papers would be deported.

Marcelo Ebrard, who is set to become foreign relations secretary when President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador takes office Dec. 1, said Trump's tweets need to be understood in the context of the upcoming U.S. midterm elections.

"The electoral process is very near, so he is making a political calculation," Ebrard said in an interview with Radio Centro.

Trump's stance, he said, was "what he has always presented," adding he saw "nothing surprising in it."

Current Foreign Relations Secretary Luis Videgaray was also sanguine and viewed things through the lens of U.S. politics.

"Nobody likes them (Trump's comments). There's no reason to give them greater transcendence or importance," Videgaray said from the United Nations where he sought the world body's help processing asylum requests from the migrants. "What is important to us is the migrants, respect for human rights, their due protection, particularly the most vulnerable."

Still, the idea that Mexico could close its porous southern border — or that the United States would choke off the lucrative trade and other traffic between the two nations — strained the imagination.

"There would be huge economic impacts for both the United States and Mexico ... but limited effect on illegal immigration," said Andrew Selee, president of the Migration Policy Institute.

"The president certainly can slow down crossing at legal border crossings where about a million people cross each day. That would really hurt legal transit between the two countries and manufacturing and trade, which would affect American workers," Selee said. "But it would have much less impact on illegal border crossings between ports of entry."

Stephanie Leutert, director of the Mexico Security Initiative at the University of Texas at Austin, said she interpreted the tweet to mean Trump could send troops not to ports of entry but elsewhere where the illegal crossings take place.

"If that's the case, I don't think Mexico should be too worried because in a sense ... it's the same kind of thing U.S. administrations have been doing for a long time," Leutert said.

Like Guatemala and Honduras, Mexico is a country of many migrants, raising the question of whether the political will exists for a confrontation.

Lopez Obrador wants to avoid repression against migrants and also to avoid angering the United States. He said this week that Mexico would offer jobs to Central Americans. "Anyone who wants to work in our country ... will have a work visa," he said.

Juan Escobar, 24, said he had heard about Trump's comments but said they would not dissuade the migrants from continuing their journey.

"Only God on high can stop us," Escobar said.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 37 of 57

Carlos Lopez, 27, said he was concerned by Trump's threats, but "you have to keep fighting."

Trump also warned that he prioritizes border security over even the recently struck trade deal to replace NAFTA, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA.

"The assault on our country at our Southern Border, including the Criminal elements and DRUGS pouring in, is far more important to me, as President, than Trade or the USMCA. Hopefully Mexico will stop this onslaught at their Northern Border," Trump tweeted.

Analysts didn't see the pact as being in imminent danger, though trade attorney Daniel Ujczko of Dickinson Wright PLLC said there is "a significant concern" Trump could hold the agreement hostage over future issues.

"Leaders around the world are skeptical that any deal with this U.S. administration is actually final," Ujczko said.

U.S.-bound migrant caravans have been going on for years — with traveling in numbers seen as offering protection from assaults, robberies, even shakedowns by police. They're also a cheaper alternative to the \$7,000 to \$10,000 that smugglers, charge for passage to the border, Leutert noted.

Still, it wasn't until this year that the caravans received widespread attention.

"There have been these caravans through the years, but they become prominent because the president tweets about them," Selee said.

He predicted that, like the caravan in April, Mexico will respond with measures like granting asylum to some migrants who qualify while deporting others who don't, perhaps not eliminating the caravan entirely but significantly reducing its size before it reaches the U.S. border.

But the direct, public pressure from Trump puts Mexico, already an uneasy ally the last two years, in an uncomfortable spotlight.

"Ironically, the way President Trump responds to these caravans makes it harder for the Mexican government to cooperate with the U.S. on immigration enforcement," Selee said. "There is a lot of disposition in both the current and the incoming Mexican government to cooperate with the U.S. on some aspects of immigration control. But it becomes much harder when President Trump makes this a political issue in which he bashes Mexico."

Orsi and Stevenson reported from Mexico City. Associated Press writer Paul Wiseman in Washington contributed to this report.

Federal prosecutors open clergy abuse probe in Pennsylvania

By MARYCLAIRE DALE and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Federal prosecutors have opened an investigation of child sexual abuse by Roman Catholic priests in Pennsylvania, using subpoenas to demand secret files and testimony from high-ranking leaders in what victims' advocates say is the first such probe ever launched by the U.S. Justice Department.

The subpoenas, served last week, follow a scathing state grand jury report over the summer that found that 301 "predator priests" in Pennsylvania had molested more than 1,000 children over seven decades and that church leaders had covered up for the offenders.

The intervention by the federal government opens a new front of legal peril for the Catholic church, given that investigations into sexual abuse by clergy members have historically been handled exclusively by state and local authorities.

"It's groundbreaking if we're going to see one of the U.S. attorneys pursuing the Catholic cases," said Marci Hamilton, a church-state expert at the University of Pennsylvania and chief executive of Child USA, a nonprofit think tank focused on preventing child abuse. "The federal government has so far been utterly silent on the Catholic cases."

At least seven of the state's eight Roman Catholic dioceses — Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Scranton, Erie, Greensburg, Allentown and Harrisburg — acknowledged receiving subpoenas and said they would cooperate or were working with Justice Department officials.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 38 of 57

"This subpoena is no surprise considering the horrific misconduct detailed in the statewide grand jury report," the Greensburg Diocese said in a statement. "Survivors, parishioners and the public want to see proof that every diocese has taken sweeping, decisive and impactful action to make children safer. We see this as another opportunity for the Diocese of Greensburg to be transparent."

There was no indication the Justice Department is planning a nationwide investigation.

U.S. Attorney William McSwain of Philadelphia, who issued the subpoenas to the Pennsylvania dioceses, wants to know if priests, bishops, seminarians or others committed any federal crimes.

McSwain, appointed by President Donald Trump earlier this year, asked for certain church leaders to testify before a federal grand jury in Philadelphia, though it could be months before that happens because of the time it takes to review the requested documents. He also demanded bishops turn over any evidence that anyone in their ranks took children across state lines for illicit purposes; sent sexual images or messages via phone or computer; instructed anyone not to contact police; reassigned suspected predators; or used money or other assets as part of the scandal.

The subpoenas seek documents stored in "Secret Archives," "Historical Archives" or "Confidential Files," and records related to the dioceses' organizational charts, finances, insurance, clergy assignments and treatment of priests.

A representative for McSwain declined to comment, as did a Justice Department spokeswoman.

"This is the first time I have ever heard of a federal investigation into child sexual abuse in a Catholic diocese or church. This is a monumental moment for clergy sexual victims everywhere," said Mitchell Garabedian, the Boston-based plaintiffs' lawyer who played a major role in uncovering the scandal in the Boston Archdiocese over a decade ago.

Two Eastern Catholic dioceses in Pennsylvania, the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia and the Byzantine Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, also acknowledged they are under investigation.

"I'm thrilled at hearing this information. We have the full weight and attention of the United States federal government investigating the Roman Catholic Church," said Shaun Dougherty, 48, of Johnstown, who told authorities he was molested by a priest as a boy in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese.

Separate from the Pennsylvania investigation, the Diocese of Buffalo said in a statement Thursday night that it was contacted months ago by prosecutors there with a request to review documents.

"A subpoena was provided and after some discussion, an agreement was reached to produce documents," the diocese said, adding that it had not heard anything since June.

While the subpoenas hint at possible charges of sexual exploitation of minors and fraud, legal experts said that if federal prosecutors can show that church leaders systematically covered up for child-molesting priests in the past five years, dioceses could also be charged under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, or RICO, the law originally passed to bring down the Mafia.

The nearly 900-page Pennsylvania grand jury report found that church leaders had engaged in a systematic cover-up by shuffling accused priests around to different parishes and in some cases working to prevent police investigations. Most of the complaints were decades old, and because of the statute of limitations, only two priests were charged as a result of the investigation. Many other priests are dead.

Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro, who oversaw the state probe, declined to comment on the federal investigation.

In the wake of the report's release, Shapiro said at least a dozen states opened investigations of their own and more than 1,300 accusers contacted his office on a victims' hotline.

The report also led to the resignation last week of Cardinal Donald Wuerl as archbishop of Washington. He was accused of helping to protect some child-molesting priests when he was bishop of Pittsburgh from 1988 to 2006.

This week, the report triggered a showdown in the state Legislature, where Shapiro pushed to give child-abuse victims a two-year window to sue the church in cases otherwise too old to pursue. Church leaders opposed the change, warning it would cripple their ability to fund Catholic charities and enrich lawyers. Lawmakers ended the session Wednesday without taking action.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 39 of 57

The difficulty of making charges stick against higher-ups in the church was illustrated when the Philadelphia district attorney's office brought a landmark cover-up case in 2011 against Monsignor William Lynn, a longtime aide to two Philadelphia cardinals.

Lynn, the first U.S. church official ever prosecuted for the alleged cover-up of child molestation by priests, was arrested on child-endangerment charges. At trial, he said he had merely followed orders from above. A jury convicted him in 2012. He spent three years in and out of prison as his conviction was twice overturned by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. He is awaiting a third trial.

Tucker reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Claudia Lauer in Philadelphia and Marc Levy in Harrisburg also contributed to this report.

Trump says without evidence that Dems are behind 'caravan'

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) — President Donald Trump suggested without evidence Thursday that Democrats or their allies are supporting a "caravan" of Central American migrants who are traveling north aiming to enter the United States.

Addressing thousands of supporters at a campaign rally in Montana, Trump said immigration is now one of the leading issues in the 2018 midterms, and he accused Democrats of supporting the migrants because they "figure everybody coming in is going to vote Democrat."

The comments mark the injection of one of Trump's signature 2016 campaign themes back into national conversation as he looks to boost Republican turnout to maintain their congressional majorities in 2018.

Trump was in Montana to boost GOP Senate candidate Matt Rosendale, who is running against Democratic Sen. Jon Tester — a lawmaker the president says has been a "disaster for Montana."

The president blames Tester for the backlash against former White House doctor Adm. Ronny Jackson, whom the president had tapped to serve as Veterans Affairs secretary. Jackson was forced to withdraw after facing ethics allegations, including claims that he got drunk and wrecked a government vehicle at a Secret Service going-away party. Tester had released a list of allegations against Jackson that was compiled by the Democratic staff of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

"He was attacked so viciously, so violently by Jon Tester," Trump claimed Thursday. "That's really why I'm here."

Trump also heaped praise on Republican Rep. Greg Gianforte, who pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault after attacking a reporter in 2017. "Any guy that can do a body slam, he's my kind of guy," Trump said. "He's a great guy, tough cookie."

Gianforte is being challenged in November's election by former state legislator Kathleen Williams.

Trump brought up Tester's opposition to the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who was accused of decades-old sexual assault. Kavanaugh denied the allegations.

Trump accused Democrats of engaging in a "heartless" campaign to sink Kavanaugh's confirmation, saying voters will "remember" how he was treated at the polls.

"This will be an election of Kavanaugh, the caravan, law and order, and common sense," Trump said.

Throughout his 73-minute rally, Trump was cheered when he called for building a wall along the nation's southern border. The crowd booed when he spoke of his Democratic opposition to his policies.

Earlier in the day, Trump threatened to close the U.S.-Mexico border if authorities there fail to stop about 3,000 Hondurans, who are in a migrant caravan passing through Guatemala trying to reach the United States. Mexico's government says migrants with proper documents can enter Mexico and those who don't either have to apply for refugee status or face deportation.

"A lot of money's been passing through people to come up and try to get to the border by Election Day because they think that's a negative for us," Trump said. "No. 1, they're being stopped, and No. 2, regardless, that's our issue."

He added: "They wanted that caravan and there are those that say that caravan didn't just happen. It

didn't just happen."

Trump appeared to be referring to an unfounded allegation promoted by ally Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida. The Republican lawmaker tweeted a video on Wednesday of men handing out money to people standing in line. He claimed the video showed people being paid in Honduras to join a caravan and "storm the border @ election time." Trump on Thursday tweeted the same video, writing, "Can you believe this, and what Democrats are allowing to be done to our Country?"

After questions about the video's origin, Gaetz posted a correction later Thursday on Twitter, saying, "This video was provided to me by a Honduran government official. Thus, I believed it to be from Honduras."

Neither Republican provided evidence of his claim that the people were being paid to join a caravan.

Montana marks Trump's first stop on a three-day trip out West that will take him to the border state of Arizona, where the politics of immigration are fraught, and to Nevada. Trump is boosting Republican Senate candidates as the GOP looks to maintain or expand their majority and to support vulnerable House candidates running on his ticket.

APNewsBreak: NTSB hasn't fully examined limo in fatal crash

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and DAVID KLEPPER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal safety investigators have been unable to conduct a full examination of the limousine involved in a crash that killed 20 people nearly two weeks ago in upstate New York because local prosecutors are probing it as part of their case against the limo company's operator.

While a National Transportation Safety Board spokesman says it is working cooperatively with local officials, people familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on Thursday that investigators have privately expressed frustration over their inability to fully examine the limousine.

They spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity in order to discuss sensitive conversations.

The limo remains in the possession of New York State Police after the limousine company's operator was charged four days after the crash with criminally negligent homicide.

A state police spokesman said it could be several more weeks before the NTSB is granted hands-on access to the limo. The NTSB would get in line behind state investigators and the lawyer for the limo company's operator.

"The vehicle is the most important piece of evidence that will help ultimately determine the cause of the crash, and the extent of any criminal wrongdoing," spokesman Beau Duffy said in a statement. "If the NTSB were allowed to handle evidence before it has been fully examined and processed by the state police and the defense, it would jeopardize the criminal case."

NTSB spokesman Eric Weiss said investigators were able to look inside the limousine briefly and have not conducted a full examination. But he stressed that the agency is working closely with state police.

"We anticipate getting everything we need in a timely fashion," Weiss said. "They have a criminal investigation to do. We have to accommodate that."

The federal agency is charged by Congress to conduct independent probes and can make urgent safety recommendations to address specific issues discovered during an investigation. The NTSB expects to release a preliminary report on the wreck in the next several weeks, Weiss said.

The district attorney in Schoharie County did not immediately return a call from the AP seeking comment on Thursday.

The limousine loaded with 18 people on their way to a birthday party for one of the occupants ran a stop sign and crashed at the bottom of a hill in the town of Schoharie. Everyone in the limo died, including four sisters, along with two pedestrians.

Prosecutors allege the limousine company's operator, Nauman Hussain, allowed an improperly licensed driver to operate an "unserviceable" vehicle. He has pleaded not guilty to the charge and has declined to comment on the crash.

Klepper reported from Albany, N.Y. Associated Press writer Mary Esch in Albany, N.Y., contributed to this

report.

People priced out of Salinas, California, look to the ballot

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE, Associated Press

SALINAS, Calif. (AP) — Middle-school English teacher Maryam Powers doesn't take vacations. To earn additional money, she picks up an extra period of teaching when she can and mentors new hires. But to afford the mortgage on a \$330,000 three-bedroom home she purchased in Salinas in 2015, Powers still must rent out the master bedroom for \$800 a month.

"I work, work, work, work, work. I take every extra pay job I can do, and I never quite get ahead," said Powers, who shares the home with her boyfriend and their two young children.

Powers' family is reflective of many in this California city just inland from the tourism-rich Monterey Peninsula and an hour's drive south of Silicon Valley. It's surrounded by farmland that produces most of the world's lettuce and inspired hometown author John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath."

Salinas — known as "Salad Bowl of the World" — is one of America's least affordable places to live, exemplifying a housing crisis that plagues California's rural and urban areas alike. Salinas families earn a median income of \$69,000, while the region's 90,000 farmworkers bring in far less. They face a median home price of nearly \$550,000 and two-bedroom apartments costing roughly \$1,800 a month, according to Zillow.

Frustration is mounting over expensive housing, and some Californians hope a November ballot measure on rent control provides relief.

California politicians can't ignore the issue as they try to balance people's needs in a state that's home to extreme riches and the world's fifth-largest economy but also places like Salinas, where multiple generations pack single-family homes, people turn backyard sheds into illegal bedrooms and families worry over how to pay their bills.

Residents know rent control isn't the best long-term solution — economists widely agree it cuts down on building — but they're eager to help their struggling neighbors.

"Our rents are too high. Something needs to be done," said Noelia Verwulf, a Salinas resident who helped form a group called Viviendas Para Todx or "Housing for All" that's holding community forums, registering people to vote and advocating for housing-related ballot measures. "It's a temporary fix."

Four of the 11 ballot measures facing California voters, including rent control, relate to housing. One would authorize \$4 billion in bonds for affordable housing.

The Salinas metro area is one of seven in California that ranks in the top 10 least affordable in the United States, according to an analysis of 2016 census data by Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies. Sprawling Los Angeles, wealthy Santa Barbara and rural Redding also make the list, highlighting the near inescapability of the crisis.

The federal government considers housing unaffordable if it eats up more than a third of a family's income. More than half of California renters and nearly a third of homeowners spend that much or more.

Salinas residents call the divide between the inland city of 157,000 and wealthier coastal cities such as Monterey the "lettuce curtain." More than 70 percent of Salinas is Hispanic or Latino, according to census data, and about 80 percent of the region's farmworkers live there year-round.

To save money, Powers, 39, and her boyfriend, Jean-Paul Varagnat, rented out the master bedroom of someone else's home — an arrangement she repeated at her own house to afford her \$2,300 monthly mortgage.

Varagnat watches their 2- and 3-year-old daughters to avoid \$1,000 in monthly child-care costs and takes classes at night toward an engineering degree.

"I knew I was never going to be wealthy, but I didn't think it was going to be quite this difficult," Powers said.

There are mixed reactions in Salinas to Proposition 10, the ballot measure that would scrap a law restricting rent control on single-family homes and properties built after 1995 and open the door for new

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 42 of 57

local rules about how much landlords can increase rents.

Democrat Anna Caballero, who represents Salinas in the state Assembly, opposes the measure but said she understands why the city's angry residents support it.

It feels like "the only thing you can do to get the attention of people who own rental housing units is to do something drastic," she said. "It's the wrong solution, but I understand why they grabbed it because it looks like a solution."

Caballero is running for the state Senate this November in the top swing district, a seat now held by a Republican who's reached term limits. If Caballero wins, Democrats could get back a supermajority that gives them power to raise taxes without Republican support and furthers the party's grip on power in California.

Interviews with roughly two dozen Salinas residents reveal a general belief that local, state and national politicians lack a grip on the reality of the region's housing crisis. Few said it would motivate them to vote for a different party, instead calling it one of many issues that revealed a need for fresh voices.

Verwulf's 20-year-old daughter, Victoria, said housing — not the midterm election — drove her to activism.

"We don't get to go to school and get involved in community organizing and activism because it's interesting and it's trendy," she said. "We have to do it now to survive because this is our life. This is our reality."

Carissa Purnell, director of the Alisal Family Resource Center that helps Salinas' low-income and farm-worker families navigate housing struggles, say children sleep on crates that their parents use to pick strawberries because they don't have beds.

"The things that are happening in our families are all stemming from these housing situations that we've created for each other, and the fact that no one is calling it out is frustrating," Purnell said.

Purnell's center is in east Salinas, a neighborhood of tightly packed, ranch-style homes. Cars overflow driveways and spread onto lawns, while garages brim with boxes that can't fit in cramped living areas.

Across town, three generations and 15 members of the Nunez family are jammed into a four-bedroom home. The patriarch, Jose Nunez, worked two jobs to afford the property in the 1980s.

Nunez and his wife share the home with three of their six children and their spouses and seven grandchildren. Each family has a bedroom.

Nunez didn't expect his children to be back at home but wouldn't turn them away when two lost their houses to foreclosure. His son Miguel now is struggling to find an affordable house for his family that won't require them to live paycheck to paycheck or restrict themselves from "outings, from wants from the baby, from vacations," Miguel's wife, Sasha, said.

"You get comfortable and you're happy here," she said one evening while feeding their nearly 2-year-old son in the noisy, bustling kitchen. "But there's nothing like having your own place."

One of Nunez's daughters, Araceli, also lives there with her husband and three children while they expand their small house down the street to fit their growing family. Buying a bigger home is too expensive, she said.

So her family of five shares a bedroom stuffed with two queen beds, a television and makeshift dressers for clothes that won't fit in the closet. A wooden chest for her infant son's clothes sits in the hallway.

Salinas soon hopes to build more than 10,000 homes on the northeast edge of town now covered by fields. Repurposing farmland, which abuts many neighborhoods, is seen as the best option for finding new space even as it takes away part of the city's lifeblood.

Still, some are concerned it won't be enough. A plan to bring commuter rail from the heart of Silicon Valley into Salinas could make the new homes a cheaper alternative for tech workers priced out of neighborhoods closer to work.

"We have an insatiable need for housing," City Councilman Scott Davis said. "No matter how much housing we build, we'll never have enough."

This report is part of a series on how California's struggles with soaring housing costs, job displacement and a divide over liberal policies are affecting the November election. See full coverage at: <https://apnews>.

com/CaliforniaataCrossroads

Facebook's election 'war room' takes aim at fake information

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

MENLO PARK, Calif. (AP) — In an otherwise innocuous part of Facebook's expansive Silicon Valley campus, a locked door bears a taped-on sign that reads "War Room." Behind the door lies a nerve center the social network has set up to combat fake accounts and bogus news stories ahead of upcoming elections.

Inside the room are dozens of employees staring intently at their monitors while data streams across giant dashboards. On the walls are posters of the sort Facebook frequently uses to caution or exhort its employees. One reads, "Nothing at Facebook is somebody else's problem."

That motto might strike some as ironic, given that the war room was created to counter threats that almost no one at the company, least of all CEO Mark Zuckerberg, took seriously just two years ago — and which the company's critics now believe pose a threat to democracy.

Days after President Donald Trump's surprise victory, Zuckerberg brushed off assertions that the outcome had been influenced by fictional news stories on Facebook, calling the idea "pretty crazy."

But Facebook's blase attitude shifted as criticism of the company mounted in Congress and elsewhere. Later that year, it acknowledged having run thousands of ads promoting false information placed by Russian agents. Zuckerberg eventually made fixing Facebook his personal challenge for 2018.

The war room is a major part of Facebook's ongoing repairs. Its technology draws upon the artificial intelligence system Facebook has been using to help identify "inauthentic" posts and user behavior. Facebook provided a tightly controlled glimpse at its war room to The Associated Press and other media ahead of the second round of presidential elections in Brazil on Oct. 28 and the U.S. midterm elections on Nov. 6.

"There is no substitute for physical, real-world interaction," said Samidh Chakrabarti, Facebook's director of elections and civic engagement. "The primary thing we have learned is just how effective it is to have people in the same room all together."

More than 20 different teams now coordinate the efforts of more than 20,000 people — mostly contractors — devoted to blocking fake accounts and fictional news and stopping other abuses on Facebook and its other services. As part of the crackdown, Facebook also has hired fact checkers, including The Associated Press, to vet news stories posted on its social network.

Facebook credits its war room and other stepped-up patrolling efforts for booting 1.3 billion fake accounts over the past year and jettisoning hundreds of pages set up by foreign governments and other agents looking to create mischief.

But it remains unclear whether Facebook is doing enough, said Angelo Carusone, president of Media Matters For America, a liberal group that monitors misinformation. He noted that the sensational themes distributed in fictional news stories can be highly effective at keeping people "engaged" on Facebook — which in turn makes it possible to sell more of the ads that generate most of Facebook's revenue.

"What they are doing so far seems to be more about trying to prevent another public relations disaster and less so about putting in meaningful solutions to the problem," Carusone said. "On balance, I would say they that are still way off."

The election war room and its inner workings remain too opaque to determine whether it's helping Facebook do a better job of keeping garbage off its service or if it's just a "temporary conference room with a bunch of computer monitors in it," said Molly McKew, a self-described "information warfare" researcher for New Media Frontier, which studies the flow of content on social media.

McKew believes Facebook is conflicted about blocking some content it already knows is suspect "because they keep people on their platform by sparking an emotional response, so they like they like the controversial stuff. There will always be this toeing of the line about pulling down radical, crazy content because that's what people engage on, and that's what they want."

Facebook defends its war room as an effective weapon against misinformation, although its efforts are still a work in progress. Chakrabarti, for instance, acknowledged that some "bugs" prevented Facebook

from taking some unspecified actions to prevent manipulation efforts in the first round of Brazil's presidential election earlier this month. He declined to elaborate.

The war room is currently focused on Brazil's next round of elections and upcoming U.S. midterms. Large U.S. and Brazilian flags hang on opposing walls and clocks show the time in both countries.

Facebook declined to let the media scrutinize the computer screens in front of the employees, and required reporters to refrain from mentioning some of the equipment inside the war room, calling it "proprietary information." While on duty, war-room workers are only allowed to leave the room for short bathroom breaks or to grab food to eat at their desks.

Although no final decisions have been made, the war room is likely to become a permanent fixture at Facebook, said Katie Harbath, Facebook's director of global politics and government outreach.

"It is a constant arms race," she said. "This is our new normal."

Israel's Supreme Court overturns deportation of US student

By ISABEL DEBRE, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's Supreme Court on Thursday overturned an appeals court ruling that agreed with the government's decision to bar an American graduate student from entering the country over her alleged involvement in the boycott movement against the Jewish state.

The court accepted Alqasem's appeal, saying her desire to study in Israel undermines the premise of her alleged support for a boycott. It said that if her deportation was based on her political opinion, then the state's order was "a radical and dangerous step" that could erode Israeli democracy.

Lara Alqasem's lawyers said she was released from Ben Gurion International airport, where she had been held in detention since arriving in the country Oct. 2 with a valid student visa to study at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Alqasem said in a statement that she was "relieved at the court's decision" and thankful for the support of her friends and family.

Alqasem, 22, a Florida native whose father is Palestinian, is a former president of the University of Florida chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine. The group is a branch of the BDS movement, named for its support of boycotts, divestment and sanctions against Israel.

Israel's Strategic Affairs Ministry, which spearheads the government's efforts against the boycott campaign, describes the group as an extremist organization and says BDS aims to delegitimize or even destroy the Jewish state.

Last year, Israel passed a controversial law banning entry for any foreigner who "knowingly issues a public call for boycotting Israel." It has come under heavy criticism for its handling of Alqasem's case.

Alqasem has fought her expulsion order for more than two weeks, the longest anyone has been held in a boycott-related case.

She turned to the high court Wednesday after a lower court rejected her appeal. She insists she no longer participates in boycott activities and promises not to engage in boycott activities in the future.

Her lawyers called the government's attack on Alqasem "thought-policing" and said the state failed to present credible evidence against her.

Government lawyers argued that Alqasem's deletion of her social media accounts aroused suspicion and that her past affiliation with the BDS movement still makes her a threat.

In its ruling, the Supreme Court said the state's evidence was not enough to justify its use of the anti-boycott law.

Alqasem's attorneys lauded the high court's ruling as a victory for free speech, academic freedom and the rule of law.

"Lara has ensured that no one else should be denied the right to enter Israel based on sloppy Google searches and dossiers by shadowy smear groups," lawyers Yotam Ben-Hillel and Leora Bechor said.

Gilad Erdan, head of Israel's Strategic Affairs Ministry, said the ruling was a victory for BDS and undermines Israel's anti-boycott law.

"I'm deeply disappointed," he said. "This damages the ability of the state of Israel to combat boycott activists that harm us all."

Interior Minister Aryeh Deri likewise lamented the court's decision, calling it a national embarrassment.

"Where is our national pride? Would she also have dared in the United States to act against the state while demanding to remain and study in it?" he wrote on Twitter.

Hebrew University, which has vigorously backed Alqasem and joined in her appeals, said it looks forward to welcoming her to classes next week.

'I'll walk in my broken shoes': Mom, daughter flee Venezuela

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO, Associated Press**

PAMPLONA, Colombia (AP) — As night approached, Sandra Cadiz wrapped her shivering daughter in a blanket and prayed for a ride up the frigid Colombian mountaintop known as "the icebox."

Ten-year-old Angelis already had on nearly all of the clothes she'd brought for the 2,700-mile trek through four countries — two pairs of leggings, several T-shirts and a light jacket. They did little to shield the girl's thin frame from a biting wind.

The mother and daughter had fled Venezuela on foot, joining more than 650 migrants who walk away from the collapsing nation each day because they cannot afford a plane or bus ticket. Cadiz knew not everyone survived the trek across dangerous borders and an unforgiving terrain, but she feared staying in Venezuela would mean her already malnourished daughter going hungry.

Cadiz had less than \$6 tucked into her bra, all that was left of her life savings. An hour passed, and no one picked them up. Two hours passed, then three, as the temperature steadily edged toward freezing. Only one woman stopped in a beat-up silver Toyota, but she wanted \$12 for the two of them, which Cadiz couldn't pay.

After five hours, Cadiz and her daughter closed their eyes and braced for a long night on the ground outside a gas station. Cadiz, 51, had left behind a grown daughter who was pregnant, and the only world she knew. Now, faced with the bone-chilling tundra ahead where migrants are said to perish, she was terrified.

Quietly, she began to weep.

In one of the biggest migrations in the world today, more than 1.9 million people have fled poverty, hunger, crime and hyperinflation in Venezuela since 2015 — rivaling the flow of Middle Eastern and African refugees to Europe. President Nicolas Maduro denies any mass migration, calling it a media campaign against the government, even while his countrymen fill public parks and shelters throughout South America.

The toll of the Venezuelan migration has been largely invisible, with few keeping track of the dead and missing. United Nations figures show just two dozen migrant deaths or disappearances along routes Venezuelans frequent. But data collected by AP from various agencies in three countries found that deaths and disappearances could reach a few thousand, depending on how they are counted.

At least 235 Venezuelans were reported missing in Colombia, Peru and Ecuador over the last two years. Some 334 in Colombia were killed in homicides and accidents, and an unknown number are believed to have drowned aboard shoddy boats in the Caribbean. Another 2,841 died in Colombia from illnesses on the rise in Venezuela, like malaria and malnutrition. Although it's difficult to know exactly what role migration played, Carlos Valdes, the head of Colombia's forensic services office, said many arrive weakened by the exodus.

"They can't withstand a trip that hard, because the journey is very long," he said. "They don't eat and they die."

Cadiz had survived a lifetime of hardship and was determined not to become another casualty now. The daughter of a housewife and a cemetery worker, Cadiz got pregnant at 15 and dropped out of school to earn a living and raise her child. One of her husbands was killed in a robbery, another in a motorcycle accident. The eldest of her four children died at 25 in a hail of 20 bullets by an unknown assassin.

When Venezuela's oil-rich economy was booming, her small stand selling candy, cigarettes and cellphone

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 46 of 57

minutes paid for meat on the dinner table. And when a charismatic socialist named Hugo Chavez became president in 1999, she enthusiastically added Venezuelan flags and hats to her sales racks.

In those early years, she bought chicken, sugar, milk, even Kraft mayonnaise. After she won a seat on a new local council, the government rewarded her with a free two-bedroom apartment, where she marveled at the clear water that came out of the faucets.

Her revolutionary fervor struck a nerve with an older sister, who was among the first wave of migrants to leave Venezuela as socialism took root.

"You poor thing," Cadiz remembers her saying before departing. "Keep believing in your chavismo."

It's hard for Cadiz to pinpoint exactly when she lost faith in the revolution, maybe because there are too many moments to count.

As Venezuela's economy soured, food became harder to find. Cadiz and her daughter frequently slept outside supermarkets to grab whatever was available when doors opened in the morning.

When Cadiz's pregnant daughter-in-law came down with a urinary infection, they couldn't find an antibiotic. Then the newborn got diaper rash because they couldn't afford diapers or detergent good enough to clean makeshift cloth ones. Cadiz worried the young family could be one illness away from disaster.

"Go or your child will die," Cadiz told her son.

They fled by foot to Peru this summer, a trek nearly equivalent to trekking from Los Angeles to New York City.

In the meantime, customers no longer had cash to spend at Cadiz's store, and she struggled to feed Angelis, who a doctor said was at least 10 pounds underweight. She wrote repeatedly to government ministers begging for help as a single mother, starting her letters with, "A revolutionary hello!" She got no response.

When Maduro went on television in August to announce a special bonus to help Venezuelans transition to a new currency with five fewer zeroes, Cadiz saw her chance. The money would be just enough for two bus tickets to the border with Colombia.

That night she approached Angelis with the idea. They could spend the money on something like a new pair of tennis shoes to replace her old blue ones with a hole in them. Or they could try to reunite with her brother in Peru.

A half-dozen of Angelis' friends already had left. Angelis missed foods like yogurt and ice cream, and saw the photographs of what her brother and his family were eating in Peru.

"Let's go, mama," Angelis told her. "I'll walk in my broken shoes."

The trek from Venezuela typically starts on one of hundreds of illegal dirt trails that snake across the nation's border with Colombia, because many Venezuelan migrants do not have passports to go through official crossings.

The illegal pathways are ruled by armed men who charge migrants about \$10 to be let through, frequently robbing or assaulting those who can't pay. Three days before Cadiz and Angelis embarked on their journey, police found the corpse of a 44-year-old father who had been shot five times.

The migrants then cross the murky Tachira River, where the current can be strong enough to pull them under.

Cadiz had a passport, but Angelis didn't. She decided to try the journey with one passport and the handwritten death certificate for Angelis' father. She bid goodbye to her older daughter, who accused her mother of abandoning her, and boarded the bus to the border with deepening trepidation.

At the Colombian border, Angelis and her mother got separated amid a swarm of migrants. A frantic Cadiz finally spotted her daughter on the other side; Angelis had walked quickly through in a group of children without anyone asking her for a passport.

They spent their first night in Colombia at the Cucuta bus terminal, where they watched in horror as an angry Colombian chased a Venezuelan migrant with a machete. The next day they set off walking toward the mountain.

Some 142 Venezuelans have been reported missing in Colombia so far this year — up from 85 in all of

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 47 of 57

2017, according to Colombia's forensic services office. Facebook groups are filled with posts from Venezuelans looking for friends and family members who took off walking and haven't been seen again.

"I have no other choice but to look here for help," a woman wrote recently, sharing a photo of a young man who crossed illegally and hadn't been heard from again. "His relatives are in complete despair not knowing what happened."

The numbers for the dead are also growing. In Cucuta alone, there are 37 bodies believed to belong to Venezuelans that authorities have been unable to identify. Valdes, the forensic medicine chief, said investigators can typically piece together enough information to know if someone is Venezuelan, but not their name.

"They die and we don't know who they are," Valdes said.

As midnight approached, Cadiz rested a cheek against her daughter's head and closed her eyes, but sleep in an ice-cold gas station parking lot surrounded by strangers was next to impossible.

The next morning, most of the migrants waited to hitch a ride rather than walk, too afraid of getting stranded in the lonely mountain plateau. But Cadiz didn't want to spend another night there. As soon as the sun rose, she set off with Angelis and another migrant.

Within a few miles, the man's feet began to blister. He took off his shoes, tore the plastic from a soda bottle into the shape of two soles and ripped up a T-shirt to tie the makeshift flip flops onto his feet. As they walked, the sound of the plastic creaking against the concrete echoed across the barren landscape.

Angelis stuck her thumb out to passing trucks. They were easily identified as Venezuelans because of their tricolor backpacks, handed out en masse by the socialist government to public school children. Families in SUVs, farmers and truckers with empty payloads all passed them by.

"They don't stop," Angelis sighed.

Along the narrow shoulder of the road were traces of the migrants who'd come before: Tennis shoes with broken soles, a ripped-up black suitcase, the wheels missing, and a rock wall with carvings of names of people and places.

Lara. Merida. David from Valencia.

Five hours later, they dropped their bags on the floor of another gas station. They were three days into their journey and barely a fifth of the way to Peru. Now they had to cross the coldest part of the mountain.

The mountain plateau known in Colombia as the Berlin paramo is one of the most feared parts of the journey, with temperatures that can dip to 10 degrees below freezing. Cadiz and Angelis heard multiple stories of death from fellow migrants. In some accounts, it was a mother and daughter who had fallen asleep and frozen; in others, an entire family.

Anny Uribe, a woman who runs a refuge for migrant walkers, said she has heard direct witness accounts of at least 17 people dying in the paramo. A Red Cross coordinator for the region said they have no bodies or other evidence that anyone has died. But officials concede the deaths may never have been reported by migrants who entered Colombia illegally.

Migrant Isaia Alberto Munoz, 34, said he saw a family digging a hole and crying along the side of the road, as they buried someone wrapped in a white blanket with red flowers. His group decided they could not stop.

"We couldn't withstand the cold," he said.

As Cadiz and Angelis walked steadily onward, Alba Camacho and a friend spotted them along the side of the road. At first she drove by. They only had room in the car for two people, and Angelis and her mother were walking with three other migrants.

"But the girl and the woman?" her friend asked.

The 27-year-old teacher feared none of the migrants would make it out of the paramo before night fell if they had to walk the entire way, especially the girl. They turned around for Angelis and Cadiz.

Camacho wrapped Angelis in her own thick blue coat and bought them empanadas. They drove over the mountaintop inside a warm SUV. When they arrived at the city of Bucaramanga, Camacho and her

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 48 of 57

friend took them home rather than dropping them off at a public park with hundreds of other homeless Venezuelans.

That night, snug together in the kind stranger's living room, Cadiz suddenly heard Angelis talking in her sleep.

"I don't want to walk anymore!" she cried out.

Back on the road early the next morning, Cadiz quickly lost her orientation. She knew only what her son had told her: Take the Ruta del Sol — the Sun Route — through Cali to Ecuador. She approached an elderly man and asked, "Which way to Cali?", eliciting a confused response. Her question was the equivalent of standing on a New York street and asking, "Which way to Cleveland?"

She and Angelis took their best guess and soldiered on, stopping a mile later to make a sign on a discarded box of Zev tomato sauce. Angelis, tired and frustrated, instructed her mom on what to write.

"Blessed driver, please help us with a ride," Cadiz wrote in magic marker, misspelling the word "blessed."

Angelis bobbed the sign up and down at every passing vehicle. Only a bicyclist bothered to stop, handing them the equivalent of a dollar in pesos. Two hours and almost three miles later, Angelis demanded to stop walking.

"Don't you want to get home?" her mother asked, urging her to get up from the curb.

"What home?" she shot back angrily.

Angelis reluctantly kept walking. About a mile ahead, with the help of a police officer, they got a lift from a passing motorist to Lebrija, the pineapple capital of Colombia, where the scent of the sweet fruit filled the air.

They stopped at another gas station where a Venezuelan woman with her husband and nine-year-old son was desperately trying to cool down her feverish baby in the shade of a tree. Cadiz and her daughter were also trying to escape the suffocating heat when a man in a black sombrero gave them 50,000 Colombian pesos — the equivalent of \$16.

"I hope you never vote for Maduro again," he told them.

They walked and hitched more rides, but the progress was agonizingly slow. By the next evening, they were barely a quarter of the way through Colombia to Ecuador, the next country on their route. As the sun began to set in a place known only as "Kilometer 17," Angelis and her mom bickered.

"Which is the Sun Route?" the girl asked.

"Oh, Angelis," Cadiz said, flustered. "I don't know!"

They made a small bed of blankets under the tin roof of a mechanic's workshop. The two moved repeatedly all night trying to keep dry as a fierce storm blew in.

"We're trapped," Cadiz told her son in a WhatsApp voice message. But she had no cell signal, so the cry for help didn't go through.

As on almost every night on the trip, Cadiz wept. That night, Angelis sobbed, too.

The road leading to the Sun Route was long and empty. But Cadiz found a small coffee shack and an oil trucker who, despite fears of being fined by police for transporting migrants, took them to the main drag of a small town called San Pedro de la Paz. It was there that Cadiz decided to switch her strategy: She had collected 250,000 pesos — about \$82 — from generous Colombians and would use the money for buses.

That day Cadiz and her daughter made their way onto three buses, often working out a two-for-one price as long as Angelis sat on her lap. When they finally arrived in Cali, the two were fast asleep.

"Cali! Cali terminal!" the driver cried out, trying to rustle them awake. When they emerged several minutes later, their worn bags were the last ones waiting on the sidewalk.

The Cali bus station was filled with Venezuelan migrants sleeping outside on flattened cardboard boxes in a crime-riddled area. Cadiz quickly bought two bus tickets to Ecuador. Ecuador's government had recently started requiring passports, but a court had temporarily suspended the policy. Aware of this, the passengers were in a desperate quest to enter Ecuador while they still had a shot.

Cranky children cried throughout the 12-hour ride. At the border, Cadiz and Angelis once again anxiously

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 49 of 57

made their way toward the migration line for families.

As they waited, a man with a stack of Venezuelan bills said he'd buy any she might have. Cadiz took out all that was left of her life savings. The man counted the notes and offered her fifty cents.

She refused. She couldn't stand taking so little for all she'd earned.

As her mom snaked through four hours of lines, Angelis fell asleep on the floor, her head lying awkwardly on a pile of bags. When Cadiz finally reached a migration agent, she handed over her passport, her husband's death certificate and her daughter's national identity card. The agent stared at the card, handed it back without a word and signed off on a special document that would let Angelis enter without a passport.

Cadiz's relief was visible as she and her daughter posed for photos below a "Thanks for Visiting Ecuador" sign. But minutes later they realized that amid the frenzy of crossing, they'd lost Angelis' national ID card.

It was the only photo identification they had for Angelis. They still had one more border and 1,288 miles (2,073 kilometers) to cross.

In Ecuador, Cadiz and Angelis headed toward a Red Cross tent already sheltering dozens of migrants. They learned a bus would be leaving for the Peruvian border that night — provided for free by the Ecuadorean government in an apparent bid to both help the migrants and get them out of the country.

Cadiz added their names to the long list of Venezuelans hoping for a seat. Women and children were instructed to board first, sparking tensions among a group of men.

"There are people who have been waiting for six days!" cried a man who said he'd spent 18 days walking to Ecuador.

"There are also people who should be given a priority," a man carrying a clipboard quipped back.

Twenty hours later, the mother and daughter emerged hungry and suffering from nausea and indigestion. A Red Cross doctor stationed near the border diagnosed Angelis with gastroenteritis and gave her a bottle of Bactrim.

Eight days after fleeing Caracas, Angelis and her mother had reached their final border. Cadiz didn't know what Peruvian migration officials would say when they found out Angelis didn't have a single photo ID, let alone a passport. But having made it this far, she felt confident God would guide her.

The next morning they set out walking to the Peruvian migration checkpoint several miles away. Several thousand migrants waited, but they were again put in a special line for families with children. When they got to the front about an hour later, Cadiz pulled her documents out of a crinkled Hello Kitty folder.

"First time you're in Peru?" a migration officer asked Cadiz.

"Yes," she replied.

She instructed Cadiz to place her fingers on a digital scanner. Angelis impatiently showed her how. When it was her turn, the girl grinned ear to ear at the camera.

"Calm down," the agent told her coldly. "Don't smile."

Angelis pursed her lips together into a straight line.

On board a double-decker bus filled with Venezuelans for the 18-hour ride to Lima, Cadiz and her daughter feasted on two hamburgers and a Peruvian drink. At one stop, Cadiz saw her daughter staring at a food stand with fried chicken and soda and bought her some. By the time they reached Lima, they didn't have a cent in their pockets.

"I arrived by a miracle," Cadiz said.

Angelis' older brother, Leonardo Araujo, his wife and their 1-year-old daughter welcomed them with an embrace. Cadiz saw they had gained weight, and Angelis admired the toddler's sparkly silver shoes.

They picked up their bags for the final walk to the Lima neighborhood they hoped to call home.

EPILOGUE:

A month after arriving in Peru, Angelis and her mom are back on the move. The landlord kicked them out of the tiny room where Cadiz's son lives when they couldn't pay more rent.

In one desperate moment, Cadiz considered going back to Venezuela, but relatives there told her things had only gotten worse.

They now live in a shelter and walk the streets each day selling knick-knacks. Still, there have been glimmers of the life they hoped for in Peru.

Angelis has gained 11 pounds.

Job growth is found to be no cure for a community's poverty

By JOSH BOAK, AP Economics Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — A healthy dose of job growth has long been seen as a likely cure for poverty. But new research suggests that poor Americans are frequently left behind even when their cities or communities benefit from hiring booms.

When such cities as Atlanta and Charlotte enjoyed a job surge in the 20 years that began in 1990, for example, the job gains mostly bypassed residents — often African-American — who had been born into poverty.

That is among the findings of a study led by Raj Chetty, a Harvard economist whose newly launched Opportunity Atlas found no association between job growth and economic mobility for poor residents of the affected areas.

"Job growth is not sufficient by itself to create upward mobility," Chetty said. "It's almost as though racial disparities have been amplified by job growth."

His finding challenges much of the conventional thinking, of government officials, business executives and economists, that job gains are the surest way to lift up people in impoverished communities.

President Donald Trump pledged to save neglected towns through "jobs, jobs, jobs." His 2016 presidential rival, Hillary Clinton, asserted that government investments to foster hiring would help create "an economy that works for everyone." Governors and mayors have traded tax breaks for pledges by companies to create jobs in distressed communities.

But Chetty and his colleagues, whose atlas examined communities down to Census tract levels, found that economic mobility hinges more frequently on other factors. A person's race, for example, plays a pivotal role. Economic mobility varied widely among people of different races who lived in the same neighborhoods in Los Angeles or Houston, among other places.

Additionally, living in neighborhoods with many two-parent families improves the likelihood of emerging from poverty— even when someone was raised by a single parent. Mobility is often greater for children who come from neighborhoods with higher-priced housing. And it's generally better when a high proportion of adults in a neighborhood are working, according to the analysis by Chetty; economists Nathaniel Hendren of Harvard and John Friedman of Brown University; and researchers Sonya Porter and Maggie Jones of the Census Bureau.

"It has been a surprising finding," Hendren said. "Places that have a lot of job growth don't tend to be places that are better to grow up in."

In the two decades that ended in 2010, the Atlanta and Charlotte areas were flooded with jobs. Yet many of those positions appear to have skipped over the residents who were born in those cities' poorer neighborhoods. The jobs were instead filled by college graduates who had moved to the South. At the same time, mobility worsened in neighborhoods with a high concentration of African-Americans.

Metro Pittsburgh, on the other hand, lost jobs between 1990 and 2010, yet its residents' economic mobility improved as the area became a nexus for college graduates working in technology and health care.

In the Seattle area, the home of such corporate powerhouses as Amazon and Microsoft, both jobs and economic mobility grew over the same period. (Those gains have, in turn, caused home prices to jump to levels that could threaten continued economic mobility.)

Disparities exist not just among metro areas but also among neighborhoods within the same city, according to an Associated Press examination of the data in the Opportunity Atlas.

In Baltimore, the "Old Town" neighborhood near Johns Hopkins Hospital is a mecca of entrepreneurship. The number of jobs there surged 21 percent between 2004 and 2013, compared with job growth of just 3.4 percent nationally. Nearly 15,000 people work in the area because of the hospital, and 60 percent of

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 51 of 57

the companies are younger than 4 years old, according to government data compiled by the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance.

Yet the neighborhood is marked by abandoned storefronts, public housing and a 93 percent non-white population. More than half its residents live in poverty. Ninety percent of the children are raised by single parents. And the Opportunity Atlas shows that a low-income child from that neighborhood is likely to become even poorer as an adult.

Connecting its residents with employers has proved problematic, as it has in poor communities across the country. The disparity between residents and workers in the neighborhood suggests that the jobs have gone to people who either live in other, more prosperous neighborhoods or who commute from the surrounding suburbs.

For nearly four years, a program called Turn Around Tuesday has been trying to address this mismatch. Backed by the interfaith group Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development, the program seeks to match employers like Johns Hopkins to workers who have lived in poverty, have struggled with drug addiction or have criminal records but who are regarded as qualified for a job. Recently, about 40 people sat in a church basement of an otherwise desolate block of Baltimore to learn how to tell their personal stories to hiring managers — a first step toward getting and holding steady work.

Melvin Wilson, the co-director, opened with a prayer for them.

"Pray for jobs," he said. "Though we've created 555 living-wage jobs, you know, as we know, God, that's not enough."

The gap in outcomes among Baltimore neighborhoods is hardly surprising to City Councilman Leon Pinkett, who represents a western slice of the city and has worked in economic development.

"What the data does for us," he said of the research, "is that it validates all the things that we know to be true: That many of the residents of these communities start at a deficit, and little is done through policy or investments to assist them in closing that gap."

Some metro areas have experimented with programs that might broaden economic mobility. With its home prices having shot up, Seattle, for instance, has developed vouchers to help families afford to move to the neighborhood surrounding the Northgate Mall, which has a track record of solid economic mobility. Minneapolis is considering a similar program.

"This is really fundamental in terms of what America is about," Chetty said of the drive to improve economic mobility for people chronically left behind. "The way people perceive of America is as a land of opportunity. If you let that go, that changes what America means not only for the people here but for the world."

The discovery that job growth is no panacea for impoverished neighborhoods adds a new complication to economic policy. As a community adds jobs, the pool of unemployed people should, in theory, decline, force up incomes and revitalize neighborhoods. But if economic mobility hinges at least as much on having a college degree, an intact family and racial equality, solutions become trickier.

There are even signs that the recovery of jobs after the Great Recession could worsen economic mobility. Recent data suggests that Americans who can afford to do so are increasingly clustering in the most prosperous parts of the country. Since the financial meltdown a decade ago and the recovery that followed, people with college degrees have increasingly settled in the wealthiest 20 percent of ZIP codes. These areas have enjoyed the most job growth and have accounted for almost all new business formation, according to a new report by the Economic Innovation Group, a policy and advocacy organization.

By contrast, in the most financially distressed 20 percent of ZIP codes, populations have dwindled, and there has been almost no recovery from the recession that officially ended more than nine years ago.

"Prosperous areas just take off — and they're driving a national trend that looks increasingly disconnected with the median area, or what we call Anytown, USA," said John Lettieri, president of EIG.

Part of the challenge is that even when poor communities manage to add jobs, residents who finally have reliable incomes often move to neighborhoods with less crime and better housing. They, too, tend to seek a better quality of life.

Octavia Mason, 53, has attended Turnaround Tuesday for the past nine months. She is a dedicated

mother to her adult children, yet she lost her license as a pharmacy technician after a broken marriage led to drug use. She's now on the path to regain her license and find work. But she hopes to leave the western Baltimore neighborhood where she grew up, which has stagnated because of unemployment, crime and a break down in trust.

She wants to move to a neighborhood where it's "normal" to have a job.

"There's a lot of families that aren't working — and you've got generations of that and that's their normal," she said.

Wet and mild: Warm winter predicted for much of the US

By SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Winter looks wet and especially mild for much of the country, thanks to a weak El Nino brewing, U.S. meteorologists said.

The National Weather Service on Thursday predicted a warmer than normal winter for the northern and western three-quarters of the nation. The greatest chance for warmer than normal winter weather is in Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, Montana, northern Wyoming and western North Dakota.

No place in the United States is expected to be colder than normal, said Mike Halpert, deputy director of the government's Climate Prediction Center.

The Southeast, Ohio Valley and mid-Atlantic can go any which way on temperature, Halpert said.

Overall the winter looks a lot like the last few, Halpert said.

"The country as a whole has been quite mild since 2014-2015," Halpert said.

Winter weather expert Judah Cohen, of the private company Atmospheric and Environmental Research, uses different indicators to predict winter for the National Science Foundation. He also forecasted a warm winter, heavily based on weak snowfall in Siberia.

PRECIPITATION

Halpert said the southern one-third of the United States and much of the East Coast could be hunkering down for a wetter than normal December through January. The chances are highest in southeastern Georgia and much of northern and central Florida.

Hawaii, Montana, Michigan, parts of Idaho, Wisconsin, northern Illinois, Indiana and Ohio are forecast to be drier than normal, with the biggest likelihood in Hawaii, Montana and Michigan.

The middle belt of the nation and some of the north from California to New York can go any which way on precipitation.

The weather service's forecast doesn't look at snow likelihood.

EL NINO

Halpert said the biggest factor in the forecast is a likely El Nino, the natural warming of parts of the central Pacific Ocean that influences weather worldwide.

The El Nino hasn't quite formed yet, but it's almost warm enough. Meteorologists predict there's a 75 percent chance it'll be around this winter. But it will be weak, not strong like the El Nino that helped lead to the record warm 2015-2016 winter, Halpert said.

BACKGROUND WARMING

While El Nino is the biggest factor in the forecast, long-term warming from human-caused climate change is a factor, too, Halpert said.

"All things being equal, the slight kick we get out of the climate signal does tilt things toward the warm side," Halpert said.

But it's not enough to outweigh other factors if they push toward cold.

"Even on a warming planet," he said, "it doesn't mean winter goes away and it's never cold again."

Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter: @borenbears .

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Challenge for indicted Republicans: Win re-election

By **JULIE WATSON** and **CAROLYN THOMPSON**, Associated Press

Winning re-election while indicted is a rare feat in U.S. history.

But two Republican congressmen are attempting to do just that in November's midterm elections: Reps. Duncan Hunter of California and Chris Collins of New York.

After pleading not guilty in August to separate federal charges, both congressmen are entering the final weeks of the campaign doing what they can to lay low. They have largely avoided the media and refused to debate their opponents. Both declined repeated requests to comment for this story.

Instead, they have mostly appeared at Republican-friendly events, and run attack ads against their Democratic challengers that some say seek to exploit racial prejudice and xenophobia.

Indictments and even jail time have not always ended political careers. A few have won re-election while facing criminal charges and some ended up exonerated. Others were convicted and later resigned.

But the Collins and Hunter contests are emerging as a fresh test of partisanship in the Trump era. Some voters may look past such a blemish this year to ensure that their preferred party remains in power.

"If you look at the question of partisanship, it sort of makes sense to me why Republican voters would prefer a Republican under indictment to a Democrat," said Kyle Kondik, managing editor of Sabato's Crystal Ball, a nonpartisan analytical newsletter at the University of Virginia's Center for Politics. "Two decades ago, partisanship was not as strong, and (they) would have been in more trouble."

Collins, 68, initially suspended his campaign after being charged with insider trading that prosecutors say helped his son and others avert nearly \$800,000 in stock losses. But he reversed course over the difficulty in removing his name from the ballot, saying the stakes "are too high" to allow a Democrat to take the congressional seat he has held for three terms.

Democrats are trying to pick up 23 seats nationwide to win control of the House.

Don Lloyd, a 70-year-old retired engineer who lives in Eden, New York, said he'll vote for Collins even though he believes he should not be running.

"But what am I really voting for? I'm voting for a Republican," Lloyd said. "And let's face it, the election isn't about Chris Collins. It's about Trump. ... I'm supporting the Republican Party."

Collins came under fire for a TV ad that showed his Democratic opponent, Nate McMurray, speaking Korean, over a backdrop of ominous music, a portrait of the North Korean dictator and captions falsely implying he was talking about sending American jobs to Asia. McMurray has studied and taught law in South Korea and is married to a woman from South Korea.

In California, Hunter and his wife face a 60-count indictment accusing them of using more than \$250,000 in campaign funds for everything from a family trip to Italy to Costco shopping sprees and then trying to hide the illegal spending in government records as donations to charities, including for wounded warriors.

After his last court appearance in San Diego, Hunter was swarmed by protesters, including one wearing a bunny suit in reference to claims that he used campaign funds on airfare for a pet rabbit.

"We're still running, and we're going to win," Hunter told reporters over the chants of "lock him up!"

Polls suggest the race has tightened between the 41-year-old former combat Marine and his opponent, Ammar Campa-Najjar, a 29-year-old first-time candidate who worked in the Obama administration.

Hunter, who is seeking his sixth term, has struck back with a YouTube ad alleging Campa-Najjar, a Latino Arab-American, is working to "infiltrate Congress." It falsely asserts he is supported by the Muslim Brotherhood. It also mentions his Palestinian background. His father served in the Palestine Liberation Organization and his grandfather was a leader of the group that orchestrated the terror attack at the 1972 Munich Olympics that killed 11 Israeli athletes.

Dozens of national security experts have assailed the attacks as racist. Campa-Najjar, who was raised in San Diego by his Mexican-American mother, had little to do with his Palestinian father and his Palestinian grandfather was killed before he was born. The FBI vetted his family before giving him security clearances

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 54 of 57

to work in the Obama administration.

Maria Patton, an independent, said she is still undecided about whom to vote for, but the attacks have turned her off.

"I don't support that kind of mentality," said the 60-year-old retired educator, who lives in La Mesa, east of San Diego. "I find it unfair."

Hunter has stepped up the attacks as donations have poured in for his opponent, who raised \$1.4 million in the third quarter compared with \$132,000 by the incumbent.

"There's a high premium on truth this election year," Campa-Najjar told The Associated Press.

McMurray, town supervisor of Grand Island, also saw donations triple in the third quarter, when he raised \$520,000 compared with \$33,000 for Collins.

"Both Democrats and Republicans are starting to support me and there's a reason: Because people want something better," McMurray said.

Like Collins and Hunter, Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey refused to resign after being indicted in 2015 on corruption charges. The case was dismissed after a hung jury. He is now in a tight race with his Republican opponent.

In 2014, Republican Rep. Michael Grimm of New York was re-elected while under indictment, but later resigned after pleading guilty to tax evasion. After serving more than seven months in prison, he ran again in the June primary but lost.

Watson reported from San Diego. Thompson reported from Buffalo, New York.

European, Asian leaders meet to discuss trade, climate

By MIKE CORDER, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European and Asian leaders gathered Friday to pledge their support for free trade, at a meeting that underscored trade tensions with U.S. President Donald Trump.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the Asia-Europe Meeting in Brussels would send a signal that "countries are coming together here from Europe and Asia that all want rules-based global trade and are committed to multilateralism."

The meeting brings together 30 European leaders with their counterparts from 21 Asian nations as well as top officials from the European Union and Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Together, the group accounts for some two-thirds of the world's economic output, 55 percent of global trade and 60 percent of the world's population.

In a draft of the meeting's closing statement seen by The Associated Press, the leaders say they "highlighted the vital need of maintaining an open world economy and upholding the rules-based multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization at its core."

Trump slapped 25 percent tariffs on steel imports and 10 percent on imported aluminum from the EU on June 1. He said the move was to protect U.S. national security interests, but the Europeans claim it is simply protectionism and breaks global trade rules. The EU hit back with tariffs on about 2.8 billion euros-worth (\$3.4 billion) of U.S. steel, agricultural and other products.

The stakes are even higher in Trump's trade war with China. Trump has imposed tariffs on about \$250 billion of Chinese products amid U.S. accusations that China engages in cyber-theft and coerces foreign companies into handing over technology in return for access to the Chinese market, as well as by Trump's anger over China's trade surplus with the U.S.

The wide-ranging agenda of the Brussels meeting also included discussions on climate change, with leaders in the draft conclusions "expressing their profound concern that current global efforts are insufficient" to meet goals set out in the Paris climate accord. Trump has removed the U.S. from that deal.

In another draft conclusion that ran counter to U.S. policy, European and Asian leaders praised the Iran nuclear deal — another multilateral initiative rejected by Trump.

"Preserving the nuclear deal with Iran is a matter of respecting international agreements, and promoting

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 55 of 57

international security, peace and stability," the draft conclusions said.

One region where the leaders in Brussels were more closely aligned with Trump was the Korean peninsula, where the U.S. president has been involved with efforts to end North Korea's nuclear program.

The draft declaration hailed efforts by South Korea and "other partners" to "achieve lasting peace and stability on a Korean Peninsula free of nuclear weapons.

Rights groups and lawmakers had called on the European leaders to push their Asian counterparts on human rights, citing abuses in many Asian nations, including the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Buddhist-majority Myanmar's military is accused of widespread rights violations, including rape, murder, torture and burning villages, which has seen about 700,000 Rohingya fleeing to Bangladesh since August last year.

Without mentioning Rohingya by name, the leaders underscored the need to pave the way for the "safe, voluntary, dignified, and sustainable return of displaced persons to Rakhine State."

Asian stocks tumble after Wall Street skids, China slows

By **JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer**

BEIJING (AP) — Asian stock markets sank Friday after Wall Street declined on losses for tech and industrial stocks and Chinese economic growth slowed.

KEEPING SCORE: Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index fell 1.1 percent to 22,411.33 and Seoul's Kospi shed 0.3 percent to 2,141.06. The Shanghai Composite Index was flat at 2,485.99 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.3 percent to 25,378.50. Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 shed 0.2 percent to 5,929.50 and benchmarks in New Zealand, Taiwan and Southeast Asia also retreated.

WALL STREET: Investors sold technology and internet stocks, industrials, and companies that rely on consumer spending amid worries about economic growth. The Standard & Poor's 500 index has lost 5.5 percent in volatile trading since Oct. 3. Industrial and basic materials companies that investors worry might be vulnerable to a worsening U.S.-Chinese tariff battle have taken some of the biggest losses. The S&P 500 shed 1.4 percent to 2,768.78. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 1.3 percent to 25,379.45. The Nasdaq composite sank 2.1 percent to 7,485.14.

CHINA: Growth in the world's second-biggest economy slowed to 6.5 percent in the quarter ending in September from the previous quarter's 6.7 percent. The downturn adds to pressure on communist leaders as they fight a mounting tariff battle with Washington. A government spokesman said the economy was stable but "external challenges" and "downward pressure" were increasing. Retail spending and investment, key economic drivers, decelerated to still-robust levels.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "The markets continue to shudder as political turbulence ferments," said Stephen Innes of OANDA in a report. The Chinese data "offer little solace to risk sentiment," Innes said. "There are worrying signs beyond the tariff effect that are more concerning," including weaker factory output, he said.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 11 cents to \$68.76 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell \$1.10 on Thursday to \$68.65. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained 28 cents to \$79.57 in London. It retreated 76 cents the previous session to \$79.29.

CURRENCY: The dollar gained to 112.38 yen from Thursday's 112.17 yen. The euro advanced to \$1.1458 from \$1.1453.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Oct. 19, the 292nd day of 2018. There are 73 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 19, 1789, John Jay was sworn in as the first Chief Justice of the United States.

On this date:

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 56 of 57

In 1781, British troops under Gen. Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia, as the American Revolution neared its end.

In 1864, Confederate Lt. Gen. Jubal A. Early's soldiers attacked Union forces at Cedar Creek, Virginia; the Union troops were able to rally and defeat the Confederates.

In 1944, the U.S. Navy began accepting black women into WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service).

In 1950, during the Korean Conflict, United Nations forces entered the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

In 1953, the Ray Bradbury novel "Fahrenheit 451," set in a dystopian future where books are banned and burned by the government, was first published by Ballantine Books.

In 1967, the U.S. space probe Mariner 5 flew past Venus.

In 1977, the supersonic Concorde made its first landing in New York City.

In 1982, automaker John Z. DeLorean was arrested by federal agents in Los Angeles, accused of conspiring to sell \$24 million of cocaine to salvage his business. (DeLorean was acquitted at trial on grounds of entrapment.)

In 1987, the stock market crashed as the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged 508 points, or 22.6 percent in value (its biggest daily percentage loss), to close at 1,738.74 in what came to be known as "Black Monday."

In 1994, 22 people were killed as a terrorist bomb shattered a bus in the heart of Tel Aviv's shopping district.

In 2001, U.S. special forces began operations on the ground in Afghanistan, opening a significant new phase of the assault against the Taliban and al-Qaida.

In 2005, a defiant Saddam Hussein pleaded innocent to charges of premeditated murder and torture as his trial opened under heavy security in the former headquarters of his Baath Party in Baghdad.

Ten years ago: Retired Gen. Colin Powell, a Republican who was President George W. Bush's first secretary of state, broke with the party and endorsed Democrat Barack Obama for president, calling him a "transformational figure" during an appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press." The Tampa Bay Rays held off the defending champion Boston Red Sox 3-1 to win the American League championship series in Game 7. Mr. Blackwell, the acerbic designer famous for his annual worst-dressed list of celebrities, died in Los Angeles at age 86.

Five years ago: Nine Lebanese pilgrims abducted in Syria and two Turkish pilots held hostage in Lebanon returned home as part of an ambitious three-way deal cutting across the Syrian civil war. Shane Victorino's seventh-inning grand slam propelled Boston to a 5-2 victory over the Detroit Tigers, clinching the AL championship series in six games. British actor and musician Noel Harrison, who sang the Academy Award-winning ballad "The Windmills of Your Mind," died in Devon, England, at age 79.

One year ago: Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello, meeting with President Donald Trump at the White House about a month after Hurricane Maria, described the situation in the island territory as "catastrophic"; Trump rated the White House response to the disaster as a "10." Counter-demonstrators greatly outnumbered supporters of white nationalist Richard Spencer, drowning him out as he spoke at the University of Florida. The Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Chicago Cubs 11-1 to reach the World Series for the first time in almost three decades.

Today's Birthdays: Author John le Carre (luh kah-RAY') is 87. Artist Peter Max is 81. Author and critic Renata Adler is 81. Actor Michael Gambon is 78. Actor John Lithgow (LIH-th'-goh) is 73. Feminist activist Patricia Ireland is 73. Singer Jeannie C. Riley is 73. Rock singer-musician Patrick Simmons (The Doobie Brothers) is 70. Talk show host Charlie Chase is 66. Rock singer-musician Karl Wallinger (World Party) is 61. Former Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele is 60. Singer Jennifer Holliday is 58. Retired boxer Evander Holyfield is 56. Host Ty Pennington (TV: "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition") is 54. Rock singer-musician Todd Park Mohr (Big Head Todd and the Monsters) is 53. Actor Jon Favreau is 52. Amy Carter is 51. "South Park" co-creator Trey Parker is 49. Comedian Chris Kattan is 48. Rock singer Pras Michel (The Fugees) is 46. Actor Omar Gooding is 42. Country singer Cyndi Thomson is 42. Writer-director Jason Reitman is 41. Actor Benjamin Salisbury is 38. Actress Gillian Jacobs is 36. Actress Rebecca Fergu-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 102 ~ 57 of 57

son is 35. Rock singer Zac Barnett (American Authors) is 32. Singer-actress Ciara Renee (TV: "Legends of Tomorrow") is 28. Actress Hunter King is 25.

Thought for Today: "If our country is worth dying for in time of war let us resolve that it is truly worth living for in time of peace." — Hamilton Fish III, American congressman (1888-1991).