

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 1 of 48

- 2- Great Places, Freezing Faces
- 2- No rural mail delivery
- 3- Hunter Schaller Update
- 3- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted Ads
- 3- Electric Supt. Resigns
- 4- Taste of March to follow polar vortex invasion in midwestern, eastern US
- 5- Today in Weather History
- 6-7 Weather Pages
- 8- Daily Devotional
- 9- 2019 Groton Events
- 10- News from the Associated Press

## Groton Area Schedule of Events

**Due to the dangerous wind chills, the Groton Area School District will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 30th.**

**The basketball game for Tuesday at Langford will be postponed.  
The Government trip scheduled for Wednesday will also be postponed.**

### Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019

Today is National Inane Answering Message Day

### Thursday, January 31, 2019

Today is Backward Day and Inspire Your Heart with Art Day

4:00pm: Basketball: Boys 7th/8th Game vs. Webster Area High School @ Webster Armory (7th grade at 4 p.m., 8th grade at 5 p.m.)

6:30pm: Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Tiospa Zina @ Groton Area High School

### Friday, February 1, 2019

Today is Bubble Gum Day, National Freedom Day and No Politics Day

5:15pm: Basketball: Boys C Game vs. Tiospa Zina @ Tiospa Zina High School followed by JV and Varsity games.

### **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

### Skating Rink Hours

**CLOSED TODAY**

**Open Monday - Thursday: 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Friday: 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

**Saturday: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.**

**Sunday: 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 2 of 48

From a Facebook Page

## Great Places, Freezing Faces...South Dakota.



# No Rural Delivery

The Groton Post Office will have regular hours today. There will be no rural delivery; however, according to Postmaster Mindy Vander Vorst, the mail did come to Groton so people can go to the post office to get their mail if they want to.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 3 of 48

## Hunter Schaller Update - Jan. 28

Hunter is doing well, the doctors have decided to lower medications. Along with that if he can tolerate the lower meds, in a couple days he might have his peg tube out of his stomach! The doctors would like him to only go home on one medicine! Each day is still a new adventure, but Each day Hunter continues to improve not only physical sides of things like balance, but also with his memory!! Today, he got a haircut from Maddie Howard which was great to see him not only looking but joking like the Hunter we know! Each day along with the adventure brings so many blessings!

Keep the prayers coming!  
#allforHunt  
#huntingforabiggerreason

**Cook/  
Dietary Aide**

Flexible schedule  
and new wage  
scale.

Contact Pam Rohrbach



 **GROTON**  
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

1106 North Second Street  
605.397.2365

**HELP WANTED**

**Director  
of Nursing**



Current RN licensure in SD  
BSN/MSN degree preferred  
Sign on bonus available  
Full benefits included.

Contact Brynn Pickrel

 **GROTON**  
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

1106 North Second Street  
605.397.2365

## Electric Superintendent resigns

The Groton City Council had a special meeting Monday evening at the Groton Community Center. The item on the agenda was a Notice of proposed disciplinary action. After the executive session, the council accepted the resignation of Shawn Labertz. He was the electric superintendent.

## Taste of March to follow polar vortex invasion in midwestern, eastern US

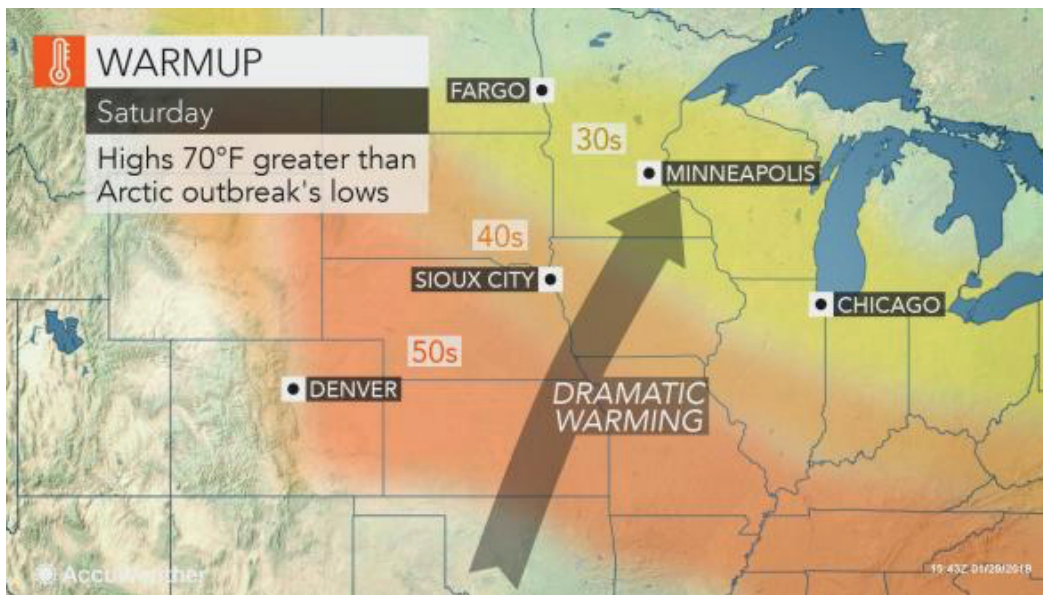
Temperatures will be pushed to near 50 in places like Pittsburgh and New York City early next week after being in the single digits and above zero later this week.

AccuWeather Global Weather Center – January 29, 2019 – Residents enduring the brutal and life-threatening Arctic outbreak to end January can look ahead to the taste of March that awaits during the first weekend of February.

The departure of the polar vortex will open the door for milder air to surge in, first across the Midwest on Saturday and then the East Sunday through Monday.

For many, especially those across the northern tier, the upcoming warmup will be nothing short of dramatic.

There can be a swing of 40 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit from the lowest temperature reading endured during the Arctic outbreak to highs when the warmth takes hold.



“The mercury will go from record lows in the 20s below zero during the middle of this week in Chicago to about 40 above zero by the end of the weekend, a swing of about 60 degrees,” according to AccuWeather Meteorologist Bill Deger.

It will feel even warmer, considering how extremely low AccuWeather RealFeel® Temperatures are plummeting this week.

After enduring RealFeel® Temperatures near 60 below zero on Tuesday night, residents of Minneapolis will definitely enjoy highs near 40 on Saturday. Even if RealFeel® Temperatures are held closer to freezing to start the weekend, many are likely not to be disappointed.

Sunday and Monday may feel more like March days from Atlanta to Chicago, Detroit, Pittsburgh, New York City and Boston.

“Temperatures will be pushed to near 50 in places like Pittsburgh and New York City early next week after being in the single digits and above zero later this week,” Deger said.

Next week can also start with temperatures climbing to around 60 in places as far north as Cincinnati, Ohio, and Richmond, Virginia. That would replace highs in the single digits and teens along the Ohio River this Wednesday and the 20s and lower 30s in the southern mid-Atlantic this Thursday.

The mercury may climb back to near 70 in Atlanta while highs close to 80 will make the snowflakes that fell in Jackson, Mississippi, on Tuesday morning a distant memory.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 5 of 48

## Today in Weather History

January 30, 2001: Widespread freezing rain, accumulating from 1/8 to 1/2 inch, changed over to snow late in the evening of the 29th. The snow accumulated from 6 to 12 inches over much of central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. The combination of ice and snow caused significant travel problems, school and flight cancellations and delays, business closings, and numerous vehicle accidents. Several highways were closed along with large portions of Interstates 29 and 90. Some snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Murdo, 14 SSW Hayes, and 8 E of Eden, 7 inches at Castlewood and 5 NE of Peever, 8 inches at Miller, Gann Valley, Iona, Watertown, Ortonville, and 2 NW Stephan. Nine inches of snowfall accumulated 18 S of Harrold with 10 inches at Tulare and Kennebec, 11 inches at Clark, Clear Lake, and Wheaton, 12 inches at Carpenter, Willow Lake, Milbank, and Browns Valley, and 13 inches at Wilmot.

January 30, 2011: Heavy snow of 6 to 9 inches fell across part of northeast South Dakota from the afternoon of the 30th to the afternoon of the 31st. Travel was disrupted especially along Interstate-90. Some snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Webster, Summit, and Clear Lake; 7 inches at Watertown and Milbank; 8 inches at Wilmot and Sisseton and 9 inches at Bryant, Waubay, and Andover.

1607: The Bristol Channel floods in England, resulted in the drowning of a large number of people and the destruction of a large amount of farmland and livestock. Recent research has suggested that the cause may have been a tsunami. Cardiff was one of the most badly affected towns, with the foundations of St. Mary's Church destroyed.

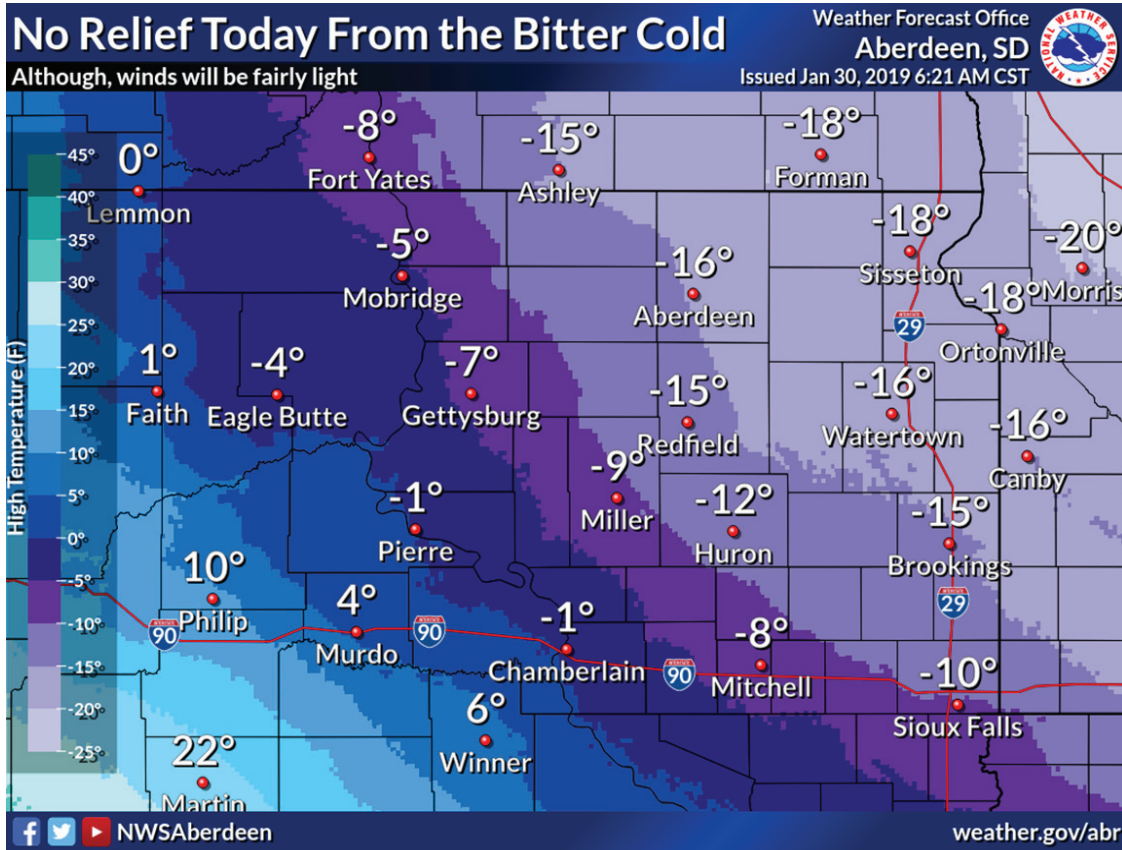
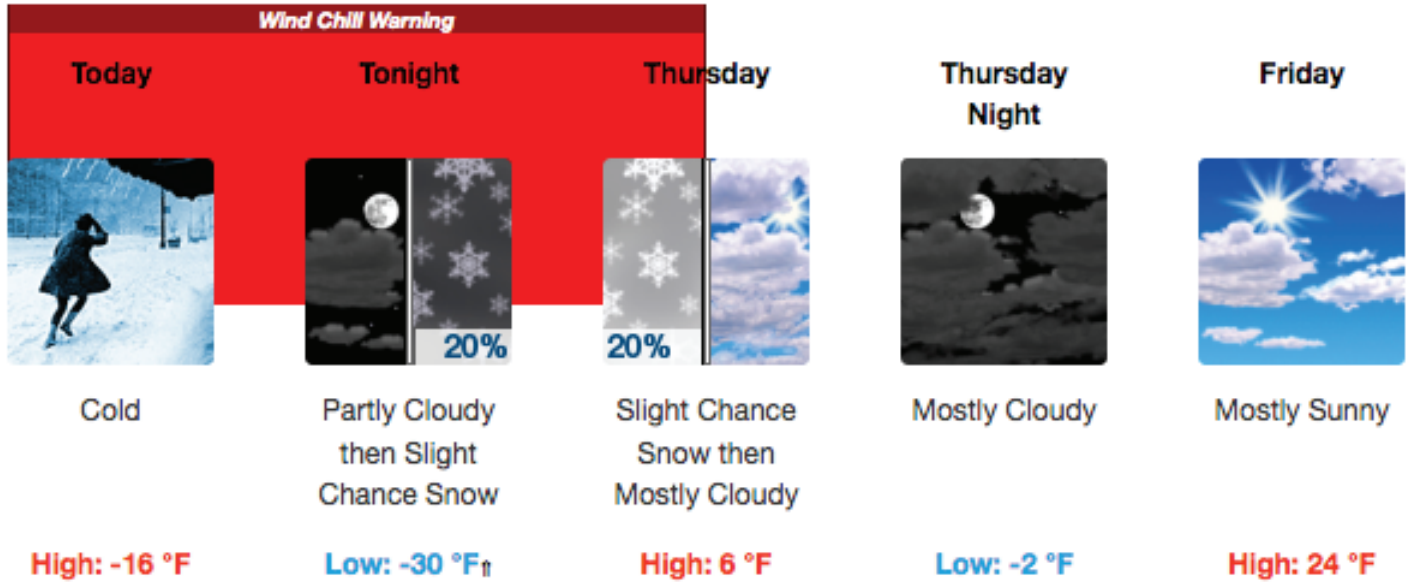
1954: A tornado touched down near White Point Beach, Nova Scotia. A great deal of hail and lightning was reported along the coast near Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

1966: The Blizzard of 1966 temporarily isolated Buffalo, New York and paralyzed the region. Train service was disrupted. Numerous highways, the New York State Thruway from Albany to the Pennsylvania state line, and the Buffalo Airport as well as other airports throughout western and central New York were closed. Hardest hit was the Syracuse-Oswego area. 100 inches of snow was reported at Oswego, NY. Some schools in Orleans County were closed for the entire week following the blizzard. Economic loss from the storm was estimated at \$35 million dollars. Winds gusting to 60 mph and temperatures in the teens along with heavy and blowing snow created severe blizzard conditions.

2002: What had been one of the driest Januarys on record in Iowa was broken up by a winter storm that produced snowfall across the state from January 30-31. The snow was heaviest across southern and southeastern Iowa where storm total accumulations ranged between 11 and 13 inches along and south of a line from Chariton through Ottumwa to Wapello and Burlington. The highest reported totals were 13.2 inches at Leon and 13.0 inches at Bloomfield and Fairfield.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 6 of 48



Arctic air will remain over the region today, with highs only rising into the single digits below and teens below zero. If there's any good news, it's that winds will remain fairly light today with surface high pressure in place. Even with the light winds though, wind chills will continue to remain coldest over northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota, with readings from 35 below to 55 below zero. The coldest of wind chills are expected over the region this morning, with slowly improving conditions through the day.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 7 of 48

## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: -4 °F at 12:03 AM**

**Low Outside Temp: -27 °F at 10:19 PM**

**High Gust: 31 mph at 12:32 PM**

**Precip:**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 55 in 1931**

**Record Low: -32 in 1916**

**Average High: 24°F**

**Average Low: 2°F**

**Average Precip in Jan.: 0.44**

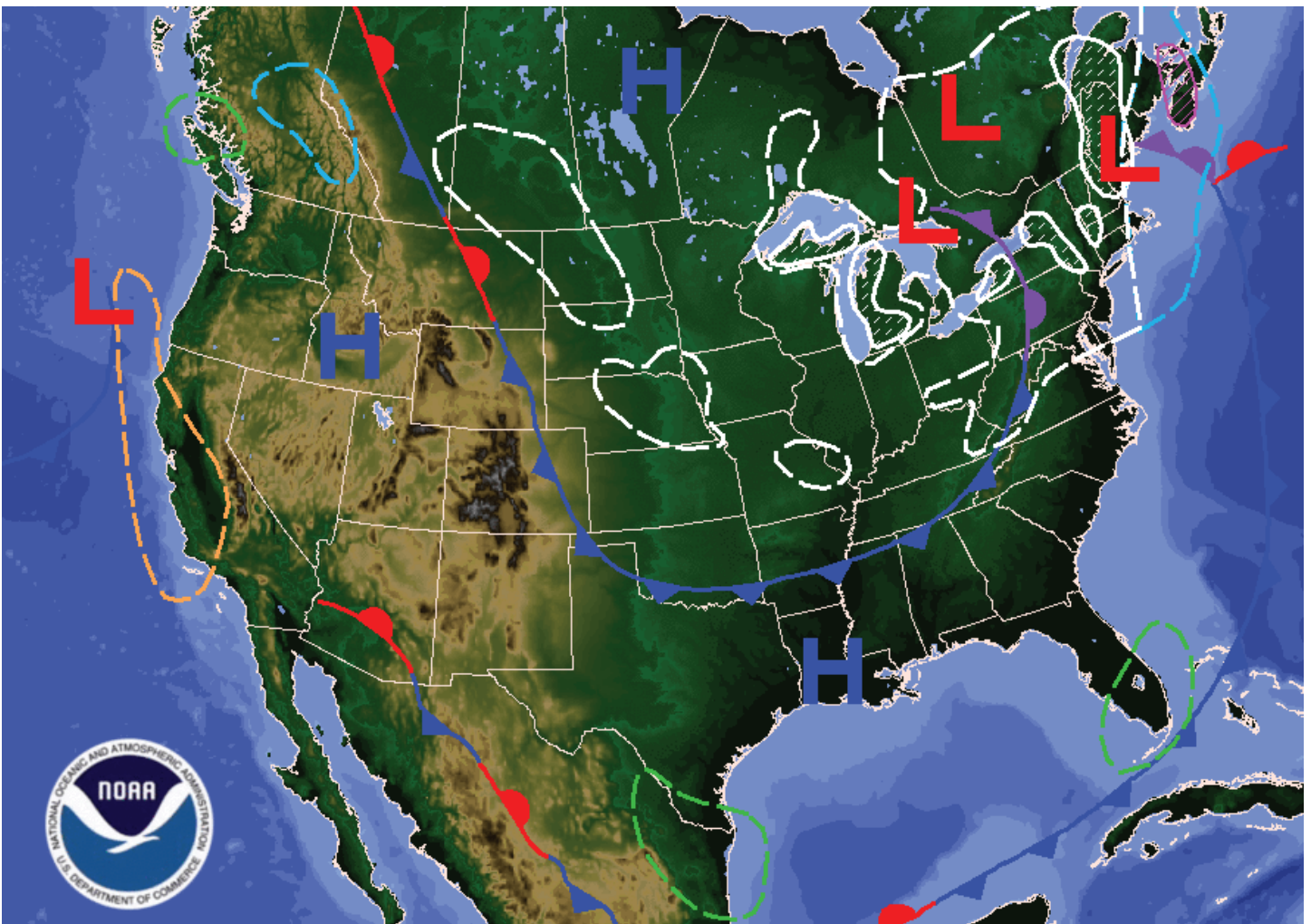
**Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00**

**Average Precip to date: 0.44**

**Precip Year to Date: 0.09**

**Sunset Tonight: 5:37 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:56 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Jan 30, 2019, issued 4:52 AM EST  
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

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 8 of 48



## FREE FOR NOW

Two long-time friends were quail hunting - one was a Christian, the other a non-believer. Why, said the nonbeliever, is it that the devil always seems to find and tempt you to do the wrong thing, and he never bothers me?

Oh, you dont understand it, replied his friend. You see, the devil has you and now he spends his time trying to get me back. Its like hunting for quail. Were not after the dead ones. We want those that are still alive. You see, youre dead, and the devil doesnt have to worry about you. But he wants me back!

All Christians face the dangers of temptation that come from the devil. Even Jesus was constantly being tempted and tested. And we must always remember that being tempted is not a sin. Sin happens when we yield to the temptation.

We must also remember that when we are tempted, it is by the devil. The Lord does not tempt anyone, and it is through His power that we can resist any temptation that comes our way. It is the devil who is the source of the temptation.

Thats his business, and he is very successful at what he does. It is a good thing to remember that mice do not like traps but are caught when the power of the bait overcomes them. He knows the bait that is most likely to tempt and trap us to sin and will use any friend or foe, picture or place to his advantage.

David put it this way: Praise be to the Lord...we have escaped like a bird from the fowlers snare...Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

We are always going to be tempted. We have years of experience to prove that fact. We also have the power of Gods Word to protect us. As Paul said, There is no temptation that you cannot bear. But, when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. Escape is always possible.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for Your strength and power that enables us to escape the temptation to sin. Help us to rely on You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Psalm 124:6-8 Praise be to the Lord, who has not let us be torn by their teeth. We have escaped like a bird from the fowlers snare; the snare has been broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.



## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 03/17/2019 Groton American Legion Spring Fundraiser
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main
- 11/09/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course 2019 Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services

## News from the Associated Press

### Deep freeze envelops Midwest, even stops the mail

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON**, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A deadly arctic deep freeze enveloped the Midwest with record-breaking temperatures Wednesday, triggering widespread closures of schools and businesses, and prompting the U.S. Postal Service to take the rare step of suspending mail delivery to a wide swath of the region.

Many normal activities shut down and residents huddled inside as the National Weather Service forecast plunging temperatures from one of the coldest air masses in years.

Officials throughout the region were focused on protecting vulnerable people from the cold, including the homeless, seniors and those living in substandard housing. Some buses were turned into mobile warming shelters to help the homeless in Chicago, where temperatures plunged to minus 19 degrees (negative 28 degrees Celsius) early Wednesday, breaking the previous record low for the day set in 1966.

The bitter cold is the result of a split in the polar vortex that allowed temperatures to plunge much further south than normal.

Governors in Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan declared emergencies as the worst of the cold threatened on Wednesday. In Chicago, major attractions closed because of the bitter cold, including the Lincoln Park Zoo, the Art Institute and the Field Museum.

"These (conditions) are actually a public health risk and you need to treat it appropriately," Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel said Tuesday. "They are life-threatening conditions and temperatures."

A wind chill of minus 25 (negative 32 degrees Celsius) can freeze skin within 15 minutes, according to the National Weather Service.

In Michigan, homeless shelters in Lansing were becoming "overloaded," Mayor Andy Schor said. They also were filling up in Detroit.

"People don't want to be out there right now," said Brennan Ellis, 53, who is staying at the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries.

Detroit's outlook was for Wednesday overnight lows around minus 12 (negative 24 degrees Celsius), with wind chills dropping to minus 35 (negative 37 degrees Celsius).

At least four deaths were linked to the weather system Tuesday, including a man struck and killed by a snow plow in the Chicago area, a young couple whose SUV struck another on a snowy road in northern Indiana and a Milwaukee man found frozen to death in a garage.

A popular saying goes: "Neither snow nor rain nor heat ..." will stop the mail from being delivered. But extreme cold will on Wednesday.

The U.S. Postal Service said it would suspend mail delivery on Wednesday in parts or all of several Midwest states including North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois.

Hawaii native Charles Henry, 54, was staying at a shelter in St. Paul, Minnesota, and said he was grateful to have a place to stay out of the cold.

"That wind chill out there is not even a joke," he said. "I feel sorry for anybody that has to stay outside."

Chicago was turning five buses into makeshift warming centers moving around the city, some with nurses aboard, to encourage the homeless to come in from the cold.

"We're bringing the warming shelters to them, so they can stay near all of their stuff and still warm up," said Cristina Villarreal, spokeswoman for the city's Department of Family and Support Services.

Shelters, churches and city departments in Detroit worked together to help get vulnerable people out of the cold, offering the message to those who refused help that "you're going to freeze or lose a limb," said Terra DeFoe, a senior adviser to Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan.

Hundreds of public schools and several large universities from North Dakota to Pennsylvania canceled classes Tuesday or planned to do so Wednesday.

American Indian tribes in the Upper Midwest were doing what they could to help members in need with

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 11 of 48

heating supplies. The extreme cold was "a scary situation," because much of the housing is of poor quality, said Chris Fairbanks, energy assistance program manager for the White Earth Band of Ojibwe in Minnesota.

The cold weather was even affecting beer deliveries, with a pair of western Wisconsin distributors saying they would delay or suspend shipments for fear that beer would freeze in their trucks.

But it wasn't stopping one of America's most formidable endurance tests, however — the three-day Arrowhead 135 was going on as scheduled in northeastern Minnesota. Competitors can cover the race route by bicycle, cross-country skis or just running.

The cold is attributed to a sudden warming far above the North Pole. A blast of warm air from misplaced Moroccan heat last month made the normally super chilly air temperatures above the North Pole rapidly increase. That split the polar vortex into pieces, which then started to wander, said Judah Cohen, a winter storm expert for Atmospheric Environmental Research.

One of those polar vortex pieces is responsible for the subzero temperatures across the Midwest this week.

Associated Press reporters Caryn Rousseau and Don Babwin in Chicago; Corey Williams, David Runk and Mike Householder in Detroit; David Eggert in Lansing, Michigan; and Jeff Baenen in Minneapolis contributed to this report. AP Science Writer Seth Borenstein also contributed.

## Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

### BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Bennett County 54, Kadoka Area 46

Bison 53, Oelrichs 47

Little Wound 83, Red Cloud 75

New Underwood 48, Philip 42

Pine Ridge 92, St. Francis Indian 64

### POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

Arlington vs. Hamlin, ppd.

Beresford vs. Vermillion, ppd.

Chamberlain vs. Platte-Geddes, ppd.

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte vs. Mobridge-Pollock, ppd.

Dupree vs. Timber Lake, ppd.

Elkton-Lake Benton vs. DeSmet, ppd. to Jan 29th.

Flandreau vs. Dell Rapids, ppd.

Harrisburg vs. Sioux Falls O'Gorman, ccd.

James Valley Christian vs. Hitchcock-Tulare, ppd.

Jones County vs. Sully Buttes, ppd.

Lake Preston vs. Great Plains Lutheran, ppd.

Langford vs. Groton Area, ppd.

Lennox vs. Madison, ppd.

Lyman vs. Gregory, ppd. to Feb 12th.

Marty Indian vs. Freeman Academy/Marion, ppd.

Milbank vs. Deuel, ppd.

Mitchell vs. Pierre, ppd.

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton vs. Mitchell Christian, ppd.

Parkston vs. McCook Central/Montrose, ppd.

Potter County vs. Redfield/Doland, ppd.

Sioux Falls Lincoln vs. Brookings, ppd.

Sioux Valley vs. Flandreau Indian, ppd.

Sisseton vs. Britton-Hecla, ppd.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 12 of 48

Stanley County vs. Todd County, ppd.  
Sunshine Bible Academy vs. Highmore-Harrold, ppd.  
Tripp-Delmont/Armour vs. Gayville-Volin, ppd.  
Viborg-Hurley vs. Canistota, ppd.  
Warner vs. Faulkton, ppd.  
Waubay/Summit vs. Florence/Henry, ppd.  
Waverly-South Shore vs. Estelline/Hendricks, ppd.  
Webster vs. Wilmot, ppd.  
Wessington Springs vs. Iroquois, ppd.  
West Central vs. Tri-Valley, ppd.

## **GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL**

Bison 59, Oelrichs 44  
Lead-Deadwood 42, Spearfish 37  
Rapid City Stevens 66, Douglas 36  
St. Thomas More 45, Belle Fourche 41  
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS  
Arlington vs. Hamlin, ppd.  
Avon vs. Menno, ppd.  
Beresford vs. Vermillion, ppd.  
Brookings vs. Sioux Falls Lincoln, ppd.  
Burke vs. Corsica/Stickney, ppd.  
Canton vs. Sioux Falls Christian, ppd.  
Castlewood vs. Colman-Egan, ppd.  
Chamberlain vs. Platte-Geddes, ppd.  
Deubrook vs. Madison, ppd.  
Dupree vs. Timber Lake, ppd.  
Elk Point-Jefferson vs. Lennox, ppd.  
Ipswich vs. Leola/Frederick, ppd.  
Irene-Wakonda vs. Howard, ppd.  
James Valley Christian vs. Hitchcock-Tulare, ppd.  
Jones County vs. Sully Buttes, ppd.  
Kimball/White Lake vs. Wolsey-Wessington, ppd.  
Lake Preston vs. Great Plains Lutheran, ppd.  
Linton-HMB, N.D. vs. Herreid, ppd.  
Lower Brule vs. White River, ccd.  
Marty Indian vs. Freeman Academy/Marion, ppd.  
McIntosh vs. Faith, ppd.  
Menno vs. Canton, ppd.  
Milbank vs. Deuel, ppd.  
Miller vs. Aberdeen Roncalli, ppd.  
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton vs. Mitchell Christian, ppd.  
Parkston vs. McCook Central/Montrose, ppd.  
Pierre vs. Mitchell, ppd.  
Potter County vs. Redfield/Doland, ppd.  
Scotland vs. Freeman, ppd.  
Sioux Valley vs. Flandreau Indian, ppd.  
Sisseton vs. Britton-Hecla, ppd.  
Stanley County vs. Todd County, ppd.  
Sunshine Bible Academy vs. Highmore-Harrold, ppd.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 13 of 48

Tripp-Delmont/Armour vs. Gayville-Volin, ppd.  
Warner vs. Faulkton, ppd.  
Waverly-South Shore vs. Estelline/Hendricks, ppd.  
Webster vs. Wilmot, ppd.  
West Central vs. Tri-Valley, ppd.

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

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

10-33-53-54-62, Mega Ball: 22, Megaplier: 2

(ten, thirty-three, fifty-three, fifty-four, sixty-two; Mega Ball: twenty-two; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$109 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$174 million

## Midwest cities scramble to keep homeless from dangerous cold

By BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Winter's sharpest bite in years moved past painful into life-threatening territory Tuesday, prompting officials throughout the Midwest to take extraordinary measures to protect the homeless and other vulnerable people from the bitter cold, including turning some city buses into mobile warming shelters in Chicago.

Temperatures plunged as low as minus 26 (negative 32 degrees Celsius) in North Dakota with wind chills as low as minus 62 (negative 52 degrees Celsius) in Minnesota. It was nearly that cold in Wisconsin and Illinois. Governors in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan declared emergencies as the worst of the cold threatened on Wednesday.

The U.S. Postal Service said it will not deliver mail in parts of the Midwest Wednesday because of the cold.

The bitter cold is the result of a split in the polar vortex that allowed temperatures to plunge much further south in North America than normal.

The National Weather Service forecast for Wednesday night called for temperatures in Chicago as low as minus 28 (negative 33 degrees Celsius), with wind chills to minus 50 (negative 46 degrees Celsius). Detroit's outlook was for Wednesday overnight lows around minus 15 (negative 26 degrees Celsius), with wind chills dropping to minus 40 (negative 40 degrees Celsius).

"These are actually a public health risk and you need to treat it appropriately," Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel said Tuesday. "They are life-threatening conditions and temperatures."

A wind chill of minus 25 (negative 32 degrees Celsius) can freeze skin within 15 minutes, according to the National Weather Service.

At least four deaths were linked to the weather system, including a man struck and killed by a snow plow in the Chicago area, a young couple whose SUV struck another on a snowy road in northern Indiana and a Milwaukee man found frozen to death in a garage.

Officials in large Midwestern cities including Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Chicago and Detroit were desperately trying to get the homeless off the streets.

Minneapolis charitable groups that operate warming places and shelters expanded hours and capacity, and ambulance crews handled all outside calls as being potentially life-threatening, according to Hennepin County Emergency Management Director Eric Waage. MetroTransit said it wouldn't remove people from

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 14 of 48

buses if they were riding them simply to stay warm, and weren't being disruptive.

Emanuel said Chicago was turning five buses into makeshift warming centers moving around the city, some with nurses aboard, to encourage the homeless to come in from the cold.

"We're bringing the warming shelters to them, so they can stay near all of their stuff and still warm up," said Cristina Villarreal, spokeswoman for the city's Department of Family and Support Services.

Shelters, churches and city departments in Detroit worked together to help get vulnerable people out of the cold, offering the message to those who refused help that "you're going to freeze or lose a limb," said Terra DeFoe, a senior adviser to Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan.

Nineteen-year-old Deontai Jordan and dozens of others found refuge from the cold in the basement of a church in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

"You come here, you can take a nap, you can snack, you can use the bathroom, you might even be able to shower," he said. "And then they're feeding you well. Not to mention they give out clothes, they give out shoes, they give out socks."

Hundreds of public schools from North Dakota to Missouri to Michigan canceled classes Tuesday, and some on Wednesday as well. So did several large universities.

Closing schools for an extended stretch isn't an easy decision, even though most school districts build potential makeup days into their schedules, said Josh Collins, spokesman for the Minnesota Department of Education.

"Many students, they might have two working parents, so staying home might mean they're not supervised," he said. "For some low-income students, the lunch they receive at school might be their most nutritious meal of the day."

American Indian tribes in the Upper Midwest were doing what they could to help members in need with heating supplies.

Many people on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in the Dakotas live in housing that's decades old and in disrepair, or in emergency government housing left over from southern disasters such as hurricanes.

"They aren't made for this (northern) country. The cold just goes right through them," said Elliott Ward, the tribe's emergency response manager.

The extreme cold was "a scary situation" for the White Earth Band of Ojibwe, said Chris Fairbanks, manager of the northern Minnesota tribe's energy assistance program.

"We have many, many calls coming in. We're just swamped trying to get everybody what they need," she said.

The cold was even shutting down typical outdoor activities. A ski hill in the Minneapolis area said it would close through Wednesday. So did an ice castle attraction.

The cold weather was even affecting beer deliveries, with a pair of western Wisconsin distributors saying they would delay or suspend shipments for fear that beer would freeze in their trucks.

The unusually frigid weather is attributed to a sudden warming far above the North Pole. A blast of warm air from misplaced Moroccan heat last month made the normally super chilly air temperatures above the North Pole rapidly increase. That split the polar vortex into pieces, which then started to wander, said Judah Cohen, a winter storm expert for Atmospheric Environmental Research.

One of those polar vortex pieces is responsible for the subzero temperatures across the Midwest this week.

---

Associated Press reporters Caryn Rousseau and Don Babwin in Chicago, Corey Williams, David Runk and Mike Householder in Detroit, and AP Science Writer Seth Borenstein contributed to this report.

## Truck driver charged with vehicular homicide in fatal crash

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A truck driver from Colorado accused of causing a fatal interstate crash in Rapid City has been charged with vehicular homicide.

Brian Rasmussen, a 53-year-old driver for Denver-based trucking company Navajo Express, admitted he had taken insomnia drug Ambien two days before the collision Friday morning that killed 64-year-old

Karen Bryan, according to an affidavit.

Prosecutors said Rasmussen crossed the median on Interstate 90 and crashed into Bryan, who was driving a Jeep in the opposite direction.

A judge set Rasmussen's bond at \$10,000 cash during his initial appearance Monday, the Rapid City Journal reported.

He "could have easily killed multiple people," a Pennington County prosecutor said when requesting that bond.

A drug recognition expert assessed Rasmussen following the crash and found he was impaired by a central nervous-system depressant, which can slow brain activity and cause drowsiness, and the driver admitted he had taken Ambien, the affidavit said.

Rasmussen's attorney, Chris Christianson, said there's no solid evidence to prove Rasmussen was under the influence of any substance.

Rasmussen will return to court for a preliminary hearing. That hearing has not been scheduled.

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

## **FBI investigating death of man pursued by Rosebud police**

ROSEBUD, S.D. (AP) — Rosebud Sioux tribal police say it's not yet clear whether a man being chased by officers died after they opened fire on him or from injuries suffered when his vehicle went over a cliff.

Tribal police say they began pursuing the man Sunday evening after he drove away from his home where he was threatening his family in St. Francis. Authorities say the man drove onto an old gravel trail and was blocked by two police cars. The driver then rammed his vehicle into one of the police squad cars. Officials say the officers fired at the vehicle, which went over a cliff and rolled to the ground below.

The Rapid City Journal reports the driver was pronounced dead at the scene. He has not been identified. The FBI is investigating.

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

## **Trump says 'wall' must be part of lawmakers' border deal**

**By ANDREW TAYLOR and ALAN FRAM, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Capitol Hill negotiators are hopeful of an agreement as they officially kick off talks on a homeland security spending bill stalled over funding for President Donald Trump's proposed border wall.

Left on their own, the seasoned House and Senate lawmakers say they could easily reach a border security deal as they have for two years in a row. But whether Trump would sign it is another matter altogether.

Trump has grown impatient and his demands on his U.S.-Mexico border wall. He tweeted Wednesday morning, hours before the negotiators were to sit down for their first meeting, that the group of Republicans and Democrats is "Wasting their time!" if they aren't "discussing or contemplating a Wall or Physical Barrier."

Democrats, who hold the House, remain united against Trump's vision for a massive wall project, yet some are signaling a willingness to deal in the wake of the 35-day partial government shutdown.

"We've consistently said that we do not support a medieval border wall from sea to shining sea," said Rep. Hakim Jeffries of New York, the No. 4 House Democrat. "However, we are able to support fencing where it makes sense, but it should be done in an evidence-based fashion."

"We've come to big agreements before," said the Senate's top Democrat, Chuck Schumer of New York. Schumer said that "when the president stays out of the negotiations we almost always succeed. When he mixes in, it's a formula for failure. So, I'd ask President Trump, 'Let Congress deal with it on its own.'"

For their part, GOP leaders want to de-escalate the battle over the border wall and suggest they too could be flexible as bargainers, who hold their first session Wednesday, seek a bipartisan agreement.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who pressured Trump last week to end the shutdown,

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 16 of 48

warned the president against triggering another shutdown or declaring a national emergency on the Southwest boundary, a move that could let him redirect budget funds to building segments of the wall.

When asked to describe a border security agreement he'd support, McConnell said, "I'm for whatever works that would prevent the level of dysfunction we've seen on full display here the last month and also doesn't bring about a view on the president's part that he needs to declare a national emergency."

A fresh, protracted crisis could make it difficult to tackle other upcoming business such as a deal to prevent automatic budget cuts to the Pentagon and domestic agencies.

The longest shutdown ever was initiated by Trump after Democrats refused his demand for \$5.7 billion to build segments of his border wall. Polls show people chiefly blame Trump and Republicans for the shutdown and widely dislike the wall.

The president surrendered last Friday and agreed to reopen government for three weeks so negotiators can seek a border security deal, but with no commitments for wall funds.

Trump has retreated increasingly from the word "wall" as it became apparent that he lacked the votes in Congress to win taxpayer financing for the project, which he initially said would be financed by Mexico.

"Inside the meetings we've had, he's said it could be a barrier, it could be a wall," said House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif. "Because what a barrier does, it's still the same thing. It's the 30-foot steel slat, that's a barrier."

On Wednesday, McCarthy reiterated that "wall" is not as important as what it's intended to do.

"I'm looking for safety and security over semantics," McCarthy told "Fox & Friends." "I don't care what they call it, but it has to be a barrier. It has to protect."

White House spokeswoman Mercedes Schlapp said: "The president has perfectly set this table for the negotiations with Congress. He wants to give Congress one more chance."

Democrats have repeatedly said they wouldn't finance the wall, which House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has called "immoral." In recent weeks, they've expressed support for fencing or physical barriers but have left ambiguous exactly what they would back. They've said they want to spend money on more border patrol agents and technology like scanning devices and drones.

"What we aren't going to do is use taxpayer money to fund a political applause line," said Rep. Katherine Clark, D-Mass.

McConnell and many GOP lawmakers have long sought to avoid government shutdowns, aware of the tactic's long and consistent history of backfiring badly on whoever sparks one. In the one that just ended, 800,000 federal workers went unpaid for five weeks, countless Americans were denied federal services and mushrooming problems included slowed air travel and delayed IRS refunds.

Members of both parties have opposed Trump declaring an emergency on the Mexican border. They say it would set a dangerous precedent for future presidents who might use the strategy to push agendas that stall in Congress. If Trump issued the declaration, it would trigger near-immediate lawsuits that might block the money anyway.

"There's no appetite for government shutdowns and there's not much appetite for an emergency declaration. For a lot of reasons, our members are very wary of that," said No. 2 Senate GOP leader John Thune of South Dakota.

"Most members, whatever faction in the Republican caucus, would be opposed to a shutdown and would do everything they can to work some kind of deal," said Rep. Mark Walker of North Carolina, a member of House GOP leadership.

AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro and Associated Press writers Matthew Daly and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.



## Al-Qaida's advance in northern Syria threatens fragile truce

By BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — It only took a few days for al-Qaida-linked militants to seize more than two dozen towns and villages in northern Syria from rival insurgents earlier this month, cementing their control over an area the size of neighboring Lebanon.

The advance by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or the Levant Liberation Committee, was the most serious blow yet to a September cease-fire brokered by Russia and Turkey that averted a major government offensive in Idlib province, the last main stronghold of the Syrian opposition.

It highlighted the growing threat posed by al-Qaida at a time when its rival, the Islamic State group, is on the verge of defeat and the U.S. is preparing to withdraw its 2,000 troops from Syria. Although HTS has formally severed ties with al-Qaida, experts say it is still closely linked to the global network founded by Osama bin Laden and could use its base in Syria to launch attacks in the West.

Fawaz Gerges, professor of Middle Eastern politics at the London School of Economics, says there is a "real danger" that the group's advance "will not only worsen the humanitarian crisis for the 3 million inhabitants there, but also give (President Bashar) Assad and his allies the justification to assault the province."

"Such a scenario would be as devastatingly bloody as the battle for Aleppo," he said, referring to the months of heavy fighting over Syria's largest city in 2016, which killed thousands of people and ended with government forces and their allies capturing the rebel-held east.

HTS includes large numbers of battle-hardened al-Qaida fighters, and its capture of most of rebel-held Syria could force aid agencies to withdraw, leaving tens of thousands of civilians to fend for themselves. The opposition's Free Aleppo Medical Directorate said that some 250,000 people will lose medical support after 43 facilities it runs cease operations due to a drop in aid from Western agencies after the latest HTS offensive.

The government has meanwhile stepped up its bombardment of Idlib and neighboring rebel-held areas. Pro-government media say Defense Minister Gen. Ali Ayoub and Brig. Gen. Suheil al-Hassan, who commands the elite Tiger Force, have recently visited the front lines with Idlib, raising fears of a new government offensive.

HTS now controls an area of about 9,000 square kilometers (3,475 square miles) or about 5 percent of Syria's territory. The area is home to some 3 million people, many of whom have been displaced from other parts of the country.

Turkey has nearly a dozen observation posts in Idlib, but has shifted its focus further east, where it is preparing to launch an offensive against Syrian Kurdish forces.

Ankara, which supports the opposition, fears the Syrian government is trying to undermine the September agreement. Russia, a key ally of the Syrian government, has urged Turkey to act more resolutely in reining in militants in Idlib, who have launched attacks on Syrian government forces and the Russian military. Russia said last week that the escalation of hostilities in Idlib threatens the Russian air base in the neighboring coastal province of Latakia.

The first 10 days of January turned rebel-held parts of northern Syria upside down.

The powerful Nour el-Din el-Zinki rebel group dissolved itself after days of fighting with HTS during which it lost more than two dozen villages. The ultraconservative Ahrar al-Sham, one of the largest groups in northern Syria, also surrendered following attacks by HTS.

Two other groups, Thuwar al-Sham and Bayareq al-Islam, handed over Atareb, an important stronghold in Aleppo province, to HTS and withdrew north toward a region held by Turkish troops. Jaysh al-Ahrar handed over its checkpoints and said it would recognize the HTS-run civil authority.

A week after HTS crushed its opponents, a bomb targeted one of the al-Qaida-linked group's checkpoints at the southern entrance to Idlib, the provincial capital. The blast killed 11 people, including militants, and wounded several others.

Days later, HTS claimed that it captured 12 members of the Islamic State group who were allegedly behind the bombing. The group then released a graphic video like those produced by IS that showed the

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 18 of 48

men being led to the scene of the blast and forced to kneel, blindfolded, before a line of gunmen. The video cuts out before they are shot in the back of their heads.

After the advance by HTS, which now controls a border crossing with Turkey and major highways, some international aid agencies suspended their work for fear of reprisals. HTS has been known to crack down on independent groups and civil society in areas under its control.

Mohammed Haj Omar, who heads the opposition's health department in Aleppo province, said 250,000 people will be immediately affected and more than 3 million at a later stage.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said earlier this month that the United Nations was still providing aid to the region.

He added that while the "full implications" of the HTS takeover were not yet clear, the U.N. and its partners "are closely following developments to ensure that independent, impartial and principled humanitarian action continues."

The Soufan Center, a New York-based think tank, said the HTS takeover "alters the trajectory of the next phase in the civil war, tipping the balance of power in favor of the Assad regime."

"From the beginning of the conflict in 2011, Assad has consistently sought to transform the narrative by making the fight about supporting his government or supporting terrorists, defined as any group fighting against the regime," it said.

## 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. ODDS SEEM AGAINST TRADE WAR BREAKTHROUGH

U.S. and Chinese negotiators begin talks aimed at settling a half-year dispute that has weakened both sides, rattled financial markets and clouded the global economic outlook.

### 2. LAWMAKERS HOPEFUL OF PACT THAT WOULD PREVENT SHUTDOWN

Capitol Hill negotiators say they could easily reach a deal on a homeland security spending bill, but whether Trump will sign it is another matter altogether.

### 3. 'FOR THE SAKE OF VENEZUELA'S PEACE AND ITS FUTURE'

More than a week into a standoff with the opposition, President Nicolas Maduro says he is willing to negotiate with mediation of other countries.

### 4. DEADLY ARCTIC DEEP FREEZE ENVELOPES MIDWEST

Plunging temperatures are shuttering schools and offices and prompting the U.S. Postal Service to take the rare step of suspending mail delivery to a wide swath of the region.

### 5. RESURGENT AL-QAIDA SEIZE SYRIAN LANDS

It only took a few days for militants to capture more than two dozen towns and villages in the country's north earlier this month, the most serious blow yet to a September cease-fire.

### 6. WHY ISRAELI LEADER IS FACING SCORN

Netanyahu's welcome of Lithuania's prime minister marks Israel's latest embrace of an eastern European leader who has backed him politically while promoting a distorted image of the Holocaust.

### 7. WHAT IS MAKING LAWMAKERS NERVOUS

That Congress and the public won't see a full report when special counsel Robert Mueller is finished with his Russia probe.

### 8. DEMOCRATS WEIGH BASE VS. MESSAGING

A debate is emerging over how far candidates for the 2020 presidential race should go to appeal to their supporters during the primary season.

### 9. WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN A HATE CRIME

Chicago police open an investigation after a cast member of the hit TV show "Empire" alleged he was attacked by two men who also shouted racial and homophobic slurs.

## 10. WHERE NFL IS LACKING

Pro football saw its sharpest-ever one-year drop in minority head coaches, causing concern among advocates 16 years after the Rooney Rule was enacted.

## Venezuela opposition urges walkouts to pressure Maduro

By **SCOTT SMITH** and **CHRISTINE ARMARIO**, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Opposition leader Juan Guaido is looking to ratchet up pressure on President Nicolas Maduro with walkouts across Venezuela on Wednesday, just a day after the embattled socialist administration barred Guaido from leaving the country while he is investigated for anti-government activities.

The man challenging Maduro's claim to the presidency is urging Venezuelans to step outside their homes and workplaces for two hours beginning at noon in the first mass mobilization since he declared himself the nation's rightful leader a week ago during another round of big protests.

"Venezuela is set on change," Guaido said.

The surge in political maneuvering has seen two dozen nations, including the United States and several big Latin American countries, back Guaido, and the Trump administration has imposed sanctions that could starve the already distressed nation of billions in oil revenue.

But Maduro is holding firm in refusing to step down. He oversaw military exercises in recent days while seeking to consolidate support from the armed forces and he is accusing Washington of staging a coup.

In an interview with Russia's state-owned RIA Novosti news agency on Wednesday, Maduro said he was "willing to sit down for talks with the opposition for the sake of Venezuela's peace and its future." Maduro said the talks could be held with mediation of other countries. Russia is one of the staunchest supporters of Maduro and has offered to mediate.

Maduro also accused the U.S. president of ordering a hit on him from Colombia. He said he was aware of Trump's "orders" for the Colombian government and the local mafia to kill him.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court barred Guaido from leaving the country after chief prosecutor Tarek William Saab announced that he was opening a criminal investigation of Maduro's foe, who heads the opposition-controlled congress. Saab is a key Maduro ally and the high court is stacked with Maduro loyalists.

"Once more we'll come out victorious," Maduro, dressed in a green cap and shirt, said Tuesday while standing before rows of troops. "We are on the right side of history."

The court move came after U.S. national security adviser John Bolton warned that the Maduro government would face "serious consequences" if Guaido is harmed.

Guaido has thus far managed to avoid arrest and the Supreme Court did not strip him of his legislative immunity, though the new investigation could signal that Maduro's administration is moving to take a more punitive approach.

Speaking Tuesday outside the National Assembly, Guaido said he was aware of personal risks.

"I don't underestimate the threat of persecution at the moment, but here we are," he said.

The U.S. has emerged as Guaido's most powerful ally, announcing on Tuesday that it was giving him control of Venezuela's U.S. bank accounts.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo certified that Guaido has the authority to take control of any Venezuelan government accounts at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York or any other U.S.-insured banks. He said the certification would "help Venezuela's legitimate government safeguard those assets for the benefit of the Venezuelan people."

On Monday, the U.S. imposed sanctions on Venezuela's state-owned oil company, Petroleos de Venezuela SA, that could potentially depriving the Maduro government of \$11 billion in export revenues over the next year.

Venezuela's economy is already ravaged by hyperinflation and widespread food and medical shortages that have driven millions of people to leave the country.

Maduro called the sanctions "criminal" and vowed to challenge the U.S. in court. "With these measures, they intend to rob us," he said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 20 of 48

Violent street demonstrations erupted last week after Guaido during a huge opposition rally in Caracas declared that he had assumed presidential powers under the constitution and planned to hold fresh elections to end Maduro's "dictatorship."

Under Venezuela's constitution, the head of the National Assembly is empowered to take on the duties of the chief executive under a range of circumstances in which the presidency is vacated. The opposition argues Maduro's re-election last May was a sham.

The previously little-known Guaido has re-invigorated the opposition movement by pushing for three immediate goals: to end Maduro's "usurpation" of power, establish a transitional government and hold a new presidential election.

The U.S. State Department is telling Americans not to travel to Venezuela, warning of the threat of being arbitrarily arrested or caught in a protest. Venezuela was put on the highest U.S. level advisory, a list that also includes Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq.

The U.N. human rights office says security forces in Venezuela detained nearly 700 people in just one day of anti-government protests last week — the highest such tally in a single day in the country in at least 20 years. It says more than 40 people are believed to have been killed.

Maduro's allies blame the opposition for the violence and deny the high death toll as well as reports that minors were among those arrested.

Socialist party leaders have been organizing counter-protests by thousands of Maduro supporters in different parts of the country.

On Tuesday, Maduro announced he is expanding Venezuela's civilian armed militia to 2 million members. The reserve force was created by the late Hugo Chavez to train civilians to assist the armed forces and defend the socialist revolution from attacks.

Maduro vowed never to let the U.S. intervene in Venezuela's affairs.

"These are moment of history — and battle," he said.

Armario reported from Bogota, Colombia.

## For US-China trade talks, hopes are high, expectations low

By **PAUL WISEMAN** and **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**, AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. and Chinese negotiators start two days of high-level talks Wednesday aimed at settling a six-month trade war that has weakened both sides, shaken financial markets and clouded the outlook for the global economy.

Yet the odds seem stacked against any substantive resolution this week to the standoff between the world's two biggest economies. Perhaps the best that might be hoped for, analysts say, is for the two sides to agree to keep talking.

The differences between Beijing and Washington are vast. The United States is essentially demanding that China downsize its economic aspiration to become a supreme world leader in such fields as robotics and electric cars.

"A comprehensive deal that fundamentally changes their system — I don't think that's possible," said Christopher Adams, a former U.S. trade official specializing in China and now a senior adviser at the law firm Covington.

Earlier negotiations flamed out. And this time President Donald Trump might be inclined to drive an especially hard bargain after being forced to cave in a dispute with congressional Democrats that partially shut the federal government for 35 days.

Moreover, a new complication injected itself into U.S.-China relations on the eve of the talks when the Justice Department brought criminal charges Monday against the Chinese tech giant Huawei, accusing it of stealing technology secrets and violating sanctions against Iran. Beijing shot back by demanding that the Trump administration pull back from what it called an "unreasonable crackdown" on the Chinese maker of smartphones and telecom gear.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 21 of 48

"We are anticipating no big outcomes this week," said Erin Ennis, senior vice president at the U.S.-China Business Council.

A deadline looms. On March 2, the Trump administration is scheduled to escalate its tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports from 10 percent to 25 percent.

The American delegation to this week's talks is led by Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, a longtime critic of aggressive Chinese trade practices and of U.S. policies that failed to blunt them. Heading the Chinese team is Vice Premier Liu He.

The core of the U.S. allegations against China is that Beijing systematically steals trade secrets, forces foreign companies to hand over technology as the price of access to the Chinese market and subsidizes its own tech companies.

But compelling China to reform its trade policies and treatment of foreign companies will be difficult.

"The idea of just grabbing (technology) however they can is kind of ingrained at this point," said Amanda DeBusk, chair of the international trade practice at Dechert LLP and a former Commerce Department official. "You can't just flip a switch" and expect China to drop long-established practices.

The administration has imposed tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports; Beijing has retaliated with import taxes on \$110 billion in U.S. goods.

President Donald Trump has threatened to extend the tariffs to an additional \$267 billion in Chinese goods. If he did, Trump's import taxes would cover virtually everything China ships to the United States.

Last spring, it looked as if the two sides might avoid a full-blown conflict. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin declared the trade war "on hold" after China had agreed to step up its purchases of U.S. goods, especially in agriculture and energy, and narrow America's huge trade deficit with China. The cease-fire didn't last. Critics dismissed Beijing's commitments as vague, and Trump backed away from Mnuchin's deal and decided to proceed with tariffs.

The trade war has magnified uncertainties for businesses, raised prices in some sectors and unsettled investors. Pointing to the U.S.-China conflict, economists at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have downgraded their forecasts for global growth. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is down more than 8 percent since early October, though it has rebounded since Christmas.

The Chinese economy is decelerating, having expanded last year at its slowest pace since 1990. U.S. officials and some analysts say they believe its weakening economy will pressure the Chinese into making concessions.

"The economic circumstances are a powerful bargaining tool," DeBusk said.

But she added that "the Chinese slowdown also impacts the United States." Indeed, U.S. heavy equipment maker Caterpillar reported Monday that its China sales were slowing — news that sent its stock price tumbling.

Deepening the challenge is the U.S. view that China has pledged in the past to curb cyber-theft and forced transfers of technology — and then failed to do so. Lighthizer is sure to insist that any agreement be enforceable.

"The odds of them stonewalling and rope-a-doping in this meeting are close to zero," said Robert Atkinson, president of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation think tank. "What are they going to put on the table? Are they going to put tidbits on the table, or they going to put something meaty on the table?"

The Justice Department's decision to charge Huawei, meanwhile, "has thrown a curveball" into the talks, said Patrick Chovanec, chief strategist at Silvercrest Asset Management Group.

U.S. officials insist that the Huawei case is entirely separate from the trade negotiations. But Atkinson said he thinks the Huawei indictment was meant to send a signal to the Chinese.

"This is about power politics," he said, "to get them to do what they should be doing."

**Investors hoping for a message of 'patience' from Powell Fed**

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 22 of 48

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the Federal Reserve considered sure to leave interest rates unchanged Wednesday, investors will be hoping to hear Chairman Jerome Powell sound a reassuring theme that a pause in the Fed's rate hikes could last a while.

Powell has been invoking the word "patient" to describe the Fed's latest approach to rates increases. It's a word he adopted this month after the Fed's string of four rate hikes last year had helped send the stock market into a tailspin over fear that the central bank might be tightening credit too aggressively.

Investors appeared worried that the Fed's policymakers weren't taking full account of the perils that the U.S. economic expansion — already the second-longest on record — might be facing. Those dangers include a global slowdown, a trade war with China, slowing corporate earnings and a stock market that has stabilized this month but had been plunging over the previous three months.

The Fed will issue a policy statement outlining its views on the state of the economy and likely announcing that it will leave its benchmark rate unchanged. Chairman Jerome Powell will then give a news conference, beginning a policy of speaking with reporters after each of the Fed's eight meetings every year, rather than only four times a year.

Fed watchers are all but unanimous in their belief that the Fed will keep its key short-term rate in a range of 2.25 percent to 2.5 percent and signal that it's in no hurry to resume raising rates. With inflation remaining tame, the rationale to tighten credit has become less compelling.

It's possible, too, that the Fed and Powell may signal that they're at least considering taking another step soon to avoid exerting upward pressure on loan rates. The central bank may decide to either slow the pace at which it's shrinking the huge portfolio of Treasury and mortgage bonds or at least more clearly explain how far it intends to go in reducing its holdings.

To combat the deep recession caused by the 2008 financial crisis, the Fed launched a massive bond buying program that increased its balance sheet by more than four-fold, from less than \$1 trillion to \$4.5 trillion. The extra bonds were purchases to put downward pressure on long-term interest rates such as home mortgages and business borrowing.

The Fed has been gradually reducing its bond portfolio, a move that has likely contributed to higher borrowing rates. But at some point, to avoid weakening the economy, it could slow that process or end it sooner than now envisioned. Doing so would help keep a lid on loan rates and help support the economy.

The note of patience about rate hikes that the Fed has been signaling marks a reversal from a theme Powell had sounded at a news conference after the Fed's previous policy meeting in December. In that appearance, he left open the possibility that the Fed would continue to tighten credit this year. The chairman's message upset investors, who had expected a more reassuring theme, and sent stock prices tumbling.

Since then, Powell and others on the Fed's policymaking committee have been clear in suggesting that they're in no rush to raise rates again after having done so nine times over the past three years. Besides invoking the word "patient" to describe the Fed's outlook toward future hikes, Powell has stressed there's no "preset course" for rate increases.

"With the muted inflation readings we have seen coming in, we will be patient as we watch to see how the economy evolves," Powell said this month in Atlanta.

His comments have since been echoed by several other Fed officials. Their assurances have helped allay fears that higher borrowing costs might depress corporate earnings and economic growth. They have also helped spur a stock market rally. With the turnaround, stocks are on pace for their best month since March 2016.

But not all recent developments have been positive. The Fed is having to confront a record long partial government shutdown that ended last week but still shook confidence and has halted for a time the flow of certain key government reports on the economy such as readings on overall economic growth, retail sales and orders to U.S. factories.

The reopening of the government will restore the distribution of all economic reports. But it could be weeks before the staffers fully catch up in compiling, analyzing and distributing all key data.

In addition to the economic impact of the partial government shutdown, Powell is likely to face questions at his news conference about the global slowdown, the U.S.-China trade conflict and Britain's struggles to achieve a smooth exit from the European Union. All those threats could potentially jeopardize the Fed policymakers' outlook for this year.

Last month's Fed rate hike was the ninth quarter-point move in the past three years since the central bank began gradually raising rates from record lows in December 2014.

The central bank's new cautionary tone has significantly diminished expectations of further rate increases. The CME Group's tracking of investor bets puts the likelihood that the Fed will raise rates this year — even once — at just 28 percent.

## **NFL's scoring boom contributes to drop in minority coaches**

**By DAVE CAMPBELL and JOSH DUBOW, AP Pro Football Writers**

After all the points were piled up in the second-highest scoring season in NFL history, the popular prototype for a head coach became predictably clear.

Teams on the annual coaching carousel this winter searched for their own version of prodigy Sean McVay, the creative play caller and quarterback whisperer who took the Los Angeles Rams to the Super Bowl in his second season at the helm.

An Associated Press study of coaching staffs for the 2018 season found only four minorities in the stepping-stone positions of offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, just 7.1 percent of 56 jobs. That lack of minority coaches in the pipeline helped contribute to the NFL's sharpest-ever one-year drop in minority head coaches, causing concern among advocates for diversity declaring unsatisfactory progress 16 years after the Rooney Rule was implemented.

The rule named after late Pittsburgh owner Dan Rooney was put in place before the 2003 hiring season and now requires all teams to interview at least one minority candidate for any head coach or general manager vacancy. But the AP study found that nearly three-quarters of all minority assistants were either running backs, receivers, defensive backs coaches, or in lower-level positions like quality control coaches — jobs that historically have not directly led to head coaching opportunities.

So when five black head coaches were fired this past season — Todd Bowles (Jets), Hue Jackson (Cleveland), Vance Joseph (Denver), Marvin Lewis (Cincinnati) and Steve Wilks (Arizona) — only one of the eight overall openings went to a minority with New England defensive assistant Brian Flores set to be hired by Miami after the Super Bowl.

Thus, the ranks of minority head coaches in a league whose players are nearly 70 percent black has been reduced from eight to four in just one year. Not since the first year of the Rooney Rule will a season begin with fewer minority head coaches in the NFL: Flores, Anthony Lynn (Chargers), Ron Rivera (Carolina) and Mike Tomlin (Pittsburgh).

To be fair, none of the firing or hiring decisions made this offseason was viewed in a vacuum as unjust. Since the start of the 2016 season, Bowles, Jackson, Joseph, Lewis and Wilks combined for a record of 50-132-2, a woeful winning percentage of .277. Collectively, however, this development has prompted diversity advocates to call on the NFL to consider changes that could help ensure this is a blip rather than a trend.

"Dan's proposal was to slow things down and see what coaches you want and try to come up with a minority candidate or candidates that fit that criteria, and people are not doing that now," said Hall of Fame member Tony Dungy, who was one of two minority head coaches in the NFL when the Rooney Rule was enacted in December 2002.

The success of McVay, who was hired at age 30 by the Los Angeles Rams and turned a four-win team into a Super Bowl participant in just two seasons, might have accidentally had some effect.

McVay's 35-year-old quarterbacks coach Zac Taylor is expected to be the next head coach in Cincinnati despite only five games of experience as an interim offensive coordinator in the NFL.

Matt LaFleur, 39, replaced Mike McCarthy as head coach in Green Bay with just two years of offensive coordinator experience on his resume. Kliff Kingsbury got the top job in Arizona shortly after being fired

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 24 of 48

as a college head coach at Texas Tech.

"I think it is cyclical," Dungy said. "I also think a lot of owners don't know or understand what goes into being a successful head coach. If I coach my quarterback really well I will have a good team, of course, and they feel the guy who coaches the quarterback really will be a successful head coach, but we have seen that's not necessarily the case. For every Doug Pederson or Sean McVay, who are great, we see (many) who don't work out."

The hunt for the next McVay is similar to what happened starting more than a decade ago when coaches with ties to Dungy and his Tampa 2 defensive system were the hot commodities. Four of Dungy's former defensive assistants — all minorities — went on to get head coaching jobs: Tomlin, Herm Edwards, Lovie Smith and Leslie Frazier.

Raheem Morris also got a head coaching job after joining the staff with Tampa Bay after Dungy was fired, and Dungy's former offensive coordinator in Indianapolis, Jim Caldwell, got head coaching opportunities with the Colts and Detroit Lions.

After a season in which the four conference finalists were the four highest-scoring teams in the league, the emphasis is firmly on offense.

"Ratings are up. Points scored are higher. People love offense. The rules have gone to offense. So there's a bias toward offensive head coaches right now," Carolina Panthers owner David Tepper said, while praising the NFL's efforts to enhance ground-level opportunity and aim for more minorities in the paths that typically lead to head coach positions.

Of the 19 minority head coaches in the league since 2002, 14 had primarily defensive backgrounds including Bowles, Joseph, Lewis and Wilks. In 2015, 17 of the 32 head coaches in the NFL came from defensive backgrounds. This year, 20 of 32 will be offense-minded. In 2015, six of the seven new hires had defensive backgrounds. In the four offseasons since then, 21 of the 28 head coaches hired came from offensive backgrounds.

"For whatever reason, the opportunity for minority coaches seems to be stronger on the defensive side of the ball and the coaches that have advanced to become head coaches from the minority perspective, most of them have come from the defensive side," said Steelers president Art Rooney II, son of Dan Rooney. "It's something we need to look at: 'How do we improve the opportunities on the offensive side for minority coaches?'"

There were 11 minority defensive coordinators in the league in 2018, along with Flores, who has called signals this season for New England but was listed officially as the linebackers coach. But only one offensive coordinator (Eric Bieniemy of Kansas City) was a minority. Tampa Bay recently doubled that total by hiring Byron Leftwich, who started 2018 as one of only three minority quarterbacks coaches in the league before also becoming interim offensive coordinator in Arizona.

Of the 20 offensive head coaches in the league, 16 served as offensive coordinators before getting hired and 17 spent time as quarterbacks coaches or played the position in college or the pros. That is a path that only a handful of minorities are on.

"I think teams are looking too much at the play callers versus a guy that can be the CEO of an organization, a face of the organization, a guy that can lead a football team and get the most out of his players," said Lynn, who spent 14 seasons as a running backs coach before serving as an interim offensive coordinator for Buffalo the year before getting hired by the Chargers. "That has nothing to do with play calling. That has everything to do with a man's character and leadership and guys willing to follow him. You have some excellent play callers that we've proven over and over again that can't be a head coach in this league. We've proven that. It's just a change of thinking in the hiring process."

An AP review of all of the coaching staffs in the league at the start of the 2018 season, excluding administrative assistants, data analysts and strength and conditioning coaches for the purpose of streamlining the count, found that 34.8 percent of the coaches were minorities, 216 of 621.

Breaking out primary position coaches of running backs, wide receivers and defensive backs, the number of minorities in 2018 was 69.6 percent, 71 of 102. But Lynn is one of the rare head coaches whose career



path was primarily as a running backs coach. Cleveland's Freddie Kitchens, who is white, is the only other current head coach in the league whose primary stepping-stone job was as a running backs coach.

"If you're really, really committed to giving minorities opportunities, then you must build a pipeline. To build a pipeline you need to bring in minority coaches at the quarterbacks and quality control spots," said John Wooten, executive director of the Fritz Pollard Alliance, an organization that works to foster racial diversity in the NFL. "There are so few quarterback coaches and coordinators at the college level. Consequently, because of that lack, you don't have the area to build from, so you have to go build it yourself. That's what plans we have, to do it that way."

Wooten plans to meet with NFL officials at the upcoming scouting combine to discuss getting teams to commit to hiring more minorities for entry-level jobs that can eventually lead to coordinator or head coaching opportunities.

The league announced in December what it said were stronger provisions for the Rooney Rule. Among several changes, clubs now must interview at least one candidate of diversity from a list compiled by an advisory panel, or a candidate not currently employed by the team. The league is also requiring teams to keep records and provide them when asked by the commissioner.

"We believe more can be done to support the Rooney Rule in the interest of creating an inclusive opportunity platform with the intent that consideration, inclusion and consistency will become rooted in hiring practices," NFL football operations chief Troy Vincent said.

Wooten and others, however, stopped short of endorsing an explicit extension of the Rooney Rule to coordinator jobs, preferring to maintain an atmosphere of autonomy for head coaches in selecting their staffs.

For Lynn, too, there's perspective about the tenuous nature of the profession amid the push for more opportunity.

"I just think it's one of those years. Some guys got let go. It happens every year. I like to look at it as just coaches. I don't like to look at it as black and white coaches," Lynn said last week at the Pro Bowl. "I think we've got to get some good minority coaches coming up through the pipes, and I think there are some really good ones. They need some more opportunities."

---

Contributing to this report: AP Pro Football Writer Barry Wilner in New York and AP Sports Writers Will Graves in Pittsburgh, Mark Long from Orlando, Florida, and Steve Reed in Charlotte, North Carolina.

---

More AP NFL coverage: <https://apnews.com/NFL> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## After bankruptcy, PG&E headed back to court over wildfires

By SUDHIN THANAWALA, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Pacific Gas & Electric Co. will be back in a U.S. courtroom a day after declaring bankruptcy, as it tries to convince a judge not to order dramatic steps to try to prevent its equipment from causing more wildfires.

U.S. Judge William Alsup is scheduled to hear arguments Wednesday on his proposal earlier this month that the nation's largest utility remove or trim all trees that could fall onto its power lines in high-wind conditions and shut off power at certain times regardless of the inconvenience to customers or loss of profit.

Alsup is overseeing a criminal conviction against PG&E on pipeline safety charges stemming from a deadly gas line explosion in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2010. The measures the judge has proposed would be part of the utility's probation.

Alsup said his goal was to prevent PG&E equipment from causing any wildfires during the 2019 fire season. PG&E shot back in a court filing last week that the judge's proposals would endanger lives and could cost as much as \$150 billion to implement. They would also interfere with the work of federal and state regulators, PG&E said.

Wildfire damage has become a multibillion-dollar liability for the utility. The company filed for bankruptcy

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 26 of 48

Tuesday in the face of hundreds of lawsuits from victims of wildfires in 2017 and 2018, including the nation's deadliest wildfire in a century.

That blaze in November killed at least 86 people and destroyed 15,000 homes in and around the Northern California town of Paradise. The cause is still under investigation, but suspicion fell on PG&E after it reported power line problems nearby around the time the fire broke out.

Alsup noted that state fire investigators have determined PG&E caused eighteen wildfires in 2017, twelve of which they referred for possible criminal prosecution. Last week, however, state investigators determined that the company's equipment was not to blame for a 2017 fire that killed 22 people and destroyed more than 5,600 buildings in Northern California wine country. That finding spared PG&E from billions in liability.

Bankruptcy may not spare PG&E from carrying out any orders issued by Alsup. Filing for bankruptcy does not generally put criminal proceedings on hold, said Jared Ellias, a bankruptcy attorney who now teaches at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. But he said the bankruptcy case and the criminal matter before Alsup would overlap a great deal, so it would be "hard to imagine both going forward, as the judges could enter conflicting orders."

The Chapter 11 filing allows PG&E to continue operating while it puts its books in order. It could lead to higher bills for customers and reduce the size of any payouts to fire victims by consolidating all their cases in bankruptcy court.

PG&E said the bankruptcy will allow for an "orderly, fair and expeditious resolution" of wildfire claims.

"Throughout this process, we are fully committed to enhancing our wildfire safety efforts, as well as helping restoration and rebuilding efforts across the communities impacted by the devastating Northern California wildfires," interim CEO John R. Simon said in a statement.

Jeffrey Hammond said he is now pessimistic that he will collect any money from the lawsuit he filed against the company for the loss of his Napa County home in a 2017 wildfire. Investigators say the blaze started when an oak tree fell onto a PG&E power line.

"I'm 76, going to be 77 soon," he said. "And this will take years to sort out."

---

Bussewitz contributed from New York.

## Beyond liberal base, some Democrats pitch to party moderates

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI, Associated Press

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — As the first wave of Democratic presidential candidates unveil plans for taxing wealth and universal government-provided health care, John Hickenlooper is making a narrower pitch of beer and bipartisanship.

The brewpub magnate and former Colorado governor recently swung through the early voting state of Iowa to test his theory that Democratic voters are less interested in a resistance champion than someone with a record of achieving liberal goals even with divided government.

"My whole public life is about bringing people together who are feuding and can't stand each other," Hickenlooper told a crowded house party.

It's a pitch that's part of a broader debate this week over how far Democrats should go to appeal to the base during the primary season.

Former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz said he's flirting with an independent presidential campaign that would motivate voters turned off by both parties. On Tuesday, he joined fellow billionaire and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who's considering a Democratic presidential run, in criticizing a Democratic proposal to raise taxes on top earners. Bloomberg also blasted Democrats who are talking about replacing private health insurance with Medicare for all Americans, an emerging litmus test among liberals.

The pushback comes as the spotlight has focused so far on the Democrats — mostly senators — who have already entered the 2020 field and have focused on courting liberals. They include Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, whose proposed 2 percent tax on households with net worth greater than \$50 million Bloomberg derided as Venezuelan-style socialism. Meanwhile, Sen. Kamala Harris of California told a

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 27 of 48

CNN town hall that she wanted to eliminate private health insurance and replace it with Medicare. Several other senators with similar views may soon enter the race, among them New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and liberal icon Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Trying to finesse the ideological battles and present themselves as can-do executives is a second tier of governors and mayors mulling bids. The list includes governors like Steve Bullock of Montana and Jay Inslee of Washington and mayors like Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana. They are trying to emerge from the shadows cast by the senators' national profile, as is Hickenlooper, whose visit to a house party in suburban Des Moines was overshadowed by Harris' launch of her campaign before tens of thousands of supporters in Oakland, California.

Ben Tulchin, a pollster who worked for Sanders' 2016 presidential bid, said Democratic voters don't want compromise. "The challenge with saying 'I'll work on bipartisanship' — on what issue? Because the two parties are at such a stark contrast," Tulchin said. "I don't see how you gain any traction or win the nomination with a party that's more liberal than it has ever been."

A Gallup survey this month found that 51 percent of Democrats identify as liberal — the highest percentage on record. But last month, Gallup found that 54 percent of Democrats want their party to be more moderate, while 41 percent want it to move left.

Mark Mellman, a veteran Democratic pollster, said a more pragmatic primary bid wasn't a bad idea. "There's no question the greater energy is on the left in the party," Mellman said. "But if there are 20 people fighting over the left and you're fighting over the center, the person fighting over the center can win."

That's what Hickenlooper is betting on. During his brief Iowa swing, he tried to sidestep ideological debates and described himself as a progressive who gets things done. He recounted how, as Denver mayor, he led a coalition of Democratic and Republican mayors of surrounding suburbs to support a sales tax increase to fund an expansion of regional light rail. As governor, he hammered out the nation's first limits on methane emissions from energy exploration during tough negotiations between environmentalists and oil and gas firms.

But for all his talk of bipartisanship and moderation, Hickenlooper can't ignore core Democratic principles. The mild-mannered and genial former governor began his remarks at the house party by saying he was "over-the-top angry about what's happened to the country in such a short period of time." He said he'd never run with Republican Ohio Gov. John Kasich — they teamed up to fight the repeal of the Affordable Care Act — because of their disagreements on many other issues. "The guy doesn't support Planned Parenthood," Hickenlooper said.

He's clashed with the GOP on expanding background checks for gun purchases. In response to one question about health care, Hickenlooper showed how he'd try to sidestep some of the Democratic divisions in the primary. He said the party's goal is universal coverage and that Democrats should focus on getting there rather than on battles over single-payer health care. "Instead of fighting over that, let's get to the grail," he said.

Bill Brauch, a 67-year-old lawyer, was impressed with Hickenlooper — but not necessarily with his sweeping message of cooperation. "Barack Obama found out that trying to work together in this particular climate with the right wing in control of the Republican Party is a losing proposition," Brauch said. "We simply have to have a stronger, more progressive federal government across the board."

As Hickenlooper made the rounds at the Court Avenue Brewing Co., a brown ale in hand, Dan Herron, a 50-year-old financial planner, stopped him. "What's your plan to get through the contest of who hates Trump more?" Herron asked.

"What people are going to look for is people who have a consistent, long-term record of bringing people together," Hickenlooper replied before launching into the barstool-length summary of his record.

Herron and his friend Kasey Kincaid, who is the former chairman of the Polk County Democratic Party, were intrigued.

"It's a very positive message," Kincaid said. "There are more people, like Dan and myself, who are looking for someone with a record of solving problems."

Associated Press writer Holly Ramer in Nashua, New Hampshire, contributed to this report.

## US intel heads list North Korea, not border, as threat to US

By ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Directly contradicting President Donald Trump, U.S. intelligence agencies told Congress on Tuesday that North Korea is unlikely to dismantle its nuclear arsenal, that the Islamic State group remains a threat and that the Iran nuclear deal is working. The chiefs made no mention of a crisis at the U.S.-Mexican border for which Trump has considered declaring a national emergency.

Their analysis stands in sharp contrast to Trump's almost singular focus on security gaps at the border as the biggest threat facing the United States.

Top security officials including FBI Director Christopher Wray, CIA Director Gina Haspel and Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats presented an update to the Senate intelligence committee on Tuesday on their annual assessment of global threats. They warned of an increasingly diverse range of security dangers around the globe, from North Korean nuclear weapons to Chinese cyberespionage to Russian campaigns to undermine Western democracies.

Coats said intelligence information does not support the idea that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will eliminate his nuclear weapons and the capacity for building more — a notion that is the basis of the U.S. negotiating strategy.

"We currently assess that North Korea will seek to retain its WMD (weapons of mass destruction) capabilities and is unlikely to completely give up its nuclear weapons and production capability because its leaders ultimately view nuclear weapons as critical to regime survival," Coats told the committee.

Coats did note that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has expressed support for ridding the Korean Peninsula of nuclear weapons and over the past year has not test-fired a nuclear-capable missile or conducted a nuclear test.

The "Worldwide Threat Assessment" report on which Coats based his testimony said U.S. intelligence continues to "observe activity inconsistent with" full nuclear disarmament by the North. "In addition, North Korea has for years underscored its commitment to nuclear arms, including through an order in 2018 to mass-produce weapons and an earlier law — and constitutional change — affirming the country's nuclear status," it said.

The report said Kim's support at his June 2018 Singapore summit with Trump for "complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula" is a formulation linked to an end to American military deployments and exercises involving nuclear weapons.

Trump asserted after the Singapore summit that North Korea no longer poses a nuclear threat. However, Coats and other intelligence officials made clear they see it differently.

"The capabilities and threat that existed a year ago are still there," said Lt. Gen. Robert Ashley, the director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Plans for a follow-up Trump-Kim summit are in the works, but no agenda, venue or date has been announced.

More broadly, the intelligence report on which Coats and the heads of other intelligence agencies based their testimony predicted that security threats to the United States and its allies this year will expand and diversify, driven in part by China and Russia. It says Moscow and Beijing are more aligned than at any other point since the mid-1950s and their global influence is rising even as U.S. relations with traditional allies are in flux.

"Some U.S. allies and partners are seeking greater independence from Washington in response to their perception of changing U.S. policies on security and trade," the report said, without providing examples or further explanation.

The report also said the Islamic State group "remains a terrorist and insurgent threat" inside Iraq, where the government faces "an increasingly disenchanting public."

The intelligence assessment, which is provided annually to Congress, made no mention of a crisis at the

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 29 of 48

U.S.-Mexico border, which Trump has asserted as the basis for his demand that Congress finance a border wall. The report predicted additional U.S.-bound migration from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, with migrants preferring to travel in caravans in hopes of a safer journey.

In Syria, where Trump has ordered a full withdrawal of U.S. troops, the government of Bashar Assad is likely to consolidate control, with Russia and Iran attempting to further entrench themselves in Syria, the report said. Asked for her assessment, Haspel said of the IS group: "They're still dangerous." She added that they still command "thousands of fighters in Iraq and Syria."

The intelligence agencies said Iran continues to work with other parties to the nuclear deal it reached with the U.S. and other Western nations. In doing so, they said, it has at least temporarily lessened the nuclear threat. In May 2018, Trump withdrew the U.S. from that accord, which he called a terrible deal that would not stop Iran from going nuclear.

The intelligence assessment of Afghanistan, more than 17 years into a conflict that began after the 9/11 attacks on the U.S., projected a continued military stalemate. Without mentioning prospects for a peace deal, which appear to have improved only in recent days, the report said, "neither the Afghan government nor the Taliban will be able to gain a strategic military advantage in the Afghan war in the coming year" if the U.S. maintains its current levels of support. Trump has ordered a partial pullback of U.S. forces this year, although no firm plan is in place.

Coats told the committee that Russia and perhaps other countries are likely to attempt to use social media and other means to influence the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

"We expect our adversaries and strategic competitors to refine their capabilities and add new tactics as they learn from each other's experiences, suggesting the threat landscape could look very different in 2020 and future elections," the intelligence report said.

The report specifically warned about Russia's cyberattack capabilities.

"Moscow is now staging cyberattack assets to allow it to disrupt or damage U.S. civilian and military infrastructure during a crisis," it said.

## Apple to fix FaceTime bug that allows eavesdropping

By MATT O'BRIEN and CARLO PIOVANO, Associated Press

Apple has disabled a group-chat function in FaceTime after users said a software bug could let callers activate another person's microphone remotely.

With the bug, a FaceTime user calling another iPhone, iPad or Mac computer could hear audio — even if the receiver did not accept the call. The bug is triggered when callers add themselves to the same call to launch a group chat. That makes FaceTime think the receiver had accepted the chat.

The bug, demonstrated through videos online, comes as an embarrassment for a company that is trying to distinguish itself by stressing its commitment to users' privacy.

"This is a big hit to their brand," said Dave Kennedy, CEO of Ohio-based security firm TrustedSec. "There's been a long period of time people could have used that to eavesdrop. These things definitely should be caught prior to ever being released."

There is no longer a danger from this particular bug as Apple disabled group chats, while regular, one-on-one FaceTime remains available.

NBC News and The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday that the family of a 14-year-old high school student in Tucson, Arizona, tried to inform Apple about the bug more than a week before it became widely known to the public. The boy, Grant Thompson, said he discovered it by accident while calling friends to play the game "Fortnite."

It's hard to know if anyone exploited the bug maliciously, said Erka Koivunen, chief information security officer for Finnish company F-Secure. He said it would have been hard to use the bug to spy on someone, as the phone would ring first — and it's easy to identify who called.

Apple said Tuesday that a fix will come in a software update later this week. Apple declined to say when

it learned about the problem. The company also wouldn't say if it has logs that could show if anyone took advantage of the bug before it became publicly known this week.

Kennedy commended Apple's quick response this week following reports of the bug by tech blogs. He predicted the reputational dent could soon be forgotten if it doesn't become part of a pattern.

"All bugs are obvious in retrospect," said Eva Galperin, director of cybersecurity at the Electronic Frontier Foundation. "The truth is bugs are subtle, code is complicated and sometimes things get through."

Galperin said Apple should develop a better process for fielding reports about potential security flaws. She said the 14-year-old's discovery of the problem "just tells us a lot about reporting security bugs depends on knowing the right person."

Apple had introduced the 32-person video conferencing feature in October for iPhones, iPads and Macs. Regular FaceTime calls aren't affected unless the caller turns it into a group chat.

Word of the bug came as Apple reported that profit for the last three months of 2018 dipped slightly to \$20 billion while revenue fell 5 percent from the prior year to \$84 billion. Earlier this month, Apple said that demand for iPhones was waning and that its earnings for the final quarter of 2018 would be below its own forecasts — a rare downgrade from the company.

## Apple opens new chapter amid weakening iPhone demand

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple hoped to offset slowing demand for iPhones by raising the prices of its most important product, but that strategy seems to have backfired after sales sagged during the holiday shopping season.

Results released Tuesday revealed the magnitude of the iPhone slump — a 15 percent drop in revenue from the previous year. That decline in Apple's most profitable product caused Apple's total earnings for the October-December quarter to dip slightly to \$20 billion.

Now, CEO Tim Cook is grappling with his toughest challenge since replacing co-founder Steve Jobs 7 1/2 years ago. Even as he tries to boost iPhone sales, Cook also must prove that Apple can still thrive even if demand doesn't rebound.

It figures to be an uphill battle, given Apple's stock has lost one-third of its value in less than four months, erasing about \$370 billion in shareholder wealth.

Cook rattled Wall Street in early January by disclosing the company had missed its own revenue projections for the first time in 15 years. The last time that happened, the iPod was just beginning to transform Apple.

"This is the defining moment for Cook," said Wedbush Securities analyst Daniel Ives. "He has lost some credibility on Wall Street, so now he will have to do some handholding as the company enters this next chapter."

The results for the October-December period were slightly above the expectations analysts lowered after Cook's Jan. 2 warning. Besides the profit decline, Apple's revenue fell 5 percent from the prior year to \$84 billion.

It marked the first time in more than two years that Apple's quarterly revenue has dropped from the past year. The erosion was caused by the decline of the iPhone, whose sales plunged to \$52 billion, down by more than \$9 billion from the previous year.

The past quarter's letdown intensified the focus on Apple's forecast for the opening three months of the year as investors try to get a better grasp on iPhone sales until the next models are released in autumn.

Apple predicted its revenue for the January-March period will range from \$55 billion to \$59 billion. Analysts surveyed by FactSet had been anticipating revenue of about \$59 billion.

Investors liked what they read and heard, helping Apple's stock recoup some of their recent losses. The stock gained nearly 6 percent to \$163.50 in extended trading after the report came out.

"We wouldn't change our position with anyone's," Cook reassured analysts during a conference call reviewing the past quarter and the upcoming months.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 31 of 48

The company didn't forecast how many iPhones it will sell, something Apple has done since the product first hit the market in 2007 and transformed society, as well as technology.

Apple is no longer disclosing how many iPhones it shipped after the quarter is completed, a change that Cook announced in November. That unexpected move raised suspicions that Apple was trying to conceal a forthcoming slump in iPhone sales — fears that were realized during the holiday season.

Cook traces most of Apple's iPhone problems to a weakening economy in China, the company's second biggest market behind the U.S. The company is also facing tougher competition in China, where home-grown companies such as Huawei and Xiaomi have been winning over consumers in that country with smartphones that have many of the same features as iPhones at lower prices.

Although a trade war started by President Donald Trump last year has hurt China and potentially caused some consumers there to boycott U.S. products, many analysts believe the iPhone's malaise stems from other issues too.

Among them are higher prices — Apple's most expensive iPhone now costs \$1,350 — for models that aren't that much better than the previous generation, giving consumers little incentive to stop using the device they already own until it wears out. Apple also gave old iPhones new life last by offering to replace aging batteries for \$29, a 70 percent discount.

"The upgrade cycle has extended, there is no doubt about that," Cook conceded.

Apple is banking that investors will realize the company can still reap huge profits by selling various services on the 1.4 billion devices running on its software.

That's one reason why Cook has been touting the robust growth of Apple's division that collects commissions from paid apps, processes payments, and sells hardware warranty plans and music streaming subscriptions. Apple Music now has more than 50 million subscribers, second to Spotify's 87 million streaming subscribers through September.

Apple is also preparing to launch a video streaming service to compete against Netflix, though Cook said he wasn't ready to provide details Tuesday.

The company's services revenue in the past quarter climbed 19 percent from the prior year to \$10.9 billion — more than any other category besides the iPhone.

## The Old Man and the Play: Friend keeps word to Hemingway

By KRISTEN DE GROOT, Associated Press

WESTPORT, Conn. (AP) — When the 1958 film adaptation of "The Old Man and the Sea" hit theaters, Ernest Hemingway happened to be in New York City to watch the World Series and invited his close friend A.E. Hotchner to go see the movie with him.

"About 12 or 13 minutes after we sat down, he turns to me and says, 'Ready to go?'" Hotchner said in a recent interview at his Connecticut home. The 101-year-old author and playwright recalls them walking out and taking off down the sidewalk, Hemingway ranting the whole time that the star Spencer Tracy was totally miscast, that he looked like a fat, rich actor trying to play a fisherman.

"He said, 'You know, you write a book that you really like and then they do something like that to it, and it's like pissing in your father's beer,'" Hotchner said. (Hemingway reserved this particular turn of phrase for a handful of hated adaptations of his work, he said.)

Later that night, sitting at Toots Shor's restaurant — a hangout frequented by Joe DiMaggio, Jackie Gleason and Marilyn Monroe — Hemingway urged Hotchner to do his own adaptation someday. Hotchner said he promised he would try.

More than 60 years later, Hotchner has kept his word. His stage adaptation of "The Old Man and the Sea," a brief novel published in 1952 and winner of the Pulitzer Prize, premieres at the newly renovated Point Park University's Pittsburgh Playhouse on Feb. 1.

"It wasn't until I became an old man myself that I really got to a version that could transport itself beyond the book," he said.

Hotchner should be the perfect candidate to take the novel to the stage: he fished with Hemingway

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 32 of 48

in Cuba, went to bullfights with him in Spain, hunted with him in Idaho and wrote the 1966 best-selling biography "Papa Hemingway."

He also helped edit Hemingway's bullfighting classic "The Dangerous Summer." He often served as his agent and adapted several stories for television, including "The Snows of Kilimanjaro," "The Killers" and "The Battler," which led to his first meeting with Paul Newman. (The two became best friends and neighbors and started the "Newman's Own" food company together. But that's another story).

"Somehow that pledge to him haunted me, because he died not too long after that. For years I would think about "The Old Man and The Sea." But I never could think in my head how you could take this very personal book, because the old man is really Hemingway himself, which is really a literary work," he said. "How do you bring that to life on the stage?"

He tried maybe 10 times over the years to adapt it, starting drafts only to scrap them, until his latest effort.

To help reel the project in, he enlisted his son Tim Hotchner to collaborate on it and help transform his draft into what will run in Pittsburgh through Feb. 17.

"I've lived with Hemingway's ghost for my whole life and there was something very profound about this story, even though it's very simple," said Tim Hotchner, 47, a documentary filmmaker and writer. "And to have a 101-year-old father who's still going out for his marlin, and hopefully coming back with better results, there are a lot of themes that really resonate."

Tim Hotchner also saw the project as a way to re-examine the work with a modern lens: to look at what it means to be a man in the world and to look at the environment.

To make "The Old Man and the Sea" accessible on stage, the Hotchners crafted a kaleidoscope of the tale, and mined the text for a new approach. The boy has a bigger role, and Hemingway himself is a character, as is a cellist who evokes the moods of the play throughout.

It stars Tony Award-winning actor Anthony Crivello as Santiago, the aging fisherman, David Cabot as Hemingway and Gabriel Florentino as the boy, Manolin. Cellist Simon Cummings will perform original music for the show. The play is being directed by Ronald Allan-Lindblom.

Getting the draft to the stage happened unusually fast, as a result of a collaboration with New York City-based RWS Entertainment Group.

The Hotchners' agent passed along the script to Joe Christopher, who heads up RWS's theatrical division, who took it with him on vacation in June.

"I don't know if it was because I literally read it while I was lying on the beach, but I could viscerally see the show working," he said. He told RWS CEO Ryan Stana it would be the chance of a lifetime to work with someone who had been side-by-side with Hemingway.

The Pittsburgh Playhouse was looking for a new work to launch its first season in its renovated theater and Stana, an alumna of Point Park University, floated the idea to the school.

"In less than 24 hours, they were in," he said.

The production is unique in that students at Point Park University are working on the show alongside professionals in all aspects from set design to ticket sales. It's something Stana sees as a circular moment — youth helping bring to life the work of a centenarian playwright.

The entire show was put together in six months.

At 101, A.E. Hotchner is sharp, funny and surprisingly energetic. During a four-hour interview at his home, he needed only a 10-minute break to get a glass of water. Last year, his Depression-era detective novel "The Amazing Adventures of Aaron Broom" was published and he's still writing daily. His routine: breakfast, write, lunch, write, nightly news, dinner, gin and tonic, and maybe a movie.

As for "The Old Man and the Sea," he's satisfied with having finally followed through on a half-century-old promise to his friend, and he's pleased with how it turned out.

"This is going to be a version that Hemingway would never have walked out on," he said.



## Serving warrants is inherently dangerous, experts say

By JUAN A. LOZANO, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A deadly shootout that injured five narcotics police officers serving a search warrant on a house in Houston underlines the dangers of such operations, primarily because the officers are entering unknown territory, experts said Tuesday.

Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo said the officers “immediately came under fire” upon entering the home on the city’s southeast side Monday afternoon. The suspects were killed. Four of the officers were shot and a fifth suffered a knee injury.

“Two things you know about police work: It can be tremendously boring 98 percent of the time and extremely dangerous and dynamic 2 percent of the time,” he said Tuesday at a news conference. “But we know that they are always in danger and it’s a dangerous business we are in.”

David Thomas, a criminal justice professor at Florida Gulf Coast University and a former police officer, said officers face extreme risks when serving warrants.

“The reason behind that is you are now dealing with somebody that knows they are wanted and so in many instances, they feel they have nothing to lose,” Thomas said.

Acevedo said after the first officer was shot, the other officers had to enter the home through its front door, a narrow area that the police chief called a “fatal funnel.”

“Our officers don’t have a choice. They’ve got to enter that fatal funnel, go through it. The tactical advantage really is in the hands of the suspect,” Acevedo said. “But that’s what they get paid to do. You know your brother is down. You go in. That’s what they did. We’re really proud of them.”

John Bostain, a former police officer in Virginia who trains law enforcement officers nationwide, said officers serving search warrants are usually at risk because they are going into a “completely unknown location.”

“Unless you have been in that house before, often times you are going into a location and don’t have any clue about what the layout is,” Bostain said.

Acevedo told The Associated Press that his agency prepares an operations plan and a threat assessment of the location that officers will enter to serve warrants.

“We try to work up a house as much as possible, but 99 times out of a 100 we don’t hang out in the house, we haven’t been in the house. You just do the best you can,” Acevedo said.

The chief said there’s no such thing as a “routine” serving of a warrant.

“You hope for the best but prepare for the worst. In this case, we experienced the worst,” Acevedo said.

Two officers were shot in the face. Police said one of them — identified by Acevedo as a 50-year-old sergeant — was discharged from the hospital Tuesday. Dr. Michelle McNutt, chief of trauma surgery at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center in Houston, said the second is facing several facial trauma surgeries.

Acevedo said the names of the injured officers are not being released because they work undercover.

While all the Houston officers injured on Monday are expected to survive, serving warrants can be deadly for officers. From 2009 to 2019, 73 officers were killed nationwide while attempting to serve warrants, according to the Officer Down Memorial Page, a nonprofit group that keeps track of officer fatalities nationwide.

Police knew black tar heroin was being sold at the property and a team of nine narcotics officers was attempting to serve a search warrant when they forced open the front door and immediately faced gunfire, Acevedo said. One of the suspects, 58-year-old Rhogena Nicholas, was shot and killed as she tried to grab the service weapon of the first officer to be injured, he said. The second suspect killed was 59-year-old Dennis Tuttle, the chief said.

Acevedo said the first officer through the door was charged by a large pit bull, which he shot and killed. Acevedo said Tuttle immediately opened fire, striking that officer in the shoulder.

“(The officer) went down, fell on the sofa in the living room, at which time a female suspect ... reached over the officer and started making a move for his shotgun,” Acevedo said. More officers entered and shot her.

He said none of the officers was wearing a body camera.

Police can minimize potential dangers using surveillance to gather information about the property ahead of the raid, Thomas said.

"Because what we know before we enter means the world," he said.

In recent years, many law enforcement agencies serving warrants have moved away from doing "dynamic entries" — breaking down doors and storming a location.

Thor Eells, executive director of the National Tactical Officers Association, said his organization instead advises agencies to adopt other methods, such as waiting for a suspect to leave a targeted location and arrest them in a traffic stop.

"We highly encourage these other methods of warrant service to reduce the risk to both the officers but then also to the suspects," Eells said.

But despite planning and precautions, "a lot of danger" remains for officers when they serve warrants.

"You just never know where and when these things will go wrong ... Unfortunately, it didn't go as planned" on Monday, Eells said.

---

For the Latest on this story: <https://bit.ly/2FX6ltl>

---

Associated Press writer Jamie Stengle contributed to this report from Dallas.

---

Follow Juan A. Lozano on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/juanlozano70>

## **FBI finds no specific motive in Vegas attack that killed 58**

**By KEN RITTER and MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press**

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The high-stakes gambler responsible for the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history sought notoriety in the attack but left his specific motive a mystery, the FBI said Tuesday as it concluded the investigation of the 2017 massacre that killed 58 country music fans.

While the agency found no "single or clear motivating factor" to explain why Stephen Paddock opened fire from his suite in a high-rise casino hotel, Paddock may have been seeking to follow in his father's criminal footsteps, the FBI said.

"It wasn't about MGM, Mandalay Bay or a specific casino or venue," Aaron Rouse, the agent in charge of the FBI's Las Vegas office, told The Associated Press. "It was all about doing the maximum amount of damage and him obtaining some form of infamy."

Paddock's physical and mental health was declining. The 64-year-old's wealth had diminished, and he struggled with aging, federal agents said. The findings were contained in a long-awaited report compiled by the FBI's Behavior Analysis Unit, a group of experts who spent months examining several factors that might have led to the rampage.

"This report comes as close to understanding the why as we're ever going to get," Rouse said.

Paddock, who acted alone, fatally shot himself as police closed in. Almost 900 people were hurt during the Oct. 1, 2017, attack on an outdoor concert.

The gunman was inspired in part by his father's reputation as a bank robber who was once on the FBI's most wanted list, the report said. In many ways, he was similar to other active shooters the FBI has studied — motivated by a complex merging of development issues, stress and interpersonal relationships.

His "decision to murder people while they were being entertained was consistent with his personality," the report said.

The gunman was not directed or inspired by any group and was not seeking to further any agenda. He did not leave a manifesto or suicide note, and federal agents believe he had planned to fatally shoot himself after the attack, according to the report.

Kimberly King, who along with her husband was hurt at the concert, said Paddock was "just a sick person." She doesn't care why he carried out the attack.

"How did he get the chance to do it? That's what upsets me the most," the Las Vegas woman said. "How

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 35 of 48

could this have happened and how could we have let this happen?"

Paddock was a retired postal service worker, accountant and real estate investor who owned rental properties and homes in Reno and in a retirement community more than an hour's drive from Las Vegas. He also held a private pilot's license and liked to gamble tens of thousands of dollars at a time playing video poker.

His younger brother, Eric Paddock, called him the "king of micro-aggression" — narcissistic, detail-oriented and maybe bored enough with life to plan an attack that would make him famous. His ex-wife told investigators that he grew up with a single mom in a financially unstable home and he felt a need to be self-reliant.

Police characterized him as a loner with no religious or political affiliations who began stockpiling weapons about a year before the attack. He spent more than \$1.5 million in the two years before the shooting and distanced himself from his girlfriend and family.

He sent his girlfriend, Marilou Danley, to visit her family in the Philippines two weeks before the attack and wired her \$150,000 while she was there. Danley, a former casino worker in Reno, returned to the U.S. after the shooting and told authorities that Paddock had complained that he was sick and that doctors told him he had a "chemical imbalance" and could not cure him.

Danley, who is Catholic, told investigators that Paddock often told her, "Your God doesn't love me."

A Reno car salesman told police that in the months before the shooting Paddock told him he was depressed and had relationship troubles. Paddock's doctor offered him antidepressants, but told investigators that Paddock would only accept a prescription for anxiety medication.

Paddock's gambling habits made him a sought-after casino patron. Mandalay Bay employees readily let him use a service elevator to take multiple suitcases to the \$590-per-night suite he had been provided for free. Authorities said he asked for the room, which had a commanding view of the Strip and the Route 91 Harvest Festival concert grounds across the street.

The night of the massacre, Paddock used assault-style rifles to fire more than 1,000 rounds in 11 minutes into the crowd of 22,000 music fans. Most of the rifles were fitted with rapid-fire "bump stock" devices and high-capacity magazines. Some had bipod braces and scopes. Authorities said Paddock's guns had been legally purchased.

Las Vegas police closed their investigation last August, and Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo declared the police work complete after hundreds of interviews and thousands of hours of investigative work. Lombardo vowed never to speak Paddock's name again in public. A Las Vegas police spokesman declined to comment on the FBI's report.

A separate report made public in August involving the Federal Emergency Management Agency found that communications were snarled during and after the shooting. It said police, fire and medical responders were overwhelmed by 911 calls, false reports of other shootings at Las Vegas casinos and the number of victims.

Hotel security video and police body camera recordings made public in a public-records lawsuit filed by media organizations including the AP showed police using explosives to blast through the door of the 32nd-floor hotel suite where Paddock was found dead.

He left behind nothing that offered an explanation.

"He acted alone. He committed a heinous act. He died by his own hand," Rouse said. "If he wanted to leave a message, he would have left a message. Bottom line is he didn't want people to know."

Balsamo reported from Washington. Associated Press Writer Michelle L. Price in Las Vegas contributed to this report.

## US launches plan for asylum seekers to wait in Mexico

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Trump administration on Tuesday quietly launched an effort to make asylum seekers wait in Mexico while their cases wind through U.S. immigration courts, despite clear reservations and conflicting messages from the Mexican government.

The U.S. returned one asylum seeker to Mexico — a Honduran man — on the first day of what would be one of the most dramatic changes to the U.S. immigration system of Donald Trump's presidency, if the policy survives an anticipated legal challenge. Carlos Gomez, 55, arrived in Tijuana around midday and asked authorities for a ride to a migrant shelter.

Mexican officials sent mixed signals on the crucial point of whether Mexico would impose limits on accepting families. Tonatiuh Guillen, commissioner of Mexico's National Immigration Institute, said Mexico would only accept people 18 to 60 years old, which rules out families with young children.

But Roberto Velasco, spokesman for Mexico's foreign relations secretary, said Friday that families would be considered case by case. And a Mexican official with direct knowledge of the process said Mexico requested that families be excluded from the policy but that the U.S. declined to make any commitment, conceding only to start with single adults. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the deliberations were not public.

The launch is limited to San Diego's San Ysidro border crossing, the nation's busiest, though Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan wrote in a memo released Tuesday that it is expected to expand to other crossings "in the near future." Adding to a sense of confusion, Guillen said Mexico will only allow it at the one crossing that connects San Diego and Tijuana.

Katie Waldman, a Department of Homeland Security spokeswoman, insisted families will be included. A sharp increase in Central American families seeking asylum in the U.S. led to the Trump administration's dramatic move, and limiting families would diminish the impact.

"It will be expanded across the entire Southwest border, and it will apply to family groups," Waldman said.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen was in San Diego on Tuesday to observe the launch but had no public appearances. The U.S. Embassy in Mexico said in a news release that the program began Tuesday.

Mexico's foreign relations secretary said Friday that the U.S. would start with 20 people a day. Two U.S. officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because the deliberations were not public said shortly before the launch that the policy would start with about 100 people a week in a trial period of up to 90 days in San Diego.

The launch followed months of delicate talks between the U.S. and Mexico and marked a change to the U.S. asylum system that both the administration and asylum experts said was unprecedented.

Velasco, writing Monday in an opinion article in The Washington Post, outlined Mexico's doubts and said there "are several technical-level questions ... that our two governments need to address to guarantee an adequate implementation of this unilateral policy." Mexico has repeatedly said the U.S. is acting alone, but it has pledged to issue temporary visas to the asylum seekers, with permission to seek work authorization.

"The operational complexity of receiving asylum seekers from the United States opens the door to new potential drawbacks," Velasco wrote. "Mexico will keep raising these concerns to the United States, to adequately manage the situation while guaranteeing the orderly functioning of our border.

On Monday, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said in a memo to employees that asylum officers would interview migrants to determine if they are "more likely than not" to be persecuted or tortured in Mexico while waiting for hearings in the U.S. If they are not, they will be returned to Mexico.

Asylum seekers will not be allowed to have attorneys at that initial screening held at border crossings "given the limited capacity and resources," drawing swift criticism from immigration attorneys.

"With this policy, the Trump administration is purposefully keeping Central Americans in unsafe conditions without access to counsel and evidence in an effort to send them straight back to the hands of their persecutors," Dree Collopy, an immigration lawyer and asylum expert in Washington, wrote in an email.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 37 of 48

She regards the practice as illegal and contrary to U.S. obligations under domestic and international law.

Due largely to a court-imposed 20-day limit on detaining children, families are typically released in the U.S. with a notice to appear in immigration court. With a backlog of more than 800,000 cases, it can take years to settle cases, giving rise to what the administration calls "catch and release."

Nielsen said last week that the "migrant protection protocols" being introduced in San Diego are a "methodical commonsense" approach to what she calls a humanitarian and security crisis on the Mexican border.

"For far too long, our immigration system has been exploited by smugglers, traffickers and those who have no legal right to remain in the United States," she said.

Children traveling alone and Mexican asylum seekers will be exempt from the program, as will "criminals," people with a "history of violence" and those with physical or mental health issues, according to guidelines issued Tuesday by Customs and Border Protection.

Customs and Border Protection said asylum seekers would be given a sheet with information on the process and a list of free or low-cost legal service providers. U.S. authorities will provide transportation between the border and the courtroom.

Guillen said Mexico's temporary visas would last for a maximum of 120 days. The Mexican official said U.S. asylum judges are expected to render final decisions within 90 days.

Associated Press writer Maria Verza in Mexico City and AP photographer Gregory Bull in Tijuana, Mexico, contributed to this report.

## China-US row over tech giant Huawei overshadows trade talks

By **KELVIN CHAN** and **JOE McDONALD**, AP Business Writers

BEIJING (AP) — U.S. criminal charges against Chinese electronics giant Huawei have sparked a fresh round of trans-Pacific recriminations, with Beijing demanding Tuesday that Washington back off what it called an "unreasonable crackdown" on the maker of smartphones and telecom gear.

China's foreign ministry said it would defend the "lawful rights and interests of Chinese companies" but gave no details. Huawei is the No. 2 smartphone maker and an essential player in global communications networks.

A day earlier, U.S. prosecutors criminally charged Huawei and several of its officials for allegedly stealing technology secrets and violating Iran sanctions. That followed the detention in Canada of the Huawei founder's daughter — a top company official who was named in one of the U.S. indictments, and who is now awaiting possible extradition to the U.S. Huawei has denied wrongdoing.

All that has further complicated U.S.-China relations amid attempts to defuse a trade war instigated by President Donald Trump and clashes over alleged Chinese theft of trade secrets and other intellectual property from U.S. firms. A new round of trade talks are planned for Wednesday in Washington.

The nearly two dozen charges unsealed Monday by the Justice Department accuse Huawei of trying to spirit a robot arm and other technology out of a T-Mobile smartphone testing lab. They also allege that Huawei, two subsidiaries and a top executive misled banks about the company's business and violating U.S. sanctions.

The allegations mark a new phase in the dispute between the two countries over global technological dominance. The U.S. has reportedly waged a campaign to discourage other nations from using Huawei telecommunications equipment for next-generation "5G" wireless networks, based on concerns that the Huawei gear might compromise national security.

U.S. intelligence chiefs who briefed Congress on worldwide threats Tuesday sounded the alarm about China's efforts to gain an edge over the United States.

"China's pursuit of intellectual property, sensitive research and development plans ... remain a significant threat to the United States government and the private sector," Director of National Intelligence Daniel Coats told the Senate Intelligence Committee.

"While we were sleeping in the last decade and a half, China had a remarkable rise in capabilities that

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 38 of 48

are stunning," Coats said. "A lot of that was achieved — a significant amount was achieved by stealing information from our companies."

On Tuesday, Australia's TPG Telecom said it abandoned plans to build what would have been the country's fourth mobile network because of a government ban on Huawei over security concerns. Last week Vodafone, one of the world's biggest mobile phone companies, said it would stop using Huawei gear in its core networks.

U.S. officials have long harbored suspicions that Huawei could be used by Beijing to eavesdrop on sensitive communications and questioned whether the privately-owned company has ties to China's ruling communist party because its founder is a former military engineer.

Monday's U.S. charges did not allege that Huawei worked at the Chinese government's direction.

A 10-count indictment in Seattle centers on a T-Mobile phone-testing robot dubbed "Tappy." The robot, developed in 2006, helped spot problems in phones before they hit the market by mimicking how people actually use them.

Prosecutors say Huawei began a scheme to steal Tappy technology for its own phone-testing robot after T-Mobile rejected its request to license the machine for broader use.

The indictment detailed efforts by Huawei engineers to sneak into the highly-restricted Tappy lab. One engineer succeeded in taking unauthorized photos of the robot. Another managed to sneak it out of the lab to take measurements and photos to send back to China. He returned it after being questioned by T-Mobile, prosecutors said.

Huawei allegedly offered bonuses in 2013 to employees who stole information from other companies around the world, according to the Seattle indictment, citing emails obtained by the FBI. The bonuses were based on the value of information, which was sent to Huawei using an encrypted email address.

In the second indictment, Brooklyn prosecutors charge Huawei with using a Hong Kong front company, Skycom, to trade with Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions. They allege Huawei's chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, lied to banks about those dealings.

Meng, the daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, was arrested Dec. 1 in Vancouver, a development that set off a political firestorm between China and Canada.

China detained two Canadians shortly after Meng's arrest in an apparent attempt to pressure Canada to free her. A Chinese court also sentenced a third Canadian to death in a sudden retrial of a drug case, overturning an earlier 15-year prison term.

Huawei overtook Sweden's LM Ericsson in 2017 to become the No. 1 global seller of network gear. The company says it supplies 45 of the top 50 global phone companies and has signed contracts with 30 carriers to test its next-generation technology. Its smartphone brand, launched in 2010, surpassed Apple Inc. in two quarters of 2018 to become the world's No. 2 seller behind Samsung Electronics Ltd.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders denied that the criminal charges were part of a carrot-and-stick approach to the trade talks. "Those two things are not linked," she said. "They are a totally separate process."

Trump and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, agreed Dec. 1 to put off further sanctions against each other's exports while they negotiated a new trade pact. If they don't reach an agreement by March 1, U.S. tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese products are set to rise from 10 percent to 25 percent. That prospect has rattled financial markets for months.

The Trump administration has accused Beijing of deploying predatory trade tactics, ranging from requiring U.S. and other foreign companies to hand over technology in return for access to the vast Chinese market to outright cyber-theft.

The number of economic espionage investigations the FBI is handling has doubled over the last three to four years, "and almost all of them lead back to China," said FBI Director Christopher Wray.

\_\_\_ Chan reported from London. AP researcher Yu Bing in Beijing and AP writers Christopher Bodeen in Beijing, Michael Balsamo, Eric Tucker and Christopher Rugaber in Washington, Rob Gillies in Toronto and Tali Arbel in New York contributed.

## UK leader seeks Brexit deal changes, but EU stands firm

By JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May on Tuesday won a few weeks to salvage a Brexit deal but headed toward a clash with the European Union by promising to overhaul the divorce agreement she spent a year and a half negotiating with the bloc.

Trying to break the U.K.'s Brexit deadlock, May got Parliament's backing for a bid to rework an Irish border guarantee in the withdrawal deal — a provision May and the EU both approved, and which the bloc insists cannot be changed.

"It is now clear that there is a route that can secure a substantial and sustainable majority in this House for leaving the EU with a deal," she said, promising to "obtain legally binding changes to the withdrawal agreement" from the EU.

The EU immediately ruled that out, insisting in a statement that the current deal with the U.K. remained the "best and only way" to achieve an orderly Brexit. French President Emmanuel Macron said the agreement "is the best accord possible. It is not re-negotiable." Guy Verhofstadt, the top Brexit official at the European Parliament, said there was "no majority to reopen or dilute" the deal.

It was the latest disorienting chapter in a Brexit process that has grown increasingly surreal since Parliament rejected May's divorce deal two weeks ago, leaving Britain lurching toward a cliff-edge no-deal" departure from the bloc on March 29.

A series of Commons votes Tuesday on next steps submitted by both pro-Brexit and pro-EU legislators ended up sending starkly mixed signals, as lawmakers backed a call to renegotiate the deal, and also approved a rival motion ruling out a no-deal exit.

May had urged lawmakers to "send an emphatic message" to the EU, but their response is likely to leave the bloc even more confused about British aims.

May believes her agreement can still win Parliament's backing if it is changed to alleviate concerns about the Irish border measure, known as the backstop. The backstop would keep the U.K. in a customs union with the EU in order to remove the need for checks along the border between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland after Britain leaves the bloc.

The border is crucial to the divorce deal because it will be the only land frontier between the U.K. and the EU after Brexit, and because the free flow of people and goods underpins both the local economy and Northern Ireland's peace process.

Opposition to the backstop by pro-Brexit lawmakers — who fear it will trap Britain in regulatory lockstep with the EU — helped sink May's deal on Jan. 15, when Parliament rejected it in a 432 to 202 vote.

On Tuesday, Parliament backed, by 317 votes to 301 votes, a call for the border measure to be replaced by unspecified "alternative arrangements."

Leading Brexiteers praised the result. Former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said Parliament had sent a "clear, unambiguous" message that the backstop had to be removed.

"I hope that our friends in Brussels will listen and that they will make that change," he said.

But Green Party legislator Caroline Lucas, who wants a new referendum on Britain's EU membership accused May of chasing "heated-up fantasies that have already been rejected by the EU."

May acknowledged that the EU had "limited appetite" for changing the Brexit deal. But she vowed to go to Brussels and seek "significant and legally binding change" to the backstop. May's office said that might include an end date to ensure it is temporary or an exit clause for Britain. Both those ideas have been repeatedly rejected by the EU.

"There can be no change to the backstop," said Ireland's European Affairs Minister, Helen McEntee. "It was negotiated over 18 months with the U.K. and by the U.K."

Lawmakers voted on seven Brexit proposals Tuesday, including the border change supported by May and several measures that sought to rule out a "no-deal" Brexit.

Much of the business world says a no-deal Brexit would cause economic chaos by eliminating existing EU trade agreements and imposing tariffs, customs checks and other barriers between the U.K. and the

EU, its main export market.

Most members of Parliament oppose leaving without a deal, but they rejected several proposals that tried to wrest control of the Brexit process from the government and give it to Parliament so lawmakers could stop Britain crashing out of the EU without a deal. Some opposition Labour Party members sided with the government, worried about being seen as obstructing Brexit.

Lawmakers approved, by a narrow 318 votes to 310 votes, a motion ruling out a “no-deal” Brexit but not saying how that should be achieved. The vote is not legally binding, but has political force as an expression of the will of Parliament.

Tuesday’s ambiguous votes won’t mark the end of Britain’s turmoil over Brexit: There could be a rerun in two weeks. May said if she has not struck a new Brexit deal by Feb. 13, Parliament would get to vote, again, on what should happen next.

Robert Hazell, professor of government and the constitution at University College London, said the EU was “pretty resolute in not being willing to reopen the negotiations unless the British government can come back with something more specific.”

“Tonight’s votes only kick the can down the road for another two weeks,” he said.

Associated Press writers Danica Kirka and Gregory Katz in London, Angela Charlton in Paris and Raf Casert in Brussels contributed.

Follow AP’s full coverage of Brexit at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

## Atlanta sounds alarm over snow; New England fans unfazed

By JEFF MARTIN, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta got a mere spritzing of rain Tuesday, hours after a winter weather forecast prompted authorities to close government offices, shutter schools and cancel flights in anticipation of icy streets.

But the southern city was experiencing abnormally frosty conditions as fans arrived for the Super Bowl, with temperatures dropping into the 30s on Tuesday.

New England Patriots fans in town for the game did not panic.

“I grew up in all that snow, and I remember a lot of blizzards up there so this is like nothing unusual,” said Stephen Knepfel, who grew up in Salem, Massachusetts. “It didn’t faze me at all — it’s just part of everyday life up in New England.”

Patriots’ coach Bill Belichick was holed up in the team’s hotel downtown, and was oblivious to the weather conditions.

“I haven’t been outside of this building today,” he said during a Tuesday afternoon news conference at the Hyatt Regency on Peachtree Street. “There could be 8 feet of snow out there, it could be 95 degrees — I have no idea.”

Some snow from the feared storm did fall Tuesday in Georgia’s northwest corner, but it was sweater weather during Atlanta’s morning commute. The shoes of office workers made crunching sounds on downtown sidewalks, where road salt caught the light from outdoor video boards set up for the Super Bowl and reflected shades of blue, red and green.

Ultimately, precipitation from the storm front proved negligible for Atlanta. The plunging temperatures jolted the city, though: It was 50 degrees before dawn and was expected to reach the 20s by Tuesday evening, National Weather Service Meteorologist Sid King said.

Atlanta takes even a threat of icy weather seriously after enduring its infamous “snow jam” five years ago, when cars, trucks and school buses became marooned for hours on the southern city’s freeways.

Delta Air Lines “proactively” canceled about 170 flights at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, its main hub, the Atlanta-based airline announced late Monday.

Anticipating the storm, Gov. Brian Kemp announced the closure Tuesday of state offices in more than



# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 41 of 48

30 counties across northern Georgia, saying "temperatures are going to plummet." Atlanta Public Schools closed its campuses, and other area districts followed suit.

"It's very similar to what we saw in 2014 where the roadways will not have time to dry off before the moisture or precipitation on them refreezes," Kemp said Monday. "And that's when you have black ice, and that's what causes wrecks, which causes gridlock and public safety issues, injuries."

Road crews sprayed liquid salt on north Georgia's major interstates, state routes and overpasses, including routes that the New England Patriots and Los Angeles Rams must use to travel to and from practice venues.

Visiting Patriots fan Pamela Wales of Quincy, Massachusetts, said television images shown this week reminded her that Atlanta and ice don't mix well.

"They were showing all kinds of pictures on TV from 2014 when everyone got stuck," Wales said as she toured Super Bowl exhibits at the Georgia World Congress Center.

Sunday's Super Bowl will be played in downtown Atlanta in Mercedes-Benz Stadium, and officials have promised to open its roof if weather permits.

Past Super Bowl weeks have been marred by wintry weather. The week before Green Bay defeated Pittsburgh in 2011, ice coated the roads in Arlington, Texas, and tumbled from the roof of Cowboys Stadium, hurting six workers on the ground.

And in 2000, the St. Louis Rams and Tennessee Titans arrived in Atlanta shortly after an ice storm froze traffic. Both teams had to practice outdoors in the biting cold, since the Georgia Dome, later demolished, was being used for Super Bowl pregame and halftime rehearsals. The Rams wore winter jackets and thermal underwear.

Associated Press Writer Ben Nadler contributed.

## AP FACT CHECK: Global warming hasn't gone away despite cold

By **SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the midst of a Midwest cold spell, President Donald Trump is pleading for global warming to come back, but it never went away.

Just like the Arctic air invading parts of the U.S. because of wandering pieces of the polar vortex, Earth's warmth appears a bit temporarily displaced.

But scientific reports issued by the Trump administration and outside climate scientists contradict Trump's suggestion that global warming can't exist if it's cold outside.

A look at his Monday night tweet:

TRUMP: "In the beautiful Midwest, windchill temperatures are reaching minus 60 degrees, the coldest ever recorded. In coming days, expected to get even colder. People can't last outside even for minutes. What the hell is going on with Global Warming (sic)? Please come back fast, we need you!"

THE FACTS: While the Midwest is in the grip of a chill that's likely to set records, Earth is still considerably warmer than it was 30 years ago and especially 100 years ago.

The lower 48 states make up only 1.6 percent of the globe and five western states are warmer than normal. The Earth as a whole — and it is global warming, not U.S. warming — on Tuesday is 0.54 degrees (0.3 degrees Celsius) warmer than the 1979 to 2000 average and 1.6 degrees warmer than it was on average about 100 years ago, according to data from the University of Maine's Climate Reanalyzer and NASA.

"This is simply an extreme weather event and not representative of global scale temperature trends," said Northern Illinois University climate scientist Victor Gensini, who is in the midst of some of the worst subfreezing cold. "The exact opposite is happening in Australia right now."

Australia is broiling with triple-digit heat that is setting records opposite the Midwest. Adelaide last week was 115.9 degrees (46.6 Celsius), setting the record for the highest temperature ever set by a major Australian city.

Trump is cherry picking cold weather to ignore the larger picture of a warming planet, said John Cook,

a professor of climate change communications at George Mason University.

"This myth is like arguing that nighttime proves the sun doesn't exist," Cook said.

As far as how it affects people, Trump's own administration released a scientific report last year saying that while human-caused climate change will reduce cold weather deaths "in 49 large cities in the United States, changes in extreme hot and extreme cold temperatures are projected to result in more than 9,000 additional premature deaths per year" by the end of this century if greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise at recent rates.

Even with global warming, winter, snowstorms and cold weather will continue to exist, say scientists and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. That's because Trump is conflating weather and climate. Weather is like mood, which is fleeting. Climate is like personality, which is long term and over large areas the size of continents, hemispheres and the planet.

"In a warming world, you're still going to have unusually hot and unusually cold events happening in a particular part of the world," said Berkeley Earth climate scientist Zeke Hausfather. "Weather is not going away."

Find AP Fact Checks at <http://apne.ws/2kbx8bd>

Follow @APFactCheck on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/APFactCheck>

## Some journalists wonder if their profession is tweet-crazy

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — If Twitter is the town square for journalists, some are ready to step away.

That's happening this week at the online news site Insider — by order of the boss. Reporters have been told to take a week off from tweeting at work and to keep TweetDeck off their computer screens. The idea of disengaging is to kick away a crutch for the journalists and escape from the echo chamber, said Julie Zeveloff West, Insider's editor-in-chief for the U.S.

Addiction to always-rolling Twitter feeds and the temptation to join in has led to soul-searching in newsrooms. Some of it is inspired by the reaction to the Jan. 19 demonstration in Washington involving students from a Covington, Kentucky, high school, which gained traction as a story primarily because of social media outrage only to become more complicated as different details and perspectives emerged.

Planning for Insider's ban predated the Covington story, West said.

She often walks through her newsrooms to find reporters staring at TweetDeck. Her goal is to encourage reporters to find news in other ways, by picking up the telephone or meeting sources. An editor will make sure no news is being missed.

Twitter "isn't the place where most people find us," she said. "Reporters place this outsized importance on it."

The Washington Post's David Von Drehle called Twitter the "crystal meth of newsrooms." He dates his moment of disillusionment to the Republican national convention in 2012. In the section reserved for reporters, he noticed many watching TweetDeck feeds instead of listening to speeches from the podium or stepping away to talk to delegates.

"Twitter offers an endless stream of faux events," Von Drehle wrote in a column this past weekend. "Fleeting sensations, momentary outrages, ersatz insights and provocative distortions. 'News' nuggets roll by like the chocolates on Lucy's conveyer belt."

Since Twitter is irresistible to journalists who have the smart-aleck gene — probably the majority — a newsroom quip or instant observation is now writ large.

The Covington story uniquely played to Twitter's faults. Early video that depicted Covington student Nick Sandmann staring down Native American activist Nathan Phillips spread rapidly across social media and many people rushed to offer their takes. An event that may have otherwise gone unnoticed instantly became a story by virtue of its existence online.

Yet when a wider picture emerged of what happened, in some respects quite literally from the view of a

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 43 of 48

wider camera lens, a story that seemed black and white became gray. Some of the early opinions became embarrassing and were quietly deleted. But since there's no such thing as a quiet deletion when people are watching online, the incident became fodder for another outbreak of partisan warfare.

The episode led Farhad Manjoo, a columnist for The New York Times, to declare Twitter "the world's most damaging social network."

In a column, he said he plans to stifle the urge to quickly type his opinion on every news event and suggested others follow his lead. Between mistakes and overly provocative opinions, too much can go wrong for journalists on Twitter, he said in an interview.

"In order to be good on Twitter, you have to be authentic," he said. "But authenticity is also dangerous. It leads people to make assumptions about you. It can go bad in different ways."

Perhaps it's inevitable at a time that Twitter needs to be constantly monitored because it is one of the president of the United States' favorite forms of communications, but Manjoo said too often reporters spend more time in the virtual world than the real one.

"The way the media works now, we've just gone overboard on Twitter," he said.

Days after Covington, some news outlets proved his point by writing stories about NBC "Today" show host Savannah Guthrie's interview with Sandmann that were nothing but collections of Twitter comments about how she did. Some tweeters thought Guthrie was too hard on him. Some thought she was too soft. Simply by nature of the forum, few who thought it was just right bothered posting.

Media experts wary of Twitter quitters said a distinction between the platform and how people use it should not be lost.

"I really don't think it's so hard to avoid commenting on a moving story when the facts are not clear," said Jay Rosen, a New York University journalism professor.

Leaving Twitter means cutting off a valuable news source since many newsmakers use the venue to make announcements, he said. It's also an equalizer in giving access to a virtual town square to people who might otherwise be overlooked, said news consultant Jeff Jarvis.

"Journalists should be looking for every possible means to listen better to the public," Jarvis said. "If you cut yourself off, it's ridiculous."

Some have done that, or tried. Manjoo's colleague at The Times, White House correspondent Maggie Haberman, wrote last July about how she was stepping back from Twitter after nearly nine years and 187,000 tweets.

"The viciousness, toxic partisan anger, intellectual dishonesty, motive-questioning and sexism are at all-time highs, with no end in sight," she wrote. "It is a place where people who are unquestionably upset about any number of things go to feed their anger, where the underbelly of free speech is at its most bilious. Twitter is now an anger video game for many users."

Haberman predicted she would eventually re-engage with Twitter but in a different way. She's back; she tweeted five times and retweeted links six times by 10 a.m. Tuesday. She's up to 194,000 tweets and has a following of more than a million people. She declined a request for an interview about how the experience changed her.

Kelly Evans was an early Twitter user at The Wall Street Journal and then at CNBC, where she's a news anchor. She found it a valuable place to get ideas, and to connect with readers, viewers and fellow journalists.

But she realized in the summer of 2016 that it was taking up too much of her personal time with little contribution to her professional life. She publicly signed off and has kept to her pledge for the most part. She says now she doesn't regret it.

Evans admits she may have missed some story tips, but questions the reliability of much that is on Twitter. "I feel more healthy and I feel like I'm able to do my job better," she said.

---

Associated Press researcher Rhonda Shafner in New York contributed to this report.

## Pakistan upholds acquittal of woman in blasphemy case

By KATHY GANNON, Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's top court on Tuesday upheld its acquittal of a Christian woman who spent eight years on death row after being convicted of blasphemy, dealing a blow to radical Islamists who had staged violent mass protests last year calling for her execution.

Asia Bibi watched from a secret location as the decision was announced on television, according to a friend who was on the phone with her at the time. He said Bibi's first thought upon hearing the news was that she would soon be able to join her daughters in Canada, where they have been granted asylum.

The friend spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear for his safety. Bibi, her lawyer and the Supreme Court judges who eventually freed her have all received death threats from radical Islamists, and a small army of police and paramilitary Rangers was on hand to guard the courthouse and surrounding area on Tuesday.

Blasphemy is punishable by death in Pakistan, and the mere accusation can spark mob violence and lynchings. A provincial governor who defended Bibi was shot and killed, as was a government minority minister who questioned the blasphemy law.

Thousands of Islamists took to the streets and clashed with police after Bibi's initial acquittal on Oct. 31, but there were no such protests this time, perhaps because of the heightened security presence and a nationwide police sweep that arrested hundreds of supporters of radical religious parties from their homes on Monday.

Since her acquittal, Bibi has lived in hiding at an undisclosed location protected by Pakistani security forces who have kept her confined to her quarters, unable to even open a window. She speaks daily to her daughters in Canada, and worries about her 19-year-old, who has learning challenges, the friend said.

"I am really grateful to everybody. Now after nine years it is confirmed that I am free and I will be going to hug my daughters," he quoted Bibi as saying after the ruling was announced.

Bibi's lawyer, Saiful Malook, who returned to Islamabad for the hearing after fleeing the country amid death threats, called the decision a victory for Pakistan's constitution and rule of law.

The three-judge Supreme Court panel had "insisted on very strict proofs of blasphemy" and found none, Malook said, expressing hope that Bibi's acquittal would deter false allegations.

"This case is a milestone for Pakistan, given that the law is often unkind to religious minorities," said Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia Program at the Washington-based Wilson Center. He cautioned that Pakistan's courts are still susceptible to political pressure, but said the Supreme Court's actions represented a "legal watershed."

The court did not question the blasphemy law itself, which critics say is often used to settle scores or intimidate followers of minority religions, including Shiite Muslims.

Bibi's ordeal began on a hot day in 2009 when she brought water to fellow farmhands who refused to drink from the same container as a Christian woman. Two of her fellow farmworkers argued with Bibi and later accused her of insulting Islam's Prophet Muhammad. Bibi, who has always denied the allegations, was sentenced to death the following year.

Pakistan's Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khan Khosa, who led the panel that upheld Bibi's acquittal, said in court that Bibi's accusers were guilty of perjury and that if the case had not been so sensitive, they should have been jailed for life.

"The image of Islam we are showing to the world gives me much grief and sorrow," Khosa said.

Much of the evidence presented against Bibi was suspicious, and some of it appeared to be fabricated, he said, adding that the cleric who lodged the initial charge of blasphemy gave contradictory statements that were unchallenged in the trial. Ghulam Mustafa Chaudhry, the lawyer representing the cleric who petitioned for a review of the sentence, denied that any witnesses had given false testimony.

Following Bibi's initial acquittal, radical religious parties took to the streets in mass protests, calling for the killing of the judges behind the ruling and for the overthrow of Prime Minister Imran Khan's government. They also filed the last-minute appeal for a review of the acquittal. The protests were spearheaded

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 45 of 48

by the radical Tehreek-e-Labbaik party, whose single point agenda is protection of Islam and the Prophet Muhammad.

After days of protests, authorities arrested radical clerics Khadim Hussain Rizvi and Mohammad Afzal Qadri, both leaders of the party, and several of their followers for destroying public property during rallies against Bibi and for inciting their followers to violence. The clerics and the others remain in custody.

The group called for protests again, but Pakistani media say police arrested hundreds of party activists in Lahore, Islamabad and nearby Rawalpindi on Monday in an apparent attempt to prevent a repeat of last year's unrest.

After the court ruling, Mohammad Shafiq Amini, the acting chief of Tehreek-e-Labbaik, issued a video message rejecting Tuesday's decision as "cruel and unjust."

He said Muslims should feel ashamed that Bibi was not executed and asked the Prophet Muhammad for "forgiveness that we could not do anything, and that blasphemers are alive." He again asked the party's supporters to fill the jails across Pakistan by getting arrested for protesting, but by late Tuesday there were no signs of mass protests.

Joseph Francis, a Christian activist who attended Tuesday's hearing, said the decision was good news for Pakistan's minority Christian community. "I am happy because the judges spoke out strongly against giving false evidence," he said.

Human rights activist Tahira Abdullah said religion and politics have become a "horrible jumble" in Pakistan. Tuesday's decision could have a "deterrent effect," she said, "but knowing the political mileage to be gained from false charges of blasphemy, I doubt it."

---

Associated Press writer Munir Ahmed in Islamabad contributed.

## Defense case at El Chapo trial clocks in at 30 minutes

By TOM HAYS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — After a prosecution that spanned 11 weeks and had its share of bombshells, the defense case at the U.S. trial of Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman clocked in on Tuesday at a mere 30 minutes.

Attorney Jeffrey Lichtman called one witness and entered one document into evidence before resting the defense's case. The jury was sent home for the day with closing arguments set to begin on Wednesday.

Guzman could face life in prison if convicted of drug and murder conspiracy charges that his lawyers say are fabricated.

It's not unheard of for defense lawyers to call few or even no witnesses. But Guzman's fleeting defense was striking because it followed a sweeping one by the government that featured 56 witnesses, including colorful cooperators who described how the notorious boss of the Sinaloa cartel ran his cocaine-dealing empire with an iron fist.

There were tales of Guzman running naked through an underground tunnel to evade a manhunt, of hefty cash bribes to top Mexican government and military officials and of the defendant personally torturing and assassinating his enemies in fits of rage.

Prosecutors described the evidence as overwhelming, noting in a court filing Monday that it included witness testimony, text messages, recorded calls, drug seizures and handwritten letters that the government says prove Guzman "was a member of a narcotics conspiracy as one of the leaders of the Sinaloa Cartel."

By contrast, jurors watched Lichtman briefly question an FBI agent about a 2017 debriefing of one of Guzman's cocaine suppliers — government witness Jorge Cifuentes — who has given shifting accounts about his claim that a U.S. intelligence officer once revealed sensitive investigative information with him. It appeared to be an effort to both attack Cifuentes' credibility and support the theory that Guzman was the victim of a conspiracy by the U.S. and Mexican governments to single him out for prosecution.

During cross-examinations of prosecution witnesses, defense lawyers grilled the cooperators about their own criminal backgrounds and the deals they cut with prosecutors that could shorten their sentences. The

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 46 of 48

lawyers have claimed that's incentive to frame Guzman — a point that is certain to be a central theme of the defense closing argument.

## Boeing soars and lifts markets with it

CHICAGO (AP) — Boeing is reporting annual revenue of more than \$100 billion for the first time and shares are soaring after the company easily beat Wall Street's profit and sales expectations for the fourth quarter.

The big numbers from the plane maker, which is heavily exposed to trade standoff between the U.S. and China, sent futures higher less than two hours before the opening bell Wednesday.

Boeing Co. had net income of \$3.42 billion, or \$5.93. Earnings, adjusted for non-recurring gains, came to \$5.48 per share, easily topping the per-share profit of \$4.52 that industry analysts were looking for, according to a poll by Zacks Investment Research.

The Chicago company's revenue of \$28.34 billion also breezed past projections of \$26.65 billion.

Boeing expects full-year earnings in the range of \$19.90 to \$20.10 per share, with revenue in the range of \$109.5 billion to \$111.5 billion.

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

## Asian shares advance ahead of Fed meeting, US-China talks

By ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian markets rose Wednesday as traders awaited a Federal Reserve policy meeting and U.S.-China talks, though Japan's benchmark declined.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index retreated 0.5 percent to 20,555.13 while South Korea's Kospi climbed 0.6 percent to 2,197.50. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index gained 0.3 at 27,607.67. The Shanghai Composite index edged 0.1 percent to 2,596.62. Australia's S&P ASX 200 also added 0.1 percent to 5,877.70. Stocks rose in Southeast Asia and Taiwan.

WALL STREET: U.S. indexes reflected a mixed draw of corporate earnings on Tuesday. 3M, the maker of Post-it notes, industrial coatings and ceramics, posted upbeat fourth quarter results. Harley-Davidson reported a drop in sales. Apple announced better-than-expected earnings, and its shares surged 5.7 percent to \$163.50 in after-hours trading. The S&P 500 index retreated 0.1 percent to 2,640.00 while the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 0.2 percent at 24,579.96. The Nasdaq composite, which has many technology stocks, shed 0.8 percent to 7,028.29. The Russell 2000 index lost 0.1 percent to 1,471.45.

FED MEETING: All eyes are on a Federal Open Market Committee meeting ending Wednesday. Although the Fed is expected to leave its short-term interest rate unchanged, the nuances of a press conference by Chairman Jerome Powell will be closely watched.

CHINA-US TRADE: American and Chinese officials will begin two days of trade talks in Washington. U.S. President Donald Trump will reportedly meet Chinese Vice Premier Liu He in an attempt to move negotiations forward. But the Justice Department's charges against Chinese tech giant Huawei, its subsidiaries and a top company executive may be a hurdle. China has urged U.S. authorities to end what it called an "unreasonable crackdown" against Huawei, which has been accused of stealing technology and violating sanctions on Iran.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Asia's markets are trading quietly sideways this morning, and we would expect that to be the theme of the day as the event-risk needle swings much higher from tonight in North America," Jeffrey Halley of OANDA said in a market commentary.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 15 cents to \$53.46 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gained \$1.32 to settle at \$53.31 per barrel on Tuesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, picked up 21 cents to \$61.41 per barrel. The contract added \$1.39 to \$61.20 per barrel in London.

# Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 47 of 48

CURRENCIES: The dollar eased to 109.34 yen from 109.35 yen late Tuesday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1439 from \$1.1432.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 30, the 30th day of 2019. There are 335 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 30, 1948, Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi, 78, was shot and killed in New Delhi by Nathuram Godse (neh-too-RAHM' gahd-SAY'), a Hindu extremist. (Godse and a co-conspirator were later executed.)

On this date:

In 1649, England's King Charles I was executed for high treason.

In 1933, Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany. The first episode of the "Lone Ranger" radio program was broadcast on station WXYZ in Detroit.

In 1945, during World War II, a Soviet submarine torpedoed the German ship MV Wilhelm Gustloff in the Baltic Sea with the loss of more than 9,000 lives, most of them war refugees; roughly 1,000 people survived. Adolf Hitler marked the 12th anniversary of his appointment as Germany's chancellor with his last public speech in which he called on Germans to keep resisting until victory.

In 1948, aviation pioneer Orville Wright, 76, died in Dayton, Ohio.

In 1962, two members of "The Flying Wallendas" high-wire act were killed when their seven-person pyramid collapsed during a performance at the State Fair Coliseum in Detroit.

In 1968, the Tet Offensive began during the Vietnam War as Communist forces launched surprise attacks against South Vietnamese towns and cities; although the Communists were beaten back, the offensive was seen as a major setback for the U.S. and its allies.

In 1969, The Beatles staged an impromptu concert atop Apple headquarters in London; it was the group's last public performance.

In 1972, 13 Roman Catholic civil rights marchers were shot to death by British soldiers in Northern Ireland on what became known as "Bloody Sunday."

In 1973, the rock group KISS performed its first show at a club in Queens, N.Y.

In 1981, an estimated 2 million New Yorkers turned out for a ticker-tape parade honoring the American hostages freed from Iran.

In 1993, Los Angeles inaugurated its Metro Red Line, the city's first modern subway.

In 2006, Coretta Scott King, widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., died in Rosarito Beach, Mexico, at age 78.

Ten years ago: Michael Steele was elected the first black chairman of the Republican National Committee. President Barack Obama signed a series of executive orders that he said should "level the playing field" for labor unions in their struggles with management. Ingemar Johansson, who stunned the boxing world by knocking out Floyd Patterson to win the heavyweight title in 1959, died in Kungsbacka, Sweden. Former Alabama Gov. Guy Hunt died in Birmingham at age 75.

Five years ago: An appeals court in Florence, Italy, reinstated the guilty verdict against U.S. student Amanda Knox and her ex-boyfriend for the 2007 murder of her British roommate, Meredith Kercher. (Knox was exonerated by the Italian Supreme Court in 2015.) Federal prosecutors announced they would seek the death penalty against Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (joh-HAHR' tsahr-NEYE'-ehv) in the Boston Marathon bombing. (Tsarnaev was convicted and sentenced to death; his attorneys have appealed.)

One year ago: In his first State of the Union address, President Donald Trump called on Congress to make good on long-standing promises to fix a fractured immigration system and issued ominous warnings about deadly gangs, the scourge of drugs and violent immigrants living in the country illegally; the speech also included calls for optimism amid a growing economy. In the Democratic response, Massachusetts

# Groton Daily Independent

**Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 205 ~ 48 of 48**

Rep. Joe Kennedy III said soaring stock prices had boosted investor portfolios and corporate profits but had not eased the anxieties of middle-class families. The body of 35-year-old actor Mark Salling, a former cast member on the TV show "Glee," was found in a riverbed area of Los Angeles in what a coroner determined was suicide by hanging; Salling's death came a few weeks after he pleaded guilty to possession of child pornography.

Today's Birthdays: Producer-director Harold Prince is 91. Actor Gene Hackman is 89. Actress Vanessa Redgrave is 82. Country singer Jeanne Pruett is 82. Chess grandmaster Boris Spassky is 82. Country singer Norma Jean is 81. Former Vice President Dick Cheney is 78. Rhythm-and-blues musician William King (The Commodores) is 70. Singer Phil Collins is 68. Actor Charles S. Dutton is 68. World Golf Hall of Famer Curtis Strange is 64. Actress Ann Dowd is 63. Actress-comedian Brett Butler is 61. Singer Jody Watley is 60. Actor-filmmaker Dexter Scott King is 58. The King of Jordan, Abdullah II, is 57. Actor Wayne Wilderson (TV: "Veep") is 53. Actor Norbert Leo Butz is 52. The King of Spain, Felipe VI, is 51. Country singer Tammy Cochran is 47. Actor Christian Bale is 45. Rock musician Carl Broemel (My Morning Jacket) is 45. Actress Olivia Colman is 45. Actress-singer Lena Hall is 39. Pop-country singer-songwriter Josh Kelley is 39. Actor Wilmer Valderrama is 39. Actress Mary Hollis Imboden is 33. Actress Kylie Bunbury is 30. Actor Jake Thomas is 29. Actress Danielle Campbell is 24.

Thought for Today: "Only when we are no longer afraid do we begin to live." — Dorothy Thompson, American author, journalist and radio commentator (born 1893, died this date in 1961).