

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 1 of 43



- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Harr Auto Body Ad
- 2- Groton Care & Rehab Help Wanted Ad
- 2- Fishing Access Improved at Mickelson Pond in Pierre
- 3- Farmers Union PSA
- 3- Lady Tigers roar past Braves
- 4- S & S Lumber Ad
- 5- Christmas in Lincoln White House was low-key affair
- 6- City Dog License ad
- 7- Today in Weather History
- 8- Today's Forecast
- 9- Yesterday's Weather
- 9- Today's Weather Info
- 9- National Weather Map
- 10- Daily Devotional
- 11- 2018 Community Events
- 12- News from the Associated Press

## Tuesday

Boys Basketball at Britton  
C game at 4:45 p.m., JV at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity.

## Thursday

Girls basketball hosts Ipswich  
C game is cancelled. JV at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game.

## Friday

1 p.m.: Elementary Christmas Concert  
2 p.m.: Early Dismissal

*"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild . . . we can do it all"*

**NOW OPEN**

# Harris

**Auto Body** ABDN

**225 Brown County Hwy 19 South  
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900**

**Open:** Recycling Trailer in Groton  
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

**The cardboard/paper**  
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

## Fishing Access Improved at Mickelson Pond in Pierre

PIERRE, S.D. - The City of Pierre and South Dakota Game Fish and Parks (GFP) recently partnered to add four new fishing pods at Mickelson Pond in Pierre.

The City contracted with R&W Construction to do the work, and GFP will reimburse the City for half of the expense.

"The additional fishing pods are just the right size for a youngster and an adult to sit and cast for the fish stocked by Game, Fish and Parks," said city parks director Tom Farnsworth.

The City of Pierre and GFP previously partnered to do sediment dredging at the pond. A floating fish pier, four fishing pods, a vault toilet and lighting were added at that time.

The City built the road, parking lot and concrete walking trail, and installed the pond bridge and lighting. The City also added a public picnic shelter and playground equipment.

"Partnerships with cities and towns to develop urban and community fisheries are a priority for GFP," said Will Saylor, fisheries administrator for GFP. "Anglers' license fees can be stretched when we enter into these cooperative projects."

Mickelson Pond is located off Fourth Street in northeast Pierre.

## NEW SIGN-ON BONUSES!

☆☆☆ **\$1,500 for CNAs** ☆☆☆

☆☆☆ **\$3,000 for LPNs** ☆☆☆

☆☆☆ **\$4,500 for RNs** ☆☆☆

### Alzheimer's Care Unit Director

### Medication Aid

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



**GROTON**  
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

**1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton**



All auto owners!  
**Save \$2-\$4 /tank**  
& grow your local economy  
by choosing low carbon  
**Super Premium E30's**  
94 octane, more power,  
same mileage, fewer  
carbon deposits, lower  
maintenance costs,  
slashed benzene & related  
genotoxic, carcinogenic  
tailpipe emissions;  
\*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for  
info, E30 prices\locations.

**\*Farmers Union's  
PSA: Courtesy Merle  
Anderson (Merle is 94  
year old founder of Ace  
and legendary ethanol  
supporter... "because it is  
the right thing to do")**

## Lady Tigers roar past Braves

Groton Area posted a 65-34 Northeast Conference win over Britton-Hecla Tuesday in Groton in girls' basketball action.

Groton Area led at the quarter stops at 19-9, 38-13 and 56-20.

Jennie Doeden led the Tigers with 15 points followed by Payton Maine with 12, Eliza Wanner 10, Harleigh Stange eight, Kaycie Hawkins five, Jessica Bjerke and Nicole Marzahn with four each and Miranda Hanson and Payton Colestock with three each. Maine made four three-pointers while Wanner had two and Hanson and Colestock each had one.

Groton Area made two of nine free throws off of Britton-Hecla's 12 team fouls. The Braves made three of five free throws off of Groton Area's 10 team fouls. The Tigers had 39 rebounds with Doeden and Bjerke each having seven rebounds, 16 turnovers, 15 steals with Stange having five and Doeden four, and 14 assists with Stange having four.

The Tigers made 18 of 41 field goals and eight of 15 three-pointers.

Three players scored for Britton-Hecla with Brianna Beck having 15, Peris Fellows 10 and Maggie Dahme nine.

The Tigers, now 3-1 on the season, will host Ipswich on Thursday with a junior varsity game starting at 6:30 p.m. followed by the varsity game. The C game has been cancelled.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 4 of 43



**Miranda Hanson**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Jessica Bjerke with the ball  
Tadyn Glover in the background**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Jennie Doeden goes up  
for the shot over Britton-  
Hecla's Peris Fellows**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

## S & S Lumber

of Groton

will be closing at Noon  
on Wednesday, Dec. 20th  
for Inventory

Will reopen at regular hours on  
Thursday, Dec. 21st

*Thank you for your patronage!*

## CHRISTMAS IN LINCOLN WHITE HOUSE WAS LOW-KEY AFFAIR

by Tom Emery

Christmas in the White House in the 1860s was a far cry from the ornate displays of decor familiar to Americans today. During the Lincoln administration, the holiday was celebrated in low-key fashion. Celebrations of Christmas in those years were far less prevalent than today, and the White House was no exception. The first indoor Christmas tree at the White House did not appear until 1889, and the first outdoor tree lighting was not held until 1923. For President Lincoln, December 25 was often a working day.

Those who did celebrate Christmas in the era often viewed the day as a social occasion. As President-elect in 1860, Lincoln was consumed with a steady stream of visitors at his Springfield home. Reporter Henry Villard, one of many seeking Lincoln's attention, wrote that "a party of St. Louis gentlemen all but monopolized the attention of the President-elect."

Still, Lincoln found the time for a little shopping. On Christmas Eve 1860, he purchased some "yard goods," or fabric, for his wife, as well as eleven handkerchiefs for gifts.

In Lincoln's first White House Christmas in 1861, much of December 25 was spent in dealing with the Trent affair, a diplomatic crisis with England and France. The evening, however, was spent in celebration, as the Lincolns welcomed many family and friends from Illinois and Kentucky at a Christmas dinner.

"Christmas for the Presidents of the mid-19th century was generally a quiet time," said Dr. William Bushong, historian of the White House Historical Association in Washington, DC. "For most First Families, it was a quiet, family occasion."

The Civil War and the plight of soldiers weighed heavily on Lincoln's mind. On Christmas afternoon in 1862, President and Mrs. Lincoln visited "many hospitals" to meet sick and wounded soldiers. The next year, ten-year-old Tad Lincoln, the President's youngest son, sent many soldiers gifts of books and clothing with the simple identifier "From Tad Lincoln."

Lincoln spent part of that same Christmas Day discussing the constitutionality of the draft with one of his personal secretaries, John Hay. The President also looked ahead, discussing preliminary plans for amnesty and reconstruction for those in rebellion.

Bushong notes that Christmas in the White House in that era was usually overshadowed by a larger celebration. "The New Year's Day reception in the White House was a really big deal at the time," remarked Bushong. "Thousands of people came, and the White House was decked out in grand décor. New Year's Day was a much larger celebration in the mansion than Christmas."

By comparison, Bushong said that Christmas decorations in the White House were rather simple, usually consisting of greenery, bows, holly, and wreaths.

The last Christmas Eve of Lincoln's life in 1864 brought much-needed good news. Fresh off his successful March to the Sea, William T. Sherman famously telegraphed Lincoln, "I beg to present to you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah, with one hundred fifty heavy guns and plenty of ammunition, also about 25,000 bales of cotton."

Two days later, Lincoln hosted a Christmas reception at the White House and also took time to write Sherman, expressing "many, many thanks for your Christmas gift – the capture of Savannah." The President complemented Sherman for his success, writing "the honor is all yours."

However, the pragmatic Lincoln quickly put holiday cheer aside. "But what next?" inquired the President as to Sherman's plans, adding, "I suppose it will be safer if I leave Gen. Grant and yourself to decide."

Lincoln and other Americans took comfort in the drawings of artist Thomas Nast, who is credited as the first to depict Santa Claus as we know him today. Nast, who also drew the symbols of the present-day Democratic and Republican parties, offered a sketch of Santa in the Jan. 3, 1863 issue of Harper's Weekly that showed him in patriotic garb, distributing gifts to Union soldiers.

An obvious piece of propaganda, Nast's original Santa is shown holding a marionette of Confederate

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 6 of 43

President Jefferson Davis, with a rope tied around its neck as to mimic a lynching. Some have asserted that Lincoln requested, or even commissioned, this original Santa sketch, though many scholars dispute that claim.

Nast drew Santa in other military and political surroundings in subsequent years, some of the many pro-Union sketches he produced. Lincoln clearly saw the value of Nast's talents both at Christmas and year-round, reportedly declaring him "our best recruiting sergeant."

Tom Emery is a freelance writer and researcher from Carlinville, Ill.

## 2018 DOG LICENSES AVAILABLE NOW!!



**Licenses due by Dec. 29, 2017**  
**Fines start Jan. 2, 2018**



Please bring proof of rabies shot information for each dog to City Hall or email to [library@grotonsd.net](mailto:library@grotonsd.net) or fax to 397-4498

Please contact City Hall as soon as possible if you no longer have any dogs

Spayed or neutered dogs are \$5 per dog,  
otherwise \$10 per dog



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 7 of 43

## Today in Weather History

December 19, 1968: Snow and near-blizzard conditions existed across west central Minnesota, with 5 to 7 inches of new snow reported. Heavier snows were reported further to the southeast in Minnesota. Six inches of snow was reported in Artichoke Lake in Big Stone County.

December 19, 1990: Snow began to fall over the northwest part of Minnesota by early afternoon on the 19th, and fell heavily during the night into the early afternoon of the 20th, spreading over the entire northern 2/3 of the state and into some of northeastern South Dakota overnight. By mid-morning, a swath of snow of 6 inches or more was deposited over much of the northern half of the state, or north of a line from Elbow Lake to Garrison to near Two Harbors. In west central Minnesota, Wheaton received 6 inches, Browns Valley received 4 inches, and Artichoke Lake received 3 inches. In South Dakota, Webster reported 8 inches, Britton reported 7 inches, Sisseton reported 5 inches, and Aberdeen reported 4 inches.

December 19, 1777: George Washington led his hungry and weary from long marches men to Valley Forge on this day. The winds greeted the 12,000 Continentals as they prepared for the winter. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

1924 - The Riverside Ranger Station in Yellowstone Park, WY, reported a low of 59 degrees below zero, a December record for the U.S. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1957 - A tornado, 200 yards in width, killed two persons along its 15-mile path from near Waldo to near Bueana Vista in southwestern Arkansas. People from one house were carried 250 yards, and cars were said to have been carried 600 yards. (The Weather Channel)

1967 - A record 83 inches of snow covered the ground at Flagstaff, AZ. The heavy snows inflicted great hardships on reservations. (David Ludlum)








1987 - Thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in eastern Texas and the Lower Mississippi Valley. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 90 mph at Venus TX and Providence LA. Rain prevailed from the Southern Plains to the Middle Mississippi Valley. Small stream flooding was reported around Columbia MO. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Low pressure and a trailing cold front in the central U.S. brought snow and high winds to parts of the Rocky Mountain Region. Winds in Colorado gusted to 67 mph at La Junta. Thunderstorms along the same cold front produced wind gusts to 65 mph at Kansas City MO. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

December 19, 2009: Snowfall totals from 1 to 2 feet were commonplace in what will go down as one of the biggest snowstorms in history on the East Coast and the first of four snowstorms for the Mid-Atlantic during the winter of 2009-10. The 15 inches of snow measured at Reagan International Airport on Dec. 19th was the third highest daily snowfall on any calendar day at Washington, DC since snowfall records began in 1884. The total storm snowfall of 16.4 inches on Dec 18-19 2009 marks the 6th highest two-day snowfall record for Washington, DC putting it just below the second President's Day storm in 2003 and ahead of the Jan 1996 storm. Baltimore Washington Airport saw 20.5 inches of snow and went down as the fifth highest daily snowfall on any calendar day at Baltimore since snowfall records began in 1893. The total storm snowfall of 21.0 inches on Dec 18-19 2009 marks the 6th highest two-day snowfall record for Baltimore. The daily snowfall records for Dec 19 were smashed for the most snowfall for any calendar day during December at the following stations. Reagan National Airport's new record was 15.0 inches, old record 11.5 in 1932. Baltimore Washington Airport's new record was 20.5 inches, old record 11.5 in 1932. This was the biggest December snowstorm on record and setting a record for the snowiest December for Baltimore, MD. Dulles Airport's new record was 16.0 inches, old record 10.6 in 1982. Richmond International Airport had a total of 6.4 inches. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania reported its second greatest daily snowfall total on record with 22.9 inches. It also was the single biggest December snowfall for the city of Philadelphia, PA. Roanoke, Virginia recorded 17.8 inches setting a record for the greatest 24-hour snowfall in December. Washington, DC reported 16.4 inches of snowmaking 2009 the snowiest December on record, all in one storm. In New York, Upton on Long Island recorded 26.3 inches, the biggest snowstorm on record.

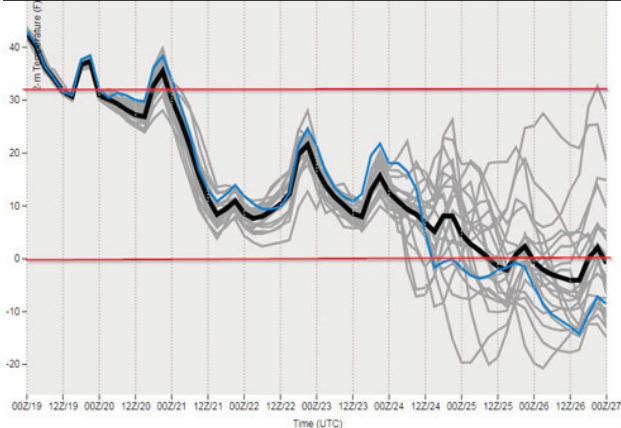
# Groton Daily Independent

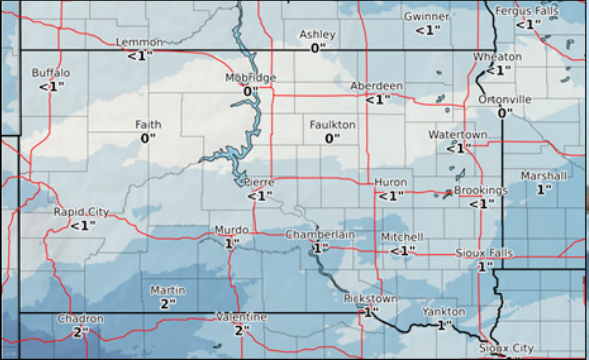
Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 8 of 43

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Chance Snow	Slight Chance Snow then Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Slight Chance Snow
High: 38 °F	Low: 21 °F	High: 35 °F	Low: 12 °F	High: 17 °F	Low: 2 °F	High: 22 °F


## Warm Today And Wednesday

## Possible Snowfall Amounts Wednesday Tonight Through Thursday





## then turning much colder for the end of December



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

[www.weather.gov/abr](http://www.weather.gov/abr)

GRAPHIC CREATED:  
12/19/2017 5:40 AM

Published on: 12/19/2017 at 5:44AM

Today will feature dry conditions with highs in the 30s and lower 40s. Accumulating snow will spread across North Dakota tonight through Wednesday. This system may clip northeastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. Another system will spread light snow to South Dakota Wednesday night through Thursday. Areas along and south of Highway 14 will have the best potential of seeing snow with the secondary system. Much colder temperatures are expected on Thursday. The cold air will remain through at least the end of the month.



# Groton Daily Independent

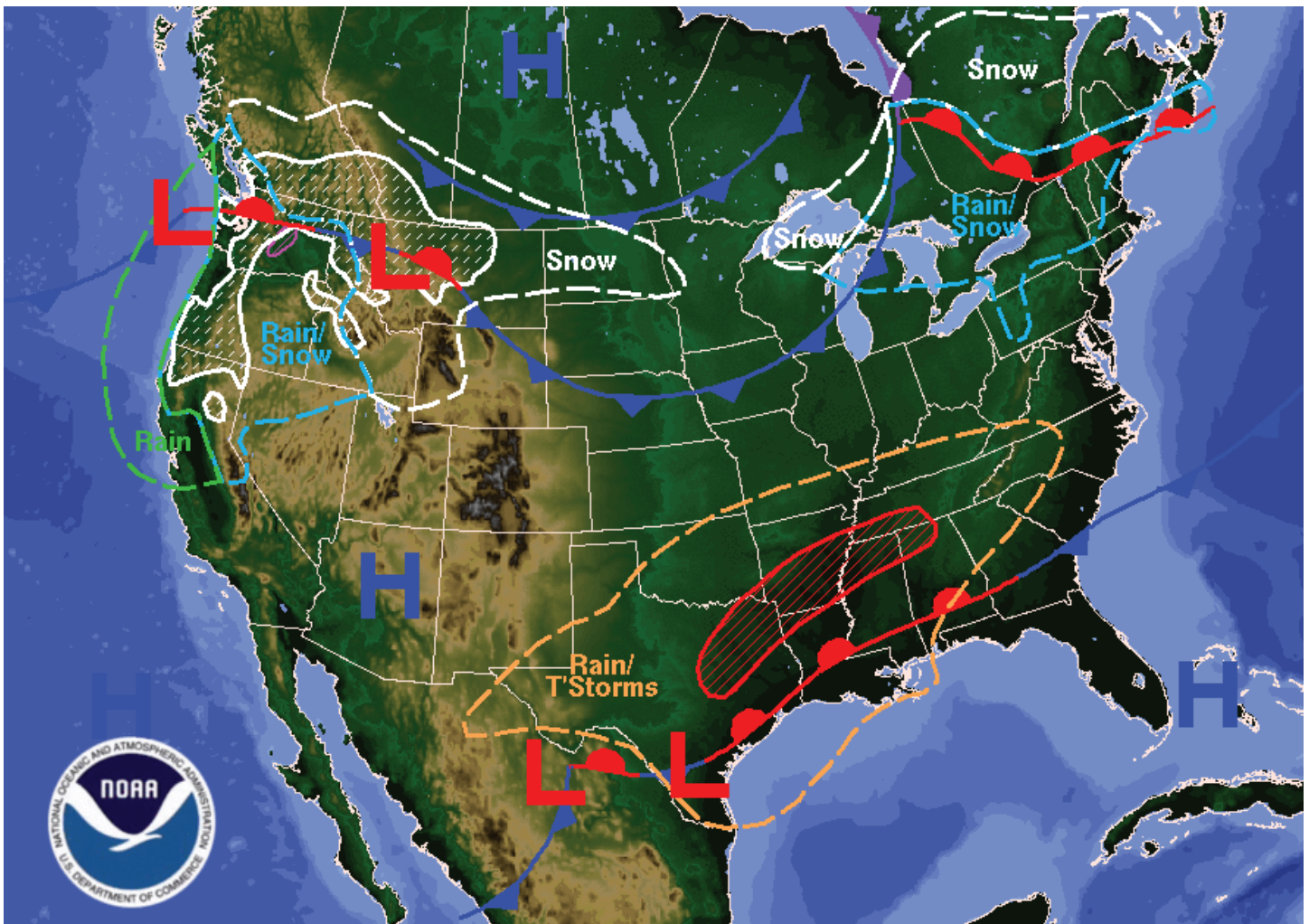
Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 9 of 43

## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 49.7 at 3:22 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 23.7 at 6:36 AM**  
**High Gust: 15 mph at 8:17 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 57° in 1893**  
**Record Low: -29° in 1916**  
**Average High: 24°F**  
**Average Low: 5°F**  
**Average Precip in Dec: 0.31**  
**Precip to date in Dec: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 21.51**  
**Precip Year to Date: 13.47**  
**Sunset Tonight: 4:52 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:10 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Dec 19, 2017, issued 4:12 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 10 of 43



## NO MISTAKE

Walter came home from Sunday school with a question all over his face. "Mom," he asked, "did the shepherds have washing machines where they kept their sheep?"

"Shepherds? Washers?" After a moment she said, "No, darling, they did not have washing machines. Why do you ask?"

"Well, Mrs. Mathis was reading the story of the birth of Jesus and she said, 'While shepherds washed their socks that night...' and I didn't understand what was going on."

While we often think of the shepherds in the field that night, the glory that appeared with the angel and the fear that gripped them, we seldom connect the shepherds in that field with the Good Shepherd.

Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd" twice in John's Gospel. In those statements he summarizes all of the prophetic images of His role as prophet in the Old Testament. This declaration is a claim to His divinity as revealed in the Old Testament and focuses on His love, protection and guidance of us – His lambs.

But there is more. Not only is He our Shepherd but He chose to identify Himself as the good shepherd – and good is a term that carries with it nobility. It stands in sharp contrast to shepherds who were hired hands who worked and cared only for their own self-interests.

Prayer: We thank You, Lord, for loving us, for being our Good Shepherd and for laying down Your life for us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Luke 2:8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

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



## News from the Associated Press

### McCarthy doesn't rule out Rodgers playing against Vikings

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Green Bay Packers coach Mike McCarthy left the door open for quarterback Aaron Rodgers to play against the Minnesota Vikings this weekend.

"Aaron Rodgers is sore, rightfully so," McCarthy said Monday night, one day after Rodgers' return from a fractured right collarbone wasn't enough in the Packers' 31-24 loss to the Carolina Panthers. "He was hit too many times, took two big hits. So we're working through that. So we'll see what tomorrow brings."

Of course, McCarthy made the comments before the Atlanta Falcons beat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to eliminate the Packers from playoff contention and mark the end of the team's eight-year run of consecutive postseason berths.

Despite the return of Rodgers, who broke his collarbone Oct. 15 at Minnesota and missed the next seven games, the Packers put their streak in jeopardy by losing to the Panthers when a late rally fell short. After throwing three interceptions while looking rusty earlier in the game, Rodgers threw a 24-yard touchdown pass to tight end Richard Rodgers with 2:43 left in the game. The Packers then recovered the onside kick and were in position to force overtime when wide receiver Geronimo Allison fumbled at the Carolina 28-yard line with 1:50 to go.

"I'm disappointed like every man on the sideline is. It was an opportunity," McCarthy said. "Obviously there was extra energy in our locker room with Aaron playing. I wish that energy would have been consistent throughout our team for the whole time. That's a disappointment."

Rodgers worked hard to convince the team's brain trust and medical staff to allow him to play against the Panthers, and he admitted afterward that he did not play well, completing 26 of 45 passes for 290 yards with three touchdowns and three interceptions (71.5 passer rating). He also ran six times for 43 yards, although he took harder hits in the pocket than he did when he scrambled.

What McCarthy and the medical staff must now weigh is whether Rodgers should play. After the game against the Panthers, Rodgers hinted that he wanted to play Saturday against the team that derailed his season, regardless of the playoff picture, saying, "I'm a competitor. Until they tell me otherwise, I'm expecting to play."

The Vikings were preparing for him.

"I feel like he's going to play like he's got something to prove," nose tackle Linval Joseph said, "and I kind of want him to play because it'd be more of a challenge."

McCarthy, meanwhile, railed against veteran Panthers linebacker Thomas Davis' blindside, helmet-to-helmet block on wide receiver Davante Adams, who was in the league's concussion protocol Monday but lashed out at Davis on Twitter earlier in the day. The NFL suspended Davis for two games for the hit as a "repeat offender," but McCarthy remained livid that Adams was injured on what he called a "dirty" hit.

"There's no place in this game for those types of hits. That's been made loud and clear," McCarthy said. "That hit was totally unnecessary yesterday. As far as any type of rule changes, what they want to add, that's obviously for future discussion. The player has been suspended, whatever you think about that. But Davante was in a position that he shouldn't have been hit like that, and that was clear."

"I like (Panthers coach) Ron Rivera. I've always respected the play style of his football team. But that hit was a dirty hit."

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 13 of 43

## Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

### BOYS' BASKETBALL

Corsica/Stickney 86, Wessington Springs 12  
Dell Rapids 66, Baltic 39  
Elk Point-Jefferson 64, Alcester-Hudson 21  
Eureka/Bowdle 40, South Border, N.D. 32  
Great Plains Lutheran 55, Waubay/Summit 42  
Lennox 92, Canton 64  
Menno 59, Iroquois 43  
Sioux Valley 73, Parker 53  
Sully Buttes 70, Mobridge-Pollock 35  
Viborg-Hurley 72, Howard 45  
Warner 45, Potter County 44

### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Corsica/Stickney 63, Wessington Springs 22  
DeSmet 72, Dell Rapids St. Mary 37  
Deubrook 65, Chester 52  
Faulkton 62, Highmore-Harrold 54  
Groton Area 64, Britton-Hecla 34  
Hanson 57, Avon 51  
Irene-Wakonda 62, Canistota 27  
Kadoka Area 55, Philip 44  
Lake Preston 47, Estelline 35  
McCook Central/Montrose 63, Tea Area 49  
Menno 59, Iroquois 12  
Sioux Valley 58, Parker 39  
South Border, N.D. 57, Edmunds Central 40  
Warner 49, Potter County 36  
Waubay 46, Great Plains Lutheran 35  
West Central 49, Central Lyon, Rock Rapids, Iowa 35

## Girl's Basketball Polls By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - The South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school girl's preseason poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points and last week's ranking.<

### Class AA

Rank-School FPV Rcd TP Pvs

1. Aberdeen Central(19) 3-0 119 1
2. Harrisburg(6) 2-0 105 2
3. RapidCity Stevens - 4-0 70 3
4. Brandon Valley - 2-0 46 5
5. Sioux Falls Lincoln - 2-1 28 4

Others receiving votes: Sioux Falls O'Gorman 3, Brookings 3, Sioux Falls Washington 1.<

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 14 of 43

## Class A

Rank-School FPV Rcd TP Pvs

1. St. Thomas More (25) 3-0 125 1
2. Vermillion - 3-0 77 4
3. Lennox - 2-1 57 3
4. Dell Rapids - 3-0 46 RV
5. McCook Central-Montrose - 2-0 34 5

Others receiving votes: Hamlin 25, Belle Fourche 6, Crow Creek 4, Dakota Valley 1.<

## Class B

Rank-School FPV Rcd TP Pvs

1. Sully Buttes (23) 2-0 123 T1
2. Warner (2) 2-1 82 T1
3. De Smet - 3-1 66 4
4. Avon - 2-1 47 3
5. Hanson - 3-0 23 RV

Others receiving votes: Menno 15, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 7, Ethan 5, Deubrook Area 4, Hanson 1, Faith 1, Philip 1.<

## Boy's Basketball Polls By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - The South Dakota Sportswriters Association high school boy's preseason poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, total points and last week's ranking.<

## Class AA

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Sioux Falls Lincoln;(21);3-0;120;2
2. Harrisburg;(3);2-0;87;4
3. Sioux Falls O'Gorman;-;2-1;64;3
4. Aberdeen Central;(1);2-1;60;1
5. Rapid City Central;-;5-0;33;RV

Others receiving votes: Rapid City Stevens 9, Watertown 1, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 1.<

## Class A

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Tea Area;(22);2-0;122;1
2. Madison;(3);3-0;101;2
3. Sioux Falls Christian;-;4-0;75;3
4. Dell Rapids;-;1-1;34;4
5. Sioux Valley;-;2-1;26;5

Others receiving votes: Madison Hamlin 6, Sisseton 4, Crow Creek 3, Dakota Valley 2, Aberdeen Roncalli 1, Pine Ridge 1.<

## Class B

Rank-School;FPV;Rcd;TP;Pvs

1. Bridgewater-Emery (20);1-0;119;1
2. Clark-Willow Lake;(5);3-0;102;2
3. Sully Buttes;-;2-0;66;3



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 15 of 43

4. Irene-Wakonda -;2-1;35;4

5. Canistota;-;2-0;20;T5

(tie) Langford Area;-;3-0;20;T5

Others receiving votes: White River 8, Warner 3, Corsica-Stickney 1, Sanborn Central/Woonsocket 1.<  
—;—

## State park in South Dakota partially reopens after wildfire

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Custer State Park reopened on a limited basis Monday as firefighters worked to fully contain a wildfire that closed the popular South Dakota tourism attraction for a week.

Two main roads in and out of the park, U.S. Highway 16A and State Highway 87 South, as well as the visitors center reopened Monday morning. However, hiking trails and interior roads remain closed.

Kobee Stalder, the park's visitor services program manager, said firefighters expect the wildfire to be 100 percent contained by the end of crews' Monday shift.

The fire consumed more than 84 square miles (218 square kilometers) since it started from a downed power line on Dec. 11. Officials reported Sunday that fire was 95 percent contained.

Stalder said slightly more than half the park was burned. He said officials are clearing trees that have the potential of falling into roads.

"Today's going to be a big assessment today," Stalder said. "It's our first day our staff is back being Custer State Park staff, rather than firefighters."

The park just south of Mount Rushmore National Memorial is a top tourist destination, featuring hills with ponderosa pine and prairie. Visitors often drive through to see roaming buffalo and other wildlife.

## IRS data shows estate tax affects only a few in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A newspaper review of IRS tax data shows that just a few South Dakota residents will benefit from the Republican plan to slash the federal estate tax as part of their tax code overhaul.

South Dakota's GOP congressional delegates have frequently touted the policy's impact in the state. Sen. John Thune of South Dakota said in the Senate in October that "the threat of the death tax is a constant burden hanging over the heads of farmers and ranchers" in the state.

IRS data shows just over a dozen South Dakota residents paid the estate tax last year, the Argus Leader reported. Fewer than 20 South Dakota residents paid the tax between 2012 and 2016, besides the outlier year of 2013 when 32 people owed the tax.

Last year's data shows that across the country, 682 of the individuals who owed the estate tax owned farm assets. The number accounts for 13 percent of total filers in 2016.

Under the GOP's tax plan, individuals with assets up to \$11 million would be exempt from the estate tax. The exemption would be \$22 million in assets for married couples. The plan doubles existing exemption amounts.

Republicans have argued that many family farmers have to hire lawyers and pay fees to avoid the estate tax, even if they don't owe it.

"We thought if we did it this way the vast majority of farm families in South Dakota and ranch families would be protected," said Sen. Mike Rounds of South Dakota on Friday.

Critics of the plan have said that increasing exemptions will cost the federal treasury tens of billions of dollars a year in order to benefit few taxpayers. Others have said increasing the threshold for estate tax exemptions will have little to no impact on South Dakota farmers.

Sam Parkinson, executive director of the South Dakota Democratic Party, said, "it's not going after family farms, it's going after bigger groups."

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

## South Dakota Legislature to hold sexual harassment training

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — All South Dakota legislators and their staff are expected to attend ethics, professionalism and sexual harassment training that will be conducted in January, legislative leaders said Monday.

Senate Majority Leader Blake Curd said in a statement announcing the training that the Legislature takes the issue of sexual harassment seriously, and it "will not be tolerated."

"I think we're setting the ground for the kind of behavior and professionalism that we expect," Curd told The Associated Press. "I'm certainly expecting everyone to take advantage of the opportunity to educate themselves and continue to ensure that the Legislature conducts itself in a professional manner when it executes the work on behalf of the people who sent us there."

Senate Democratic leader Billie Sutton said in the statement South Dakota residents expect and deserve a government that's respectable and honorable. The training is the first step in the right direction to help make sure that there's a culture of integrity and professionalism in the state capital, Sutton said.

An aide to Gov. Dennis Daugaard said in an email that he supports the Legislature's decision to take the step.

The training comes after the Argus Leader and other news outlets reported on women who experienced sexism and harassment related to the male-dominated statehouse. The articles came after a former lawmaker and lobbyist shared stories of harassment and assault.

A state lawmaker who admitted to having sexual contact with two interns also resigned earlier this year. The upcoming 2018 legislative session begins Jan. 9, and the training is scheduled for Jan. 17.

## Jury awards \$1.2M to former state law enforcement agent

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota jury has awarded \$1.2 million to a former state law enforcement agent who claimed discrimination and retaliation.

The American News reports the jury sided Friday with past Division of Criminal Investigation agent Laura Zylstra Kaiser, who sued agency Director Bryan Gortmaker and ex-agent Mark Black.

Kaiser in a written statement thanked the jury for "giving me justice." She alleged violations of the federal Civil Rights Act and the South Dakota Human Relations Act.

Kaiser filed a sexual harassment complaint in 2011 against a former Brown County deputy who made inappropriate comments about her.

Kaiser said she discussed it with Black, claiming he broke her confidence and told others what happened.

Kaiser's lawsuit claimed the strife caused her to be demoted and transferred to Pierre against her wishes. She resigned in 2012.

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

## Black Hills coin shop accepting bitcoin

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The owners of a coin and precious metal shop in Rapid City say they are the first in the Black Hills to accept bitcoin for purchases.

Bitcoin is digital currency that can be sent electronically from one user to another anywhere in the world. It operates outside of the traditional banking system and is run by a decentralized network of computers, not by an individual or business.

Nathan Harding and Don Smith co-own Rushmore Coin and Heroes and Villains Collectibles. Harding tells the Rapid City Journal he believes trading by virtual currency is still in its infancy, even though bitcoin was established in 2009. Harding says he understands the confusion and controversy surrounding bitcoin.

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

## Millionaire suspect argues his ankle monitor is too costly

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge has rejected the argument of an 82-year-old Rapid City man accused of defrauding consumers of nearly \$17 million that he couldn't afford to pay for his ankle monitor as he awaits trial.

Larry Lytle is faces conspiracy and other charges for allegedly ignoring a pair of 2015 federal court orders to stop making and selling allegedly bogus laser medical devices known as QLasers.

The Rapid City Journal reports Lytle's attorney recently sought a court order allowing for the removal of the ankle monitor, saying Lytle isn't a flight risk and is having difficulty paying for electronic monitoring as required by the court.

Prosecutors responded that Lytle is a millionaire and that his claim "defies logic."

U.S. Magistrate Judge Daneta Wollmann sided with the government.

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

## South Dakota woodworking business awarded fellowship

By JIM HOLLAND, Rapid City Journal

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Jamey and Amber Nehring are all about salvaging old wood and turning it into new and useful things and helping to rebuild lives.

That's what they do.

Even the name of their Sturgis woodworking business, Renatus, is based on the Latin word for reborn.

"This is both our name and mission as we give old wood a new lease on life, and also as we look to bigger things," said Amber Nehring, in announcing Renatus Woodworks as one of eight statewide recipients of a two-year Dakota Rising Fellowship, which includes \$10,000 and mentoring to put the funds to good use.

Jamey had always had a knack for woodworking. Prior to marrying Amber in 2012, he had built a queen-sized bunk bed with a closet under it.

Jamey was living in a 400-square-foot (37-sq. meter) apartment. He and Amber were engaged and he knew she would be moving in after they were married.

"We needed a place for her to put all her clothes and all her stuff," he said.

A friend saw the bunk bed on a Facebook post and told Jayme he should venture into the furniture-making business. Jamey, then working for a contractor, decided to build his own business.

His first projects included a toy chest that looked like a Minecraft chest for his nephew and a doll crib for his niece.

He then made a coffee table for a fundraiser in Lead and a pedestal for a friend's taxidermist business. Jamey was also commissioned to build furniture, countertops and other projects from reclaimed wood for Campfire Coffee in Deadwood, the Rapid City Journal reported .

The proceeds from the Campfire jobs allowed Jamey to invest in new tools, but from that point the couple decided their fledgling business needed to accomplish bigger things.

They decided to donate 50 percent of any profits to organizations that are about saving lives, such as orphanages in Africa or elsewhere. "It's where we felt led," Jamey said. "We're doing this on lots of prayer and lots of faith."

The Nehrings initially located their business in a former gasoline and service station on Lazelle Street in Sturgis.

"We had driven by there many times. When it finally sold we went and talked to the guy who bought it and asked if we could rent it," Jamey said.

The front of the station was what Amber described as "itty-bitty." They quickly overwhelmed the space.

"At the time I remember I only had a couple things to put in it," she said. "Then, after a year of being set up in there we were just bursting at the seams."

Sturgis Economic Development Director Pat Kurtenbach helped them find a bigger space. The new location, the old Dakota Mill & Grain company building on west Main Street, offered yet another chance for a



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 18 of 43

renewal.

Dakota Mill & Grain closed its doors in 2012. The owners of the elevator said at the time that the building, dating back to the 1940s, has outlasted its useful life, and that repairing it would be more costly than it was worth.

But the Nehrings saw the potential. They rented the building, and after receiving the go-ahead, have slowly been renovating. An expansive showroom area even allows them enough space to seek other vendors for an area of downtown ripe for further rebirth.

"With the new laundromat and Indian Motorcycles, we believed this could be poised to be a new area of town," Amber said.

Along with furniture building, Renatus does general contracting, exterior staining including fences, decks, and cabins, and reclaiming barn wood.

They currently have between 35 and 40 barns to tear down across the state for refurbishing and creating wood furniture.

"We don't pay for (the barns). We offer to tear them down and clean up the mess in exchange for the material," Jamey said.

They employ two full-time carpenters. One builds picture frames from reclaimed barn wood, which are sold to old-time photo tourist shops in the region.

Dakota Resources, a community development fund certified by the U.S. Treasury Department, raises money for small businesses through a capital investment fund that augments revolving loan funds for local development projects.

Dakota Resources President Beth Davis said selecting this year's fellows from an impressive field of candidates was difficult.

"Our new class of fellows comes from all across the state with vastly different backgrounds. We are confident these rural entrepreneurs are going to do great things for themselves and for their communities," Davis said in a release.

In applying for the fellowship the Nehrings first had to prove their business was rural-based and not in Sioux Falls or Rapid City, and they had to submit a business plan.

After making the final 12 candidates, they interviewed with Dakota Rising officials in Watertown in October. From that they were selected to be fellows in the program.

The fellowship includes business mentoring throughout the program.

"We've taken our business as far as we could take it on our own. For the business to continue to grow and prosper, this opportunity will make a world of difference," Amber said.

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

## South Dakota ranch hosts pheasant hunt for youth

By NICK LOWREY, Pierre Capital Journal

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A big, red blur shot straight into the sky above the narrow strip of corn he'd been eating an early lunch in.

He veered right following a slight breeze, hoping, no doubt, that the wind would speed his escape. It did but he wasn't fast enough to escape the flurry of lead a trio of young pheasant hunters sent his way. Feathers flew and the ringneck pheasant fell from the sky.

It would be the first bird of a few dozen that 19 kids from the Pierre and Fort Pierre area would shoot on the Steffen Brothers Ranch on Dec. 9. They'd been given the chance to hunt the ranch thanks to the Fowled Up chapter of conservation organization Delta Waterfowl, which was holding its second youth pheasant hunt on the ranch.

Delta Waterfowl, as the name suggests, is an organization dedicated to duck and goose conservation. As such, until 2016, the Fowled Up chapter had organized an annual youth duck hunt during South Dakota's youth duck season in September.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 19 of 43

Getting youngsters involved in hunting is big part of what the Fowled Up chapter does. To that end they sponsor youth shooting sports teams in the area and several shooting events in addition to the youth hunt.

Dry conditions in central South Dakota over the last few years, however, forced the usually duck minded organization's members to look for a different opportunity last year, the Pierre Capital Journal reported .

"There's just not enough water around," said Willie Gloe chairman of the Fowled Up chapter.

As luck would have it, many of the Fowled Up chapter's members work part-time as guides at area pheasant hunting operations. Dave, Larry and Ernie Steffen offered up a few hours on a Saturday in December for a youth pheasant hunt in 2016. Cheyenne Ridge and Northstream Outfitters loaned a few busses and other items to the hunt as well.

That first hunt was a cold, blustery affair but it worked out pretty well nonetheless, Gloe said. This year's hunt was an altogether different experience. There was little wind, the sky was blue and the sun was bright. Morning temperatures were a little cool, which only served to keep the hunters from sweating from all the walking.

The hunters, ranging in age from 12 to 17, were split into three groups, each of which was given different areas of the ranch to hunt before coming together and surrounding a slough for what everyone hoped would be a final bonanza of birds.

Gloe's group was able to walk three corn strips, from which they flushed sever dozen roosters, many of whom fell to the keen eyed youngsters carrying all the guns. The last walk, the one through the slough, turned out to be a bust. Two hens and one rooster were the only birds to flush.

Still, the hunt was an unqualified success.

"It's amazing how happy these kids got from the time we left to when we got back," said Terry Fauth, who helped guide the young hunters.

Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

## Airlines inch back to normal flow after Atlanta airport fire

By **DON SCHANCHE JR. and TOM KRISHER, Associated Press**

ATLANTA (AP) — Delta Air Lines and other carriers that operate out of Atlanta's busy airport said they expected to be running normally Tuesday after a fire and blackout there forced the cancellation of over 1,500 flights days before the start of the Christmas rush.

A spokesman for Delta, by far the biggest airline at the world's busiest airport, said most of its delayed passengers had been booked on flights scheduled to leave Monday. Spokesman Michael Thomas said the airline should be "largely if not completely" back to normal by Tuesday, well before the huge travel weekend ahead of Christmas Day.

But passengers trying to catch Tuesday morning flights faced wait times of up to an hour just to get through the main security checkpoint in the domestic terminal, the airport's website showed around dawn.

No matter how fast Delta and other airlines move, it will take a few days to get the hundreds of thousands of grounded passengers to their final destinations, said Robert Mann, president of an airline consulting firm in Port Washington, New York. In rare cases, some passengers won't arrive until Thursday, he said.

"There are just so few seats available during a peak holiday week, that's just going to take a lot of flights with four or five seats apiece," Mann said.

The nation's air-travel system was snarled after the underground blaze knocked out electricity Sunday and crippled Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport for about 11 hours.

Southwest, the airport's second-largest airline, said Monday it was back on a normal schedule, but a spokesman could not say how long it would take to clear the backlog of stranded travelers.

American Airlines, which is much smaller, said that it, too, booked many of its passengers on new flights but that some will have to wait until later in the week to fly.

The fire broke out Sunday afternoon next to equipment for a backup system, causing that to fail, too. Power wasn't fully restored until about midnight.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 20 of 43

The control tower did not lose power because it has a separate electrical feed, and planes that were in the air and close to Atlanta when the blackout hit were allowed to land. Other incoming flights were diverted, and outgoing flights were halted.

Anthony Foxx, who was transportation secretary under President Barack Obama, was among many travelers stuck for hours in a plane on the tarmac. He blasted airport officials, saying the problem was "compounded by confusion and poor communication."

"Total and abject failure here at ATL Airport today," he tweeted, adding that there was "no excuse for lack of workable redundant power source. NONE!"

Georgia Power CEO Paul Bowers issued an apology and blamed the fire on a failure in a switch gear. He said the utility is considering a change in the setup of the main and backup systems to prevent a similar blackout.

Around noon Monday, stranded travelers sat on the floor, charging cellphones at the electrical outlets. An Atlanta city employee in a Santa hat gave out candy.

David and Lynn Carden, sitting in soft chairs in the airport's atrium, left London early Sunday for Key West, Florida, but were diverted to Cincinnati because of the blackout. Delta got them a hotel room and put them on a Monday flight to Atlanta. From there, they awaited an afternoon flight to Florida.

"Delta has been pretty good," David Carden said, counting themselves luckier than passengers who spent the night in an airport. "We don't always get this kind of customer service in the U.K."

College student Joe Ryan had planned to fly home to Chicago with his fiancée on Sunday on American after a four-day seminar in Atlanta. They spent Sunday night on a carpeted floor outside an elevator at the airport. He initially was told it could be Tuesday before he would get a flight home, but later he said he was able to get on a Monday flight.

Delta canceled about 1,000 flights Sunday and 400 more on Monday, in many cases because the pilots and airplanes were in the wrong places. To help clear the backlog, it added flights and found seats for some of its customers on other airlines.

Last spring, Delta was crippled by a storm in the South, and it took the airline five days — and about 4,000 canceled flights — before it fully recovered.

Thomas, the Delta spokesman, said that since then, the airline has put more flight crews on reserve and installed computer technology to quickly assemble properly rested crews.

Hartsfield-Jackson serves an average of 275,000 passengers a day. Nearly 2,500 planes arrive and depart each day.

Mann said the rebooking of passengers was probably complicated by the large number of inexperienced travelers this time of year.

"They're more elderly, they're more young people, they're more infrequent travelers," he said. "All these folks are going to require a lot of face time a lot of hand-holding."

Krisher reported from Detroit. Associated Press writers David Koenig in Dallas, and Kate Brumbach, Johnny Clark, Robert Ray and Jeff Martin in Atlanta contributed to this report.

## **GOP set to roll \$1.5T final tax bill through House, Senate**

**By MARCY GORDON, AP Business Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Their long-sought political goal within grasp, Republicans in Congress are set to catapult sweeping \$1.5 trillion tax legislation through the House, rolling over a dozen GOP defectors from high-tax states.

The Republicans' final drive to deliver the tax package to an eager President Donald Trump begins Tuesday with a vote in the House. Quickly following, a vote later in the day or on Wednesday in the Senate is expected to seal the deal. Both tallies likely will cling along party lines.

The Senate result was in doubt in recent weeks. Only on Friday did Republican leaders cement the



# Groton Daily Independent

**Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 21 of 43**

needed support for the legislation, securing endorsements from wavering GOP senators Marco Rubio of Florida and Bob Corker of Tennessee. More holdout GOP senators— moderate Susan Collins of Maine and Mike Lee of Utah — came into the fold on Monday.

Now the biggest reshaping of the U.S. tax code in three decades is on a clear path to passage and a presidential signing into law.

The complex legislation, hammered out in compromise, blends elements of separate House and Senate bills that were recently passed. It permanently slashes the tax rate for corporations from 35 percent to 21 percent and reduces levies on the wealthiest Americans, while making more modest tax reductions for most others. The tax cuts for individuals are temporary, expiring in 2026. It doubles the standard deduction used by about two-thirds of U.S. households, to \$24,000 for married couples, also ending in eight years.

The \$1,000-per-child tax credit doubles to \$2,000, with up to \$1,400 available in IRS refunds for families who owe little or no taxes. Parents would have to provide children's Social Security numbers to receive the child credit, a measure intended to deny the credit to people who are in the U.S. illegally.

Those who itemize lose some deductions.

The legislation also repeals an important part of President Barack Obama's health care law — the requirement that all Americans carry health insurance or face a penalty — as the GOP looks to unravel a law it failed to repeal and replace this past summer.

The package represents the first major legislative achievement for the Republicans after nearly a full year in control of Congress and the White House. It is expected to add to the nation's \$20 trillion debt. The tax cuts are projected to add \$1.46 trillion over a decade. GOP lawmakers say they'd expect a future Congress to continue the tax cuts so they won't expire. If achieved, that would drive up deficits even further.

Democrats, who were excluded from the closed-door drafting sessions, have kept up a litany of criticism that the legislation favors big corporations and the wealthy, snubbing the middle class. Though several Democratic lawmakers took part in the House-Senate conference that blended the two bills, none signed the final bill.

The bill would bring average initial tax cuts for Americans across all income lines, but by 2027, it would boost average levies for everyone earning up to \$75,000, which includes most taxpayers, Congress' non-partisan tax analysts estimated Monday.

The Joint Committee on Taxation calculated that in 2019, people earning \$20,000 to \$50,000 would see tax cuts averaging 10 percent or more. Those making \$200,000 to \$1 million would see reductions averaging slightly less.

But by 2023, people making under \$30,000 would see tax increases, while those earning more would see their tax cuts get smaller.

And a separate new study by the Tax Policy Center, a private nonpartisan group, found that individual taxes would be reduced on average next year by \$1,600. But that ranged on average from \$60 for people earning below \$25,000 to \$7,640 for those making above \$149,000. Those in the top 1 percent, earning over \$733,000, would see average tax cuts of \$51,140.

Rushing toward a vote and political triumph, Republican leaders brushed off the less-than-rosy projections. "That's just cherry-picking the numbers," Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, head of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, told reporters Monday. Looking ahead, he said, enthusiasm is growing for the tax bill and changes it will bring. "People are excited about a stronger economy and bigger paychecks," Brady said.

The disgruntled Republican lawmakers, from high-tax New York, New Jersey and California, receded into the background as the tax train rolled. Twelve of them voted against the House tax bill last month, which passed 227-205. They were protesting its new \$10,000 cap on the deduction that millions use in connection with state and local income, property and sales taxes. The cap remains in the final bill.

The deduction is especially vital to residents of high-tax states.

Several defectors reaffirmed their "No" votes for the final bill on Tuesday. Rep. Peter King conveyed what people in his Long Island, New York district were telling him about the tax bill: "Nothing good, especially from Republicans. ... It's certainly unpopular in my district," he said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 22 of 43

In the Senate, meanwhile, the new "Yes" votes clinched meant that all voting Republicans are expected to back the bill, enough for passage. The GOP's razor-thin edge in the Senate is 52-48. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is at home battling brain cancer and is expected to miss the vote. The Republicans still can muster a simple majority of the 99 senators present. And in their back pocket, they've got Vice President Mike Pence ready to break a tie if needed.

Associated Press writer Alan Fram contributed to this report.

## 10 Things to Know Today The Associated Press

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

### 1. HOW FAST DERAILED TRAIN WAS GOING

Federal officials confirmed an Amtrak train was hurtling 50 mph over the speed limit when it careened off an overpass south of Seattle, spilling cars onto the highway below and killing at least three people.

### 2. \$1.5T FINAL TAX BILL SET FOR FINAL APPROVAL

Republicans in Congress are set to catapult sweeping \$1.5 trillion tax legislation through the House, rolling over a dozen GOP defectors from high-tax states.

### 3. WHO TRUMP ADMINISTRATION BLAMES FOR BIG RANSOMWARE ATTACK

President Donald Trump's administration is publicly blaming North Korea for a ransomware attack that infected hundreds of thousands of computers worldwide in May and crippled parts of Britain's National Health Service.

### 4. WHAT MAY AID ASSAD AS HE EYES SYRIA'S IDLIB

A recent wave of detentions and a spate of violence within al-Qaida have also raised fears of an all-out war between insurgents in the heavily populated province near Turkey as President Bashar Assad's forces seek to reassert his authority in the only remaining province in Syria where they have almost no presence.

### 5. CHINA URGES US TO ACCEPT ITS RISE

The Chinese government is criticizing Trump's decision to label Beijing a strategic rival and called on Washington to "abandon a Cold War mentality."

### 6. WHY ORPHANAGES ARE EMPTYING IN SOME COUNTRIES

From Eastern Europe to China to the African nation of Rwanda, intensive efforts are underway to get children out of orphanages.

### 7. HOW MANY MIGRANTS UN SAYS THERE ARE NOW

A U.N. report says an estimated 258 million people have left their birth countries and are now living in other nations — an increase of 49 percent since 2000.

### 8. SNOWFALL IMPACTS BOTTOM LINE FOR BUSINESSES AND OLYMPIANS

With winters growing warmer and ski seasons starting later, billions of dollars are at stake for the ski industry.

### 9. HOW MUSIC COULD DO MORE THAN COMFORT THE SICK

The National Institutes of Health is bringing together musicians, music therapists and neuroscientists to tap into the brain's circuitry and figure out how.

### 10. LAKERS RETIRE NOT ONE, BUT TWO BRYANT JERSEYS

The Lakers owner explained the reasoning behind the team's decision to hang two jersey numbers for Kobe Bryant: "If you separated each of the accomplishments under those numbers, each of those players would qualify for the Hall of Fame."

## Trump administration blames NKorea for big ransomware attack

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's administration is publicly blaming North Korea for a ransomware attack that infected hundreds of thousands of computers worldwide in May and crippled parts of Britain's National Health Service.

Homeland security adviser Tom Bossert wrote in a Wall Street Journal op-ed published Monday night that North Korea was "directly responsible" for the WannaCry ransomware attack and that Pyongyang will be held accountable for it.

Bossert said the administration's finding of responsibility is based on evidence and confirmed by other governments and private companies, including the United Kingdom and Microsoft.

"North Korea has acted especially badly, largely unchecked, for more than a decade, and its malicious behavior is growing more egregious. WannaCry was indiscriminately reckless," he wrote.

Bossert said the Trump administration will continue to use its "maximum pressure strategy to curb Pyongyang's ability to mount attacks, cyber or otherwise."

The WannaCry attack struck more than 150 nations in May, locking up digital documents, databases and other files and demanding a ransom for their release.

It battered Britain's National Health Service, where the cyberattack froze computers at hospitals across the country, closing emergency rooms and bringing medical treatment to a halt. Government offices in Russia, Spain, and several other countries were disrupted, as were Asian universities, Germany's national railway and global companies such as automakers Nissan and Renault.

The WannaCry ransomware exploited a vulnerability in mostly older versions of Microsoft's Windows operating system. Affected computers had generally not been patched with security fixes that would have blocked the attack. Security experts, however, traced the exploitation of that weakness back to the U.S. National Security Agency; it was part of a cache of stolen NSA cyberweapons publicly released by a group of hackers known as the Shadow Brokers.

Microsoft president Brad Smith likened the theft to "the U.S. military having some of its Tomahawk missiles stolen," and argued that intelligence agencies should disclose such vulnerabilities rather than hoarding them.

WannaCry came to a screeching halt thanks to enterprising work by a British hacker named Marcus Hutchins, who discovered that the malware's author had embedded a "kill switch" in the code. Hutchins was able to trip that switch, and the attack soon ended. In an unusual twist, Hutchins was arrested months later by the FBI during a visit to the U.S.; he pleaded not guilty and now awaits trial on charges he created unrelated forms of malware.

The United States and South Korea have accused North Korea of launching a series of cyberattacks in recent years, though the North has dismissed the accusations.

A South Korean lawmaker in October said North Korean hackers stole highly classified military documents that include U.S.-South Korean wartime "decapitation strike" plans against the North Korean leadership. Seoul's Defense Ministry earlier said North Korea was likely behind the hacking of the Defense Integrated Data Center, which is the military data center where the information was kept, in September last year. But the Defense Ministry refused to confirm the nature of the information that was compromised.

South Korea also last year accused North Korea of hacking the personal data of more than 10 million users of an online shopping site and dozens of email accounts used by government officials and journalists.

The United States in 2014 formally accused North Korea of hacking Sony Pictures Entertainment over the movie "The Interview," a satirical film about a plot to assassinate North Korea's leader.

South Korea said in 2015 that North Korea had a 6,000-member cyberarmy dedicated to disrupting the South's government and military. The figure was a sharp increase from a 2013 South Korean estimate of 3,000 such specialists.

Baik Tae-hyun, spokesman for South Korea's Unification Ministry, which deals with matters related to North Korea, said Monday that the Seoul government was examining whether the North was behind hacking attacks on a cryptocurrency exchange in June. About \$7 million in digital money was stolen in

the hacks, South Korean officials said.

There's speculation in the South that North Korean hackers are possibly targeting cryptocurrency like bitcoin to evade the heavy financial sanctions imposed over the country's nuclear weapons and missiles program.

"We are monitoring the bitcoin-related issue. We believe that North Korea is currently engaging in various activities to evade sanctions and earn foreign currency," Baik said.

## Train speeding 50 mph over limit before deadly derailment

By RACHEL LA CORTE, GILLIAN FLACCUS and MICHAEL SISAK, Associated Press

DUPONT, Wash. (AP) — Federal officials confirmed an Amtrak train was hurtling 50 mph over the speed limit when it careened off an overpass south of Seattle, spilling cars onto the highway below and killing at least three people.

Bella Dinh-Zarr, a National Transportation Safety Board member, said at a Monday night news conference that information from the event data recorder in the rear locomotive showed the train was traveling at 80 mph in a 30 mph zone when it derailed at 7:34 a.m. Mangled train cars ended up on top of each other - and one hung precariously over the freeway.

When the clanging of metal and screeching stopped at first it was quiet. Then came the screams.

After the crash, the injured called out as rescuers — including people who had been in cars on their morning freeway commute — rushed to help. One of the train passengers was Emma Shafer, who found herself at a 45-degree angle staring at the seats in front of her that had dislodged and swung around.

"It felt oddly silent after the actual crashing," Shafer said. "Then there was people screaming because their leg was messed up ... I don't know if I actually heard the sirens, but they were there. A guy was like, 'Hey, I'm Robert. We'll get you out of here.'"

Dinh-Zarr said it's not yet known what caused the train to derail and that "it's too early to tell" why it was going so fast.

Positive train control — the technology that can slow or stop a speeding train — wasn't in use on this stretch of track, according to Amtrak President Richard Anderson.

In 2015, an Amtrak train in Philadelphia was traveling at twice the 50 mph speed limit as it entered a sharp curve and derailed. Eight people were killed and more than 200 were injured when the locomotive and four of the train's seven passenger cars jumped the tracks. Several cars overturned and ripped apart.

A track chart prepared by the Washington State Department of Transportation shows the maximum speed drops from 79 mph (127 kph) to 30 mph (48 kph) for passenger trains just before the tracks curve to cross Interstate 5, which is where the train went off the tracks.

The chart, dated Feb. 7, was submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration in anticipation of the start of passenger service along a new bypass route that shaves off 10 minutes for the trip between Seattle and Portland, Oregon.

Kimberly Reason with Sound Transit, the Seattle-area transit agency that owns the tracks, said speed signs are posted 2 miles (3 kilometers) before the speed zone changes and just before the speed zone approaching the curve.

Eric Corp, a councilman for the small city of DuPont near the derailment, said he rode the train with about 30 or so dignitaries and others on a special trip Friday before the service opened to the public Monday.

"Once we were coming up on that curve, the train slowed down considerably," he said, adding that "in no way did it make me feel like we were going too fast."

The train was not full. Authorities said there were 80 passengers and five on-duty crew members on board when it derailed and pulled 13 cars off the tracks. Authorities said there were three confirmed deaths. More than 70 people were taken for medical care — including 10 with serious injuries.

About two hours after the accident, a U.S. official who was briefed on the investigation said he was told at least six people were killed. The official said he had no new information to explain the discrepancy in the numbers. The official was not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke to The As-



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 25 of 43

sociated Press on condition of anonymity.

In a statement, the FBI said local police were the primary responders and there was no information suggesting "an elevated risk to Washington residents."

In a radio transmission immediately after the accident, the conductor can be heard saying the train was coming around a corner and was crossing a bridge that passed over Interstate 5 when it derailed.

Dispatch audio also indicated that the engineer survived with bleeding from the head and both eyes swollen shut.

"I'm still figuring that out. We've got cars everywhere and down onto the highway," he tells the dispatcher, who asks if everyone is OK.

Aleksander Kristiansen, a 24-year-old exchange student at the University of Washington from Copenhagen, was going to Portland to visit the city for the day.

"I was just coming out of the bathroom when the accident happened. My car just started shaking really, really badly," he said.

The back of his train car was wide open because it had separated from the rest of the train, so he and others were able to jump out to safety.

The train was making the inaugural run on the new route as part of a \$180.7 million project designed to speed up service by removing passenger trains from a route along Puget Sound that's bogged down by curves, single-track tunnels and freight traffic.

The new bypass was built on an existing inland rail line that runs along Interstate 5 from Tacoma to DuPont, near where Train 501 derailed.

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This story has been updated to reflect that authorities said Monday night that three people died. A U.S. official said earlier that six people were killed.

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Flaccus reported from Portland and Sisak reported from Philadelphia. Associated Press staffers Manuel Valdes in Dupont, Sally Ho and Phuong Le in Seattle and Michael Balsamo in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

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For complete coverage of the deadly derailment, click here: <https://www.apnews.com/tag/TrainDerailment>.

## UN says there are 258 million international migrants today

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — An estimated 258 million people have left their birth countries and are now living in other nations — an increase of 49 percent since 2000, says a U.N. report on international migration released Monday.

The biennial report released on International Migrants Day said the percentage of the world's people who are international migrants has increased modestly from 2.8 percent in 2000 to 3.4 percent this year.

But the report from the U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs said the percentage living in high-income countries rose from 9.6 percent in 2000 to 14 percent in 2017.

"Reliable data and evidence are critical to combat misperceptions about migration and to inform migration policies," said Undersecretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Liu Zhenmin.

In September 2016, all 193 U.N. member states, including the United States under President Barack Obama, adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. It said no one country can manage international migration on its own.

The countries agreed to implement well-managed migration policies and committed to sharing more equitably the burden of hosting refugees. They also agreed to protect the human rights of migrants and to counter xenophobia and intolerance toward migrants.

They further agreed to launch a process leading to the adoption of a global compact in 2018.

Liu said the new estimates "will provide an important baseline for member states as they begin negotia-

tions on the Global Compact.”

One important country will not be taking part. In early December, the United States said it was ending its participation in negotiations on the compact.

U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley said the declaration “is simply not compatible with U.S. sovereignty.” A statement from the U.S. Mission said numerous provisions were “inconsistent with U.S. immigration and refugee policies” under President Donald Trump.

The U.N. report said that in 2017, high-income countries hosted 64 percent of the international migrants worldwide, or nearly 165 million people.

This year, two-thirds of migrants were living in just 20 countries, the report said. The largest number — 49.8 million, or 19 percent of the global total — live in the United States. Saudi Arabia, Germany and Russia are hosting the second, third and fourth largest amounts, at around 12 million, while the United Kingdom is fifth with nearly 9 million, the report said.

It said migrants have contributed to population growth in North America and Oceania, and without migrants the population of Europe would have declined from 2000 to 2015.

## **Amtrak train on new route hurtles onto highway, kills 3**

**By RACHEL LA CORTE, GILLIAN FLACCUS and MICHAEL SISAk, Associated Press**

DUPONT, Wash. (AP) — An Amtrak train making the first-ever run along a faster new route hurtled off an overpass south of Seattle on Monday and spilled some of its cars onto the highway below, killing at least three people, injuring dozens and crushing two vehicles, authorities said.

Attention quickly turned to the train’s speed. Federal investigators say the train was traveling at 80 mph (129 kph) in a 30 mph (48 kph) zone. Bella Dinh-Zarr, an NTSB board member, said at a Monday night news conference that information from the event data recorder in the rear locomotive provided information about the train’s speed.

Dinh-Zarr said it’s not yet known what caused the train to derail and that “it’s too early to tell” why it was going so fast.

She said federal investigators will likely be on scene for a week or more.

There were 80 passengers and five on-duty crew on board when the train derailed and pulled 13 cars off the tracks. Authorities said there were three confirmed deaths. More than 70 people were taken for medical care — including 10 with serious injuries.

About two hours after the accident, a U.S. official who was briefed on the investigation said he was told at least six people were killed. The official said he had no new information to explain the discrepancy in the numbers.

The official was not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

A track chart prepared by the Washington State Department of Transportation shows the maximum speed drops from 79 mph (127 kph) to 30 mph for passenger trains just before the tracks curve to cross Interstate 5, which is where the train went off the tracks.

The chart, dated Feb. 7, 2017, was submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration in anticipation of the start of passenger service along a new bypass route that shaves 10 minutes off the trip between Seattle and Portland.

Kimberly Reason with Sound Transit, the Seattle-area transit agency that owns the tracks, confirmed to the AP that the speed limit at the point where the train derailed is 30 mph (48 kph). Speed signs are posted 2 miles (3 km) before the speed zone changes and just before the speed zone approaching the curve, she said.

Positive train control — the technology that can slow or stop a speeding train — wasn’t in use on this stretch of track, according to Amtrak President Richard Anderson.

He spoke on a conference call with reporters, said he was “deeply saddened by all that has happened today.”

# Groton Daily Independent

**Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 27 of 43**

Bob Chipkevich, a former NTSB director of railroad, pipeline and hazardous materials investigations, told The Seattle Times the crash looked like a high-speed derailment based on television images.

In a radio transmission immediately after the accident, the conductor can be heard saying the train was coming around a corner and was crossing a bridge that passed over Interstate 5 when it derailed. Dispatch audio also indicated that the engineer survived with bleeding from the head and both eyes swollen shut.

"I'm still figuring that out. We've got cars everywhere and down onto the highway," he tells the dispatcher, who asks if everyone is OK.

Aleksander Kristiansen, a 24-year-old exchange student at the University of Washington from Copenhagen, was going to Portland to visit the city for the day.

"I was just coming out of the bathroom when the accident happened. My car just started shaking really, really badly," he said.

The back of his train car was wide open because it had separated from the rest of the train, so he and others were able to jump out to safety. He was at about the middle of the train, either the sixth or seventh car, he said, and was "one of the lucky ones."

Emma Shafer was headed home to Vancouver, Washington, on winter break from the Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle and was napping when the crash occurred.

She awoke to find her body at a 45-degree angle and her train car dangling from the overpass. Someone behind her was pinned by the legs, she said, and she and others who could walk exited the train by crawling onto a car underneath theirs that had been crushed.

"It felt oddly silent after the actual crashing. There was a lot of metal, a lot of screeching, a lot of being thrown around. It was very quiet. Then there was people screaming," Shafer said.

"I don't know if I actually heard the sirens, but they were there. A guy was like, 'Hey, I'm Robert. We'll get you out of here.'"

Dr. Nathan Selden, a neurosurgeon at the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, said he and his son drove through the accident scene while traveling north to visit Seattle. The doctor asked if he could help and was ushered to a medical triage tent in the highway median.

The most seriously injured had already been whisked away, but the patients he helped appeared to have open head wounds and skull, pelvic or leg fractures, as well as small cuts and neck sprains, he said.

He called it a miracle an infant child he saw from the scene appeared completely unharmed.

President Donald Trump used the deadly derailment to call for more infrastructure spending in a tweet sent about three hours after the accident. He said the wreck shows "more than ever why our soon to be submitted infrastructure plan must be approved quickly." The accident happened on a newly completed bypass.

The train was making the inaugural run on the new route as part of a \$180.7 million project designed to speed up service by removing passenger trains from a route along Puget Sound that's bogged down by curves, single-track tunnels and freight traffic.

The Amtrak Cascades service that runs from Vancouver, British Columbia, to Eugene, Oregon, is jointly owned by the Washington and Oregon transportation departments. Amtrak operates the service for the two states as a contractor and is responsible for day-to-day operations.

The Amtrak schedule called for the train to leave Seattle around 6 a.m. and arrive in Portland about 3 1/2 hours later.

The new bypass was built on an existing inland rail line that runs along Interstate 5 from Tacoma to DuPont, near where Train 501 derailed. Track testing began in January and February in advance of Monday's launch and continued through at least July, according to the Washington State Department of Transportation.

The mayor of Lakewood, Washington, a city along the new route, predicted a deadly crash — but one involving a fast-moving train hitting a car or pedestrian at a grade-crossing, not a train tumbling off an overpass.

Eric Corp, a councilman for the small city of DuPont near the derailment, said he rode the train with about 30 or so dignitaries and others on a special trip Friday before the service opened to the public Monday.

"Once we were coming up on that curve, the train slowed down considerably," he said, adding that "in

no way did it make me feel like we were going too fast.”

This story has been updated to reflect that authorities said Monday night that three people died. A U.S. official said earlier that six people were killed. It has also been updated to correct the spelling of Emma Shafer’s name.

Flaccus reported from Portland and Sisak reported from Philadelphia. Associated Press staffers Manuel Valdes in Dupont, Sally Ho and Phuong Le in Seattle and Michael Balsamo in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## Massive Southern California wildfire now halfway contained

By **CHRISTOPHER WEBER** and **ANDREW DALTON**, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Firefighters took advantage of calm winds in Southern California to reach 50 percent containment of a massive wildfire, officials said.

“We’ve had a very productive day,” said Deputy Chief Mark Brown of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protections. “The weather conditions were just right for us.”

Monday was the first of a two-day window of calm winds in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties where the so-called Thomas Fire has burned for two weeks.

The fire northwest of Los Angeles has now spread to about 423 square miles (1,095 square kilometers), making it the third biggest since accurate records were kept starting in 1932. The largest, the 2003 Cedar Fire in San Diego County, burned about 427 square miles.

Officials estimate the Thomas Fire will grow to become the biggest in state history before full containment, which is expected by Jan. 7.

It was still threatening communities northwest of Los Angeles, where thousands remain under evacuation orders.

The hot, gusty winds that caused a huge flare-up and forced more residents to flee over the weekend are expected to come back Wednesday.

The fire churning through brush in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties has burned more than 1,000 structures, including at least 750 homes. Some 18,000 more residences are still threatened.

Michael and Sonia Behrman told KABC-TV they fled their hillside home when heavy smoke blew in and returned to find it in ashes.

“It’s just hard to put into words,” Michael Behrman said. “It’s where we live. It’s just smoke and ruin right now.”

The body of a firefighter killed while battling the blaze was transported Sunday in a procession that rolled through five counties before ending up at a funeral home in San Diego. Mourners stood on freeway overpasses to pay respects to firefighter Cory Iverson, 32, who died Dec. 14 of burns and smoke inhalation. He is survived by his pregnant wife and a 2-year-old daughter.

The blaze is also blamed for the Dec. 6 death of a 70-year-old woman who died in a car crash on an evacuation route.

Everything about the fire has been massive, from the sheer scale of destruction that destroyed entire neighborhoods to the legions of people attacking it. More than 8,000 firefighters from nearly a dozen states battled the third largest wildfire in state history.

The cause remains under investigation. So far, firefighting costs have surpassed \$117 million.

Follow Weber at <https://twitter.com/WeberCM>.



## Federal judge retires as he faces accusations from women

By SUDHIN THANAWALA, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The sexual misconduct allegations that have cut a swath through Congress brought down a prominent member of the judicial branch Monday with the resignation of Alex Kozinski, a federal appeals court judge known for his blunt and colorful legal opinions.

Kozinski, a 67-year-old member and former chief judge of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the nation's largest federal appeals court, said in a statement that a battle over the accusations would not be good for the judiciary. He retired, effective immediately.

The move came days after the 9th Circuit opened a misconduct inquiry following the first in a pair of Washington Post stories that said 15 women — some of whom worked for him as law clerks or in other positions — accused him of groping them, making lewd comments or showing them pornography.

Kozinski, who was known to have a bawdy side well before his resignation, said that while speaking in a "candid way" with male and female clerks, he "may not have been mindful enough of the special challenges and pressures that women face in the workplace."

"It grieves me to learn that I caused any of my clerks to feel uncomfortable; this was never my intent," he said. "For this I sincerely apologize."

The 9th Circuit hears cases from nine Western states, including California and Arizona, and has been bitterly criticized by President Donald Trump following rulings that blocked his travel ban against mostly Muslim countries.

Some legal experts said Kozinski's resignation may help the judiciary avoid an embarrassing, drawn-out investigation that would damage its reputation and potentially imperil its independence. Federal judges are appointed for life and can be removed only by impeachment by Congress. The goal is to maintain judicial independence by preventing the easy removal of judges for unpopular decisions.

"I take him at his word that he probably understood that this could be very detrimental to the federal judiciary and to individuals in the judiciary and his colleagues," said Carl Tobias, a professor at the University of Richmond School of Law.

It was not clear whether the investigation of Kozinski by the judiciary will continue. An email to a 9th Circuit spokesman was not immediately returned.

Complaints against judges rarely result in their forced removal from the bench. But some federal judges have stepped down in recent years amid controversy.

Mark Fuller, a trial judge in Alabama, left the bench in 2015 following an allegation that he beat his wife during a fight in a hotel room in Atlanta; and Richard Roberts, the chief trial judge in Washington, D.C., retired on a medical disability on the same day in 2016 that a woman filed a lawsuit accusing Roberts of sexual assault in 1981.

The son of Holocaust survivors from Romania, Kozinski was appointed to the appeals court in 1985 when he was in his mid-30s by Republican President Ronald Reagan. He is known as a libertarian.

Clerkships in his office were prestigious, and many of his clerks landed positions working for U.S. Supreme Court justices.

Heidi Bond, who clerked for Kozinski from 2006 to 2007, told the Post she worried that leaving without a good recommendation might ruin her career.

Bond told the newspaper Kozinski called her into his office several times to look at images of naked people, asking her if she thought the pornography was photo-shopped or if it aroused her sexually.

Christine Miller, a retired U.S. Court of Federal Claims judge, told the newspaper Kozinski grabbed her breasts during a car ride in 1986 after a legal community function in the Baltimore area. She said it came after she declined his offer to go to a motel and have sex.

On the bench, Kozinski was an eccentric. He crammed over 200 movie titles into a 1990 opinion in a lawsuit involving a movie theater chain.

In another case, he wrote that lethal injection should be scrapped in favor of the firing squad, saying, "Sure, firing squads can be messy, but if we are willing to carry out executions, we should not shield our-

selves from the reality that we are shedding human blood.”

“If we, as a society, cannot stomach the splatter from an execution carried out by firing squad,” he added, “then we shouldn’t be carrying out executions at all.”

The Los Angeles Times in 2008 reported that Kozinski maintained a publicly accessible website of pornography, some of which he defended in an interview to the newspaper as funny.

A judicial investigation at the time concluded that Kozinski showed poor judgment but had not intended for the material to be seen by the public.

He was also accessible and a passionate advocate for the rights of people accused of crimes. He often picked up the phone at his chambers and regularly invited members of the legal community to movie screenings — dubbed “Kozinski’s Favorite Flicks” — that he hosted at the courthouse with food and drinks.

Allegations of sexual misconduct have toppled powerful men in Hollywood, media and politics in recent weeks. Three Capitol Hill politicians have announced their resignations: Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., Rep. Trent Franks, R-Ariz., and Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn.

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Associated Press writers Janie Har, Christopher Weber in Los Angeles and Mark Sherman in Washington, D.C. contributed to this report.

## **Under Trump, climate change not a national security threat**

**By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump removed climate change from the list of worldwide threats menacing the United States on Monday, a shift that underscores the long-term ramifications of the “America first” world view he laid out in his new National Security Strategy.

The document depicts Russia and China as combative rivals in perpetual competition with the U.S. But it makes no mention of what scientists say are the dangers posed by a warming climate, including more extreme weather events that could spark humanitarian crises, mass migrations, and conflict.

It’s a significant departure from the Obama administration, which had described climate change as an “urgent and growing threat to our national security.” And it demonstrates how Trump, despite struggling to push his own agenda through a Republican-controlled Congress, has been able to unilaterally dismantle one of his predecessor’s signature efforts.

As far back as 2003, during George W. Bush’s presidency, a report commissioned by the Defense Department said abrupt climate change threatened “disruption and conflict,” refugee crises, border tensions and more military conflicts.

Trump’s national security report, required annually by Congress, emphasizes that economic security is national security for the U.S. It makes clear the United States will unilaterally defend its sovereignty, even if that means risking existing agreements with other countries.

The new document doesn’t eliminate references to the environment entirely. It “recognizes the importance of environmental stewardship” and says that “climate policies will continue to shape the global energy system.”

“The United States will remain a global leader in reducing traditional pollution, as well as greenhouse gases, while expanding our economy,” it reads.

But Trump, in a speech about the report, blamed past administrations for putting “American energy under lock and key” and said his approach “embraces a future of American energy dominance and self-sufficiency.”

“Our nation must take advantage of our wealth in domestic resources and energy efficiency to promote competitiveness across our industries,” he said.

That thinking represents a reversal, not just from previous Democratic administrations, but from Republican as well, said Geoffrey Dabelko, director of environmental studies at Ohio University.

“Proscribing more fossil fuels rather than seeing that as a fundamental source of vulnerability that undercuts resilience ... that is definitely a departure, in some ways turning the argument on its head,” he said.

The last national strategy document, prepared by President Barack Obama in 2015, identified climate

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 31 of 43

change as a national security risk alongside threats like the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and catastrophic attacks on the U.S. homeland.

Climate change, that document warned, was contributing to "increased natural disasters, refugee flows and conflicts over basic resources like food and water" and was already being felt "from the Arctic to the Midwest," with rising sea levels and storm surges threatening coastal regions, infrastructure and property.

Jamil N. Jaffer, founder of the National Security Institute at George Mason University's law school, sees the broader new strategy as a shift "that reasserts America's role in the world as a nation willing to assert its power and influence in its own interest, and as a nation ready and willing to engage in competition--and win--in areas ranging from economics to diplomacy."

But Rosina Bierbaum, a University of Michigan environmental policy scientist, said, "Not including climate change in a document about security threats is putting our head in the sand."

Climate change is "absolutely a security threat," posing risks to U.S. coastal infrastructure, expanding the ranges of pests and pathogens, and fueling more powerful storms and wildfires, she said. Around the world, the changing climate threatens food and drinking water shortages that will boost mass migration and heighten international tension, said Bierbaum, a former associate director of the White House Office of Science and Technology during the Clinton administration who helped write the initial congressionally mandated national climate assessment.

Michael Oppenheimer, a climate scientist at Princeton University, said, "There's a big element of cutting off our nose to spite our face just because the administration doesn't like the words 'climate change.'"

Since taking office, Trump has worked to roll back regulations on planet-warming carbon emissions. He announced his intention to withdraw from what he described as "the very expensive and unfair" Paris climate agreement signed by nearly 200 nations, approved the Keystone XL pipeline, and worked to scrap Obama-era initiatives meant to reduce carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants, among a long list of measures.

Trump has personally expressed skepticism about the reality of climate change, describing it on Twitter as an "expensive hoax" that was "created by and for the Chinese" to hurt U.S. manufacturing.

However, members of the Trump administration, including Defense Secretary James Mattis, have made clear they believe a changing climate should be taken into account by the U.S. military.

Trump himself signed a defense spending bill this month that orders the Pentagon to assess the "vulnerabilities to military installations and combatant commander requirements resulting from climate change over the next 20 years."

"Trump is not just ignoring science and public opinion about the dangers of the climate crisis, he's ignoring American generals and the Pentagon about what it takes to keep our military and our country safe," Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club, said in a statement.

But David Titley, a retired rear admiral and the director of the Center for Solutions to Weather and Climate Risk at Penn State, said he was pleased to see at least some reference to greenhouse gases and pollution in the document, although he said it was unlikely to have much impact on day-to-day actions by the Department of Defense.

"The facts on the ground are the earth is continuing to heat up. The sea level continues to rise. So whether or not this administration talks about climate risk, the DoD is going to have to deal with it," he said.

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Associated Press writers John Flesher in Traverse City, Michigan, and Bradley Klapper, Catherine Lucey, Matthew Lee, Jonathan Lemire, Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

## McCain says he's feeling well, vows return in January

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Sen. John McCain on Monday expressed thanks for the overwhelming support as he battles brain cancer, saying he is feeling well and looks forward to being back on the job in January.

The 81-year senator returned home to Arizona after being treated for a viral infection at Walter Reed Medical Center in Maryland. He had missed votes last week and will miss a crucial vote on the GOP tax bill this week.

McCain tweeted on Monday: "Thanks to everyone for your support & words of encouragement! I'm feeling well & looking forward to returning to work after the holidays."

His wife, Cindy, tweeted earlier Monday: "Nothing beats the feeling of being home in Arizona for the Holidays!" with a photo of a Christmas tree.

A statement from his office late Sunday said he would undergo physical therapy and rehabilitation at the Mayo Clinic in Arizona. Now in his sixth Senate term, McCain underwent surgery in mid-July to remove a 2-inch (51-millimeter) blood clot in his brain and was diagnosed with glioblastoma.

McCain's daughter, Meghan, tweeted on Sunday: "My father is doing well and we are all looking forward to spending Christmas together in Arizona."

In its statement on Sunday, McCain's office provided an assessment from Dr. Mark Gilbert, chief of neuro-oncology at the National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute.

"Senator McCain has responded well to treatment he received at Walter Reed Medical Center for a viral infection and continues to improve," Gilbert said. "An evaluation of his underlying cancer shows he is responding positively to ongoing treatment."

McCain's closest friend in the Senate, Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said he hadn't spoken to McCain but planned to do so over the holidays.

"The steroids and chemotherapy have been tough — be tough for anybody," Graham told reporters Monday night. But he said he's "encouraged that John's going to be back in January and be good to go."

President Donald Trump told reporters Sunday he had spoken to Cindy McCain.

"They've headed back, but I understand he'll come if we ever needed his vote, which hopefully we won't," Trump said after returning to the White House from Camp David. "But the word is that John will come back if we need his vote. And it's too bad. He's going through a very tough time, there's no question about it. But he will come back if we need his vote."

This week, the GOP will try to pass a sweeping \$1.5 trillion tax package in the Senate with a razor-thin majority and all Democrats opposed to the legislation.

Republicans hold a slim 52-48 advantage in the Senate, and McCain and Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., missed votes last week. The 80-year-old Cochran had a non-melanoma lesion removed from his nose earlier this week. He cast a vote Monday night on a nomination and is expected to vote on the tax bill.

Republicans secured the support of Maine Sen. Susan Collins on Monday, and they are poised to pass the bill by a narrow margin in the face of unified Democratic opposition. As a backstop, Vice President Mike Pence would be available to break a tie.

A vote is expected in the House and Senate on Tuesday. If approved, the measure would head to Trump for his signature on what will be his first major legislative accomplishment since taking office 11 months ago.

After his summer surgery, McCain rebounded quickly, returning to Washington and entering the Senate on July 25 to a standing ovation from his colleagues.

In a dramatic turn, he cast a deciding vote against the Republican health care bill — a move that drew the wrath of Trump and conservatives. McCain's vote scuttled the seven-year effort by the GOP to dismantle much of President Barack Obama's health care law.

But McCain's condition has appeared to worsen in recent weeks. He suffered a minor tear in his right Achilles tendon, forcing him to wear a walking brace. McCain eventually began using a wheelchair, with members of his staff pushing him where he needed to go.



Associated Press writer Donna Cassata contributed to this report.

## Twitter suspends white nationalists as it enforces new rules

By ALEXANDRA OLSON, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Twitter suspended the accounts of well-known white nationalists Monday, moving swiftly to enforce its new rules aimed at reducing what it deems abusive content.

The account of far-right group Britain First, a small group that regularly posts inflammatory videos purporting to show Muslims engaged in acts of violence, was among the first to go dark. The individual accounts of two of its leaders, Jayda Fransen and Paul Golding, were also suspended.

President Donald Trump caused a stir last month when he retweeted a post by Fransen, drawing criticism from British Prime Minister Theresa May. Fransen and Golding were arrested in Belfast last week for allegedly stirring up hatred.

Twitter said it would not comment on individual accounts. The company has emphasized that it takes into account many factors before making any enforcement decision, including context of the post, cultural and political considerations and the severity of the violation.

Twitter's actions drew praise from civil rights groups.

Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League, commended Twitter "for taking these significant steps to tackle hate on their platform." The group Muslim Advocates, which had publicly called for the removal of Britain First's account, applauded Twitter for "updating its policies and taking steps today to remove violent and hateful accounts from its platform."

The guidelines, announced a month ago and put into force this week, address hateful images or symbols, including those attached to user profiles.

Monitors at the San Francisco company will weigh hateful imagery in the same way they do graphic violence and adult content.

If a user wants to post symbols or images that might be considered hateful, the post must be marked "sensitive media." Other users would then see a warning that would allow them to decide whether to view the post.

Twitter is also prohibiting users from abusing or threatening others through their profiles or usernames. The company also now bans accounts affiliated with "organizations that use or promote violence against civilians to further their causes."

The account for Jared Taylor, who heads the New Century Foundation, was among those suspended, along with his organization's flagship online publication, American Renaissance.

Taylor said he immediately appealed the suspension but swiftly received a reply from Twitter informing him that his account would not be restored, which he interpreted to mean he had been permanently banned.

He said Twitter determined his account was "affiliated with a violent extremist group," an allegation he denied.

"Of all the preposterous things they could have said about me or American Renaissance, I can't think of anything more preposterous," Taylor said.

New Century Foundation has been recognized as charity by the IRS, a decision that has drawn criticism from civil rights advocates. Taylor has said his group raises money for the benefit of the "white race."

Brad Griffin, who blogs under the name Hunter Wallace on the website Occidental Dissent, said in blog post that he was also suspended, along with Michael Hill, president of the League of the South, the Traditionalist Workers Party and others. American Renaissance and Occidental Dissent both referred readers to an online chat site frequented by white nationalists.

The white nationalist Richard Spencer, whose account was not suspended, tweeted that he had lost more than a hundred followers in the past 24 hours and noted that he didn't "see any systematic method to the #TwitterPurge."

There appeared to be some inconsistencies. Twitter allowed David Duke to keep the message "It's Ok

To Be White” as his header, even though the same phrase was hidden by the “sensitive material” warning on his pinned tweet.

Emma Llanso, director of the free expression project at the Center for Democracy and Technology, said the new guidelines represent a substantial change for Twitter’s policies. But, he added, it’s not going to be immediately clear to all users what falls within the new prohibitions.

“It’s essential that they provide clarity to the users whose content is removed,” said Llanso, whose non-profit is a member of the Trust and Safety Council group of outside organizations advising Twitter.

While the new guidelines are now in play, the social media company continues to work out internal monitoring tools and it is revamping its appeals process for banned or suspended accounts.

Users can now report profiles, or users, that they consider to be in violation of Twitter policy. Previously, users could only report individual posts they deemed offensive.

While more content is banned, the company has provided more leeway for itself after it was criticized for strict rules that resulted in account suspensions.

There was a backlash against Twitter after it suspending the account of actress Rose McGowan who opened a public campaign over sexual harassment and abuse, specifically naming Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein. Twitter eventually reinstated McGowan’s account and said that it had been suspended because of a tweet that violated its rules on privacy.

“In our efforts to be more aggressive here, we may make some mistakes and are working on a robust appeals process,” Twitter said in a blog post Monday.

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This story has been corrected to read that Michael Hill is of the League of the South, not the Traditionalist Workers Party.

## **New leader of South Africa’s ANC party has daunting task**

**By KRISTA MAHR, Associated Press**

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Cyril Ramaphosa, elected leader of South Africa’s ruling African National Congress in a tight race on Monday, now faces the daunting task of uniting a starkly divided party and reviving the tarnished reputation of Nelson Mandela’s liberation movement.

The 65-year-old Ramaphosa, the country’s current deputy president, beat former African Union commission chairwoman Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma by a margin of less than 200 votes. As the head of the ANC, Ramaphosa will be the party’s candidate for president in 2019 elections, which he is widely expected to win.

Ramaphosa has had an extraordinary career both inside and outside of South Africa’s political arena. He has moved from being a prominent anti-apartheid activist and one of the chief negotiators who helped bring an end to white minority rule to becoming one of the wealthiest businessmen in South Africa.

In the run-up to this contest, he styled himself as a reformer who will steer South Africa away from the corruption scandals that have hurt the economy and spooked investors.

“Clearly, Ramaphosa has been the darling of the business community,” said Daniel Silke, an independent political analyst. As the party’s new leader, he said, Ramaphosa will be seen as attempting to “revive prudent policy-making in South Africa” and “stabilize the creaky ship of the South African economy.”

That is no small task. South Africa’s economy dipped into recession this year, rebounding to 2.5 percent growth in the second quarter. Unemployment is rampant, hovering close to 30 percent, and the country is rated one of the most unequal societies in the world, where the top 10 percent of earners received 66 percent of the national income, according to the 2018 World Inequality Report.

Ramaphosa also inherits a party that has been riven by corruption scandals during President Jacob Zuma’s tenure, cutting into the organization’s clout among South African voters and creating stark rifts within Mandela’s liberation movement.

The ANC, which marked its 105th anniversary this year, fought to end apartheid and has dominated the political landscape since then. But it has been paralyzed by internal fighting and is losing support among voters who are frustrated that it has failed to deliver on the promise of a post-apartheid government. In

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 35 of 43

recent local government elections, the ANC lost control of Johannesburg, South Africa's largest city, and Pretoria, the capital.

Given the narrow margin of his win, Ramaphosa will have to work hard to unite his supporters and the backers of Dlamini-Zuma, who is the ex-wife of outgoing ANC leader Zuma, if the party is to rally and regain ground in the upcoming national elections in 2019.

Though Zuma's term as ANC leader is now over, his term as South Africa's head of state ends with the 2019 vote. It is not clear if Ramaphosa, as the ANC's new leader, will call on Zuma to resign as the country's president sooner, which the party has the authority to do.

Some observers said that is the move he's likely to make in order to put the party in the best electoral position in two years' time. "There's a shared consensus that (Zuma) is a liability," says Mcebisi Ndletyana, a politics professor at University of Johannesburg.

Though Ramaphosa has been part of Zuma's administration, he has managed to steer clear of the corruption allegations that have dogged some of his colleagues and create enough distance between himself and the besmirched Zuma to not be perceived as part of the problem.

Ramaphosa's win "will be a confidence bounce," says William Gumede, executive chairman of Democracy Works Foundation. "Not just among markets, but among ordinary people."

## Solar eclipse, loveable baby hippo warmed hearts in 2017

By AMY FORLITI, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — It wasn't all doom and gloom in 2017. The year was also filled with awe-inspiring moments that united us and warmed the heart.

The first total solar eclipse to cross the U.S. in a century brought millions together in what some could only describe as a primal experience. Thousands of immigrants took the oath of citizenship, realizing their dreams of becoming Americans. And one adorable baby, Fiona the hippopotamus, became a story of survival as she overcame the odds and tumbled into the world's heart.

The stories provided some lighthearted moments amid a series of deadly mass shootings, terrorist attacks, hurricanes, wildfires, sexual harassment scandals and other tragic news in 2017.

Here's a look at a few of the moving, unifying and just plain fun moments of 2017:

YAY, SCIENCE!

It seems nothing brought Americans together more than the first total solar eclipse to move across the U.S. in a century.

For one moment in the middle of an August day, millions of people stopped what they were doing and gazed upward in wonder as the moon slipped over the sun — leaving a path of total darkness that stretched from Oregon to South Carolina. Some eclipse watchers sang, some danced and some were moved to tears. Kids thought it was pure magic, and people traveled to remote sections of the country to get the best glimpse.

A study by the University of Michigan, requested by NASA, estimated that 215 million American adults — or 88 percent of the country's adult population — viewed the eclipse either directly or electronically. That's 104 million more than the 2017 Super Bowl.

"People were really just about nature, about this phenomenon that was happening," said Mamta Patel Nagaraja, who works on public engagement for NASA. "It didn't matter what color, creed, race, economic ladder you were on, people just went out and enjoyed it.

"It transcended all the other things," she said.

#TEAMFIONA

This little one wasn't expected to make it.

Fiona, a Nile hippopotamus, was just 29 pounds (13 kilograms) when she was born prematurely in January. After early health scares, she's now thriving at more than 600 pounds (272 kilograms). This sassy girl has become a symbol of survival — and the star attraction at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 36 of 43

Fiona has captivated the masses and the Team Fiona craze isn't slowing down. She stars in her own internet video series. Tens of millions have gone online to watch her take a bottle, splash in the pool or learn to run.

T-shirts bear her image. She's the subject of children's books. An ice cream flavor and local brew are named in her honor. She gets so many cards and letters that she has her own mail bin. Grown men will lean over the pool in their suits and ties to get close to her, said zoo director Thane Maynard.

"It's Fiona's world, and we're just living in it," Maynard said.

In her early, most vulnerable days, Fiona received letters and pictures from kids who were preemies themselves, urging her to stay strong. After nurses at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center helped care for the hippo, the zoo sent Fiona-themed onesies to the preemies there.

"We are working with Fiona and her story to spread a number of messages — one is a message of not giving up," Maynard said.

## INSPIRING GENEROSITY

Out of cash and out of gas on an interstate exit ramp in Philadelphia, Kate McClure found help from an unlikely source: a homeless man who told her to stay put, then used his last \$20 to buy her gas.

Johnny Bobbitt Jr.'s selflessness was not lost on McClure. She set up a GoFundMe page for the military veteran and former paramedic, and raised more than \$400,000.

Now Bobbitt has enough money to buy a home and his dream truck — a 1999 Ford Ranger. An attorney and financial adviser helped create a plan that will allow him to collect a small monthly salary and have some money for retirement.

Bobbitt has said he's overwhelmed. He told "Good Morning America" he plans to pay the generosity forward by donating some of the money to organizations that will help others.

"Everybody out there is facing some kind of struggle, so if I can touch their life, the way mine was touched, (it'd be) an amazing feeling," he told "Good Morning America."

## "YES!" OVER ROAST CHICKEN

From a simple proposal over roast chicken to plans for a royal wedding, news that Prince Harry is engaged to American actress Meghan Markle has many cheering.

The story drew people in for many reasons. For one, it's fun. The happiness exuded by the couple as they announced their engagement was contagious, while details of their courtship read like a fairy tale.

Harry, an army veteran who had a one-time bad-boy image but is now devoted to wounded veterans and charitable causes, met Markle on a blind date. The prince later said that's when he realized he needed to up his game to win her heart. They grew closer while camping in Botswana, and now there is talk of starting a family.

But for some black women the engagement offered more than entertainment. It gave them a Cinderella story they could picture themselves in. Markle, who is divorced, is bi-racial and will be the first woman of color in modern history to join the British royal family.

"We all have this fantasy of being swept off our feet by the prince. It's validation that, of course, we can be princesses," Essence Magazine Editor-in-Chief Vanessa K. DeLuca said at the time.

## PROUD AMERICANS

Manny Macias came to America when he was just 3 months old. Three decades later, he became a citizen of the only place he's called home.

"The U.S. has always been home for me," said Macias. "Now it's official."

The federal government says more than 600,000 people became naturalized U.S. citizens in the first nine months of 2017.

The ceremonies can be huge moments for those involved. Many times they are family affairs, complete with proud smiles or tears of joy as the newest Americans realize dreams that were years in the making. Many dress in their best and pose for photos while clutching American flags.



Macias, 31, said he's now glad to be able to vote, have more stability and live without fear of being deported.

"It was important to me to get the documentation saying I was a citizen," he said. "I did get a little emotional, because finally for me, the journey was done."

Follow Amy Forliti on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/amyforliti>. More of her work at: <https://apnews.com/search/amy%20forliti>

## ESPN chief Skipper resigns, cites substance abuse problem

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — John Skipper, president of the sprawling ESPN sports network, said Monday that he is resigning to treat a substance abuse problem.

Skipper's sudden announcement will force the Walt Disney Co.-owned network to search for new leadership at a time of retrenchment, with the company losing subscribers due to cord-cutters and working to boost its digital output to follow the migration of young sports fans to their smartphones.

The 61-year-old executive, who has worked at ESPN since 1997 and has led the company since 2012, said he's struggled for many years with substance addiction but gave no details of his specific problem. He said he had concluded that now is the time to deal with it.

"I come to this public disclosure with embarrassment, trepidation and a feeling of having let others I care about down," he said. "As I deal with this issue and what it means to me and my family, I ask for appropriate privacy and a little understanding."

The sports network said Skipper's predecessor, George Bodenheimer, has agreed to serve as acting head of the company for the next 90 days.

Disney Co. chief executive Robert Iger said he wishes Skipper well during a challenging time. "I respect his candor and support his decision to focus on his health and his family," Iger said.

There was no public indication that this was coming. Earlier this year, Skipper signed a contract extension to keep him at ESPN through 2021 and last week spoke about the company's plans in New York at the Sports Video Group Summit. He told the group of industry experts that ESPN's growing digital audience is making up for the loss of television viewers.

He also called hundreds of ESPN's on-air talent to a summit last week at company headquarters in Bristol, Connecticut, to talk about the business. ESPN has laid off personnel this year to deal with new economic realities.

Disney's proposed purchase of several of 21st Century Fox's assets, if approved, is likely to add the 22 Fox-owned regional sports networks to ESPN's portfolio.

ESPN is also not escaping the current focus on sexual misconduct. ESPN quickly canceled a show earlier this year produced in partnership with Barstool Sports after some questions were raised about content, and the Boston Globe reported last week about several current and former employees describing a "locker room culture" at the network that is hostile to women.

Skipper received public support online from several media figures, among them ESPN's anchor Jemele Hill — who Skipper suspended earlier this year for violating the network's social media policy. Hill had criticized President Donald Trump and Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones in tweets.

"John Skipper is one of the finest people I've ever worked for," Hill tweeted.

Associated Press Business Writer Tali Arbel in New York contributed to this report.

## Opposition leader says he could beat Putin in fair election

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — As the most serious challenger during Vladimir Putin's 18 years in power, Alexei Navalny has endured arrests, show trials and facefuls of green antiseptic that damaged his vision.

But in an interview Monday with The Associated Press, he said the biggest thing keeping him from becoming Russia's next president is a political system that punishes him for rallying support and conspires to keep his face off the airwaves.

Putin's approval rating is astronomical and he is widely expected to win another term with ease, but the fact that he won't even say Navalny's name suggests the anti-corruption crusader has struck a nerve. Navalny's criminal record will probably keep him off the ballot — a sign, he says, of how much he frightens the political class.

Navalny, in his first interview since the start of the presidential campaign, said he would win it "if I am allowed to run and if I'm allowed to use major media." And he said the Kremlin knows it.

"It's the main reason they don't want me to run," he said. "They understand perfectly how ephemeral the support for them is."

That support certainly looks strong: The latest independent poll, conducted this month by the Levada Center, suggests 75 percent of Russians would vote for Putin. People in much of Russia back Putin as a matter of course, and Navalny supporters are routinely heckled, arrested and fined when they try to spread their message.

But there are also signs that enthusiasm for Putin may be starting to wane. Another Levada poll, conducted in April, found that 51 percent of people are tired of waiting for Putin to bring "positive change" — 10 percentage points higher than a year ago. Both polls surveyed 1,600 people across Russia and had margins of error of 2.5 percentage points.

Navalny hopes to capitalize on that discontent.

"Putin has nothing to say," Navalny said. "All he can promise is what he used to promise before, and you can check that these promises did not come true and cannot come true."

Navalny gets out his message on social media, using Twitter and Telegram and broadcasting a weekly program on YouTube. But television — the main source of information for most Russians — remains off limits because it's controlled by the government.

Other opposition candidates are expected to run, notably socialite Ksenia Sobchak, the daughter of Putin's mentor — but there is wide speculation that her candidacy is a Kremlin plot to split Navalny's support. The only other candidates who are critical of Putin have too little support for the Kremlin to view them as threats.

Putin himself has announced his re-election bid but so far refrained from any campaigning events. Even so, his face is everywhere — at his annual news conference last week, carried live for nearly four hours on Russian television, he touted his accomplishments and even taunted Navalny — but stuck to his practice of not saying his name.

Navalny was not a candidate during Russia's last presidential election in 2012, but he spearheaded massive anti-government protests that rattled Putin. Amid dwindling popularity, Putin seized Ukraine's Crimean peninsula and threw support behind separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine, striking a chord with millions of Russians who felt like losers in the outcome of the Cold War. Now, people are tiring of the Ukrainian conflict and becoming more focused on their own economic woes, providing fertile ground for Navalny's message.

Navalny published his full election platform last week, focusing on fighting corruption and funneling more money into education and health care. He calls for a windfall tax on oligarchs and huge cuts to Russia's bloated bureaucracy. Unlike Putin's focus on foreign policy, Navalny's platform is almost entirely domestic, which he credits for growing support in places like Novosibirsk, Russia's third-largest city, where he drew a large crowd in October.

"Our government is in the grip of illusions. They deal with Syria and they're not interested in what's happening in Novosibirsk, and people there feel it," Navalny told the AP. "That translates into the fact that

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 39 of 43

I'm receiving more support."

The blue-eyed Moscow lawyer first made his name in 2009 when he began publishing investigations into corruption at Russia's biggest state-owned companies. When the AP first interviewed Navalny in 2010, he was a lone wolf, but he has since acquired allies and supporters who have been made investigations into official corruption their full-time job.

With the visibility came the backlash: The 41-year old Navalny has been convicted on two sets of unrelated charges, and his brother was sent to prison in what was largely viewed as political revenge. A conviction on one of the charges bars Navalny from running for public office without special dispensation — and the election official who will consider that request in the coming weeks has already said she sees no legal grounds for him to run.

In his only formal election campaign, Navalny ran for Moscow mayor in 2013 and got nearly 30 percent of the vote.

His presidential bid began a year ago, when he started to build a network of supporters across Russia. He currently counts over 190,000 volunteers, most of them young, from Russia's western exclave of Kaliningrad to Vladivostok on the Pacific. His supporters have opened campaign offices in 83 cities and towns, including many where Putin is accustomed to winning by a landslide.

On his most recent visit to Putin's heartland, 1,000 people braved temperatures of -15 Celsius (-5 Fahrenheit) to hear him speak in the industrial town of Novokuznetsk, where Putin got 77 percent of the vote in 2012.

Many of those in the crowd sounded weary of the president but said they saw no alternative. Asked about Navalny, many said they had heard very little about him.

While Navalny has captured the attention of a younger generation and the politically active via social media, he conceded he won't be able to reach the broader population as long as he is barred from state television.

"We have won among the active political class despite the ban," he said. "The politically active class will turn the politically dormant one in our favor. It's going to happen in this election if I'm allowed to run."

## **Shots fired in 'disturbance' at UK base used by US Air Force**

**By GREGORY KATZ and SYLVIA HUI, Associated Press**

LONDON (AP) — A British military air base in England used by the U.S. Air Force was locked down Monday after a disturbance, but the emergency measure ended when a man was arrested on suspicion of "criminal trespass," police and Air Force officials said.

American service members fired shots during the incident at the Royal Air Force base in Suffolk, according to county police. No one was injured other than the suspect, a 44-year-old British man who suffered cuts and bruises, police said. Police said the incident was not treated as terrorism.

The nature of the disturbance was unclear, although British media reported that a car tried to ram the perimeter gates at RAF Mildenhall. Police and officials at the air base declined to comment on the reports.

Suffolk Police said they were not looking for any other suspects at the site.

"There is no wider threat to the public or occupants on the base and no other people have been injured as a result of the incident," they said.

The base located about 80 miles (130 kilometers) north of London is home to some 3,000 military personnel and their families. The U.S., which has long made extensive use of air bases in Britain, has air-refueling assets stationed there.

The Pentagon initially urged all individuals near RAF Mildenhall to avoid it, but the lockdown was lifted about an hour after the potential threat was reported. Suffolk police said nearby schools and businesses had resumed normal activities because there was no danger to the community.

The Mildenhall base was scouted out in 2015 by an Islamic extremist who eventually received a life sentence for plotting an attack against U.S. military personnel.

Junead Khan was tried for using his job as a delivery driver to study RAF Mildenhall and another Royal Air Force base.

A jury convicted Khan last year of planning to travel to Syria as a supporter of the Islamic State extremist group and preparing possible attacks at Mildenhall and RAF Lakenheath, which is also used by U.S. personnel.

The Mildenhall base is home to the U.S. Air Force's 100th Air Refueling Wing, which is responsible for American refueling operations across Europe.

Other units, including the 501st Combat Support Wing, the 352nd Special Operations Wing and the 95th Reconnaissance Squadron are also stationed there.

Britain's official terrorist threat level has been set as "severe" indicating that intelligence agencies believe an attack is highly likely.

David Rising in Berlin contributed.

## Smiley claims PBS made mistake in ouster, but PBS fires back

By MARK KENNEDY, AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Tavis Smiley has defended himself from allegations he had sexual relationships with subordinates and created an abusive workplace environment, denying any wrongdoing and saying PBS made a mistake by suspending him from his talk show. PBS almost immediately fired back, saying he "needs to get his story straight."

He told ABC's "Good Morning America" Monday that he's never coerced anyone into a relationship but has had consensual relationships in the workplace. He said those relationships weren't forbidden by the company he owns and he claims he never promoted or fired anyone based on their relationship with him.

"I've never groped. I've never coerced, I've never exposed myself inappropriately to anyone in 30 years," Smiley said. "I've made mistakes — I'm human. I'm not perfect. But it doesn't rise to the level of wrongful termination."

Smiley said Monday that he applauds women coming forward to share their sexual assault and harassment experiences "to lead us in a conversation about how to create healthy workspaces."

At the same time, he said "I want to make sure we don't lose all sense of nuance and proportionality in this conversation, because if we do then people end up being guilty simply by accusation."

PBS responded in a matter of hours, saying Smiley's acknowledgement of multiple relationships contradicted his previous statements.

"Tavis Smiley needs to get his story straight," it said in a statement, which also promised more accusations: "Additional allegations are continuing to come to light since last week's announcement."

PBS also derided Smiley's claim that he applauds women who have come forward, pointing out that Smiley's company hinders such actions by requiring former and current employees to sign non-disclosure agreements. "Witnesses who have bravely come forward to speak with the independent investigators retained by PBS report a fear of retribution for speaking out," it said.

Smiley's career took a huge hit last week when PBS said it was suspending him following an independent investigation by a law firm that uncovered "multiple, credible allegations of conduct that is inconsistent with the values and standards of PBS."

Then fallout was swift: Walmart, a sponsor, cut ties with him and live producer Mills Entertainment pulled out of backing Smiley's upcoming theatrical show that was to focus on the last year of Martin Luther King Jr.'s life. Hay House, which distributes the Smiley Books imprint, said all Smiley projects were "on hold" pending an internal review.

As to accusations he created a verbally abusive and threatening work place, Smiley admitted many of his TV and radio projects are intense at times but said "I'm not an angry black man and this notion of a hostile environment just doesn't fit." He added that no complaints about him have ever been raised.

Smiley's suspension comes weeks after PBS cut ties with anchor and talk show host Charlie Rose, citing



"extremely disturbing and intolerable behavior" by him toward women at his PBS talk show. The actions against Smiley and Rose follow dozens of firings and suspensions of prominent men who have been accused of sexual misconduct or harassment.

## Snowfall impacts bottom line for businesses and Olympians

By EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) — It's no stretch to say that snow is the key to success for Jon Lillis.

The reigning world champion in aerials skiing is also a restaurant owner in Park City, and business at his hotpot eatery increases by more than 100 percent when nearby ski resorts are open.

So, when winters grow warmer and ski season starts later — Park City, and Vail in Colorado are among the Western resorts to push back openings by about a week in each of the last two years — not only does it affect Lillis' ability to train and, as is the case this year, prepare for the Winter Olympics, it also affects the bottom line at his business.

"We expect to do 70 percent of our annual revenue while the ski resorts are open," Lillis said. "So, the longer they're not open, and it seems to be getting later and later every year, the window where we're making all that money gets smaller. In ski towns, it's the tourism market that keeps business alive."

A study commissioned by the Natural Resources Defense Council and the athletes' group Protect Our Winters found that the 23 million people who participate in winter sports added an estimated \$12.2 billion each year to the U.S. economy; restaurants and bars contribute about 31,600 jobs and \$942 million in economic value.

But as ski seasons grow shorter, all those numbers have declined — about \$1.07 billion gone between 1999 and 2010 — and bad ski years take a significant toll on most every business in a ski town such as Park City, Vail or Snowmass. In Colorado, the NRDC found that "low-snow" winters caused an 8 percent decline in skier visits, which resulted in a \$154 million decrease in revenue.

Under a worst-case-scenario, where winter temperatures increase 4 to 10 degrees by the end of the century, the NRDC predicts snow depths in the American West could decline between 25 to 100 percent, and the length of the snow season in the Northeast could be cut in half. One troubling sign this season: A late-autumn warm spell across the country left only 3.5 percent of the 48 contiguous states with snow cover on Nov. 26, the lowest that figure has been since record-keeping began in 2003.

"If ski resorts can't stay open for a certain number of days per year, then there's a chance the skiing sport won't be around in 20 years," Lillis said.

Lillis bought the Park City restaurant in hopes of expanding to other ski resorts. He knows that soon, he will depend on his business, not his athletic talent, to make his living.

In October, he saw firsthand how climate change impacts his current day job.

Ahead of Feb. 9-25 Winter Olympics in South Korea, he and the U.S. aerials team traveled from Park City to glaciers in Switzerland and Finland so they could train on snow that hadn't fallen yet in Utah.

"It definitely has become harder to train early season" in the United States, Lillis said in an interview in Switzerland in October. "Right now, to train in that environment, it's 65-70 degrees. There's not a chance for any training (back home) over the next month or month and a half."

In fact, the team returned to Park City with the hope of training at home starting in December. But with little snow to work with, it took extra effort to build a jump. The team only got in two days of training before heading to China for this season's first World Cup event.

All of which means that in addition to altering the training schedule, business at Lillis' restaurant, Shabu Shabu, will take longer to pick up.

For a skier who is also a business owner in a ski town, it's a double-edged problem.

"If enough ski resorts close, if there aren't enough days in the year to ski, if ski companies are going out of business, it's all related to there being enough snow in the winter to have these things available to people," Lillis said. "It does worry me that that won't be around."

\_\_\_ AP Sports Writer John Leicester contributed.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 42 of 43

## Asian stocks higher after Wall Street gains on tax cut hopes

By **JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer**

BEIJING (AP) — Asian share prices were mostly higher Tuesday after Wall Street gained on growing investor certainty U.S. lawmakers will approve tax changes.

KEEPING SCORE: The Shanghai Composite Index gained 0.6 percent to 3,286.65 while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 0.9 percent to 29,296.30. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 edged less than 0.1 percent higher to 22,910.79, while Seoul's Kospi lost 0.2 percent to 2,477.00. Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 advanced 0.7 percent to 6,079.80. Taiwan fell, while benchmarks in New Zealand and Southeast Asia gained.

WALL STREET: Stocks in technology companies climbed, as did banks and retailers, which are likely to see lower taxes under proposed changes. Stocks have made hefty gains as congressional Republicans appeared to shore up enough support to approve the legislation; voting was scheduled to start Tuesday. The biggest gains have gone to companies that pay relatively higher tax rates, including smaller, U.S.-focused companies, banks and retailers. The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 0.5 percent to 2,690.16. The Dow Jones industrial average advanced 0.6 percent to 24,792.20. The Nasdaq composite rose 0.8 percent to 6,994.76.

TAXES: Congressional Republicans appeared to garner enough support to approve changes that initially would cut taxes for most Americans but by 2027 would increase the burden for most. The House of Representatives was scheduled to vote Tuesday and the Senate on Wednesday. Most of the benefits go to businesses and the wealthy, which Republicans say would goose the economy and benefit all. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the cuts will widen the government's budget deficit by \$1.45 trillion.

ANALYST'S TAKE: The dollar weakened against other major currencies because "market participants doubt the impact on the economy," said Mizuho Bank in a report. "Firstly, the tax bill is expected to widen fiscal deficit," said Mizuho. "Secondly, the pro-cyclical nature of the fiscal impulse at a time when the economy is close to full employment also raises questions (about) the necessity of an expansionary fiscal stance at a 'late cycle' stage."

SOUP & SNACKS: Two major food companies agreed to buy smaller snack makers: Campbell Soup plans to purchase pretzel maker Snyder's-Lance for \$4.87 billion and Hershey will buy Amplify Snack Brands for \$1.2 billion.

CURRENCY: The dollar advanced to 112.62 yen from Monday's 112.54 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1786 from \$1.1781.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 14 cents to \$57.36 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract lost 11 cents on Monday to \$57.22. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added 7 cents to \$63.48 in London. It added 18 cents the previous session.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 19, the 353rd day of 2017. There are 12 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 19, 1777, during the American Revolutionary War, Gen. George Washington led his army of about 11,000 men to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, to camp for the winter.

On this date:

In 1813, British forces captured Fort Niagara during the War of 1812.

In 1843, "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, was first published in England.

In 1907, 239 workers died in a coal mine explosion in Jacobs Creek, Pennsylvania.

In 1932, the British Broadcasting Corp. began transmitting overseas with its Empire Service to Australia.

In 1946, war broke out in Indochina as troops under Ho Chi Minh launched widespread attacks against the French.

In 1957, Meredith Willson's musical play "The Music Man" opened on Broadway.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 163 ~ 43 of 43**

In 1961, former U.S. Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy Sr., 73, suffered a debilitating stroke while in Palm Beach, Florida.

In 1974, Nelson A. Rockefeller was sworn in as the 41st vice president of the United States in the U.S. Senate chamber by Chief Justice Warren Burger with President Gerald R. Ford looking on.

In 1975, John Paul Stevens was sworn in as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1986, the Soviet Union announced it had freed dissident Andrei Sakharov from internal exile, and pardoned his wife, Yelena Bonner. Lawrence E. Walsh was appointed independent counsel to investigate the Iran-Contra affair.

In 1997, a SilkAir Boeing 737-300 plunged from the sky, crashing into an Indonesian river and killing all 104 people aboard. James Cameron's epic film "Titanic" opened in U.S. theaters.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton was impeached by the Republican-controlled House for perjury and obstruction of justice (he was subsequently acquitted by the Senate).

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush signed legislation increasing fuel-efficiency standards for vehicles and requiring wider use of ethanol. An explosion and fire at a chemical plant in Jacksonville, Florida, killed four workers. Rescuers found Frederick Dominguez and his three children, who had been lost in the mountains for three days during a snowstorm, alive in a northern California ravine.

Five years ago: Four State Department officials resigned under pressure, less than a day after a damning report blamed management failures for a lack of security at the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, where militants killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans. Park Geun-hye (goon-hay), daughter of late South Korean President Park Chung-hee, was elected the country's first female president. Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly was voted Associated Press coach of the year. Legal scholar and onetime Supreme Court nominee Robert H. Bork died in Arlington, Virginia, at age 85.

One year ago: A Turkish policeman fatally shot Russian ambassador Andrei Karlov at a photo exhibit in Ankara. (The assailant was later killed in a police shootout.) A truck rammed into a crowded Christmas market in central Berlin, killing 12 people in an attack claimed by Islamic State (the suspected attacker was killed in a police shootout four days later).

Today's Birthdays: Actress Cicely Tyson is 93. Former game show contestant Herb Stempel is 91. Actress Elaine Joyce is 74. Actor Tim Reid is 73. Paleontologist Richard E. Leakey is 73. Musician John McEuen is 72. Singer Janie Fricke is 70. Jazz musician Lenny White is 68. Actor Mike Lookinland is 57. Actress Jennifer Beals is 54. Actor Scott Cohen is 53. Actor Robert MacNaughton is 51. Magician Criss Angel is 50. Rock musician Klaus Eichstadt (Ugly Kid Joe) is 50. Actor Ken Marino is 49. Actor Elvis Nolasco is 49. Rock musician Kevin Shepard is 49. Actor Derek Webster is 49. Actress Kristy Swanson is 48. Model Tyson Beckford is 47. Actress Amy Locane is 46. Pro Football Hall of Famer Warren Sapp is 45. Actress Rosa Blasi is 45. Actress Alyssa Milano is 45. Actress Tara Summers is 38. Actor Jake Gyllenhaal (JIH'-lihn-hahl) is 37. Actress Marla Sokoloff is 37. Rapper Lady Sovereign is 32. Journalist Ronan Farrow is 30.

Thought for Today: "No space of regret can make amends for one life's opportunity misused." — From "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens (1812-1870).