

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 1 of 50



- 1- Sperry Stump Removal Ad
- 1- Carlson Bridal Shower
- 1- Mail Highway Route Relief Driver
- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 2- January Students of the Month
- 3- Over-Width Planters and Fertilizer Application Vehicles Allowed Extended Travel Time
- 4- Ethics board hearing complaints, voters to consider wider-reaching replacement
- 6- Stange wins triple jump at Sisseton meet
- 7- Today in Weather History
- 8- Today's Forecast
- 9- Yesterday's Weather
- 9- National Weather map
- 9- Today's Weather Almanac
- 10- Daily Devotional
- 11- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 12- News from the Associated Press

Saturday, April 28

VEX World Robotics Competition at Louisville, KY

An advertisement for "Sperry Stump Removal" and "TreeLine Tree Service". It features a yellow starburst graphic with the text "Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!". Contact information includes Tyler at 605/216-8431 and TJ at 605/380-7915. There are small images of a stump being removed and a person working on a tree.

## Mail Highway Route Relief Driver

Position available for Highway Relief Driver  
Must be over 21, have a good driving record  
Able to lift 70 pounds.

Route is early mornings and late afternoons

Mainly Saturdays and some week days

Contact Dave Miller 605-397-8277 Leave Message

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

## Bridal Shower

A bridal shower for Holly Carlson, bride-to-be of Tyler Candor, will be held Saturday, April 28, 2018, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton.

## January Students of the Month

The January Students of the Month were Jaycie Lier, sixth grader; Jacob Lewandowski, seventh grader; Travis Townsend, eighth grader; Lee Iverson, freshman; Payton Colestock, sophomore; Samantha Menzia, junior; and Jenifer Fjelstad, senior.

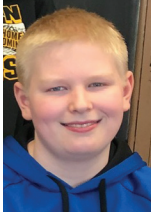
The student council sponsors the Students of the Month. Each month the faculty select students who show outstanding academic achievement. These students receive certificates and have an end of the year lunch with the principal.



**Jaycie Lier**, sixth grader, is the daughter of Bobbie and Jay Lier, Bath. Siblings are Jayleen, Chris and Jayde. She likes to play soccer and is an archer. She loves cattle and likes to hunt. Jaycie is on the honor roll and her first year of soccer was successful. She like raising cattle. Her interests are Llamas life cycles, political government and life science. Math is her favorite subject and she wants to be a Navy Seal with a second choice being a cattle rancher. Her role model is Jesus Christ.



**Jacob Lewandowski**, seventh grader, is the son of Brad and Becky Lewandowski, Groton. His sisters are Sarah, Nicole and Hannah. Activities include basketball, football, baseball, robotics and band. Accomplishments including being selected into Transition Math and getting on the Math Counts first team. He is interested in basketball, football and playing video games. Social studies is his favorite subject and he plans to become a lawyer. His dad is his role model.



**Travis Townsend**, eighth grader, is the son of Dean and Kellie Townsend, Andover. His sister, Cassandra, is a junior at GHS. Activities include Robotics, 4-H, showing goats, shooting archery and helping out on the family farm. His accomplishments include being on the Robotics championship team at Chamberlain and Reserve Champion Junior Showman in Goats. His interests are robotics, blacksmithing and engineering. Civics is his favorite subject and he wants to become an blacksmith or an engineer. His role models are Jim Lane and the late Doris Townsend.



**Lee Iverson**, freshman, is the son of Larry Ieveron and John Iverson, Bath. His siblings are Tyler, Cole, Kelsey and Ashly. Activities include football, baseball and robotics. His accomplishment is being named Student of the Month and he is interested in video games, football and baseball. Tech is his favorite subject and he wants to become a highway patrol officer or a PE teacher, but that might change, he said.



**Payton Colestock**, sophomore, is the daughter of Michelle and Craig Muilenburg and Roger Colestock. Siblings are Nick Weber, Megan Faveies and Maddie Colestock. Her activities include volleyball, basketball, junior olympic volleyball and golf. Her accomplishments are being on the honor roll, named student of the month, Caught you being good, most improved volleyball player, medalist in golf and going to state in golf. Her interests are hunting, fishing, camping, watching Netflix and spending time with family and friends. Science is her favorite subject and she plans to attend a 4-year college and either major in nursing or physical therapy. She is also hoping to get a golf scholarship. Her older sister, Madison, is her role model.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 3 of 50



**Samantha Menzia**, junior, is the daughter of Ann and Eric Menzia, Conde. Siblings are Sara and Nick. Her activities include volleyball, FCCLA and Silver Skates. Her accomplishments are being named to the honor roll, Girls State and Student of the Month. She likes helping others, sports and friends. Math is her favorite subject and she plans to do social work in the future. Her mom is her role model.



**Jenifer Fjelstad**, senior, is the daughter of Clint and Tara Fjelstad, Groton. Nathan is her older brother. Her activities include choir, band, Flag Corp, All-State Choir, Chamber Choir, Show Choir, One Act and Play Crew, Dynamics Dance Team, Oral Interpretation, Cheerleading and cross-country. Her accomplishments include being named to the National Honor Society, 4.0 Honor Roll, State Oral Interpretation, ASBSD Academic Excellence Award, Superior Vocal Soloist and All-State Choir. She is interested in dancing, singing, hanging with friends, writing and public speaking. Biology II is her favorite subject and she plans to attend Augustana College for journalism and French Majors. Her parents are her role models.

## Over-Width Planters and Fertilizer Application Vehicles Allowed Extended Travel Time

PIERRE, S.D. – Due to cold weather that has caused a delayed planting season, Gov. Dennis Daugaard has signed an Executive Order to allow over-width planting, fertilizer and agricultural chemical application vehicles to travel during nighttime hours in South Dakota.

Over-width vehicles are allowed to move on highways during daylight hours under the terms of an annual permit. The Executive Order provides permission to move permitted over-width planters and application vehicles not exceeding 12 feet wide during nighttime hours. The order expires May 31.

Over-width vehicles must be equipped with flashing or rotating white or amber warning lights on each side of the load's widest extremity. The warning lights must be clearly visible to motorists approaching from the front and rear.

Although hours of travel for over-width planters and application vehicles have been temporarily extended by the Governor, several highways in the state have weight restrictions in place because of unstable conditions. No vehicle is authorized to exceed the recommended weight posting of any road.

## Ethics board hearing complaints, voters to consider wider-reaching replacement

By DIRK LAMMERS

PIERRE, S.D. – As South Dakota's Government Accountability Board prepares to hear its fourth complaint since forming in July, an effort to replace the panel with a wider-reaching citizen-led board granted additional power is headed to the November ballot.

South Dakotans tired of scandals involving the EB-5 immigrant visa program and a poorly managed education program voted to create a strong ethics commission as part of Initiative Measure 22, 2016's sweeping ethics, campaign finance and lobbying reform effort. But legislative leaders calling the bill "un-constitutional" won a court injunction to prevent IM-22 from taking effect, then repealed the law and spent much of the 2017 session replacing some of its parts with watered-down measures.

House Bill 1076, the 2017 Legislature's bipartisan effort to replace IM-22's ethics panel, created a body of four governor-appointed retired judges – two Republicans and two Democrats – but limited its scope to investigate claims of misconduct only of executive branch employees and statewide elected officials.

Mitch Richter, a former Republican lawmaker co-chairing the Amendment W ballot effort to write many of IM-22's principles into the state constitution, said that the legislature's version of a Government Accountability Board isn't what South Dakotans had in mind when they approved IM-22 by a 52-percent to 48-percent margin. Numerous public officials including city and county administrators, water and school boards, drainage districts, sheriffs and auditors fall outside of the board's purview.

"It's a toothless barking dog," said Richter, who co-chairs Amendment W with former Democratic lawmaker Darrell Solberg. "It really doesn't do much of anything. It doesn't accomplish what IM-22 set out to do."

In July, Gov. Dennis Daugaard appointed former Supreme Court Justice Lori Wilbur and former circuit court Judges Gene Paul Kean, David Gienapp and Patricia Riepel to serve on the Government Accountability Board. HB 1076 placed the panel under the South Dakota Attorney General's office, which provides administrative support.

Judge Kean said the board had a lot of work to do just to begin operations. The former judges immediately got to work electing a chairperson, Wilbur, setting up protocols of how to take complaints, choosing an independent location to meet and creating a complaint form, website and mailbox.

Once the board receives a complaint, it's scheduled for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

The board goes into executive session, closed from the public, to determine whether there are sufficient facts to constitute a violation. From that discussion, the board can initiate an investigation into a complaint, refer alleged criminal activity to the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), conduct an open-to-the-public contested case hearing or dismiss a case for lack of jurisdiction.

The board handled two complaints in 2017. One of the initial grievances dealt with alleged misconduct that happened before the board's creation on July 1, 2017, so the judges ruled they did not have proper jurisdiction.

"Unless the statute is retroactively declared, what happened in the past is maybe interesting, but the state can't go in and do anything about it," Kean said.

The second and final complaint of 2017 was withdrawn, and the first 2018 complaint fell into the lack-of-jurisdiction category and was and referred to DCI. The year's second complaint, which was received earlier this month, will be scheduled for consideration at an upcoming meeting. Details of the complaints are not available to the public because they did not reach the stage of a contested case hearing.

Judge Kean said the board understands its limited scope, and its members are focused on judiciously and thoroughly assessing complaints and issuing rulings in a timely manner.

Richter said he doesn't understand why legislators created a panel with an even number of members, which can lead to gridlock.

"How do you pass anything if you're always 2-2 on the decisions?" he asked.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 5 of 50**

Constitutional Amendment W, to be voted on in November, calls for oversight from a seven-member independent commission with state employees, elected officials and lobbyists prohibited from serving.

The panel's members would consist of:

- Two retired judges, one from each party, appointed by the South Dakota Supreme Court
- One member appointed by the governor from a list of three applicants selected by the Speaker of the House
- One member appointed by the governor from a list of three applicants selected by the House minority leader
- Three members, including at most one lawyer, appointed by a majority vote of the first four appointed members

The panel would be given an annual minimum of \$389,000 to fund operations and receive broad authority to:

- Investigate any allegation of ethics violations against any state or local official, judge or employee
- Adopt ethics rules
- Issue advisory opinions on matters of ethics and accountability
- Employ and manage staff members, such as lawyers, investigators and administrators
- Audit campaign finance reports, lobbying disclosures and other ethics-related disclosures
- Impose sanctions, such as fines and administrative orders
- Execute programs to educate the public and officials on campaign finance, election, lobbying and ethics rules
- Annually submit draft laws designed to reduce corruption and transparency for consideration by the legislature

Richter said by presenting the proposed legislation as a constitutional amendment, legislators wouldn't be able to repeal or change the measure without having to go back to the people. He said it's important to have a citizen-led initiative with wide-ranging authority to investigate alleged corruption wherever it occurs.

"People say, 'Well, we don't have any issues,'" Richter said. "Well you don't know if we've had any issues because there's never been a place where a citizen can just bring a complaint."

Kean said the retired judges understand that there's a possibility that the board disbands by the end of the year, but for now they're focused on their mission of considering ethics complaints involving executive branch employees and statewide office holders.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 6 of 50

## Stange wins triple jump at Sisseton meet

Harleigh Stange placed first in the triple jump at the Sisseton Track Meet held Friday afternoon. She had a distance of 33-08. She also took second in the long jump, Jessica Bjerke placed fourth in the shot put and Payton Maine placed eighth in the 300m hurdles.. The girls 400m relay team placed eighth and the 800m relay team placed fourth.

Luke Thorson placed fourth in the discus in the boy's division.

### Boy's Division

300m Hurdles: Thomas Cranford, 46.85; Darien Shabazz, 49.31; Paxton Bonn, 51.08.

100m Dash: Thomas Cranford, 12.28; Darien Shabazz, 12.76.

800m Run: Isaac Smith, 2:25.53.

1600m Run: Isaac Smith, 5:24.00.

400m Relay: Groton (Trevor Harry, Paxton Bonn, Austin Jones, Thomas Cranford), 49.77.

High Jump: Paxton Bonn, 5-02; Austin Jones, 5-02.

Long Jump: Paxton Bonn, 18-01; Trevor Harry, 18-00.25.

Discus: 4, Luke Thorson, 120-01; Brodyn DeHoet, 105-09; Caleb Furney, 90-05.

Shot Put: Luke Thorson, 38-08.50; Caleb Ferney, 33-02; Brodyn DeHoet, 31-07.

### Girl's Division

100m Hurdles: Payton Maine, 18.43; Cassandra Townsend, 22.68.

300m 8, Payton Maine, 53.94.

100m Dash: Eliza Wanner, 14.46.

400m Dash: Eliza Wanner, 1:13.42; Alex Stange, 1:14.29.

800m Run: Amelie Hartwig, 2:51.32; Alex Stange, 2:59.50; Payton Maine, 3:11.40.

400m Relay: 8, Groton Area, 56.92.

800m Relay: 4, Groton Area, 1:59.79.

High Jump: Gia Gengerke, 4-01; Alex Stange, 3-11.

Long Jump: 2, Harleigh Stange, 16-02; 7, Gia Gengerke, 15-06; Jodi Hinman, 13-09.

Triple Jump: 1, Harleigh Stange, 33-08.

Shot Put: 4, Jessica Bjerke, 33-07; Chloe Daly, 25-04; Kaylin Kucker, 22-07.5; Alexis Hanten, 22-05.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 7 of 50

## Today in Weather History

April 28, 1994: Snow accumulated 5 to 12 inches over most of the eastern half of South Dakota, with the 12-inch report from Winner. Ten to eleven inches of snow was reported at numerous places including Sioux Falls and Platte in the southeast, and Summit in the northeast. Numerous accidents were caused by snow and ice, including one which killed a man and injured two women on Highway 12 near Bath, South Dakota. There was some undetermined crop damage, and livestock loss was feared as the late season cold and snow lowered resistance to disease.

1893: A half-mile wide estimated F4 tornado killed 23 people and injured 150 as it tore a path of devastation through Cisco, Texas. Every building in the town was either destroyed or severely damaged.

1973: The record crest of the Mississippi River at St. Louis, Missouri was registered at 43.23 feet on this day. This level exceeded the previous 1785 mark by 1.23 feet. This record was broken during the 1993 Flood when the Mississippi River crested at 49.58 feet on August 1st. At Memphis, Tennessee, the Mississippi was over flood stage for 63 days, more than that of the historic 1927 flood, and the river was above flood stage for an even longer 107 days at upstream Cairo, Illinois. Out of the seven largest floods on the Mississippi between 1927 and 1997, the 1973 event ranked third in both volume discharged and duration but only sixth in flood height. Over \$250 million of damages were incurred mainly in the Mississippi Valley states of Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

1991: Memphis, Tennessee recorded their wettest April ever with 15.03 inches, breaking their previous record of 13.90 inches in 1872.

2002: During the evening hours, a violent F4 tornado carved a 64-mile path across southeast Maryland. The La Plata, Maryland tornado was part of a larger severe weather outbreak that began in the mid-Mississippi Valley early on that day and spread across portions of the Ohio Valley and the Mid-Atlantic States. In Maryland, three deaths and 122 injuries were a direct result of the storm. Property damage exceeded \$100 million. Tornadoes along the Atlantic coast are not frequent, and tornadoes of this magnitude are extremely rare. Only six F4 tornadoes have occurred farther north and east of the La Plata storm: Worcester, Massachusetts - 1953; New York/Massachusetts - 1973; Windsor Locks, Connecticut - 1979; five counties in New York - 1989; New Haven, Connecticut - 1989; North Egremont, Massachusetts - 1995. None was as close to the coast. The tornado traveled across the Chesapeake Bay almost to the Atlantic. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the NWS Service Assessment.

1921 - A severe hailstorm in Anson County, NC, produced hail the size of baseballs. Gardens, grain fields and trees were destroyed. Pine trees in the storm's path had to be cut for lumber because of the hail damage. (The Weather Channel)

1928 - A coastal storm produced tremendous late season snows in the Central Appalachians, including 35 inches at Bayard WV, 31 inches at Somerset PA, and 30 inches at Grantsville MD. High winds accompanying the heavy wet snow uprooted trees and unroofed a number of homes. The storm caused great damage to fruit trees and wild life. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)








1987 - Twenty cities in the western and central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 95 degrees at Houston TX, 95 degrees at Lake Charles LA, and 94 degrees at Port Arthur TX, were April records. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Miami, FL, hit 92 degrees, marking a record eight days of 90 degree heat in the month of April. Squalls produced snow in the Washington D.C. area. Belvoir VA reported a temperature reading of 57 degrees at the time the snow began. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Strong northerly winds and heavy snow ushered cold air into the north central U.S. Snowfall totals in Montana ranged up to 20 inches at Miles City. Thunderstorms produced severe weather from eastern Texas to the Southern Appalachians and the southern Ohio Valley. Hail four and a half inches in diameter was reported at Keller TX and White Settlement TX. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 8 of 50

Sat Apr 28	Sun Apr 29	Mon Apr 30	Tue May 1	Wed May 2	Thu May 3	Fri May 4
						
63°F	73°F	79°F	62°F	61°F	62°F	68°F
44°F	55°F	48°F	39°F	40°F	37°F	58°F
ESE 16 MPH	S 28 MPH	S 14 MPH Precip 10%	N 15 MPH Precip 20%	W 9 MPH Precip 10%	NNW 13 MPH	SW 10 MPH



## Mild Through Sunday

### Today's Highs



55-65°



### Sunday Highs



Windy & Warm

65-80°



Developing southerly breezes will usher in a warmer air mass through Sunday. It will also turn windy on Sunday, with very high fire danger expected region-wide.



# Groton Daily Independent

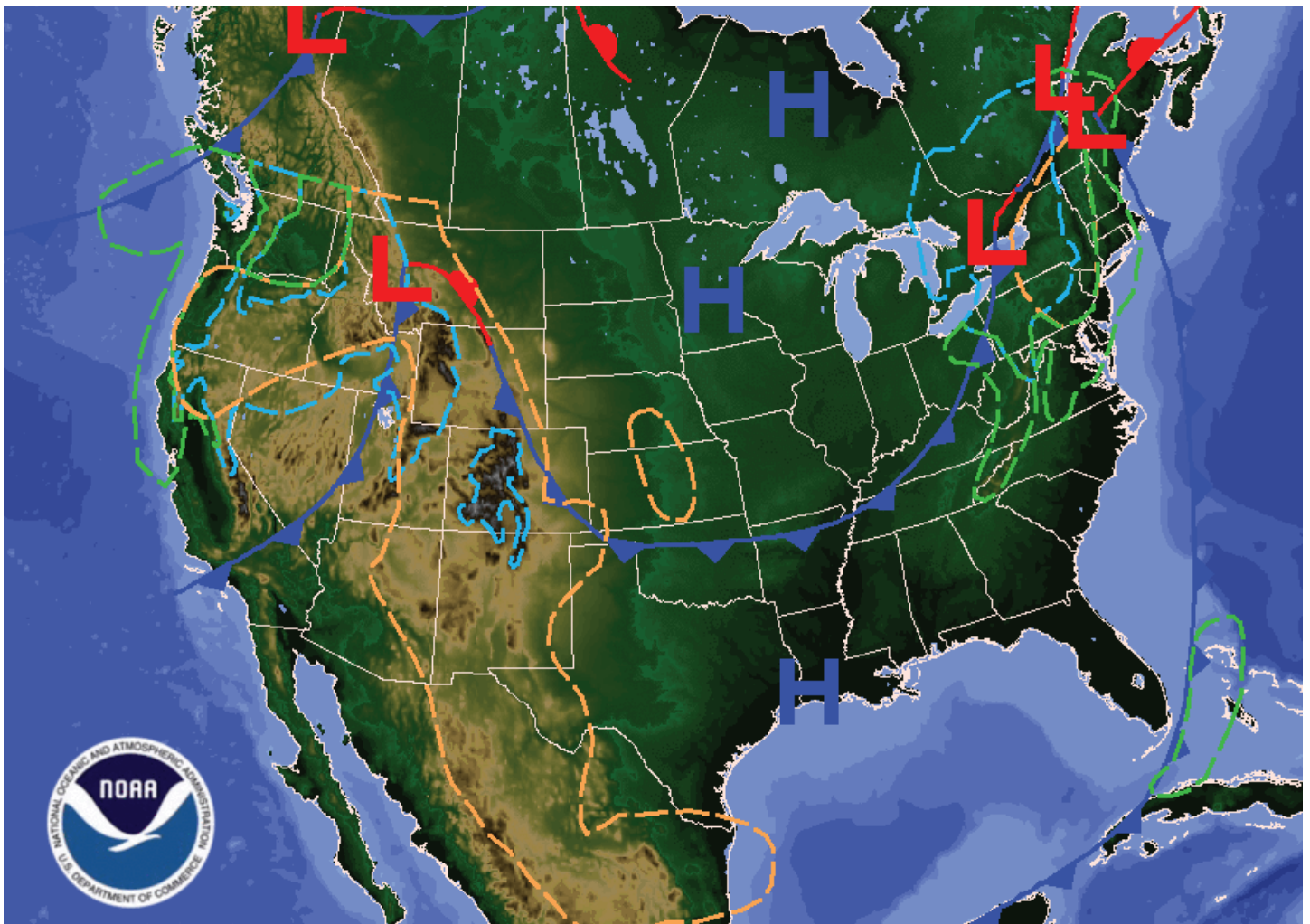
Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 9 of 50

## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 56.5 F at 3:57 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 33.9 F at 3:50 AM**  
**Wind Chill:**  
**High Gust: 32.0 Mph at 11:53 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 90° in 1934**  
**Record Low: 19° in 2008**  
**Average High: 63°F**  
**Average Low: 37°F**  
**Average Precip in April: 1.68**  
**Precip to date in April: 0.83**  
**Average Precip to date: 3.86**  
**Precip Year to Date: 2.68**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:36 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:24 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Apr 28, 2018, issued 4:41 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Hurley with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

**Rain**  
**Rain and T'Storms**  
**Rain and Snow**  
**Snow**

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 10 of 50



## IT ALL BELONGS TO GOD

Our Psalmist had a great way of looking at things. "There is the sea vast and spacious," he observed. Perhaps he was sitting on a beach looking beyond the rolling waves as they crashed on the shore one after another. Maybe he was on a hillside far removed from the water - yet thinking about its various contents and the ships that floated quietly above its depths.

But he also "saw" beneath the water and beyond their endless waves. He was aware that it was "teeming with creatures beyond number - living things both large and small. There the ships go to and fro, and the leviathan, which you formed to frolic there."

The sea - though "vast and spacious" - was not an end in itself. It contained all sizes and shapes of creatures that he could not see nor was able to count. They enjoyed "frolicking" - or playing in a part of His creation that He made just for them.

There also were ships that went "to and fro" that carried people and cargo to distant lands that he could not see. The ocean was not an end in itself, either. With all of its majesty and might and endless movement, it also has its place in God's creation.

Nothing in God's creation is an end in itself. "For all things," Paul said "were created by Him and for Him." We can look anywhere and everywhere and whatever our eyes see has God's trademark on it. Everything is signed with His name, for His honor, His glory, for His plan and for His purpose. Especially us. What more can we do for Him?

Prayer: Lord, we are the "crown" of Your creation. We pray that we will do all that we can in Your name for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 104:25, 26 There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number—living things both large and small. There the ships go to and fro, and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/5/2018 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2018 Historic Trinity Church Pump Organ Concert.
- 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)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party
  
- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

## News from the Associated Press

### Northern, SDSBVI strengthen with more demand for teachers

By KATHERINE GRANDSTRAND, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — When Taylor Achterberg, Kira Whitmore and Nicolette Schmidt took a spring break trip to Louisville, Kentucky, last month, the Northern State University sophomores didn't expect to get job offers.

But they did.

"I always thought I was going to stay in South Dakota, but then after going to Kentucky," said Achterberg, who is from Watertown. "I don't have to stay in South Dakota."

And it's not just Kentucky that's hiring.

Schmidt said that Jessica Vogel, instructor at Northern's school of education, told her that Texas is also looking for people to work with others who have visual impairments.

The three were inspired to take the trip by their coursework for a blind and visually impaired endorsement that will complement their special education degrees.

The endorsement is 18 credits of classes to prepare students to teach blind and visually impaired students. It includes two semesters of Braille, learning about the eye and orientation and mobility.

While in Louisville, the women toured the American Printing House for the Blind and its neighbor, the Kentucky School for the Blind.

"It's cool seeing their campus and everything they have to offer," said Whitmore, who is from Bismarck, North Dakota. "There was more space and the building was larger. But I do like the one here, because it's smaller and more of a family setting."

They went with Braille I and Braille II instructor Tevan Fischbach, who also teaches Braille and reading at the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

The Aberdeen American News reports that all over the country, teachers of the blind and visually impaired are in high demand, said Marjorie Kaiser, superintendent of the school for the blind.

That's why, as building projects move forward at Northern, officials at both schools hope to build and strengthen the relationship between the regent schools. The two are more than just neighbors. They have been working together since the school for the blind moved to Aberdeen in the early 1960s.

A new school for the blind will be built on the Northern campus where Jerde Hall now sits. Jerde will be razed after graduation, then ground will be broken. Where the existing blind school is just south of the Northern campus will eventually be a sports complex with a football stadium and softball field.

Achterberg, Whitmore and Schmidt go to their Braille class at the school for the blind, something officials hope happens more often in the new school for the blind building.

"We like the idea, though, in the new (school for the blind) building, of having an embedded classroom for Northern," Kaiser said. "Usually, the courses actually have been on (the school for the blind) campus, and we've just met in one of our conference rooms, but I think this makes it a little more clear."

"With the Northern classroom that we hope to have in this (new school for the blind) building, it won't be just these particular courses in the endorsement that would be taught in that classroom," said Kelly Duncan, dean of the Millicent Atkins School of Education at Northern. "We would hope to have some of our regular ed and special ed classes over there, depending on how scheduling works."

But it's more than just proximity.

"Having the program here and expanding it more is maybe going to help out with the national need and really puts Northern in a position to really be a huge leader in the education field when it comes to this area," Duncan said.

Getting more Northern students inside the school for the blind more often will hopefully lead to more creative teaching, she said.

"I think that there are some neat things that they're going to think about in a different way in terms



of how a classroom is set up, how they do different things, just by having the opportunity to have this experience in a building that's not set up like a traditional school," Duncan said.

Graduates earning the blind and visually impaired endorsement go on to work all over the U.S., Kaiser said.

There are usually 20 to 30 students who live in dorms at the school for the blind, but more than 250 get services from the school each year, most in their home districts via outreach. Others, Kaiser said, might visit for a summer or a semester.

"So these teachers, even these general elementary teachers or (special education) teachers, there's a pretty good chance somewhere in their career they're going to have a blind or visually impaired child," she said. "I think breaking down those whole barriers between elementary ed over here and we have special ed over here, and we (act like) that those aren't going to meet, that's just not the case anywhere in education."

At Northern, the school of education hopes to eventually offer a master's degree in special education with a concentration in low-vision students, Duncan said.

That, Kaiser said, should help teachers garner more knowledge about students with vision problems.

"So they'd be looking for master's programs to make sure that they have those extra courses," Kaiser said.

---

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

## Delays in mental competency case stress victim's family

By DANIELLE FERGUSON, Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Four years of waiting. Four years of hell.

Through a maddening series of canceled court dates, the family of Angel Stevens has waited for the person accused of killing Stevens to move through the court system for some glimpse of closure and justice.

For Lois Faye Two Bulls, it's been four years in a jail cell or hospital room, waiting for the treatment that mental health experts say she needed, or punishment for a crime of which she may or may not have understood the consequences.

Stevens died July 13, 2014, after a van, driven by Two Bulls, rumbled through a Sioux Falls motorcycle show Stevens was attending and pinned her to a tree. Stevens helped push a 13-year-old boy out of the way, likely saving him from fatal injuries.

Four years later, Two Bulls has pleaded guilty and been sentenced for the crime, after years of delays for her to receive treatment at the state's mental health hospital when experts and a judge deemed her unfit to stand trial.

The Argus Leader reports that the case illustrates a delicate balance between justice for a victim and constitutional rights for the accused when the subject of mental health arises, with no easy answers from either side.

Two Bulls, 51, was sentenced Friday to 10 years of supervised probation and was given credit for the 1,376 days she served in the Minnehaha County Jail or the Human Services Center in Yankton. She's not allowed to drive and will be required to maintain regular mental health appointments, something Stevens' family was relieved to hear.

"It's over," Sue German, Stevens' older sister, said in tears on her way out of the courtroom while embracing family members. "I feel good with the sentence. I feel relief."

Two Bulls in a letter asked the family if they could "find it in their hearts" to forgive her, admitting that she knew she shouldn't have gotten behind the wheel that day.

"It's a sorrow in my heart," she wrote.

Stevens' husband, Carl, and son, Tyler, joined German and sister Jeanie Spielmann in offering forgiveness for Two Bulls. They acknowledge her circumstances but hope she never gets behind the wheel again.

"I'm glad it won't happen again," Tyler Stevens said. "She took a van that wasn't hers, with no insurance, and she took my mom."

The sentence was fitting, said public defense attorney Betsy Doyle, who represented Two Bulls.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 14 of 50

"I think it is a pretty fair result given the circumstances," Doyle said. "It's still a very difficult case for everyone involved. There's no good answer."

The moments before Angel Stevens was pinned between a van and a tree were blissful.

She was proudly showing off her candy-red Harley Davidson at a motorcycle show at the 125th celebration anniversary of the Salvation Army on a sunny July day. A 13-year-old boy seemed intrigued by the bike, so Carl invited the boy to take a seat and pose for a photo.

That's when a van barreled through the Salvation Army's parking lot, heading right for the boy atop the bike.

"The last thing I know, (the van) hit my wife and the little boy," Carl told the Argus Leader at the time.

The boy, Skylar Burchardi, suffered a fractured pelvic bone and had to have his upper jaw wired.

Carl said he found his wife pinned to a tree by the front of the van.

He tried to put the van in reverse to free Stevens, but the van was stuck between another tree and couldn't move. He and bystanders couldn't push the van off of her.

"There was nothing I could do but hold her," he said.

Uninsured and unlicensed, Two Bulls was charged with second-degree manslaughter for "recklessly killing" another person. She also was charged with simple assault and reckless driving, charges that were dropped as part of a plea deal.

The trial was put on pause in February 2015 after Two Bulls' attorney requested a competency evaluation. Michelle Thomas, a court-appointed lawyer, said her client suffered from a seizure disorder that required medication and that Two Bulls didn't remember much of the crash.

Once the question of a defendant's mental state is raised, everything stops.

"When competency comes into play, it's always extremely difficult to deal with," said Doyle. "The jail is not a hospital. People who have competency issues are not going to be stable in a lot of different areas in their life. Judges think the safer place for them would be in the jail, but jail wouldn't be able to provide services or restoration."

A competency evaluation determines how much a defendant remembers and their ability to understand details surrounding the charges and possible punishment. Typically performed by a psychiatrist with specialized forensic training, the evaluation also measures if a person charged with a crime can assist a lawyer in their defense.

Two Bulls in February 2015 was deemed incompetent to stand trial, and a judge sent her to the Human Services Center to receive rehabilitative treatment. When the facility has a bed available, the jail is notified and the individual is brought to the center in Yankton.

In August 2015, Two Bulls sent a handwritten letter to the court asking to move up her bed date, saying the conditions she faced in county jail for 13 months were becoming "more and more unbearable." She erroneously asserted that her charges had been "dropped" based on competency status and cited physical health concerns.

"As an elderly person living with diabetes, being locked up is extremely painful and strenuous to my health, especially the hard mats and considering I do not have the charges to be here," Two Bulls wrote in the Aug. 18, 2015, letter. "Seeing women come and go is very depressing and having no freedom is tough."

At the time the letter was sent, extended waiting periods for a bed at the Human Services Center was not uncommon. An Argus Leader Media investigation in 2015 found that some defendants with mental health issues waited for months without trial because of scheduling delays for competency exams.

In the wake of the findings, a study recommended action from the state legislature, which passed a bill in March 2017 addressing the issue. It called for further reporting of how the criminal justice system handles defendants with a mental illness, seeking to reduce wait times for competency hearings.

A governor's oversight council formed last year has made strides in decreasing wait times for mental health exams. At the time Two Bulls' case was beginning, the average wait time was around eight months for an exam. The average wait time across the state now is about 30 days, according to council chair Greg Sattizahn.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 15 of 50

A big part of that reduction is the increased number of people equipped to perform evaluations. The exams used to be done at the HSC, which only completed about 35 a year. Statewide, more than 140 exams were requested at the time of the Argus Leader investigation. Now, counties are reimbursed for contracting other trained experts to perform the exam.

Sattizahn hopes to soon meet the 21-day limit required by the legislation, adding that future planned training with attorneys and mental health experts should help reach the goal.

"When you have that long lag, it's not in anyone's best interest to have that person languishing, waiting," Sattizahn said. "At the same time, you can't try somebody if they don't understand the nature of the proceeding or can't assist their lawyer."

The Human Services Center offers a program to help rehabilitate those the court deems incompetent to stand trial. The Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program, which has room for 61 adults, provides services for patients "coping with persistent mental illness" who need to stay at the hospital for medication management and skill building.

Two Bulls received treatment at HSC for a year, and was determined still not fit for trial again in March 2016.

After more time at HSC, Two Bulls was declared in December 2017 to be ready to stand trial. A state medical expert who met with her three times earlier that year said she did not find any issues with Two Bulls' memory, saying she appeared "alert and oriented," according to the December court proceedings.

The defense at the hearing argued that Two Bulls' memory was too weak to stand trial, and that she wouldn't be able to remember witness testimonies and would need statements or questions repeated to her.

Public defender Neil Fossum acknowledged that Two Bulls' condition had improved over the previous two years, but only because she'd been in the controlled, comfortable environment of the Human Services Center. She would not be comfortable in a courtroom environment and he was concerned about her conditions deteriorating in jail.

"It's difficult for the defendant sitting in jail," Doyle said. "They're confused, don't understand why they're there. It's difficult for them to wrap their head around and manage from that aspect."

As soon as someone is declared competent to stand trial, he or she returns to the jail, and from there, court scheduling resumes, as was the case with Two Bulls.

Medical and mental health providers monitor the patient and continue their medications once they are back in custody, Minnehaha County Jail warden Jeff Gromer said.

"With the mental health needs of some of the inmates we're required to house in jail, it becomes a difficult juggling match," he said. "Where can we house them for them to be the most successful? We're not a mental health treatment facility."

Some patients can fully recover and proceed with their trial, but the timing varies with each person.

Minnehaha County State's Attorney Aaron McGowan said that the time to complete a case "depends greatly" on facts and people involved. Some cases can be resolved quickly, while others can take "several years," he said.

"We look at the individual and their condition, the facts and circumstances surrounding the crime, any criminal history, the level of intent, and the likelihood of re-offending as part of our analysis in making a plea agreement," he said in a statement. "Ultimately, the sentence imposed is up to the judge."

At Two Bulls' competency hearing in December, prosecutors countered her attorney's concerns by asserting that a courtroom environment or trial isn't usually comfortable for anyone.

"Her attorney said she was comfortable (in Yankton) and getting taken care of, and I'm thinking to myself, my sister is gone," German said. "I don't care if she doesn't feel comfortable in a courtroom. I don't feel comfortable in a courtroom either waiting to see what happens to the person who killed my sister."

Judge Robin Houwman stated that competency does not require a defendant to feel comfortable in a courtroom, and that the loss of memory does not prevent an ability to stand trial, setting the stage for the case to move forward.

The allowed Angel Stevens' family to finally focus on her life and memory. Her name was Angela, but everybody called her Angel.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 16 of 50

She was always helping someone, even when she was little, her sister said.

"She was truly an angel," German said.

She loved motorcycles and camping and had a smile that would light up a room. German remembers Angel bringing meals to a sick neighbor and helping with daily tasks, which meant no one was surprised when she leaped into the path of an oncoming van to help save a child's life.

"I don't hate Lois Two Bulls, but we wanted justice for our sister," German said. "Waiting for court dates, cancellation after cancellation, has been hell. We got duped for a lot of that time, sitting in limbo. We wanted justice to finally arrive."

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

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

02-29-38-63-66, Mega Ball: 11, Megaplier: 2

(two, twenty-nine, thirty-eight, sixty-three, sixty-six; Mega Ball: eleven; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$111 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$177 million

## Eagles get tight end Dallas Goedert at No. 49

By ROB MAADDI, AP Pro Football Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Philadelphia Eagles and their former kicker stuck it to the Cowboys by drafting a kid named Dallas.

The Super Bowl champions selected tight end Dallas Goedert after trading up three spots in the second round to make their first pick in the draft. Six-time Pro Bowl kicker David Akers needled Cowboys fans when he made the announcement in their stadium.

"Hey Dallas, the last time you were in the Super Bowl, these draft picks weren't born," Akers shouted before announcing the selection.

After trading out of the first round Thursday night, the Eagles gave Indianapolis a second-round pick (No. 52) and fifth-round pick (No. 169) to get Goedert at No. 49. The 6-foot-5, 256-pound Goedert played four seasons at South Dakota State and is known for his pass-catching ability.

"Dallas is a blue-collar kid who works extremely hard. This was a guy we felt dominated at that level," said Joe Douglas, the executive vice president of player personnel. "He can separate at the top of routes and he's a guy who is going to be a friend to the quarterback."

The Eagles jumped ahead of the Cowboys with the trade, taking a player who could've been on their radar after tight end Jason Witten announced his retirement.

Goedert, who grew up a Packers fan even though he got his name because his dad is a Cowboys fan, said he thought Dallas was going to draft him.

"I think Philadelphia might have thought that as well," he said.

Howie Roseman, the Eagles executive vice president of football operations, said stealing Goedert from the team's division rival wasn't part of the thought process.

"We wanted to get one of the guys we had from yesterday's list," Roseman said.

Goedert had 72 catches for 1,111 yards and seven touchdowns as a senior after posting 92-1,293-11 as a junior. He'll team with Pro Bowl tight end Zach Ertz to help Philadelphia's offense create mismatches. The Eagles released veteran tight end Brent Celek and allowed Trey Burton to leave in free agency.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 17 of 50

"It's going to depth and competition to the position," coach Doug Pederson said. "He's a tremendous weapon we can utilize. It's exciting to have a pick like this to add."

Goedert shares the same agency with Carson Wentz, who went to North Dakota State. Wentz texted him after he was picked.

"Carson has talked to us about him and he's excited," Roseman said.

The Eagles didn't have a third-round pick. They'll enter Saturday with two picks in the fourth round and one each in the sixth and seventh.

For more NFL coverage: <http://pro32.ap.org> and [http://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](http://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Burros return to Custer State Park after wildfire

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Wild donkeys have returned to a western South Dakota park after a wildfire caused injuries to the herd.

The Legion Lake fire in December led to injuries for all nine burros in Custer State Park, including burns, dehydration and hoof damage. Three burros were euthanized and the rest were removed from the park to receive veterinary care.

Four burros have returned to the park this week, in addition to four new wild donkeys donated by Beaver Creek Buffalo Co., the Rapid City Journal reported. Mark Hendrix, the park's resource program manager, released the burros back into the park at an event Thursday.

Two burros are still being treated for injuries.

Kayla Brown helped nurse the injured burros back to health at the Fall River Veterinary Clinic.

"Just give it a little time, and they'll be back in car windows," Brown said. The burros are known to approach vehicles and snatch food from visitors.

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

## Official: Major wildfire potential average in western SD

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A fire official says the potential for large wildfires in South Dakota ranges from average to below average across the state.

State Fire Meteorologist Darren Clabo said in a Friday seminar at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology that the western and central parts of the state are entering their wet season. His presentation says large fire potential is average over western South Dakota and below average elsewhere.

Clabo says he thinks above-average snowpack in the Black Hills is going to delay fire potential for the summer. Clabo says he doesn't think the Black Hills will see big fires until later in July — if at all.

## Signing of 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie to be commemorated

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A group of horseback riders is traveling to the Fort Laramie National Historic Site to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie's signing.

Percy White Plume of the Horse Spirit Society tells the Rapid City Journal that riders started from Wounded Knee in South Dakota. More participants joined at Fort Robinson in Nebraska.

The riders and others are gathering at Fort Laramie National Historic Site in Wyoming for events to remember the treaty. The peace agreement with the United States deeded rights to lands, including the Black Hills, to the Lakota.

But the discovery of gold in the Black Hills brought hordes of settlers, and the government seized the land in 1877.

The Fort Laramie historic site will host a tribal encampment and events from Saturday until Tuesday.

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

## Judge won't dismiss complaint against pipeline security firm

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON**, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A state judge is refusing to throw out a complaint that a North Carolina-based private security firm operated illegally in North Dakota during protests against the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

Judge John Grinsteiner also is declining for now to restrict evidence during TigerSwan's upcoming civil trial or to dismiss company founder and President James Reese as a defendant. He ruled there are enough questions about the company's actions and that Reese "is legally accountable for conduct performed by TigerSwan."

North Dakota's Private Investigative and Security Board sued TigerSwan and Reese last June, alleging the company operated without a license in the state. The board seeks to ban TigerSwan from North Dakota and also could seek thousands of dollars in fines and fees.

Texas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners hired TigerSwan, which was founded by retired military special forces members. TigerSwan maintains it provided consulting services that don't require a North Dakota license, and that any investigative work occurred at the company's headquarters in North Carolina and would not be subject to regulation by North Dakota's licensing board.

TigerSwan attorney Lynn Boughey asked Grinsteiner to bar any evidence about TigerSwan activities conducted outside of North Dakota.

The board objected to the request and disputed TigerSwan's description of the company's work. Board attorney Monte Rogneby also argued that TigerSwan tried to circumvent Louisiana's denial of a license in that state last summer by creating a shell corporation through an employee, which he said is further evidence of why the company shouldn't be allowed to operate in North Dakota "to protect the public interest."

Boughey called that assertion "a total misrepresentation of the facts." TigerSwan maintains the contracted employee worked for a client, did not report to TigerSwan and was trying to set up her own business.

Grinsteiner sided with the state on the evidence issue, ruling the request was premature and should have waited until the two sides are done exchanging evidence, a process known as discovery. Boughey said he likely will renew the request later.

"The court is letting them try to find any real evidence that supports their basically bald assertions," he said.

Grinsteiner refused Boughey's request to dismiss the board's complaint altogether.

"There are conflicting accounts about the actions performed by TigerSwan and whether or not those actions took place in North Dakota or elsewhere," the judge said. "Questions for a jury to determine."

A five-day trial on the civil suit is scheduled to begin Oct. 8.

The \$3.8 billion pipeline began moving North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to Illinois last June. While it was being built, six months of protests in North Dakota by opponents who feared environmental harm resulted in 761 arrests.

Pipeline opponents have denounced TigerSwan for allegedly using military-style counter-terrorism measures, having a close working relationship with public law enforcement and using propaganda. TigerSwan maintains it's the victim of a smear campaign, and public law agencies in North Dakota have repeatedly denied working closely with the company.

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

## South Dakota representative dies after struggle with cancer

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota state Rep. Sean McPherson has died after fighting cancer for more than a year.

Dwight Edstrom, funeral director at Osheim and Schmidt Funeral Home, said the Rapid City legislator died Thursday. McPherson was 47.

The Rapid City Journal reports McPherson's struggle with cancer started in February 2017.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard says McPherson was a good legislator, but "more importantly he was a good

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 19 of 50

man." Attorney General Marty Jackley tweeted that McPherson's legacy "will not fade."

McPherson was a Republican elected in 2016 to serve District 32, which includes Pennington County. He was a former Navy submariner, teacher and the pastor of a Nazarene church.

Daugaard says McPherson and his wife joined the governor and first lady Linda Daugaard last fall to christen the USS South Dakota submarine in Connecticut.

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

## **1 of 5 suspects sentenced in Marshall County sex abuse case**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — One of the five men charged in a Marshall County sexual abuse case involving a teenager has been sentenced.

The state attorney general's office says 26-year-old Luis Maaz was ordered to serve five years in prison for fourth-degree rape and solicitation of a minor.

All five of the suspects accepted plea agreements and pleaded guilty. Sentencing is scheduled next month for 20-year-old Michael Mejilla, 21-year-old Damon Koop, 28-year-old Dustin Purcell and 29-year-old Edgar Ramos.

Court documents say the men were charged for illegal sexual interactions with a girl who was younger than 16.

## **Spearfish man accused of embezzling from sports programs**

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — A Spearfish man is accused of embezzling from youth sports programs.

The Black Hills Pioneer Press reports that 44-year-old Nicholas Edward Hoffman was charged April 18 with three counts of grand theft by embezzlement.

His attorney, Matthew Kinney, says Hoffman will plead not guilty to the charges at an arraignment scheduled for May 17.

Hoffman is accused of embezzling money from the Queen City Futbol Club, the Spearfish Youth Wrestling Club, and the Spearfish Rams Football. He no longer holds a position at any of the programs.

He is accused of embezzling at least \$5,000 from the soccer and wrestling clubs, and more than \$1,000 from the football club.

## **Administrator named for South Dakota Human Services Center**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Department of Social Services has named a new head administrator for the state-run mental health hospital in Yankton.

Ken Cole currently is operations director for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education Mental Health Program in Colorado. He has led projects for state psychiatric hospitals and mental health agencies.

Cole is to begin his new duties May 29. He succeeds Troy Jones, who resigned last summer citing personal reasons. The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reports Jones died March 6 in New Mexico after a battle with cancer.

The center has struggled with turnover and staff shortages. Cole will be the facility's fourth administrator since 2011.

## **Worker badly burned at Sioux Falls construction site**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A worker was badly burned while working at a construction site in Sioux Falls. A spokesman for Limoges Construction tells the Argus Leader that the 40-year-old man was operating a saw on Tuesday when he was burned.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says the man caught fire. He was taken to a hospital, where he was listed in critical but stable condition.

The man was working at the Dow Rummel Village retirement community. Neither the construction company nor police released his name.

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

## South Dakota embezzler sentenced for embezzling on probation

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota woman who embezzled from a group of American Indian churches while on probation for embezzling from the Fort Pierre Development Corp. has been sentenced to serve three years in prison.

The Capital Journal reports that 61-year-old Joni Boub also was ordered to pay more than \$73,000 in restitution to the development corporation and the 13 United Church of Christ-associated congregations in South Dakota, North Dakota and Nebraska.

Boub was sole office manager for both organizations. She is an enrolled member of the Rosebud Lakota tribe.

Boub is likely to serve only about nine months of her sentence due to her otherwise clean record.

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

## British toddler at center of legal battle dies

By DANICA KIRKA and SYLVIA HUI, Associated press

LONDON (AP) — Alfie Evans, the sick British toddler whose parents won support from Pope Francis during a protracted legal battle over his treatment, died early Saturday. He was 23 months old.

Kate James and Tom Evans made the announcement on social media, saying they were "heartbroken." The death of Alfie, who had a rare degenerative brain condition that left him in a "semi-vegetative state" with almost no brain function, came five days after doctors removed life support.

Doctors overseeing Alfie's care in the city of Liverpool said further treatment was futile and not in his best interests, and that he should be allowed to die. But his parents fought for months to try to convince judges to allow them to take him to the Vatican's children's hospital so he could be kept on life support. The parents' campaign was backed by the pope and Christian groups, which helped draw international attention to the case.

The hospital withdrew Alfie's life support Monday after a series of court rulings sided with the doctors and blocked further medical treatment.

"My gladiator lay down his shield and gained his wings at 02:30," Evans, 21, said in Facebook post decorated with a broken heart and crying emojis.

The death came after an easing of tensions between the family and the hospital. Evans had pledged to work with doctors to give his son "dignity and comfort," as he called for a truce in the divisive case.

"Our lives have been turned upside down by the intense focus on Alfie and his situation," Evans said Thursday outside Liverpool's Alder Hey Children's Hospital, where Alfie has been treated for more than a year.

He thanked the hospital staff "for their dignity and professionalism during what must be an incredibly difficult time for them too."

It was a strikingly different tone from the one he struck earlier, when he said doctors were wrong about Alfie's prognosis and threatened to resume his fight in court.

Under British law, courts are asked to intervene when parents and doctors disagree on the treatment of a child. In such cases, the rights of the child take primacy over the parents' right to decide what's best for their offspring.

Alder Hey issued a statement to express "heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Alfie's family."

"All of us feel deeply for Alfie, Kate, Tom and his whole family and our thoughts are with them," the



statement said. "This has been a devastating journey for them and we would ask that their privacy and the privacy of staff at Alder Hey is respected."

Alfie's case received much attention outside Britain, especially in Catholic countries. Pope Francis, who had met with Evans, appealed for the wishes of the boy's parents to be heeded, saying only God can decide who dies. Italy even granted Alfie citizenship and put a military plane on standby to transport him to Rome if the courts allowed it.

Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano tweeted Saturday: "Goodbye, little Alfie. We loved you."

A leading Italian right-wing politician, Veneto Gov. Luca Zaia, said the "so-called civilized world has supplied the latest proof of enormous incivility."

Officials in largely Catholic Poland and Italy have criticized Britain's courts and state-run National Health Service on the case.

Emotions have run high over the case, with supporters staging angry protests regularly outside the hospital, at times trying to storm its entrance. Supporters began to leave floral tributes outside the hospital Saturday, but Alder Hey asked people to leave tributes in a park next door to ensure the hospital's work wasn't disrupted.

Alfie's mother, 20-year-old Kate James, posted that she was heartbroken over Alfie's death but added, "Thank you everyone for all your support."

## Fitted with ankle bracelet, Cosby to be prisoner inside home

By KRISTEN DE GROOT and MICHAEL R. SISAk, Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Two days after his conviction, Bill Cosby has already started life as an inmate — though his surroundings are far nicer than they likely will be in a few months.

A judge says Cosby will be confined to the same suburban Philadelphia mansion where jurors concluded he drugged and molested a Temple University women's basketball administrator, ordering him to be outfitted with a GPS ankle bracelet to monitor compliance. Until sentencing, Judge Steven O'Neill ruled Friday, the 80-year-old comedian may leave his house only to meet with his lawyers or go to the doctor, and he must get permission first.

It was the latest sign that Cosby's past — a sordid double life that gave lie to his carefully cultivated image as America's Dad — had finally caught up with him.

Cosby was convicted Thursday of three counts of aggravated indecent assault and now faces the prospect of spending the rest of his life behind bars. His team blasted the retrial as a "public lynching" and began looking ahead to an appeal.

Lawyers not connected with the case said the defense might have a winning argument.

Prosecutors put five other women on the stand to testify that they, too, were abused by the former TV star, but the strategy that helped them secure a conviction could also serve as a template for his lawyers seeking to overturn the jury's verdict.

Christopher Adams, a defense attorney whose clients have included former NBA star Jayson Williams, said the judge's decision to allow the "prior bad acts" testimony could have tainted the jury.

"It's one thing if they looked at one or two, but five? He wasn't charged with being a serial assaulter," he said.

Former federal prosecutor David Axelrod, now in private practice in Philadelphia, agreed that Cosby's team has a shot at convincing an appeals court that the judge went too far.

Chief accuser Andrea Constand, meanwhile, took to Twitter to thank prosecutors in her first comment on the verdict.

"Truth prevails," she wrote.

Constand, now 45, first went to police in 2005 with her allegation that Cosby had knocked her out with three blue pills he called "your friends" and then penetrated her with his fingers as she lay immobilized, unable to resist or say no. But the district attorney at the time halted a police investigation after just four weeks, declaring the case too weak to be prosecuted.

The current district attorney, Kevin Steele, who made the decision to retry Cosby after last year's hung jury, said in a statement Friday he hoped the case would "pave the road for future victims to come forward to law enforcement and have their allegation investigated."

How the jury arrived at its verdict remained a mystery. O'Neill did not immediately make public the names of the seven men and five women, prompting The Associated Press and other news organizations to go to court Friday in a bid to get them released.

The AP does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, as Constand has done.

---

Follow Mike Sisak at <https://twitter.com/mikesisak>.

---

For more coverage visit <https://www.apnews.com/tag/CosbyonTrial>

## Judge agrees to delay Stormy Daniels' lawsuit against Trump

By AMANDA LEE MYERS, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge on Friday delayed a civil lawsuit by porn actress Stormy Daniels against President Donald Trump and his personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, citing a criminal investigation the attorney is facing.

U.S. District Judge S. James Otero agreed to put the case on hold for three months and set a hearing for July 27.

Cohen asked for a delay after FBI agents raided his home and office earlier this month. The FBI was seeking records about a nondisclosure agreement Daniels signed days before the 2016 presidential election.

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, has said she had an affair with Trump in 2006 and sued to dissolve a confidentiality agreement that prevents her from discussing it. She's also suing Cohen, alleging defamation.

Cohen's attorney said in court last week that because the criminal investigation overlaps with issues in the lawsuit, his client's right against self-incrimination could be adversely impacted because he won't be able to respond and defend himself.

Otero agreed, ruling that "there is a large potential factual overlap between the civil and criminal proceedings that would heavily implicate Mr. Cohen's Fifth Amendment rights."

Daniels' attorney, Michael Avenatti, tweeted that he'd likely be filing an immediate appeal of Otero's ruling with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

"We do not agree with it," Avenatti wrote. "Justice delayed is justice denied."

While Otero agreed with Avenatti that Cohen's argument for delay was made weaker without an indictment being filed against him, "the significance of the FBI raid can't be understated."

"This is no simple criminal investigation," Otero wrote. "It is an investigation into the personal attorney of a sitting president regarding documents that might be subject to the attorney-client privilege."

He continued to say that "whether or not an indictment is forthcoming, and the court thinks it is likely based on these facts alone, these unique circumstances counsel in favor of stay."

Cohen said in court records that FBI agents had seized his electronic devices and documents that contain information about the \$130,000 Daniels was paid as part of the agreement. Agents also seized communications with his lawyer, Brent Blakely, about the civil case, Cohen said.

Daniels has offered to return the \$130,000 and argues the agreement is legally invalid because it was only signed by her and Cohen, not by Trump.

Cohen, who has denied there was ever an affair between Daniels and Trump, said he paid the money out of his pocket using a home equity loan. He has said neither the Trump Organization nor the Trump campaign was a party to the transaction with Daniels and he was not reimbursed for the payment.

Trump answered questions about Daniels for the first time earlier this month and said he had no knowledge of the payment made by Cohen and didn't know where Cohen had gotten the money. The White

House has repeatedly said Trump denies the affair.

Trump said Thursday that Cohen handles very little of his legal work, but did represent him in the “crazy Stormy Daniels deal.”

Otero also ruled that Daniels’ would not be substantially impacted by a delay, writing that she “has already appeared on at least two national shows ... to tell her alleged story.”

“The court agrees that (Daniels) has not established that she has actually been deterred from speaking, or that a delay in proceedings would cause undue prejudice,” he wrote.

Cohen’s attorneys have accused Daniels of violating the confidentiality clauses more than 20 times and said she could be liable for \$1 million in damages for each violation.

Follow Amanda Lee Myers on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/AmandaLeeAP>

## Ex-con candidate compounding GOP woes in West Virginia

By STEVE PEOPLES and JOHN RABY, Associated Press

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (AP) — Republican Don Blankenship doesn’t care if his party and his president don’t think he can beat Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin this fall.

This former coal mining executive, an ex-convict released from prison less than a year ago, is willing to risk his personal fortune and the Republican Party’s golden opportunity in West Virginia for the chance to prove them all wrong.

“I’ll get elected on my own merits,” Blankenship said this week.

There aren’t a lot of things that can sink Republicans’ hopes in ruby red West Virginia, where President Donald Trump won by 42 percentage points, but Blankenship could well be one. His candidacy is sending shudders down the spines of Republicans — an already rattled group this election season — who are furiously working to ensure he is not their choice to take on Manchin in November’s midterm election.

Blankenship’s primary bid is still an outside shot, but the spectacle is testing whether a Republican Party led by an anti-establishment outsider can rein in the party’s anti-establishment impulses.

“The establishment, no matter who you define it as, has not been creating jobs in West Virginia,” Blankenship said at a primary debate this week.

Even before Blankenship emerged as a legitimate Republican candidate, West Virginia was a worry for some Republicans.

Manchin, a former governor, has held elected office of some sort in West Virginia for the better part of the last three decades. And he’s worked hard to cozy up to Trump and nurture a bipartisan brand.

He has voted with the Republican president more than he has opposed him, his office says, noting that the pair have personally collaborated on trade, weakening environmental regulations, gun violence and court nominations.

The alignment with Trump was so effective former White House adviser Steve Bannon worried privately to colleagues that Trump might actually endorse the Democrat. While an outright endorsement now is unlikely, a Blankenship primary victory on May 8 could push Trump to help Manchin — indirectly at least — by ignoring West Virginia this fall.

The state has long been considered a prime pickup opportunity for Republicans, who hold a two-seat Senate majority that suddenly feels less secure given signs of Democratic momentum in states like Nevada, Arizona and Tennessee. If Democrats can win in the state that gave Trump his largest margin of victory in the nation, they may have a slim chance at seizing the Senate majority.

Some of Trump’s most prominent conservative supporters, particularly those in Bannon’s network, have rallied behind state Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, a fiery, conservative former Capitol Hill aide, who was raised in New Jersey but has served as West Virginia’s top lawyer since 2013. Rep. Evan Jenkins, who switched his party affiliation from Democrat to Republican in 2013, has highlighted his West Virginia roots and deep allegiance to Trump.

Jenkins noted that Manchin missed a big opportunity to align himself with Trump on key issues such as

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 24 of 50

taxes and health care.

"The president gave Joe Manchin every opportunity in the early weeks and months of his administration to vote the right way," Jenkins said in an interview. "He voted wrong."

But in interviews this week, both Morrissey and Jenkins declined to attack Blankenship for his role in the 2010 Upper Big Branch mine disaster, the deadliest U.S. mine disaster in four decades. Blankenship led the company that owned the mine and was sentenced to a year in prison for conspiring to break safety laws, a misdemeanor.

Raising that dark history has been left to the national GOP forces believed to be behind the Mountain Families PAC, an organization created late last month that has invested more than \$700,000 attacking Blankenship on television. A spokesman for the Senate GOP's most powerful super PAC declined to confirm or deny a connection to the group.

Trump has done his part to hurt Blankenship's chances as well.

The president excluded the former mining executive from a recent West Virginia stop, where he appeared with Jenkins on one side and Morrissey on the other. And Cory Gardner, who leads the Senate GOP's national campaign efforts, had this to say to reporters when asked about Blankenship last week: "Do they let ankle bracelets get out of the house?"

For voters, Blankenship remains a deeply polarizing figure.

Blankenship calls himself a West Virginian but had his supervised release transferred last August to federal officials in Nevada, where he has a six-bedroom home with his fiancée 20 miles from Las Vegas, in Henderson.

"It's a friendly place and I like it," said Blankenship, whose supervised release ends May 9, the day after the primary.

Blankenship recently drew attention for comments on a radio show about the father of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, who is married to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. Blankenship said he believed McConnell has a conflict of interest in foreign relations matters, in particular those dealing with China. Chao's father was born in China and started an international shipping company in New York.

According to media reports, Blankenship's fiancée also was born in China.

"I don't have any problem with Chinese people, Chinese girlfriend, Chinese anything," Blankenship told the radio station. "But I have an issue when the father-in-law is a wealthy Chinaperson and has a lot of connections with some of the brass, if you will, in China."

"He's ruthless, cold-blooded, cold-hearted, self-centered," said Stanley Stewart, a retired miner who was inside the Upper Big Branch mine when it blew up in 2010. "I feel that if anybody voted for Don Blankenship, they may as well stick a knife in their back and twist it, because that's exactly what he'll do," Stewart said in an interview this week.

But there is also skepticism that he was treated fairly by the courts. Blankenship has cast himself as a victim of an overbearing Obama administration, an argument that resonates with many white working-class voters on the ground here.

"What they've said he's actually done (in the criminal case), I don't believe none of that," 21-year-old coal mechanic Zack Ball said while grabbing a bite to eat in the Boone County coal community of Danville this week. "Don Blankenship all the way."

Inside a Whitesville pizza shop a few miles north of the shuttered Upper Big Branch mine, retiree Debbie Pauley said Blankenship "was railroaded" at his trial.

"I think that Blankenship does have integrity," she said. "I don't think he'd put up with any crap."

---

Raby reported from Charleston, West, Virginia.



## APNewsBreak: Serial killer search led to wrong man in 2017

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and JONATHAN J. COOPER, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Investigators hunting down the so-called Golden State Killer used information from genetic websites last year that led to the wrong man, court records obtained Friday by The Associated Press showed.

An Oregon police officer working at the request of California investigators persuaded a judge in March 2017 to order a 73-year-old man in a nursing home to provide a DNA sample.

The Oregon City man is in declining health and was unable to answer questions Friday about the case.

His daughter said authorities never notified her before swabbing her father for DNA in his bed at a rehabilitation center, but once they told her afterward she understood and worked with them to eliminate people who conceivably could be the killer.

The case of mistaken identity was discovered as authorities hailed a novel use of DNA technology that led this week to the arrest of former police officer Joseph DeAngelo at his house outside Sacramento on murder charges. Critics of the investigative approach, however, warned it could jeopardize privacy rights.

DeAngelo's suspected of being the sadistic attacker who killed 13 people and raped nearly 50 women during the 1970s and '80s.

Handcuffed to a wheelchair in orange jail scrubs, DeAngelo made his first court appearance Friday. The 72-year-old looked dazed and spoke in a faint voice to acknowledge he was represented by a public defender. He did not enter a plea.

He has been charged with eight counts of murder, and additional charges are expected, authorities said.

"We have the law to suggest that he is innocent until he's proven guilty and that's what I'm going to ask everyone to remember," DeAngelo's public defender Diane Howard said outside court. "I feel like he's been tried in the press already."

Investigators were able to make the arrest this week after matching crime-scene DNA with genetic material stored in an online database by a distant relative. They relied on a different website than they had in the Oregon search, and they did not seek a warrant for DeAngelo's DNA.

Instead, they waited for him to discard items and then swabbed the objects for DNA, which proved a conclusive match to evidence that had been preserved more than 30 years.

Also Friday, the co-founder of the genealogy website used by authorities to help identify DeAngelo said he had no idea its database was tapped in pursuit of the suspect who eluded law enforcement for four decades.

Authorities never approached Florida-based GEDmatch about the investigation that led to DeAngelo, and co-founder Curtis Rogers said law enforcement's use of the site raised privacy concerns that were echoed by civil liberties groups.

The free genealogy website, which pools DNA profiles that people upload and share publicly to find relatives, said it has always informed users its database can be used for other purposes. But Rogers said the company does not "hand out data."

"This was done without our knowledge, and it's been overwhelming," he told The Associated Press.

For the team of investigators, GEDmatch was one of the best tools, lead investigator Paul Holes told the Mercury News in San Jose.

Officials did not need a court order to access GEDmatch's large database of genetic blueprints, Holes said. Major commercial DNA companies say they do not give law enforcement access to their genetic data without a court order.

Civil libertarians said the practice raises legal and privacy concerns for the millions of people who submit their DNA to such sites to discover their heritage.

Privacy laws aren't strong enough to keep police from accessing ancestry sites, which have fewer protections than regulated databanks of convicts' DNA, said Steve Mercer, chief attorney for the forensic division of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender.

"People who submit DNA for ancestors testing are unwittingly becoming genetic informants on their innocent family," Mercer said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 26 of 50

While people may not realize police can use public genealogy websites to solve crimes, it is probably legal, said Erin Murphy, a DNA expert and professor at New York University School of Law.

"It seems crazy to say a police officer investigating a very serious crime can't do something your cousin can do," Murphy said. "If an ordinary person can do this, why can't a cop? On the other hand, if an ordinary person had done this, we might think they shouldn't."

While most consumers would submit DNA to a commercial company such as Ancestry.com and 23andMe to create a genetic profile, the FBI did so for investigators, Holes told The New York Times.

The profile was then uploaded to GEDmatch using a fake profile and pseudonym, the Times reported. The site allows users to remain anonymous.

A year earlier, Holes had identified a rare genetic marker in the assailant's DNA. He entered the information among 189,000 profiles at the genealogy website, YSearch.org, and the results led to a relative of the Oregon man.

A spokeswoman for FamilyTreeDNA.com, which operates YSearch.org, said the company wasn't contacted by law enforcement.

"While we take our customers' privacy and confidentiality extremely seriously, we support ethically and legally justified uses of groundbreaking advancements of scientific research in genetics and genealogy," company officials said in a statement.

The man's daughter said the family was not aware that authorities had taken a DNA sample from him until the FBI contacted her in April 2017 to ask for her help expanding the family's genetic tree as they searched for a suspect. The family did not know until they read an AP story on Friday that a judge had issued a warrant for the DNA sample.

The woman spoke to AP on condition of anonymity because she did not want the family's name publicly linked to the case.

Sacramento District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert told AP she was unaware of the Oregon misfire and, as far as she knows, genealogical sites weren't used before DeAngelo was identified.

DNA was just coming into use as a criminal investigative tool in 1986 when the predator also known as the East Area Rapist apparently ended his decade-long wave of attacks.

As a former police officer, DeAngelo probably would have known about the new method, experts said.

Police at the time suspected they were chasing a fellow cop or armed services member because he was so methodical and meticulous, said Wendell Phillips, a former Sacramento deputy who joined the hunt for the rapist who terrorized the suburbs east of the state capital.

In fact, officers assigned to a special task force were required to submit saliva samples to exclude anyone who shared a genetic trait, Phillips said. About 85 percent of people secrete their blood type in saliva and body fluids, but the rape suspect was in the roughly 15 percent who didn't.

"Obviously, you didn't want the East Area Rapist on the team," Phillips said. "That turned out to be a pretty good concern."

Balsamo reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writers Brian Melley in Los Angeles, Gillian Flaccus in Oregon City, Oregon, and Matt O'Brien in Providence, Rhode Island, contributed to this report.

## **GOP-led House panel clears Trump campaign in Russia probe**

**By TOM LoBIANCO and CHAD DAY, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican-led House intelligence committee on Friday released a lengthy report concluding it found no evidence that Donald Trump's campaign colluded with Russia in the 2016 presidential campaign, drawing praise from the president and rebuttals from Democrats.

The report caps an investigation that began with the promise of bipartisanship but quickly transformed into an acrimonious battle between Democrats and Republicans over Russia's meddling in the 2016 election and whether there were any connections with the Trump campaign.

Trump quickly claimed vindication Friday, calling the report "totally conclusive, strong, powerful, many

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 27 of 50

things.”

“No collusion, which I knew anyway. No coordination, no nothing. It’s a witch hunt, that’s all it is,” he told reporters in the Oval Office.

But the committee’s Republicans didn’t let the Trump campaign completely off the hook. They specifically cited the Trump campaign for “poor judgment” in taking a June 2016 meeting in Trump Tower that was described in emails to Trump’s eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., as part of a Russian government effort to aide his father’s presidential bid. The report also dubbed the campaign’s praise of WikiLeaks “objectionable.”

“While the committee found no evidence that the Trump campaign colluded, coordinated, or conspired with the Russian government, the investigation did find poor judgment and ill-considered actions by the Trump and Clinton campaigns,” the House intelligence committee wrote.

The House investigation is the first of several inquiries probing Russian election interference to conclude. A separate investigation led by special counsel Robert Mueller continues, as do probes led by the Senate intelligence and judiciary committees.

In a Friday night tweet, Trump repeated his “witch hunt” claim and wrote, “There should never have been a Special Counsel appointed.”

The House report’s conclusion on collusion is fiercely opposed by committee Democrats, who accused their Republican colleagues of playing “defense counsel” for the White House throughout the investigation.

“Committee Republicans chose not to seriously investigate — or even see, when in plain sight — evidence of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia,” Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the top Democrat on the committee, said in a statement. Schiff cited several “secret meetings and communication” between people linked to Russia and Trump campaign officials, including Trump Jr. and former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn.

Schiff called on the committee to publicly release the transcripts from dozens of interviews with key witnesses, saying the public should be able to judge the evidence gathered by the committee. Democrats also released a 98-page rebuttal .

Rep. Mike Conaway, R-Texas, meanwhile called on intelligence officials to clear the committee to release more information from the report that was deemed classified. The 253-page document is packed with details and assessments, but is also spackled with redacted names and blacked-out passages. For instance, several pages are redacted in the section on Russian cyberattacks. One page is blacked out entirely except for a line reading, “Attribution is a Bear.”

The report faults intelligence officials during the Obama administration for not telling the Trump campaign that some of its members were “potential counterintelligence concerns.” It specifically cites Flynn, former Trump campaign foreign policy advisers George Papadopoulos and Carter Page, and former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort.

The panel also singles out Manafort for criticism, saying the numerous criminal charges he faces unrelated to Russia illustrated the need for better vetting by the campaign.

“If the accusations against Manafort are true, he should have never served as a senior official with a campaign for the U.S. presidency, much less campaign chairman or manager,” the report said. Manafort has denied any wrongdoing.

The report largely confirms the findings of U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia was assessed to be responsible for cyberattacks on U.S. political institutions, including the hack of the Democratic National Committee’s emails. The panel found “no credible evidence” that the computer systems were compromised by another cyber actor or by “an insider threat.”

The panel also found that Russians leveraged social media in the U.S. to sow discord during the campaign.

The report challenges one part of a January 2017 intelligence assessment that found that Russian meddling was an effort to help Trump. The report says committee staff found “intelligence failings” that undermine that assessment by the FBI, CIA and NSA, though specifics are not detailed and some portions of that section are redacted.

Last month, in response to the committee announcing that finding, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence said it stood by the intelligence community’s findings and it will review the committee’s report.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 28 of 50

The House investigation began with bipartisan promise but ultimately succumbed to factional squabbling. But the probe did provide important public revelations.

Former FBI Director James Comey chose the March 20, 2017, hearing of the House intelligence committee to publicly reveal that the FBI had been investigating the Trump campaign since July 2016. One day later, the committee's chairman, Devin Nunes, took a clandestine trip to the White House grounds to review classified information that quickly drew scrutiny after he publicly disclosed that Trump associates' communications had been swept up by U.S. spy agencies and accused Obama administration officials of misconduct.

The episode drew questions about whether Nunes was coordinating with the White House and ultimately led to his recusing from the probe amid an ethics investigation into whether he mishandled classified information. In his absence, Conaway took over the probe. Nunes was eventually cleared of wrongdoing, but never formally rejoined the House investigation. Instead he launched a pair of investigations on his own, taking aim at the Justice Department and FBI.

At the start of 2018, Nunes and the committee's Republican staff crafted a memo revealing details of the FBI's surveillance of former Trump campaign aide Carter Page. Trump ultimately chose to declassify the sensitive contents of the memo — including details from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act application for Page.

House investigators cautioned that Russia will continue meddling in U.S. elections and suggested some fixes that would help the government and politicians better defend against that interference.

The panel wrote that intelligence officials should immediately alert presidential candidates and Congress when they discover "legitimate" threats to a campaign. The panel also recommended the executive branch "crack down" on leaks by conducting polygraphs.

---

Associated Press writer Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

---

Read the GOP-authored report: <http://apne.ws/rMiDKMc>

Read the Democratic rebuttal: <http://apne.ws/LVur9wk>

## **N. Korea glorifies summit with South; analysts less sure**

**By FOSTER KLUG and KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press**

GOYANG, South Korea (AP) — North Korea's state media on Saturday trumpeted leader Kim Jong Un's "immortal achievement" a day after he met South Korean President Moon Jae-in and repeated past vows to remove nuclear weapons from the peninsula and work toward a formal end to the Korean War. Despite the bold declarations, the leaders failed to provide any new measures on a nuclear standoff that has captivated and terrified millions, and analysts expressed doubts on whether the summit represented a real breakthrough.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency, in typically fawning language, reported that the leaders exchanged "honest and heartfelt talks" at a summit that "was a realization of the supreme leader's blazing love for the nation and unyielding will for self-reliance." The state propaganda arm said Kim's "immortal achievement will be brightly engraved in the history of the Korean nation's unification."

Even if the substance on nuclear matters was light, the images Friday at Panmunjom were striking: Kim and Moon set aside a year that saw them seemingly on the verge of war, grasped hands and strode together across the cracked concrete slab that marks the Koreas' border.

The sight, inconceivable just months ago, allowed the leaders to step forward toward the possibility of a cooperative future even as they acknowledged a fraught past and the widespread skepticism that, after decades of failed diplomacy, things will be any different this time.

On the nuclear issue, the leaders merely repeated a previous vow to rid their peninsula of nuclear weapons, saying they will achieve a "nuclear-free Korean Peninsula through complete denuclearization." This kicks one of the world's most pressing issues down the road to a much-anticipated summit between Kim



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 29 of 50

and President Donald Trump in coming weeks.

"There is no reference to verification, timetables, or an attempt to define the word 'complete.' It does not reiterate or advance Pyongyang's unilateral offer to halt nuclear and ICBM tests," said Adam Mount, a senior defense analyst at the Federation of American Scientists. "In practice, this statement should enable a U.S.-North Korea summit to detail specifics about what, when, and how denuclearization would occur, but it has not offered a head start on that process. All of the negotiation is left to a U.S. team that is understaffed and has little time to prepare."

Still, the summit produced the spectacle of two men from nations with a deep and bitter history of acrimony grinning from ear to ear after Kim walked over the border to greet Moon, becoming the first leader of his nation to set foot on southern soil since the Korean War. Both leaders then briefly stepped together into the North and back to the South.

The summit marks a surreal, whiplash swing in relations for the countries, from nuclear threats and missile tests to intimations of peace and cooperation. Perhaps the change is best illustrated by geography: Kim and Moon's historic handshake and a later 30-minute conversation at a footbridge on the border occurred within walking distance of the spot where a North Korean soldier fled south in a hail of gunfire last year, and where North Korean soldiers killed two U.S. soldiers with axes in 1976.

Standing next to Moon after the talks ended, Kim faced a wall of cameras beaming his image live to the world and declared that the Koreans are "linked by blood as a family and compatriots who cannot live separately." The leaders also vowed to achieve "a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula through complete denuclearization," something they've said before.

The latest declaration between the Koreans, Kim said, should not repeat the "unfortunate history of past inter-Korean agreements that only reached the starting line" before becoming derailed.

What happened Friday should be seen in the context of the last year — when the United States, its ally South Korea and North Korea threatened and raged as the North unleashed a torrent of weapons tests — but also in light of the long, destructive history of the rival Koreans, who fought one of the 20th century's bloodiest conflicts and even today occupy a divided peninsula that's still technically in a state of war.

Trump tweeted Friday, "KOREAN WAR TO END!" and said the U.S. "should be very proud of what is now taking place in Korea!" Both Koreas agreed to jointly push for talks this year with the U.S. and also potentially China to officially end the Korean War, which stopped with an armistice that never ended the war.

Many will be judging the summit based on the weak nuclear language. North Korea's nuclear and missile tests last year likely put it on the threshold of becoming a legitimate nuclear power. The North, which has spent decades doggedly building its bombs despite crippling sanctions and near-constant international opprobrium, claims it has already risen to that level.

South Korean conservative politicians criticized the joint statement as letting North Korea off the hook by failing to secure a clear commitment on nuclear disarmament.

But the Koreans made inroads on a raft of other points of friction between them. Moon agreed to visit Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, sometime in the autumn, and both leaders said they'd meet on a regular basis and exchange calls via a recently established hotline.

They agreed to settle their disagreement over their western maritime border by designating it as a peace area and securing fishing activities for both countries. They said they'd open a permanent communication office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong and resume temporary reunions of relatives separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

"I feel like I'm firing a flare at the starting line in the moment of (the two Koreas) writing a new history in North-South relations, peace and prosperity," Kim told Moon as they sat at a table, which had been built so that exactly 2018 millimeters separated them, to begin their closed-door talks.

Kim acknowledged the widespread skepticism over their summit. "We have reached big agreements before but were unable to fulfill them. ... There are skeptical views on whether the meeting today will yield meaningful results," Kim said. "If we maintain a firm will and proceed forward hand in hand, it will be impossible at least for things to get worse than they are now."

The historic greeting of the two leaders, which may be the images most remembered from the sum-

mit, was planned to the last detail, though the multiple border crossings may have been impromptu. As thousands of journalists, who were kept in a huge conference center well away from the summit, except for a small group of tightly controlled pool reporters at the border, waited and watched, Moon stood near the Koreas' dividing line, moving forward the moment he glimpsed Kim, dressed in dark, Mao-style suit, appearing in front of a building on the northern side. They smiled broadly and shook hands with the border line between them. Moon then invited Kim to cross into the South, and, after Kim did so, Moon said, "You have crossed into the South, but when do I get to go across?" Kim replied, "Why don't we go across now?" and then grasped Moon's hand and led him into the North and then back into the South.

Expectations were generally low on the nuclear issue, given that past so-called breakthroughs on North Korea's weapons have collapsed amid acrimonious charges of cheating and bad faith. Skeptics of engagement have long said that the North often turns to interminable rounds of diplomacy meant to ease the pain of sanctions — giving it time to perfect its weapons and win aid for unfulfilled nuclear promises.

Advocates of engagement, however, say the only way to get a deal is to do what the Koreas tried Friday: Sit down and see what's possible.

---

Associated Press writers Hyung-jin Kim and Eric Talmadge contributed to this report.

## **Tom Brokaw 'hurt and unmoored' by sex harassment allegations**

**By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Tom Brokaw denied sexual misconduct charges and told friends in a late-night email that he felt "ambushed and then perp walked" in the media as an avatar of male misogyny and stripped of his honor and achievement.

The 78-year-old broadcast journalist penned an emotional response to accusations that he had made unwanted advances on a former colleague, writing that "it is 4:00 a.m. on the first day of my new life as an accused predator in the universe of American journalism." The letter was first reported in the Hollywood Reporter and confirmed by The Associated Press.

Brokaw, meanwhile, withdrew on Friday as a commencement speaker at Connecticut's Sacred Heart University next month, saying his appearance would be a distraction.

The Washington Post and Variety reported the charges by Linda Vester, a former NBC News and Fox News Channel correspondent. She said Brokaw went to her New York hotel room once in the mid-1990s, proposed an affair and tried to forcibly kiss her. She said he tried to kiss her one other time at her apartment in London and once grabbed her from behind and tickled her on her waist.

She told Variety that despite not being at fault, she "suffered years of humiliation and isolation" from the incidents.

Brokaw said he never sought an affair, and that Vester had approached him for advice. He said that he "may have leaned over for a perfunctory good night kiss" on the cheek in London.

As for the hotel room visit, Brokaw said "I should not have gone but I emphatically did not verbally and physically attack her and suggest an affair in language right out of pulp fiction."

"I am angry, hurt and unmoored from what I thought would be the final passage of my life and career, a mix of written and broadcast journalism, philanthropy and participation in environmental and social causes that have always given extra meaning to my life," he wrote.

"Instead I am facing a long list of grievances from a former colleague who left NBC News angry that she had failed in her pursuit of stardom," he wrote. "She has unleashed a torrent of unsubstantiated criticism and attacks on me more than 20 years after I opened the door for her and a new job at Fox News."

Brokaw, who described the stories about him as a "drive-by shooting," said that he had called the late Fox News CEO Roger Ailes on her behalf and that Vester got a job there.

"She couldn't pick up the phone and say, 'I'd like to talk. I have issues from those two meetings 20 years ago?'" Brokaw wrote. "Instead she became a character assassin. Strip away all the hyperbole and what has she achieved? What was her goal? Hard to believe it wasn't much more Look at Me than Me:Too."

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 31 of 50

In response, Vester's lawyer, Ari Wilkenfeld, said she stands by her allegations, "which speak for themselves."

NBC had no comment on Brokaw's letter.

A group of 65 women in the industry — including Maria Shriver, Rachel Maddow, Andrea Mitchell and Kelly O'Donnell — signed a letter supporting Brokaw, saying that "we know him to be a man of tremendous decency and integrity."

Vester has said she came forward in part because of NBC's failure to hire outside investigators to look into workplace issues at the company. Following the firing of "Today" show host Matt Lauer in November for an inappropriate relationship, parent company NBC Universal directed its in-house counsel, Kimberley Harris, to investigate.

In a letter to staff on Friday, NBC News Chairman Andy Lack said hundreds of people have been interviewed for Harris' assessment. He said that more than 1,600 NBC News employees have received mandatory workplace training, and there's still more to be done.

"Our highest priority is to ensure we have a workplace environment where everyone feels safe and protected," Lack said.

The Post reported that it had talked to 12 current or former NBC staffers who said they were sexually harassed at the network but did not report it to anyone. Former "Today" anchor Ann Curry told the newspaper that she complained to NBC management on behalf of a woman who alleged improper behavior by Lauer.

While some women will talk to internal investigators, others won't for fear of putting their jobs in jeopardy, said Jennifer Drobac, an Indiana University law professor and an expert on sexual harassment issues.

"NBC is a sophisticated company," Drobac said, "and yet its response is a bit backward."

A company might want to keep its probe internal because it doesn't want to spend the money to go outside, or because it doesn't believe the problem is serious enough to warrant it, she said. Executives may also fear that outsiders could discover a cultural problem that could put the company at a liability in the future, she said.

She also wondered if people conducting the investigation haven't been distracted by other duties since it has been five months since Lauer was fired.

NBC has said it will make the results of Harris' investigation public.

## **AP Explains: A look at DNA-sharing services and privacy**

**By MATT O'BRIEN and MALCOLM RITTER, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — The use of a genealogy website to track down a suspected California serial killer illustrates both the extraordinary power of DNA-sharing services and the broad privacy concerns that surround the fast-growing commercial market for genetic analysis.

TV commercials for companies such as 23andMe and Ancestry.com pitch their services as simple and fun ways of learning about family heritage and health. And while those companies on Friday sought to distance themselves from the free GEDmatch website used by police, the California case exposed broader questions about what happens after consumers mail their saliva away for DNA analysis and upload the results to the internet.

"For those of us who were skeptical about turning over our genetic information to corporations, this case proved all of those fears true," said Daniel De Simone, a New Jersey researcher whose relatives have used DNA services.

The co-founder of GEDmatch said Friday that he is concerned about privacy after learning that law enforcement used the site and insists that his company does not "hand out data."

"This was done without our knowledge, and it's been overwhelming," Curtis Rogers told The Associated Press.

Authorities have not publicly described details of the methods that led to the arrest of 72-year-old Joseph

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 32 of 50

James DeAngelo, a former police officer. But some other researchers who use GEDmatch for a similar purpose told The Associated Press how it might have been done.

Colleen Fitzpatrick and Margaret Press run the DNA Doe Project, a California-based nonprofit that uses DNA from unidentified bodies to look for relatives and learn the names of the dead. They suspect the authorities used a method similar to their own.

Investigators probably started with the complete DNA code from the killer. Then, after putting the data into a format that GEDmatch can read, they plugged it into the Florida-based site and asked it to look for matches, they said.

The site compares particular segments of genetic material, looking for similarities to other samples in its database. The degree of similarity can indicate how related two people are, finding ties as distant as fifth cousins, Fitzpatrick and Press said.

Once the site has returned a list of matches and degree of similarity, more sleuthing begins.

People in the database may have listed their names or just their emails, which in turn might identify them if they've used the same one on other sites. More information can come from searches of public records, Facebook and especially obituaries, which list parents and other relatives.

Then a researcher can turn to online collections of family trees, like those on Ancestry.com. There, one might uncover many trees that include the apparent relatives found on GEDmatch. That allows the construction of speculative trees that include the mystery person, plus those apparent relatives, in an effort to find overlaps that indicate common ancestors.

If common ancestors appear, lineage can be worked out in detail, up to the present day. Researchers look for a spot that contains someone of the right geographic location and age to be the person under investigation.

"It's part art and part science," Press said.

Court records obtained by The Associated Press on Friday showed that investigators had used information from genetic websites a year ago and misidentified an elderly Oregon man as a possible suspect.

A judge signed an order to compel a DNA sample from the 73-year-old man after detectives used a genetic profile based off DNA from crime scenes linked to the serial killer and compared it to information from YSearch.org, a free service that's provided by FamilyTreeDNA.com.

Investigators cited a rare genetic marker, which the Oregon man shared with the killer, to get the judge to issue the order. They also created a family tree and used public records to identify the Oregon man.

A spokeswoman for FamilyTreeDNA.com did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

To some, scouring this publicly shared data to track down the so-called Golden State Killer seems like a worthwhile cause. But for others it raises alarms.

De Simone said he has never used a DNA ancestry service.

"What's especially troubling to me is that neither had DeAngelo," he said. He compared the situation to Facebook's data-protection scandal involving Cambridge Analytica because "it's not only users that are caught up in this net, it's also those with relationships to users. In this case, though, it's not just networked relationships, it's actual genetic relationships."

The big commercial databases insist they have much stricter customer privacy practices than websites such as GEDmatch and don't hand over data without a court order.

"As a private platform, we do not allow the comparison of genetic data processed by any third party to genetic profiles within our database. Further, we do not share customer data with any public databases or with entities that may increase the risk of law enforcement access," 23andMe spokesman Andy Kill said in an email.

It's unclear whether the California case will affect customers' trust in DNA services overall.

"These companies are saying that they're different," said Tiffany Li, a technology attorney and Yale Law School fellow. "I think what's key is this open-source database is made up of data profiles that people mostly got from those private companies."

Li said the demand for personal genetic information that helps uncover long-lost relatives and family backgrounds is high enough that this privacy "dust-up" will likely blow over. But, she said, it should serve



as a warning for stewards of DNA databases to be more careful and more transparent about how data is used.

"They should at least try to do more to make people aware," Li said. "The terms could be clearer. The companies could also decide to self-regulate before Congress gets to them and create data standards about the DNA they store."

O'Brien reported from Providence, Rhode Island. AP Technology Writer Mae Anderson in San Francisco contributed to this report.

## White House: Records dispute allegations against Jackson

By JILL COLVIN and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House said Friday that internal records raise doubt about some of the most serious allegations leveled against White House doctor Ronny Jackson in his failed bid to become the next secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Jackson withdrew his nomination Thursday after allegations by current and former colleagues raised questions about his prescribing practices and leadership ability, including accusations of drunkenness on the job. Democratic Sen. Jon Tester's office collected the allegations, which included a claim that Jackson "got drunk and wrecked a government vehicle" at a Secret Service going-away party.

The records, including police reports, show Jackson was in three minor vehicle incidents in government vehicles during the last five years, but none involved the use of alcohol and he was not found to be at fault. In one case, a side-view mirror was clipped by a passing truck. In another incident an enraged driver in Montgomery County, Maryland, allegedly punched out Jackson's window during a morning drive to Camp David.

The White House medical unit that Jackson ran successfully passed regular controlled substance audits, according to the records for the last three years. The reviews did recommend improvements to the medical unit's handling of controlled substances, but did not find misconduct.

The Associated Press reviewed the documents Friday. They were the result of an internal White House review of allegations raised against Jackson during his brief confirmation process. The White House says the records, covering recent years, disprove the allegations.

But Tester's office has not specified the time frame during which the alleged misconduct occurred. Tester spokeswoman Marnee Banks said the office would not comment until it knew more about the White House records.

Separately, the Secret Service said it has no evidence to support an allegation that its personnel intervened to prevent Jackson from disturbing former President Barack Obama during a foreign trip in 2015.

In a statement dated Thursday, the Secret Service said it had conducted a "thorough review" of internal documents related to Obama's foreign trips in 2015 and interviewed people who were present. The agency said it has found "no information that would indicate the allegation is accurate" and no record of any incident involving Jackson.

CNN had reported allegations that Jackson drunkenly banged on the hotel room door of a female employee and that Secret Service personnel intervened out of concern that he would wake Obama.

Jackson has denied the accusations, calling them "baseless and anonymous attacks" on his character and integrity that are "completely false and fabricated."

And President Donald Trump has repeatedly come to Jackson's defense.

Asked about the situation at a joint press conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Trump called it "an absolute disgrace."

"These were false accusations about a great man; about a man who has a son who's a top student at Annapolis; about a man that's given his life to this country, and to the military — a brave man. He would have been a great leader," Trump complained, noting that he, Obama and former President George W. Bush had all praised the doctor's conduct in the past.

Trump said he'd called Jackson earlier Friday and told him that he was "an American hero" because he'd "exposed the system for some horrible things."

He also drew a parallel with the investigation into Russian meddling into the 2016 campaign, saying he, too, had been victimized, by "the Russian collusion hoax."

Trump said he is considering a number of potential replacements, including "some very political people" who might be better equipped to handle the scrutiny that comes with a nomination.

The Democratic staff on the committee considering Jackson's nomination also claimed Jackson had doled out such a large supply of a prescription opioid that staffers panicked because they thought the drugs were missing.

They said their allegations were based on conversations with 23 of Jackson's current and former colleagues at the White House Medical Unit.

## Public face no more: Temple rescinds Cosby's honorary degree

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Temple University, where Bill Cosby long served as a leading public face and key fundraiser, said Friday it will rescind the honorary doctorate it awarded to the comedian in 1991 because he was convicted of sexually assaulting a former employee.

The Philadelphia university said its board of trustees accepted a recommendation Friday to rescind the degree, citing Thursday's jury verdict finding him guilty of drugging and molesting a woman who managed the school's women's basketball team in 2004.

Cosby received a bachelor's from Temple, which was among relatively few that waited to pull honors from Cosby until after the verdict.

Temple Board of Trustees Chairman Patrick O'Connor previously said he would recuse himself from discussions on the honorary degree. O'Connor represented Cosby in 2005 when he first faced allegations of sexual assault.

Cosby served on the board for decades before resigning in 2014. Cosby almost never attended Temple board meetings, but he frequently turned out to support the school's basketball teams, an interest that connected him with victim Andrea Constand.

Constand said she had socialized with Cosby and then sought him out for career advice before he later knocked her out with three blue pills he called "your friends" and then penetrated her with his fingers as she lay immobilized, unable to resist or say no.

Even before the verdict, more than 20 colleges and universities across the U.S. had revoked honorary degrees from Cosby in light of allegations against him. Ohio State University's governing board pulled a 2001 degree from Cosby this month in the days leading up to his retrial.

Others joining Temple in revoking honors after the verdict include Johns Hopkins University, Carnegie Mellon University, Notre Dame, Boston College and Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.

Colleges across the country have struggled to decide whether to strip honors from men whose reputations have been tarnished in the wake of the #MeToo movement.

Some have been quick to cut ties, including the University at Buffalo, which revoked an honorary degree from disgraced film mogul Harvey Weinstein, and Fordham University, which pulled an honor from fired news anchor Charlie Rose.

But others have refused. The Juilliard School in New York, which gave an honorary doctorate to actor Kevin Spacey in 2000, said it does not rescind such honors.

Although it traditionally has been rare for schools to rescind honorary degrees retroactively, experts say it has become more common in light of the #MeToo movement. Some schools have been pressured to strip honors by students, faculty or outside critics.

Often it's up to a school's governing board to approve and revoke honorary degrees, which are often awarded to notable alumni or graduation speakers.

## Sleep mode? Tech giants' kids' 'fixes' amount to baby steps

By BARBARA ORTUTAY, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook is adding a “sleep” mode to its Messenger Kids service to let parents limit when their kids can use it.

It’s the latest concession that tech companies are making as critics question whether they should be targeting kids at all. Among their chief concerns: The effects on kids are not yet known, and companies might not have children’s best interests at heart when tech for kids is such a lucrative market.

Rather than kill the services completely, as some critics want, Facebook, Amazon and Google are mostly tinkering at the edges. That leaves open the underlying questions of whether their products truly serve a need for the youngest set and if they are good for them.

Here’s a look at the changes announced this week:

### FACEBOOK’S MESSENGER KIDS

In December, Facebook created a kids-friendly version of its Messenger app. It has no ads and gives parents plenty of controls over whom their children can chat with. The thinking was that while the regular apps are designed for people 13 or over, younger kids were on it anyway. Facebook saw Messenger Kids as a way to give the younger set a safer option.

— The changes: Parents can now specify the times kids aren’t allowed on — either as a one-time restriction or something recurring, such as after 9 p.m. every school night. While the app is in sleep mode, kids will get a message when they open it telling them so, and they won’t be able to use it.

— The shortcomings: Critics say that Messenger Kids isn’t responding to a need, but rather creating one. “It appeals primarily to children who otherwise would not have their own social media accounts,” states a letter signed by 100 child development experts and advocates. Merely offering time controls falls short of killing the app completely.

### YOUTUBE KIDS

Since 2015, the Google-owned service has had a child-oriented app, YouTube Kids, described as a “safer” experience for finding “Peppa Pig” episodes or user-generated videos of people unboxing toys.

Nonetheless, the company has been under fire for not vetting out computer-generated, sometimes-disturbing video, such as your favorite cartoon characters having painful dental surgery — or worse.

The nonprofit Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood has also asked the Federal Trade Commission to investigate whether YouTube’s data collection and advertising practices violate federal child privacy rules.

— The changes: YouTube said this week that it is overhauling its kids app so parents can limit video to those vetted by humans, rather than computers. With this option, kids can watch only a selection of children’s programming such as “Sesame Street” and PBS Kids.

— The shortcomings: The old automated system is on by default, meaning parents need to actively choose the human-only option. And YouTube is continuing to show ads on its kid-focused service.

It also doesn’t help that many kids (with or without their parents) use the main YouTube site for video, meaning they miss out on both human and automated controls for kids.

### AMAZON’S ALEXA

Sure, it’s fun to ask Amazon’s Alexa voice assistant to fart — as many kids have discovered after parents buy an Alexa-enabled Echo speaker. But parents and childhood experts have been wondering what effects smart speakers may have on young kids, who may not quite understand whether Alexa is human and maybe learn from barking orders at her that barking orders is OK.

— The changes: Alexa will soon thank kids for shouting out questions “nicely” if they say “please,” the online retail giant announced Wednesday. The new response is part of a kid-friendly update that’s coming next month, giving parents more control over the voice assistant. Adults can also set Alexa to go silent at bedtime or block music with explicit lyrics.

— The shortcoming: This may be appealing parents just enough to buy more Amazon products. After all, the company did not get to where it is today by missing out on new business opportunities. Amazon said it will now sell an \$80 Echo Dot aimed at children, complete with colorful cases and a two-year warranty (regular Echo Dots are \$50).

## Trump says he has a responsibility to end Korean conflict

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump claimed credit Friday for a historic inter-Korean summit, but now faces a burden in helping turn the Korean leaders' bold but vague vision for peace into reality after more than six decades of hostility.

Trump must contend with two nagging suspicions: first about his own suitability to conduct that kind of war-and-peace negotiation and succeed where his predecessors have failed; secondly, whether North Korean leader Kim Jong Un really is willing to give up the nuclear weapons his nation took decades acquiring.

"It is still unclear whether North Korea still believes that it can have its cake and eat it too," said Victor Cha, who until January had been in the running to become Trump's choice for ambassador to South Korea. Cha said that while the atmospherics of the inter-Korean summit got an "A" grade, the meeting had failed to clarify whether Kim is willing to give up his nukes or is interested in just freezing his programs in return for sanctions relief and economic and energy assistance.

At a White House news conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Trump basked in the afterglow of the feel-good meeting between Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, and said he has a responsibility to try to achieve peace and denuclearization.

"And if I can't do it, it'll be a very tough time for a lot of countries, and a lot of people. It's certainly something that I hope I can do for the world," he said.

While Moon and Kim pledged to seek a formal end to the Korean War by year's end and to rid their peninsula of nuclear weapons, they didn't specify how it would be achieved. And now the pressure to deliver results, at least on the allies' side, has shifted to Trump.

"There will be a suggestion that the South Koreans have teed it up very well for him and he's not going to have the option of walking away in a huff," said Christopher Hill, who was the lead U.S. negotiator with North Korea under the George W. Bush administration.

Trump left little doubt the unprecedented U.S.-North summit, tentatively scheduled for May or early June, would go ahead. He said he was looking forward to the meeting and that it "should be quite something." The U.S. had narrowed down the choice of summit venue to two locations he didn't name.

The president pushed back against critics that say he's being manipulated by Kim, who has abruptly shifted to diplomacy after last year's full-scale push to become a nuclear power that could threaten the U.S. mainland.

"I don't think he's ever had this enthusiasm for somebody, for them wanting to make a deal," Trump said in the Oval Office. "We're not going to be played, OK. We're going to hopefully make a deal. The United States in the past has been played like a fiddle."

New Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who as then-CIA director met Kim four weeks ago in North Korea, told reporters in Brussels that he got the impression that Kim was "serious" about negotiating on denuclearization because of the Trump-led economic pressure campaign.

But Pompeo added a word of caution: "I am always careful. There is a lot of history here. Promises have been made, hopes have been raised and then dashed."

North Korea has already called a halt to nuclear and long-range missile tests, which has helped dial down tensions significantly. But Mark Fitzpatrick, the Washington-based executive director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, said the promise of denuclearization must now be backed by tangible actions, like an end of North Korean production of fissile material that can be used for bombs and the dismantling of nuclear facilities.

Hill, the former U.S. negotiator, said the key hurdles for the Trump administration would be to set a



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 37 of 50

timetable for denuclearization and overcome North Korean reluctance to allow a verification process — a failing of past aid-for-disarmament deals.

“I’m guided by my experience which was they said all the right things but they gave us a declaration that was not complete and not entirely accurate, and they also failed to give us any kind of verification protocol,” he said.

Despite the optimism, Trump reiterated Friday that the U.S.-led pressure campaign could continue “until denuclearization occurs.”

North Korea was hit with unprecedented economic restrictions during a feverish 2017, when the U.S. and North Korean leaders traded threats while Kim pushed his nation to the verge of being able to fire a nuclear-tipped missile at the U.S. mainland.

The diplomatic climate has changed dramatically this year, as Kim has ended his international seclusion, reaching out to South Korea, the U.S., and China.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said the U.S. is “optimistic right now that there’s opportunity here that we have never enjoyed since 1950” and any progress will be up to the diplomats. He was referring to the year the Korean War broke out.

The fighting, which also involved China, halted three years later after hundreds of thousands of lives had been lost, through the declaration of an armistice, not a peace treaty. That has left the peninsula in a technical state of war for more than six decades.

---

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Lolita C. Baldor in Washington and Matthew Lee in Brussels contributed to this report.

## Trump, Merkel cordial, but no apparent movement on Iran

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facing imminent deadlines, President Donald Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel largely papered over their differences on trade and the Iran nuclear accord on Friday, stressing instead ties between the longtime allies and their shared goal of a nuclear-free North Korea.

Still, Merkel’s brief visit, coupled with French President Emmanuel Macron’s more lavish stopover earlier in the week, made clear that the U.S. president’s divisions with European allies remain substantial.

Trump and Merkel’s three-hour visit at the White House contained little of the back-slapping geniality that defined Macron’s three-day trip, including a lavish state dinner. While Trump and Macron complimented and embraced each other, the German chancellor kept her public statements brief and handshakes formal.

Trump is widely expected to withdraw the U.S. from the international Iran agreement next month, despite pleas from Macron earlier in the week and Merkel on Friday. Yet Merkel used her public comments after her meeting with Trump to try to gloss over that disagreement, calling the Obama-era accord a “first step” toward curtailing and containing Iran’s regional ambitions and suggesting openness to a side agreement.

Trump has said he, too, is open to new negotiations with Iran. But he has not said he will heed European calls for the U.S. to stay in the deal, which aims to restrict Iran’s nuclear efforts, while any further talks are underway. His decision on whether to exit the deal is expected by May 12 and he forcefully set out what he sees as the ultimate goal.

“They’re not going to be doing nuclear weapons. You can bank on it,” Trump declared at a news conference with Merkel.

On trade, Merkel saw little progress on obtaining permanent exemptions for the European Union from Trump’s steel and aluminum tariffs, even as a May 1 decision deadline approaches.

“The decision lies with the president,” she said.

German officials had signaled that their goals for Friday’s visit were modest,

Trump implicitly scolded Germany for not meeting NATO military spending obligations, saying it is “essential that our NATO allies increase their financial contribution.” Merkel said Germany’s latest budget will take defense spending to 1.3 percent of GDP and the country is aiming for more over time. NATO countries

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 38 of 50

are expected to devote 2 percent of their gross domestic product to defense.

Merkel made a point of flattering Trump on one issue, declaring that the U.S. pressure campaign against North Korea deserved the lion's share of the credit for the historic summit between the leaders of North and South Korea. Trump praised Germany's role in the effort but agreed with a reporter's question that he would be "the closer" in the deal, saying "I think I have a responsibility" to oversee denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

While Merkel kept her answers brief, Trump expounded at length on subjects ranging the strength of the U.S. economy under his leadership to the failings of his predecessors in the Oval Office. The German chancellor could not maintain her poker face during a number of Trump's comments at their joint news conference, her expression at times rotating between looks of amusement and bewilderment as the president parried with the press corps.

While Macron and Trump went to great lengths to display their professed affection through hearty handshakes, hugs — and, at times, air kisses — the president did not demonstrate the same chemistry with Merkel. He did greet her outside the West Wing with a handshake and a kiss on each cheek and, at the end of their news conference, a tentative pat on her back.

That was a marked improvement from their first White House meeting last spring, when Trump seemed to ignore photographers' prompts to give Merkel the traditional photo-op handshake. And the German chancellor looked on unhappily when Trump upbraided NATO nations last summer for not spending enough on defense as he stood in NATO'S gleaming new Brussels headquarters.

This time, Trump insisted that they have "a great relationship," and Kellyanne Conway, a senior counselor, said the president's relationships with Merkel and Macron don't need to be compared.

"Every leader is different, every relationship is different," Conway said. "We're very happy that Chancellor Merkel is making another trip here."

While Macron has been positioning himself as Europe's "Trump whisperer" and conduit to an American president who seems intent on upending U.S. relationships with allies, Merkel maintains her strength as the head of the largest economy in Europe. And if this visit lacked a big show of bonhomie, that might just be fine with Merkel, who has little to gain at home by being overly friendly with Trump, according to German political analyst Jan Techau.

"For Merkel, it's quite important domestically not to be seen to be getting too close to Trump," said Techau, a senior fellow at think tank The German Marshall Fund of the United States. Anti-American sentiment has been growing again in Germany since Trump's election, with mainstream media regularly portraying the U.S. president as a threat to the world.

The Macron state visit had been long planned, while Merkel's more informal working visit was added to the schedule so her trip to Washington would be her first outside Europe since her recent election victory.

Although Germany is unlikely to accept a wholesale rewrite of the Iran deal, Berlin has indicated that it is prepared to consider add-ons that would crack down on Tehran's ballistic missile program and curb Iranian efforts to strengthen its strategic role in the Middle East. Earlier this week, Macron made clear that France would not follow the U.S. lead if Trump decides to withdraw from the agreement.

---

Associated Press writer Frank Jordans contributed reporting from Berlin.

---

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

## Harvey recovery funds may prioritize wealthy, advocates say

By WILL WEISSERT, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Advocacy groups said Friday that Texas is poised to unfairly distribute billions in federal funding provided for housing repairs following Hurricane Harvey's devastation — prioritizing wealthy homeowners over poorer victims in ways that could constitute racial discrimination.

At issue is a draft state rebuilding plan that says homeowners may only be eligible for federal assistance,

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 39 of 50

regardless of income, if they suffered \$8,000 in property damages. The renters' threshold is \$2,000.

Harvey hit Texas in late August, damaging or destroying tens of thousands of homes in Houston, the nation's fourth-largest city, and smaller communities throughout the state's Gulf Coast. In addition to other disaster recovery approved by Congress, the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Agency has allocated a bit more than \$5 billion to rebuild Texas homes.

But a coalition led by the Austin-based nonprofit Texas Housers says damage assessments to determine who is eligible to get help are based on data from Federal Emergency Management Agency inspections that calculate property losses rather than the full human toll of major natural disasters — making it more difficult for victims who live in lower income areas to meet damage thresholds.

They say that incomplete data, coupled with the thresholds, could combine to exclude low- and middle-income households from more than \$1 billion in housing repair aid across Texas.

"Whether you're living in a \$500,000 home or a \$50,000 home, a foot of water inside of it, or your roof blowing off, is going to have the same effect," Charlie Duncan, Texas Housers' research director, said during a news conference at the state Capitol. "It's going to render that home unlivable and you're going to need assistance."

Duncan said Harvey victims who rented and owned homes in 20 largely minority areas in Houston, as well coastal communities like Port Arthur, are most likely to be excluded.

"It's absolutely a civil rights issue," he said. "A lot of these zip codes that we've identified that stand to be the most underfunded are communities of color."

Brittany Eck, a spokeswoman for Texas' General Land Office, which is overseeing housing recovery and rebuilding efforts, said federal officials — not the state — set damage eligibility thresholds.

"The info that they are citing is pulled from the formula used in the Federal Register, posted by HUD, that determines the HUD methodology for allocation of funds that the GLO is required to use," Eck said by email, referring to the federal and her own agency by their initials.

Eck said any threshold modifications could make the federal government reject the final version of Texas' plan for distributing aid, which is still in draft stages. She also said Texas has included discretionary language to ensure that more Texans qualify for funding.

But advocates said they'd like to see Texas fight to make its funding plan more inclusive, a concern echoed Friday by northeast Houston resident Alisa Anthony.

Anthony, who like a lot of her neighbors in the Houston Gardens neighborhood is black, was renting a home from her mother when Hurricane Harvey brought in several feet of flooding. The house and everything inside was a total loss, she said, and only four homeowners on her block have returned home eight months after the storm.

"It seems like disaster recovery programs don't think about people like my finance, myself, my neighbors," said Anthony, who worked as a home health care aid but lost her job when her patient also was displaced by Harvey.

Anthony recently lost the hotel room that the federal government had been paying for in the storm's aftermath and have since moved in with the 94-year-old mother of her finance.

"Disaster recovery programs must change so that everyone can recover," Anthony said.

## Deadly violence erupts again in Gaza at Israeli border fence

By FARES AKRAM, Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Hundreds of Palestinians converged on the Gaza Strip's border fence with Israel on Friday, trying to burn and rip through it before drawing heavy Israeli fire in one of the most violent incidents yet in five weeks of protests. Three Palestinians were killed and dozens were reported wounded.

The Israeli military accused Gaza's Hamas leaders of orchestrating what it called a "serious and irregular" attack and said it would not tolerate similar activity in the future.

The violence came shortly after a top U.N. official urged Israel to refrain from using excessive force against the protesters.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 40 of 50

At least 38 protesters have been killed by Israeli live fire and more than 1,600 wounded in the weekly protests since they began March 30. Israel has rejected the international criticism, saying it is defending its sovereign border and accusing Gaza's Hamas leaders, who are organizing the protests, of using the crowds as cover to carry out attacks.

In Friday's unrest, a large crowd gathered a few hundred meters (yards) from the border, with some throwing stones and setting tires on fire in what has become a weekly occurrence.

Late in the afternoon, dozens of young men broke away from the larger protest, moving south about 200 meters (yards) and approaching the fence. The crowd then tried to break through the fence with hooks and wire cutters when Israeli forces opened fire. Witnesses said three protesters briefly crossed into Israel and turned around.

Hundreds of additional protesters ran to the scene, and Israeli armored vehicles sped to the site and fired barrages of tear gas. As gunfire erupted, the crowd dispersed. A dozen Palestinian ambulances jammed a dirt road lining up to evacuate the wounded. Some in the crowd shouted "shahid," or "martyr" as bodies were taken away on stretchers.

Palestinian health officials reported three people killed and 611 wounded, including 138 hit by live fire in incidents along the border throughout the day.

In a statement, the Israeli military said it had "thwarted" an attempted infiltration by Palestinian protesters and opened fire "in accordance with the rules of engagement" to halt the crowd. It released a video showing a young Palestinian man placing a burning tire along the fence in an apparent attempt to set it on fire.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, a military spokesman, said the event was unlike anything Israel has seen over the past month. He said an estimated 500 to 700 protesters carried out a "deliberate attack" on the fence, throwing firebombs and explosives, trying to set it on fire with burning tires and attempting to tear it down with a metal hook and winch system.

He said the incident was notable in the number of protesters, the speed they moved and the "audacity with which they attacked." He claimed Hamas leaders had been in the area encouraging the crowd.

"We saw a totally irregular event and severe attack, which was clearly orchestrated by Hamas leaders on the ground who were urging the rioters on, and to run toward the fence, to assault the fence," he said. He said Israel would not tolerate Hamas attempts "to use civilians as human shields and as a disguise for terrorists trying to infiltrate into Israel."

The marches, aimed in part at trying to break a decade-old border blockade, have been organized by Gaza's militant Hamas rulers but have also been driven by widespread despair in the coastal territory of 2 million people.

Gaza organizers say the marches are also pressing for the "right of return" of refugees and their descendants to what is now Israel. Two-thirds of Gaza residents are descendants of refugees who fled or were expelled from properties during the war surrounding Israel's creation in 1948. The protests are to culminate on May 15, the anniversary of Israel's creation.

Hamas said late Friday that Israeli aircraft hit two boats at Gaza's port. Witnesses said the explosions severely damaged the boats.

Israel's military had no comment.

The boats were being prepared to sail beyond the six-nautical-mile limit set by Israel in protest of the maritime restrictions on Gaza, a Hamas activist familiar with the issue said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the venture had not yet been announced.

The boats were to sail May 15 as part of the mass protests.

Hamas organizers have made conflicting statements about whether they plan a mass border breach at some point.

Hamas' supreme leader, Ismail Haniyeh, visited a protest camp in the southern town of Rafah, vowing larger protests in Gaza, the West Bank, Israel and among Palestinian refugees in other countries on May 15. "Our people will not slow down the protests until they get their rights," he said.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 41 of 50

The Israeli military has repeatedly said it will not allow Gazans to burst across the border. Israeli communities are located just a few hundred meters (yards) away.

However, Israel has come under heavy international criticism for allegedly using excessive force.

Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights, said Israeli troops have not heeded warnings by the United Nations and others, repeatedly using lethal force against unarmed protesters in the past month.

Gaza health officials say that four minors, including a 14-year-old boy, have been among the dead.

"The loss of life is deplorable, and the staggering number of injuries caused by live ammunition only confirms the sense that excessive force has been used against demonstrators — not once, not twice, but repeatedly," the commissioner said.

Israel's U.N. ambassador, Danny Danon, said Israel is "diligently defending its sovereignty" and accused Zeid of encouraging Hamas' "exploitation of civilians." He said the commissioner is "not focused on human rights, but only with obsessively criticizing Israel."

Thousands have taken part in the Friday demonstrations from five protest tent camps, each set up several hundred meters (yards) from the border fence. Small groups usually move toward the fence, setting tires ablaze to hamper the vision of the security forces while others throw stones or firebombs.

Israeli soldiers, including snipers taking cover behind sand berms, have responded by firing tear gas, rubber-coated steel pellets and live rounds.

Israel's military has said troops are under orders to target "instigators," but has also warned that anyone approaching or trying to damage the fence risks his life.

Rights groups have said such open-fire rules are unlawful because they allow soldiers to use potentially lethal force in situations where their lives are not in danger.

Israeli officials have said that some of the protesters in recent weeks tried to damage the border fence or plant explosives along it. Others have tried to set Israeli fields on fire on the other side of the fence by hurling improvised explosives or firebombs, or flying the flaming kites.

A group of Palestinian activists calling themselves "the tires unit" arrived Friday on a truck laden with old tires. A van mounted with loudspeakers followed the truck with chants and applause. Tires were set ablaze, filling the air with thick smoke. With hooks and a long rope, the activists pulled at parts of the barbed wire adjacent to the fence.

Israel and Egypt imposed the Gaza blockade in 2007, in response to a violent takeover of the territory by Hamas, which had won Palestinian parliament elections a year earlier. The blockade has gutted Gaza's economy.

Hamas' Interior Ministry announced that Egypt had agreed to open the Rafah border crossing for three days, beginning Saturday. The temporary opening is the second this month.

---

This version corrects the number of wounded since March 30 to more than 1,600.

---

Associated Press writer Nebi Qena contributed.

## Cosby verdict met with conflicting emotions by some blacks

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, AP National Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — It is difficult to overstate the pride, admiration and sense of ownership many black Americans felt watching Bill Cosby at the height of his career in the 1980s and '90s.

As Dr. Cliff Huxtable, Cosby starred in a top-rated network sitcom about a loving, successful black couple and their wholesome children. "The Cosby Show" shifted the paradigm for millions of viewers for what a black family could look like. And it made Cosby an idol to many African-Americans in an era long before the country would see a black family living in the White House.

All of which explains why the comedian's downfall Thursday was met with particular pain, disappointment and conflicted feelings in the black community. For many black people, news of Cosby's sexual-assault

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 42 of 50

conviction was hard to hear, even for fans who believed his accusers.

"We have been split from Day One about his innocence because of our need to have a hero that looks like us," said Tarana Burke, the black woman who created the #MeToo hashtag in 2006 and recalled growing up listening to albums of Cosby's comedy routines and later watching him as "America's Dad."

She warned against confusing Cosby with the roles he played.

"Cliff Huxtable was a good person, but that character doesn't reflect the character of (Cosby's) life," Burke said. "Fat Albert is not a serial rapist. Bill Cosby is."

Cosby carefully crafted his persona over half a century in public life and on the big and small screen. In the 1960s, he became the first black actor to star in a network show, "I Spy." He later created the children's cartoon program "Fat Albert," based on childhood friends, and then "The Cosby Show."

He would go on to win the 2002 Presidential Medal of Freedom and made it his role to admonish blacks to take personal responsibility, his stinging commentary hitting home because of the man, husband and father many believed Cosby to be.

When word of some of the allegations against Cosby broke in 2014, in part because of a stand-up routine by black comedian Hannibal Buress, many African-Americans who had long admired the TV star were hurt. All told, more than 60 women would accuse Cosby of sexual assault.

Some black people who grew up watching shows like "The Cosby Show" and the Cosby-created spinoff "A Different World" were conflicted about continuing to watch.

Rutgers University women's studies professor Brittney Cooper said it's time for black people to drop their support for the entertainer and his work.

"There's an ongoing conversation about can we love the art and dismiss or disavow the artist," said Cooper, author of the recent book "Eloquent Rage," which explores the Cosby allegations. But "we have to stop deciding that art is a reasonable spoil of war, that we will ignore all the casualties. We can't separate Cosby from his art."

For some, this is easier said than done. In a rare front-page essay, New York Times critic-at-large Wesley Morris laid bare his emotional strife over having to divorce himself from Cosby's work in the wake of the verdict, and told of how the comedian was a formative influence in his life.

"Mr. Cosby made blackness palatable to a country historically conditioned to think the worst of black people," wrote Morris, who is black and was born in Philadelphia, where Cosby is from.

"Mr. Cosby told lots of jokes. This was his sickest one," Morris continued. "How do I, at least, cleave this man from the man he seduced me into becoming?"

Cosby was prosecuted after rumors of sexual assaults swirled for years. He was protected, his detractors say, by power, money and racial loyalty.

Supermodel Beverly Johnson said her reluctance to come forward as an accuser was tied to her allegiance to African-Americans and a disinclination to hurt a member of her community.

Since then, #MeToo has become a global phenomenon that has brought down powerful men in politics, entertainment and the media, including Hollywood studio boss Harvey Weinstein. Some observers have said the movement contributed to Cosby's conviction.

It may also have given some African-Americans permission to finally hold their hero accountable.

"It took away the heft of the narrative, in black communities in particular, that this was some kind of grand conspiracy to take down a powerful black man," Cooper said. "It placed Cosby in conversation with folks like Weinstein, to say this is about the kinds of things that powerful men do when they feel like they can get away with it."

Cosby, at 80, is now looking at the possibility of dying behind bars.

"He is now part of a broader narrative about Hollywood, mainstream men doing this kind of thing," Cooper said. "He's not the singular, black, male monster."

---

Whack is The Associated Press' national reporter on race and ethnicity. Follow her work on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/emarvelous>.

## Restaurants calm customers, say their romaine is safe

By DEE-ANN DURBIN, AP Business Writer

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Restaurants' advice to their customers? Romaine calm.

The government is still investigating how romaine lettuce from Yuma, Arizona, apparently became contaminated with E. coli bacteria. As of Friday, at least 98 people in 22 states have gotten sick, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Growers in Yuma typically plant romaine lettuce between September and January. During the peak of the harvest season, which runs from mid-November until the beginning of April, the Yuma region supplies most of the romaine sold in the U.S. The outbreak came as the harvest of romaine was already near its end.

At many restaurants around the country, romaine is still on the menu. Both family-run operations and big chains say they've checked with suppliers and are confident their romaine comes from places that aren't affected by E. coli. If they're not sure, they're replacing romaine with iceberg and other lettuce varieties.

"We've got a lot of people asking where we get our lettuce from," said Armando Ayala, the manager of Cavatore, an Italian restaurant in Houston. Cavatore offers three dinner salads — including a Caesar made tableside — with lettuce from California and local farms in Texas.

As it turns out, a lot of romaine comes from California, which grows 74 percent of the nation's lettuce, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Even Salad and Go, a chain with 12 restaurants in Arizona, gets its lettuce from California.

Just Salad, which has 28 locations in New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia and Chicago, says it saw a spike in business this week after a social media blitz to assure customers that its romaine comes from Salinas, California. Supply chain manager Janani Lee said Just Salad already carried five other types of lettuce, but it recently added iceberg for people who were still concerned.

Katie Calabrese and her friend, Amanda Larsen, both threw out romaine at home, but it didn't stop their salad cravings. On Thursday, they were waiting in a long line at a Sweetgreen restaurant in Philadelphia.

"I'm definitely making non-romaine choices," said Calabrese.

"I eat kale," Larsen said.

The CDC first announced a multistate outbreak of E. coli on April 10. By the end of last week, it was advising customers, grocers and restaurants not to eat whole heads of romaine or salad mixes that might contain romaine unless they knew they weren't grown in Yuma.

The government is still investigating this outbreak. But generally, E. coli is spread through human or animal feces, contaminated water or improper handling.

Salads UP, which has two restaurants in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Madison, Wisconsin, says it didn't have to get rid of much romaine, since it gets deliveries almost daily. For now, it has replaced romaine with iceberg, says Salads UP co-founder Robert Mayer.

"Customers don't mind the temporary solution, and in general they appreciate that we are taking precautionary steps," he said.

Burrito chain Chipotle also temporarily stopped serving romaine last weekend, but its California-sourced romaine was back on the menu by Monday.

McDonald's, Wendy's and Chick-fil-A say none of the romaine in their U.S. stores comes from Yuma. But Chick-fil-A says it's making some salads with other lettuces or not offering them at all because of a shortage of romaine.

Frog Holler, a produce wholesaler that distributes to restaurants in Michigan, says all of its romaine comes from California. But many customers weren't ordering it because of the scare. Iceberg orders increased slightly. Others would only take romaine with an official statement that it was safe, said Brittany Savela, an office assistant.

Then, for about a week, Frog Holler had to scramble when its own suppliers stopped shipping romaine.

"We just couldn't get our hands on it anymore," she said. But things are now returning to normal.

It could be difficult for farmers to make up for any shortfalls in romaine at this point in the season, since planting schedules have already been set.

On Thursday at the fifth-generation EG Richter Family Farm in Puyallup, Washington, workers were planting the first romaine crop of the season, which will be harvested around June 1. Tim Richter and his son Timothy grow romaine, red leaf, and green leaf lettuce along with other crops. They sell most of their lettuce to big grocery chains.

They hope the E. coli issue is cleared up soon and that people recognize the problem doesn't affect all romaine lettuce. The Richters say they use conventional fertilizers — not manure — and irrigate with well water to help keep their crops safe.

"The biggest testament is that we eat it," Timothy Richter said.

AP Writers Joseph Pisani in New York and Ally Villarreal in Philadelphia and AP Photographer Ted Warren in Puyallup contributed.

## Earlier search for California serial killer led to wrong man

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO, JONATHAN J. COOPER and GILLIAN FLACCUS, Associated Press**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Investigators hunting for the so-called Golden State Killer turned to searching genetic websites in 2017 but misidentified an Oregon man as a potential suspect. A year later, after using a similar technique, they are confident they've caught the serial rapist and killer who eluded capture for four decades.

In March 2017, an Oregon City police officer, working at the request of investigators in California, convinced a judge to order a 73-year-old man in a nursing home to provide a DNA sample.

Court documents obtained by The Associated Press said detectives used a genetic profile based off DNA from crime scenes linked to the serial killer and compared it to information on a free online genealogical site.

Investigators cited a rare genetic marker, which the Oregon man shared with the killer, to get the judge to issue the order. The Oregon City man is in extremely poor health in a rehabilitation facility and was unable to answer questions Friday.

His daughter said his family was not aware that authorities took a DNA sample from him while he was lying in bed at the rehabilitation center until she was contacted by the FBI in April 2017 and asked to help expand the family's genetic tree in the search for suspects.

The woman, an amateur genealogist, cooperated, but ultimately investigators determined none of her relatives were viable suspects, she said. The woman spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because she did not want the family's name publicly linked to the case.

"I don't like that they thought that my dad was the bad guy, but the truth is they were able to rule out people in my dad's (family) tree," she said. "They didn't have to look at those people anymore."

The family was angry the FBI had not told them about the sample but felt better after reading an AP story that investigators obtained a warrant, she said.

"I mean, they go from California to Oregon to get my dad's DNA? They clearly thought he was the bad guy," she said. "I think DNA is amazing and if you've done something wrong you don't deserve to be protected."

Ultimately investigators turned to a different genealogical site and arrested a man who they say was one of California's most feared and elusive serial killers.

On Friday, Joseph James DeAngelo appeared in court to face murder charges. Handcuffed to a wheelchair in orange jail scrubs, the 72-year-old looked dazed and spoke in a faint voice to acknowledge he was represented by a public defender. He did not enter a plea.

DeAngelo, a former police officer, has been charged with eight counts of murder, and additional charges are expected, authorities said.

"We have the law to suggest that he is innocent until he's proven guilty," said his attorney, Diane Howard.

Investigators arrested DeAngelo on Tuesday after matching crime-scene DNA with genetic material stored in an online database by a distant relative. They relied on a different website than in the Oregon search, and did not seek a warrant for his DNA. Instead, they waited for him to discard items and swabbed them



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 45 of 50

for DNA, which proved a conclusive match to evidence from crimes more than 30 years ago, they said.

The co-founder of the genealogy website used by authorities to help identify DeAngelo said on Friday that he had no idea its database was tapped by law enforcement.

The free genealogy website, which pools DNA profiles that people upload and share publicly to find relatives, said it has always informed users its database can be used for other purposes.

But the site's co-founder Curtis Rogers said the search was "done without our knowledge" and the company does not "hand out data."

Officials did not need a court order to access GEDmatch's large database of genetic blueprints, lead investigator Paul Holes told the Mercury News in San Jose, California. Major commercial DNA companies say they do not give law enforcement access to their genetic data without a court order.

But critics warned the method could jeopardize privacy rights.

"People who submit DNA for ancestors testing are unwittingly becoming genetic informants on their innocent family," said Steve Mercer, chief attorney for the forensic division of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender.

"It seems crazy to say a police officer investigating a very serious crime can't do something your cousin can do," said Erin Murphy, a DNA expert and professor at New York University School of Law. "If an ordinary person can do this, why can't a cop? On the other hand, if an ordinary person had done this, we might think they shouldn't."

While most consumers would submit DNA to a commercial company such as Ancestry.com and 23andMe to create a genetic profile, the FBI did so for investigators, Holes told The New York Times.

The profile was then uploaded to GEDmatch using a fake profile and pseudonym, the Times reported. The site allows users to remain anonymous.

A year earlier, Holes had identified a rare genetic marker in the assailant's DNA. He entered the information among 189,000 profiles at the genealogy website, YSearch.org, and the results led to a relative of the Oregon man.

A spokeswoman for YSearch.org, which is provided by FamilyTreeDNA.com, said the company was not contacted by law enforcement. The company said it takes the privacy of its customers very seriously but supports "ethically and legally justified uses" of scientific research in genetics and genealogy.

Sacramento District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert told AP she was unaware of the Oregon misfire and didn't believe genealogical sites were used before DeAngelo was identified.

---

Balsamo reported from Los Angeles and Flaccus reported from Oregon City, Oregon. Associated Press writers Brian Melley in Los Angeles and Matt O'Brien in Providence, Rhode Island, contributed to this report.

## Singapore PM: ASEAN growing closer to China and India

By ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Southeast Asian countries will work more closely with new powers China and India to counter the pressure of protectionism and ensure continued growth, Singapore's prime minister said Saturday.

Addressing the summit of the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said that regional economic growth was under threat because the political mood in many countries had turned against free trade. He said recent trade tensions between the U.S. and China in particular are worrying.

The U.S. and China are entangled in their most consequential trade dispute since World War II. Both countries have proposed tariffs of \$50 billion on each other's products. President Donald Trump is looking to impose tariffs of up to \$100 billion more on Chinese goods.

"The global strategic balance is shifting, and so is the regional balance," Lee said. "New powers, including China and India, are growing in strength and influence. This has opened up new opportunities for ASEAN member states as we expand our cooperation with them."

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 46 of 50

He said that the group faces challenges closer to home as well, such as the Islamic State group, cyber-security and strengthening a regional economic community.

In a statement on Saturday, ASEAN leaders affirmed the need for peace in the South China Sea, where the bloc is currently negotiating a set of rules with China to avoid conflicts arising from a bitter territorial dispute pitting some members against Beijing's vast claims to the strategic waterway.

They also encouraged Myanmar and Bangladesh to press on with their "shared commitment to carry out the voluntary return" of about 700,000 Rohingya Muslims who have fled Myanmar's Rakhine state, Lee said.

Myanmar's military has been accused of instigating the persecution of the ethnic minority, which has been denied citizenship in the predominantly Buddhist country.

Lee said the leaders agreed that the refugees' return must be carried out "in a safe, secure and dignified way, without undue delay."

The leaders also welcomed a historic summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in as a first step toward reducing tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

"It's a positive step — it's better than firing missiles and testing bombs — but how does it go? That's something which we will wait and see and which we can only hope for the best," Lee said.

To fight protectionism, Lee said ASEAN would like to conclude negotiations this year on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, a proposed free trade agreement between ASEAN members and Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand.

In addition to Singapore, the ASEAN members are Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and the Philippines.

## Philippines latest foreign country to book Trump's DC hotel

By **BERNARD CONDON** and **STEPHEN BRAUN**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — First came Kuwait. Then Saudi Arabia and Turkey. Now it's the Philippines' turn. It is the latest foreign government to book rooms or host events at the Trump International Hotel in Washington D.C., riling critics who say such bookings are nothing more than attempts to curry favor with President Donald Trump.

The Philippine Independence Day celebration set for June 12 comes as the country pushes for a free-trade agreement with the U.S. and amid international criticism of President Rodrigo Duterte for encouraging vigilante killings of drug suspects.

"The Trump hotel may have some political undertones because it is associated with the U.S. president," Jose Manuel Romualdez, the Philippine ambassador to the U.S., wrote in a column in The Philippine Star newspaper earlier this week. "But since several other embassies have also held their national day celebrations at the Trump hotel which were well attended — I decided — why not do it there, too."

The Philippine Embassy has sent out 300 invitations for the party to mark the 120th year since the country broke from Spanish rule. Guests, including U.S. senators and Congress members, will nosh on Filipino food and cocktails. The embassy didn't directly respond to questions on whether the booking was intended to influence the president, referring instead to the ambassador's column.

"The Philippines has found a way to pay tribute to our president," said Kathleen Clark, a government ethics lawyer and law professor at Washington University in St. Louis. "What's at risk is our foreign policy, that it will be influenced not by what matters — human rights, civil rights or legitimate economic interests — but by the Philippines' ability to get in the good graces of our president."

Coincidentally, the party comes a day after the next scheduled hearing in the federal court "emoluments" lawsuit by the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia. They are accusing Trump of accepting unconstitutional gifts from foreign interests, specifically by throwing events and booking rooms at the Trump Washington hotel. Such bookings are tantamount to bribes, the plaintiffs argue, because Trump's refusal to divest himself from his businesses means the money paid for rooms, meeting spaces, food and drinks eventually finds its way into his pocket.

Trump has sought to assuage concerns about foreign government spending at his properties by of-

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 47 of 50

fering to donate profits from such business to the U.S. Treasury. But critics say the gesture has lacked transparency. A Trump Organization payment of \$151,470 last month was intended to cover such profits from 2017, but the company refused to provide details on how the figure was calculated and which foreign governments were involved.

Neither the White House nor the Trump Organization responded to requests for comment.

The leader of the Philippines has reason to be plenty thankful to Trump, and to continue to keep him happy.

Western countries and human rights groups have denounced Duterte for an anti-drug campaign that has included more than 2,000 extrajudicial killings by masked gunmen on motorcycles and others. But Trump has said Duterte is doing a "great job" with his crackdown.

There are economic concerns, too. With Trump's decision to drop out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement, Duterte has to find another way to knock down barriers to an open exchange of goods and investment. He has been pushing for the kind bilateral free trade deal that 20 other countries enjoy with the U.S.

Just before Trump's election in November 2016, Duterte appointed Philippine real estate developer Jose E.B. Antonio as his trade envoy to Washington. Antonio's company is partnering with the Trump Organization in a Trump-branded apartment complex in Manila in which Trump received between \$1 million and \$5 million in royalties, according to financial disclosure forms filed in June.

Since Trump took office last year, Kuwait has twice held its annual "National Day" celebration at his Washington hotel. Bahrain also celebrated its own "National Day" at the hotel, and a public relations firm working for Saudi Arabia has used the hotel, too.

Two Turkish business organizations sponsored an event there in 2016. One of those groups had official ties to the government of Turkey. The Turkish group was previously headed by a businessman who hired former Trump administration national security adviser Michael Flynn and his consulting firm to perform work aiding Turkey. Flynn has since pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI and is cooperating with the special counsel's investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

Condon reported from New York.

## Stocks finish mixed as Amazon leads retail rally; Exxon dips

By MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks finished with a split decision Friday after a wobbly day of trading. Amazon led a rally among retailers, but Exxon Mobil dragged energy companies lower to end an uneven week on Wall Street.

So far the first-quarter earnings season has been a strong one for U.S. companies, but it hasn't thrilled investors. On Friday Amazon, Microsoft and Expedia all climbed after reporting earnings, but Exxon, Charter Communications and Starbucks all slumped. According to FactSet, about 80 percent of the S&P companies that have reported their results have announced a larger per-share profit than analysts expected.

High-dividend companies like utilities rose as bond yields slipped, but defense contractors fell. Asian stocks rose following the landmark summit of the leaders from North and South Korea.

This week investors worried that rising raw materials costs, as well as higher interest rates and wages, could eat into corporate profits. Meanwhile they were pleased with strong results from Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft and others. The S&P 500 index finished the week almost exactly where it started.

Karyn Cavanaugh, senior market strategist for Voya Investment Strategies, said investors haven't regained their confidence since February's market plunge. But in her view, the economy continues to do well and there are few signs that inflation or wages are about to rocket higher, an outcome that could dent corporate profits.

"There's reason to think things are very, very good, but not overheating. That's a great environment for earnings," she said. "The market is getting a little bit spoiled."

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 48 of 50**

The S&P 500 index gained 2.97 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,669.91. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 11.15 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 24,311.19. The Nasdaq composite rose 1.12 points to 7,119.80. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks lost 1.66 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,556.24. Most of the stocks on the New York Stock Exchange finished higher.

Amazon said its first-quarter profit more than doubled as consumers shopped more online and revenue from its cloud computing business continued to rise. The results were far stronger than Wall Street expected and the stock jumped 3.6 percent to \$1,572.62, adding to Thursday's 4 percent gain. Amazon also said it will hike the price of an annual Prime membership to \$119 from \$99 in the U.S.

Amazon recovered the last of its losses from late March and early April. It slumped after President Donald Trump repeatedly criticized the company over issues including sales tax collection and its contracts with the U.S. Postal Service.

The U.S. economy grew 2.3 percent in the first quarter, better than experts had forecast. While consumer spending turned in the weakest performance in nearly five years, experts think it will pick up later in the year thanks to continued low unemployment and Republican-backed tax cuts.

Bond prices rose again. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.96 percent from 2.98 percent Thursday. It hit four-year highs recently and peaked at 3.03 percent earlier this week. High-yield stocks like household goods makers and utilities moved up.

Even with help from climbing oil prices Exxon Mobil's results still fell short of estimates and its stock dropped 3.8 percent to \$77.79. Cable company Charter Communications tumbled 11.7 percent to \$263.33. Jefferies & Co. analyst Scott Goldman said the company's residential video and high speed data subscriber totals were both weaker than he expected.

Technology companies also gave up an early gain. Intel rose 5 percent in the morning but later dipped 0.6 percent to \$52.73. After a big rally in the morning, Microsoft rose 1.7 percent to \$95.82.

The leaders of North and South Korea vowed Friday to seek a nuclear-free peninsula and work toward a formal end to the Korean War this year, although they offered few specifics about how they would achieve those goals. As part of the summit, Kim Jong Un became the first North Korean leader to visit South Korea since 1953, when the two sides signed an armistice that left them still technically at war. Later Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in briefly stepped into North Korea together.

Seoul's Kospi was 0.7 percent higher and Tokyo's Nikkei 225 added 0.7 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng advanced 0.9 percent.

In Britain, shares got a lift after soft growth data reined in expectations that the Bank of England will raise interest rates again next month. The pound fell sharply, to \$1.3785 from \$1.3924. That was good news for British exporters, as it makes their goods less expensive, and London's FTSE jumped 1.1 percent. The German DAX rose 0.6 percent and France's CAC 40 added 0.5 percent.

Benchmark U.S. crude fell 0.1 percent to \$68.10 a barrel in New York while Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 0.1 percent to \$74.64 per barrel in London.

Wholesale gasoline rose 0.6 percent to \$2.13 a gallon. Heating oil lost 0.4 percent to \$2.15 a gallon. Natural gas lost 2.4 percent to \$2.77 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Gold rose 0.4 percent to \$1,323.40 an ounce. Silver fell 0.5 percent to \$16.41 an ounce. Copper dropped 2.2 percent to \$3.05 a pound.

The dollar slipped to 109.02 yen from 109.36 yen. The euro rose to \$1.2121 from \$1.2106.

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



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 49 of 50

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, April 28, the 118th day of 2018. There are 247 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 28, 1788, Maryland became the seventh state to ratify the Constitution of the United States.

On this date:

In 1758, the fifth president of the United States, James Monroe, was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

In 1789, there was a mutiny on the HMS Bounty as rebelling crew members of the British ship, led by Fletcher Christian, set the captain, William Bligh, and 18 others adrift in a launch in the South Pacific. (Bligh and most of the men with him reached Timor in 47 days.)

In 1918, Gavrilo Princip, 23, the assassin of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and the archduke's wife, Sophie, died in prison of tuberculosis.

In 1925, the International Exposition of Modern Industrial and Decorative Arts, which gave rise to the term "Art Deco," began a six-month run in Paris.

In 1940, Glenn Miller and his Orchestra recorded "Pennsylvania 6-5000" for RCA Victor.

In 1945, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and his mistress, Clara Petacci, were executed by Italian partisans as they attempted to flee the country.

In 1958, the United States conducted the first of 35 nuclear test explosions in the Pacific Proving Ground as part of Operation Hardtack I. Vice President Richard Nixon and his wife, Pat, began a goodwill tour of Latin America that was marred by hostile mobs in Lima, Peru, and Caracas, Venezuela.

In 1967, heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali was stripped of his title after he refused to be inducted into the armed forces. U.S. Army Gen. William C. Westmoreland told Congress that "backed at home by resolve, confidence, patience, determination and continued support, we will prevail in Vietnam over communist aggression."

In 1974, former Attorney General John Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans, accused of attempting to interfere in a Securities and Exchange Commission probe of financier Robert Vesco in exchange for a \$200,000 contribution to President Richard Nixon's re-election campaign, were acquitted of all charges by a federal jury in New York.

In 1988, a flight attendant was killed and more than 60 persons injured when part of the roof of an Aloha Airlines Boeing 737 tore off during a flight from Hilo (HEE'-loh) to Honolulu.

In 1993, the first "Take Our Daughters to Work Day," promoted by the New York-based Ms. Foundation, was held in an attempt to boost the self-esteem of girls by having them visit a parent's place of work. (The event was later expanded to include sons.)

In 1996, a man armed with a semiautomatic rifle went on a rampage on the Australian island of Tasmania, killing 35 people; the gunman was captured after a 12-hour standoff at a guest cottage, and is now serving a life prison sentence.

Ten years ago: The first tax rebates were direct-deposited into bank accounts from a \$168 billion stimulus package passed by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush. In a defiant appearance at the National Press Club in Washington, Democrat Barack Obama's longtime pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, said criticism surrounding his fiery sermons was an attack on black churches, and he rejected those who labeled him unpatriotic.

Five years ago: Mohammed Sohel Rana, the fugitive owner of an illegally constructed building in Bangladesh that collapsed and killed more than 1,100 people, was captured by a commando force as he tried to flee into India.

One year ago: President Donald Trump reaffirmed his support for gun rights, telling attendees of a National Rifle Association convention in Atlanta that "the eight-year assault on your Second Amendment freedoms has come to a crashing end." Pope Francis demanded that Egypt's Muslim leaders teach a rejec-

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, April 28, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 288 ~ 50 of 50**

tion of violence in God's name during a delicate visit to the Arab world's most populous country, and he strongly backed its uncompromising crackdown on political Islam and militancy.

Today's Birthdays: Former Secretary of State James A. Baker III is 88. Actress-singer Ann-Margret is 77. Actor Paul Guilfoyle is 69. Former "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno is 68. Rock musician Chuck Leavell is 66. Actress Mary McDonnell is 66. Rock singer-musician Kim Gordon (Sonic Youth) is 65. Actress Nancy Lee Grahn is 62. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan is 58. Rapper Too Short is 52. Actress Bridget Moynahan is 47. Actor Chris Young is 47. Rapper Big Gipp is 45. Actor Jorge Garcia is 45. Actress Elisabeth Rohm is 45. Actress Penelope Cruz is 44. Actor Nate Richert is 40. TV personalities Drew and Jonathan Scott are 40. Actress Jessica Alba is 37. Actor Harry Shum Jr. is 36. Actress Jenna Ushkowitz is 32. Actress Aleisha Allen is 27.

Thought for Today: "If youth only had a chance or old age any brains." — Stephen Leacock, Canadian humorist-educator (1869-1944).