

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 1 of 42

- 1- Harr Auto Body Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 1- Death Notice: Ardath May
- 2- Groton Care & Rehab Supper Ad
- 2- Weekly Vikings Roundup
- 3- Olive Grove Tour of Homes ad
- 4- What's going on in state government this week
- 7- Hunter Schaller Update from Jasmine Schaller:
- 8- Today in Weather History
- 9- Today's Forecast
- 10- Yesterday's Weather
- 10- National Weather map
- 10- Today's Weather Almanac
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 13- News from the Associated Press

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



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

NOW OPEN

Harris
Auto Body ABDN

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

Groton Area Schedule of Events

Monday, November 26, 2018

6:00pm: Wrestling: Boys JH Tournament vs. Faulkton Area @ Faulkton High School

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

3:30pm: Debate at Groton Area High School (Sippel Novice)

6:00pm: Basketball: Girls 7th/8th Game vs. Clark/Willow Lake @ Clark Junior-Senior High School (7th grade 6pm 8th grade 7pm)

Death Notice: Ardath May

Ardath May, 92, of Groton passed away Sunday, November 25, 2018 at Bethesda Home of Aberdeen. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 2 of 42

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

In their second Sunday Night Football game in as many weeks, the Minnesota Vikings (6-4-1) defeated their NFC North rival Green Bay Packers 24-17. The game was held at U.S. Bank Stadium, and the Vikings used the energy from the crowd to play one of their best games of the season.

The Vikings had 416 yards on offense, which was a huge improvement from the previous week (268). Head coach Mike Zimmer clearly stressed ball security in practice last week, and as a result the Vikings had their first turnover-free game since week 7.

Kirk Cousins had a phenomenal game, completing 29 of 38 (76%) of his passes for 342 yards and three touchdowns. The best wide receiver duo in the league, Adam Thielen and Stefon Diggs, combined for 16 catches, 202 yards and two touchdowns. Kyle Rudolph, who has been quiet all season, came up big early in this game and finished with seven catches for 63 yards.

The offensive line deserves a lot of credit for the way the offense played against the Packers, as they only gave up two sacks and four quarterback hits. The offensive line also saw improvement in run blocking, and even though it wasn't perfect, it was serviceable and that's all this team really needs.

Dalvin Cook had 13 touches for 76 yards, but surprisingly wasn't on the field when the Vikings were trying to run out the clock. Maybe it was because Zimmer was afraid Dalvin would fumble, or maybe there was an injury, but it's not a good sign when one of the most impactful players on offense isn't on the field in crunch time.

Another week, and another positive sign that the Vikings' defense is returning to an elite unit. The Vikings held Aaron Rodgers to 198 yards, his lowest total since week 4 of the 2017 season. The defensive did a wonderful job of keeping Rodgers in the pocket, negating his scrambling ability while also sacking him four times. The Vikings also added four tackles for a loss, two pass deflections, and five quarterback hits. This team, which runs through the defense, finally played a complete game and seems to be moving in the right direction.



**Thursday,
Nov. 29
5:30 p.m.
to 6:30 p.m.**

Groton Care & Rehab

1106 N 2nd St, Groton

Free Will Donation

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 3 of 42

The player/person of the game on offense was offensive coordinator John DeFilippo. There has been a lot of criticism of DeFilippo this season, and most of it has been justified. Despite having a good quarterback, a good running back, and two elite wide receivers, the Vikings' offense has been disappointing in 2018. However, DeFilippo called a great game against the Packers and have given us all a glimmer of hope that he offense is finally starting to turn the corner.

The player of the game on defense was Sheldon Richardson. The defensive tackle seemed to always be in the backfield, stuffing the run or making Aaron Rodgers uncomfortable. Richardson finished with seven tackles, two sacks, two tackles for a loss, and two quarterback hits (all team highs). This offseason, the Vikings might be forced to choose between signing Richardson or Anthony Barr, and the former is doing everything he can to prove he's the one that deserves the extension.

Looking ahead, the Vikings have perhaps their toughest test of the season when they travel to New England to battle the Patriots. In what should come as a surprise to no one, the Patriots (8-3) are one of the best teams in the NFL. Tom Brady is the best in the business when it comes to reading defenses and knowing where to go with the ball before it's even snapped, so the Vikings will have to do a great job of disguising coverages and making Brady uncomfortable. If the Vikings can do that, they stand a good chance of winning this one. ESPN gives the Patriots a 67% chance to win, but I have more faith than that. Skol!

If you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL)



**Olive Grove's 3rd Annual
Christmas
Tour of Homes
& Holiday Party**

**Saturday,
Dec. 1, 2018**

**Tour of Homes
4-7 p.m.**

**Gary & Linda Thurston
Alan Strom and Shelly Lerew
Ron and Dawn Breedlove
Olde Bank 'n Café
J. Simon Photography**

**Coffee, Apple Cider and
goodies at the clubhouse**

**Holiday Party
4 p.m. to Close**

**A variety of snacks served
Silent Basket Items - Bidding
closes at 8:30 p.m.
Live Auction begins at 8:30 p.m.**

**\$15 Tickets Available at
Lori's Pharmacy, Groton
Groton Ford
Hair & Company, Aberdeen**

**Come on out for a fun evening!
Support your local golf course!**

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 4 of 42

What's going on in state government this week

Public Meetings:

Monday, November 26, 11 a.m. CST – The School Finance Accountability Board will meet via teleconference with a public listening place available on fourth floor of the Capitol Building in Room 412, 500 E. Capitol Ave. A proposed agenda, including call-in information, is available at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=165>.

Monday, November 26, 1 p.m. CST, Pierre – The Wheat Utilization Research and Marketing Development Commission will hold a meeting at 116 N. Euclid in Pierre. For more information, visit <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=110>.

Monday, November 26, 1:30 – 5 p.m. CST, Pierre – The South Dakota Division of Banking will meet in the Division of Banking Conference Room, 1601 N. Harrison Ave., Suite 1. Meeting materials can be viewed at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=10>.

Tuesday, November 27, 4:15 p.m. CST, Pierre – The South Dakota Professional Administrators Practices and Standards Commission will meet at the MacKay Building, Conference Room 3, 800 Governors Drive. A proposed agenda will be posted at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=80>.

Thursday, November 29, 8 a.m. CST, Pierre – The Value-Added Finance Authority Board will hold a meeting on 3rd floor of the Joe Foss building in Pierre. For more information, contact Terri LaBrie at 605-773-5436.

Thursday, November 29, 9 a.m. CST, Pierre – The South Dakota Lottery Commission will hold its quarterly meeting in LRC room 412 at the Capitol Building in Pierre. The meeting's agenda can be viewed at <https://lottery.sd.gov/about/commission/>, and audio will be streamed live at <http://www.sd.net/room412/>. For more information, contact Wade LaRoche, 605-773-5869.

Thursday, November 29, 9 a.m. CST, Pierre – The Transportation Commission of the South Dakota Department of Transportation will hold a meeting in the Commission Room of the Becker-Hansen building located at 700 E. Broadway Ave. The public is invited to attend. To view the meeting agenda, posted 72 hours in advance, visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=96>. For more information call 605-773-3265.

Thursday, November 29, 12 p.m. CST – The South Dakota Abstracters Board of Examiners will hold a meeting by teleconference. Meeting materials can be viewed at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=3>. For more information contact Professional Licensing at 605-642-1600.

Thursday, November 29, 2 – 5 p.m. CST, Pierre – The South Dakota Cosmetology Commission will hold its meeting at the Matthews Training Center, 523 E Capitol Ave. To join the meeting via teleconference, please call the Commission office at 605-773-6193 no later than Tuesday, November 27. For more information, contact Kate Boyd at 605-773-6193. Meeting materials available at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=21>.

Thursday, November 30, 9 – 11 a.m. CST, Pierre – The South Dakota Cosmetology Commission will hold an Administrative Hearing at the Matthews Training Center, 523 E. Capitol Ave. For more information, contact Kate Boyd at 605-773-6193. Complete hearing notice and any other materials available at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=21>.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 5 of 42

Friday, November 30, 10 a.m. CST – The Governor’s Snowmobile Advisory Council will meet at the Ramkota in Sioux Falls, SD. The meeting’s agenda can be viewed online at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=92>. For more information, contact Ryan Raynor, 605-773-2885.

Friday, November 30, 7 p.m. CST and Saturday, December 1, 8:30 a.m. CST, Pierre – The Family Support Council will hold their quarterly meeting at the Ramkota Hotel in the Lake Francis Room located at 920 W. Sioux Ave. in Pierre. For more information, please contact 605-773-3438.

You Might Also Be Interested To Know:

Monday, November 26 to Thursday, November 29: – The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Field Service Officers will be at the following County and Tribal Veterans Service Offices to assist with veteran related claims, issues, and questions.

Monday, November 26:

- 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. CST, Faulkton – 110 9th Ave. N. 605-280-4308
- 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. MST, Hot Springs (Fall River) – 906 N. River St. 605-280-4307
- 12:30 – 2 p.m. MST, Hot Springs (Vets Home) 2500 Minnekahta Ave. 605-280-4307
- 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CST, Lake Andes – 400 Main St. 605-280-4306
- 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. CST, Mitchell – 1420 N. Main St. 605-360-7819
- 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. CST, Olivet – 140 Euclid, Room 39 605-360-7819

Tuesday, November 27:

- 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. CST, Armour – 706 Braddock St. 605-280-4306
- 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. MST, Belle Fourche – 849 5th Ave. 605-280-4307
- 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. CST, Desmet – 103 Juliet Ave. 605-360-7819
- 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. CST, Flandreau – 101 E. Pipestone Ave. 605-360-7819
- 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. CST, Lake Andes – 400 Main St. 605-280-4306
- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. CST, Rosebud – Veterans Affairs Bldg. 605-280-4308
- 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. MST, Sturgis – 1300 Sherman St. #212 605-280-4307

Wednesday, November 28:

- 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. CST, Highmore – 116 1st St. SW 605-280-4306
- 1 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. CST, Howard – 301 Main St. 605-360-7819
- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. CST, Huron – 450 3rd St. SW #103 605-280-4306
- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. MST, Pine Ridge – 1 Veterans Dr. 605-280-4307
- 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CST, Salem – 130 W. Essex Ave. 605-360-7819
- 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CST, Winner – 200 E. Third St. 605-280-4308

Thursday, November 29:

- 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. MST, Ft. Yates, ND – Standing Rock Tribal Office 605-280-4307
- 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CST, Kadoka – 700 Main St. 605-280-4308
- 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CST, Redfield – 210 E. 7th Ave. 605-280-4306

Tuesday, November 27, to Wednesday, November 28 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will host Job Search Assistance Programs (JSAP). JSAP is a workshop for people recovering from job loss or enhancing their job search skills. Trained instructors speak on modern-day techniques used to successfully find employment. Topics covered include resume and cover letter writing, interviewing etiquette, networking effectively, using social media and much more. JSAP will be offered at the following

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 6 of 42

locations:

Tuesday, November 27, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. CST, Mitchell – At 1315 N. Main St. For more information, call 605-995-8060 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, November 27, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MST, Rapid City – At 2330 N. Maple Ave. For more information, call 605-394-2296 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Wednesday, November 28, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. CST, Yankton – At 3113 Spruce St., Suite 124. For more information, call 605-668-2907 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, November 27, to Wednesday, November 28 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will hold itinerant office hours. Both job seekers and employers interested in receiving employment and career services at no cost may visit or call during these office hours. More information on programs and services is available at www.sdjobs.org. Itinerant office hours will be held at the following locations:

Tuesday, November 27, 1 – 3 p.m. CST, Redfield – At the Spink County Court House, third floor or call 605-380-8930 during these hours and 605-626-2340 at any other time. Additional information at www.sdjobs.org.

Wednesday, November 28, 1 – 4:30 p.m. CST, Wagner – At City Hall, 60 S. Main. For more information, call 605-487-7607, ext. 207 or 212 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Wednesday, November 28, 1 – 3 p.m. CST, Webster – At the Day County Court House basement or call 605-380-8930 during these hours and 605-626-2340 at any other time. Additional information at www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, November 27, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. CST, Sioux Falls – A Credit When Credit is Due course will be held at Sioux Falls Job Service, 811 E. 10th St. The course is designed to help individuals gain a better knowledge of money issues and responsibilities revolving around the world of credit. Registration required. For more information or to register, call 605-367-5300.

Tuesday, November 27 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Canton, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CST

Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MST

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CST

Timber Lake, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MST

Webster, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CST

Wednesday, November 28 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Dupree, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MST

Salem, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CST

Wanblee, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MST

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CST

Thursday, November 29 – Bring Your 'A' Game to Work encompasses seven different skills including Appreciation, Attitude, Attendance, Appearance, Ambition, Accountability and Acceptance. These soft skills and a willingness to take direction are generally more desired by employers than the specific skills a particular job requires. Bring Your 'A' Game is being offered at no cost to businesses and individuals. For more information or to register online, visit https://dlr.sd.gov/workforce_services/individuals/training_opportunities/soft_skills_training.aspx. The workshop will be offered at the following location(s):

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 7 of 42

Thursday, November 29, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. MST, Spearfish – At Spearfish Job Service, 1300 North Ave. For more information or to register, call 605-394-5120. You may also register online at the link above.

Thursday, November 29, 1:30 p.m. CST – The Appraiser Certification Program Advisory Council will hold its quarterly meeting in the Sharpe Conference Room at the Missouri River Plaza, 123 W. Missouri Ave. For more information or to request accommodations for the meeting, contact Sherry Bren at 605-773-4608. Any meeting materials available at <https://dlr.sd.gov/appraisers/meetings.aspx>.

Thursday, November 29 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Canton, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CST

Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MST

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CST

Lemmon, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MST

Hunter Schaller Update from Jasmine Schaller's Facebook Page:

****neurosurgeon took a farther look****

Hunter update: The neurosurgeon looked further into the MRI, and it looks that Hunter has stage 2 brain injury; stage 3 being the worst. Both sides of his brain are damaged. The extremities are undefined as there is still swelling in the brain. We were informed that this is going to be a long road. We appreciate all of the thoughts and prayers being sent our way. Please keep them coming.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 8 of 42

Today in Weather History

November 26, 1989: Snow began falling in western South Dakota during the early evening of the 26th and swept across the state and into west central Minnesota that night and through much of the 27th. Almost two feet of snow fell in parts of the Black Hills, while one to two inches fell in the southeast part of South Dakota. Icy roads caused by rain that preceded the snow in central and eastern parts of the state combined with strong northerly winds on the 27th to make for dangerous traveling conditions. Numerous accidents were reported, and many cars went into ditches. Some of the heavier snow amount in central, north central, and northeast South Dakota were reported at Leola with 6 inches; Mellette and Onida with 5 inches; and Eureka, Faulkton, and Aberdeen with 4 inches.

November 26, 2001: Heavy snow of 6 to 12 inches, along with strong north winds of 20 to 40 mph, caused near-blizzard conditions and challenging travel conditions across most of central and northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Snowfall amounts were 6 to 12 inches in South Dakota and 10 to 14 inches in west central Minnesota. Most schools were closed or started late on both the 26th and 27th and some businesses were also closed. Many flights were also delayed or canceled. Some snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Eagle Butte, Fort Thompson and Webster; 7 inches at Eureka, Onida, Doland, and Watertown; 8 inches at Highmore, Miller, Onaka, Castlewood, and Selby; 9 inches at Sisseton and Peever; 10 inches at Ortonville, Faulkton, Blunt, Murdo, Kennebec, and Stephan; 11 inches at Victor and Gettysburg; 12 inches at Milbank, White Rock, and Clear Lake; 13 inches at Wheaton; and 14 inches at Browns Valley.

1888 - A late season hurricane brushed the East Coast with heavy rain and gale force winds. The hurricane passed inside Nantucket and over Cape Cod, then crossed Nova Scotia. (David Ludlum)

1896 - Snow and high winds hit the Northern Plains and the Upper Mississippi Valley, with a Thanksgiving Day blizzard across North Dakota. The storm was followed by a severe cold wave in the Upper Midwest. The temperature at Pokegama Dam MI plunged to 45 degrees below zero. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A Thanksgiving Day storm in the northeastern U.S. produced heavy snow in northern New England and upstate New York. Snowfall totals in Maine ranged up to twenty inches at Flagstaff Lake. Totals in New Hampshire ranged up to 18 inches at Errol. Gales lashed the coast of Maine and New Hampshire. A second storm, over the Southern and Central Rockies, produced nine inches of snow at Kanosh UT, and 13 inches at Divide CO, with five inches reported at Denver CO. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Central Gulf Coast States during the late morning and afternoon hours. Five tornadoes were reported in Mississippi, with the tornadoes causing a million dollars damage at Ruleville, and in Warren County. In Utah, the town of Alta was blanketed with 15 inches of snow overnight, and during the day was buried under another 16.5 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A massive storm over the western U.S. produced heavy snow in Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana. The storm produced more than two feet of snow in the higher elevations of northern and central Utah, bringing more than sixty inches of snow to the Alta Ski Resort in the Wasatch Mountains. Winds in Utah gusted to 60 mph at Bullfrog. The storm brought much needed snow to the ski resorts of Colorado, with 19 inches reported at Beaver Creek. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

November 26, 2007: Lightning and heavy rain delay the start of the Monday Night Football game at Pittsburgh's Heinz Field between the Miami Dolphins and the Pittsburgh Steelers by 25 minutes. The muddy field conditions contribute to one of the lowest scoring NFL games won by the Steelers, 3-0. The teams combined 375 yards, and the winning field goal occurred with 17 seconds left in the game.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 9 of 42

Today



Scattered
Flurries

High: 15 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: -3 °F

Tuesday



Sunny

High: 21 °F

Tuesday
Night



Mostly Cloudy

Low: 13 °F

Wednesday



Chance
Snow/Sleet

High: 30 °F

Today: Partly Sunny. Cold.
Highs 13-34°

Tuesday: Partly Cloudy. Cold.
Highs 15-38°

Wednesday: Chc Freezing Rain,
Sleet & Snow. Highs 26-44°

Wintery Mix

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 11/26/2018 4:46AM Central

Published on: 11/26/2018 at 4:50AM

The sky should become partly sunny today, with most flurries ending. Tuesday will remain partly cloudy, but also cold like today, especially over northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. A weather system will bring a mixed bag of precipitation types for Wednesday.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 10 of 42

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 26 °F at 12:09 AM

Low Outside Temp: 16 °F at 8:54 AM

High Gust: 23 mph at 5:37 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 63° in 1914

Record Low: -24 in 1996

Average High: 33°F

Average Low: 14°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.64

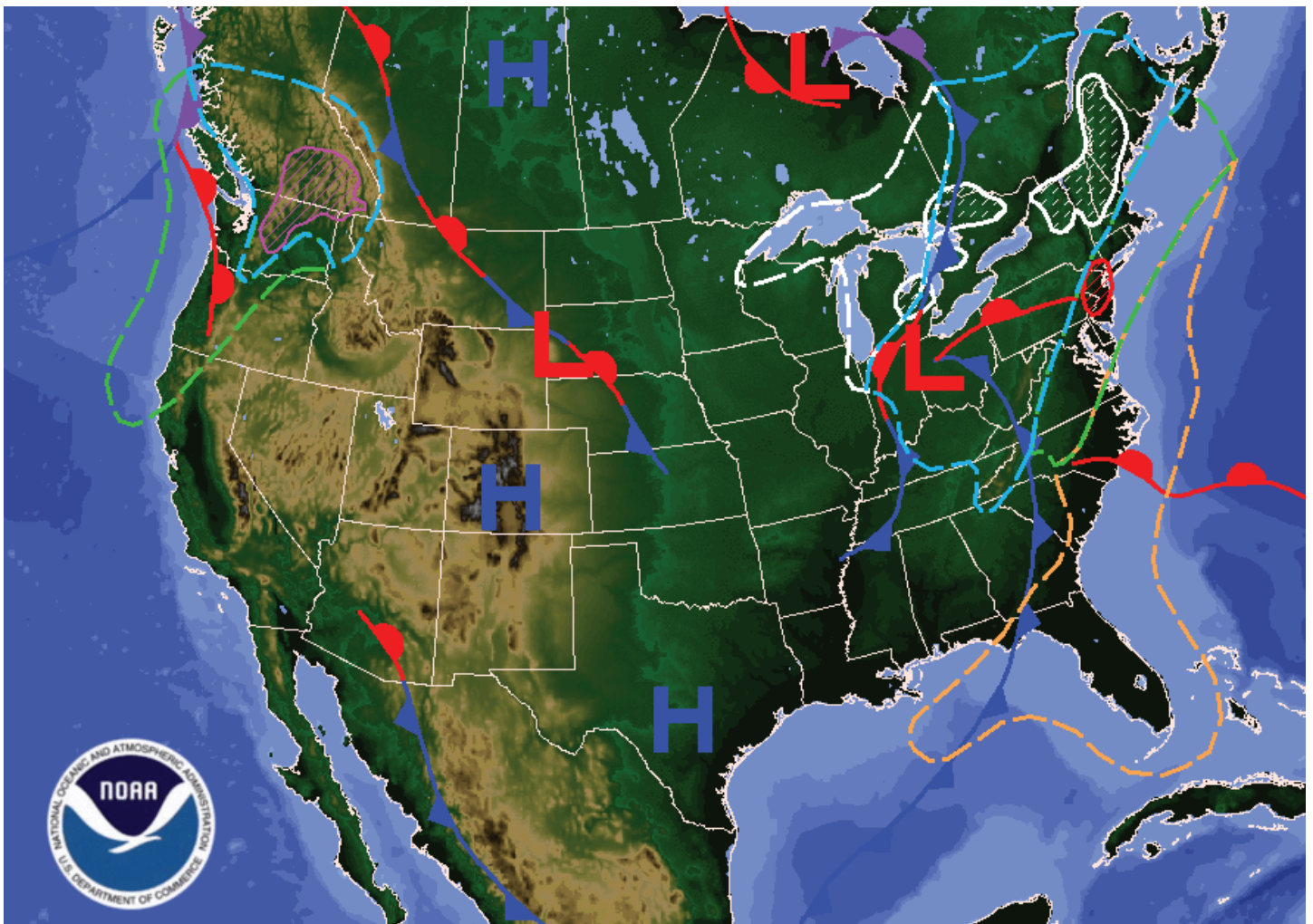
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.76

Average Precip to date: 21.11

Precip Year to Date: 15.81

Sunset Tonight: 4:55 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:48 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Nov 26, 2018, issued 4:41 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 11 of 42



WHY WORSHIP AND SING PRAISES?

Each church has its own temperament. There are churches where you find happiness and hope, a warm fellowship and a welcoming spirit. Others are cold and closed, old and tired. In between are some that are looking for an identity, trying one thing and then another.

Psalm 33 is filled with enthusiasm for God. And, it has some great advice on how to worship God. Sing joyfully, said the Psalmist. Praise the Lord with the harp and the ten-stringed lyre, he continues. But why?

One reason is that The Word of the Lord is right and true. No one has ever rejected the Bible because it contradicts itself but because it contradicts the reader. The only objection against the Bible, said Wilmot the infidel when he was dying, is a bad life.

The plans of the Lord stand true, is another reason to sing. A father said to his son, Go to the third step and jump. Ill catch you! But he didnt, and his son fell to the floor. Now get up and remember, he said, not to trust anyone - not even your father. Our Heavenly Father never tricks us nor tempts us. He is faithful in all things and at all times.

Finally, The eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear Him. No army has ever saved a king, said David. Warriors work together and combine their strength but are often defeated. But God delivers His own from death and keeps them alive in famine.

Humanists depend on human beings. But Christians depend on Jesus Christ to deliver and nourish them.

Prayer: Father, may our hearts and lives be centered on worshipping You in songs of joy and shouts of praise. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 33:1 Let the godly sing for joy to the Lord; it is fitting for the pure to praise him.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 12 of 42

2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- Nov./Dec./Jan./Feb./Mar. Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 9/7/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party
- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

News from the Associated Press

4 new plans for Black Hills gold drilling submitted

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Black Hills National Forest official says there are four new plans for exploratory gold drilling in the forest.

Deputy forest supervisory Jerry Krueger says all of the proposed projects are in the central Mystic District. Krueger declined to name the companies involved. A public review process will begin and Native American tribes with ties to the Black Hills will be consulted.

The Rapid City Journal reports forest officials are still considering a plan of operation for exploratory gold drilling near Rochford that was submitted in late 2016 by Mineral Mountain Resources.

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

Stranger returns lost wallet and adds extra cash

BRANDON, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man has his lost wallet back with some extra cash thanks to a stranger.

Hunter Shamatt thought he'd never seen the wallet again when he lost it on a flight to Las Vegas for his sister's wedding. Inside was \$60 cash and a check for about \$400.

Shamatt tells KSFY-TV he received a package a few days later along with the wallet and a letter. The stranger wrote he found the wallet wedged between a seat and a wall on a flight from Omaha, Nebraska, to Denver. He added \$40 so Shamatt would have "an even \$100" to celebrate the wallet's return. The stranger only signed the letter with initials.

Shamatt's was able to thank the man after tracking down his return address in Omaha.

Information from: KSFY-TV, <http://www.ksfy.com>

Punchless Pack pushed further back, after punt-filled loss

By DAVE CAMPBELL, AP Pro Football Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — When Aaron Jones crossed the goal line early in the second quarter, capping a 75-yard drive that gave Green Bay a 14-7 lead at Minnesota, the Packers again put themselves in favorable position for a victory on the road against a winning team.

That's a formula coach Mike McCarthy's backsliding bunch has yet to figure out this year.

Unlike so many of his past teams with Aaron Rodgers at the helm, these Packers just keep on stumbling down the stretch. Now they'll probably need a perfect finish to squeeze into the playoffs.

Kirk Cousins passed for 342 yards and three touchdowns without a turnover for the Vikings, who overtook the depleted Packers for a 24-17 victory on Sunday.

"We'll see what we're made of for the last five weeks," Rodgers said. "Are we going to stick together through these tough times, or are we going to start splintering? I'd like to think that the leadership is in place that we can stick together through whatever happens, but these five weeks will show it."

The Packers went three and out on their first possession, only because Davante Adams accidentally stepped out of bounds before making what would've been a chain-moving catch on third down. Then Rodgers finished the second drive with a vintage back-shoulder touchdown throw to Adams, before Jones raced around left end on a crack toss sweep that Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said afterward was a perfect call for the defensive play he had dialed up.

But the Packers went three-and-out the next time they had the ball and didn't score again until a field goal with 2:20 left in the fourth quarter. Over their final seven possessions, they punted five times and had a turnover on downs when Jones was stopped on fourth-and-inches midway through the third quarter at

their 44-yard line. On that final drive, Adams had what would've been a touchdown catch on third-and-1 at the 20 slip through his hands.

"Our third down has been our black eye," McCarthy said.

The Packers (4-6-1) fell into 10th place in the NFC. They were beaten up, mentally and physically, by this five-game slog with losses on the road against the Rams (10-1), Patriots (8-3), Seahawks (6-5) and Vikings (6-4-1) when they were either tied or leading as late as the third quarter in each of those four games.

The schedule softens, with four losing teams on the slate: home games against the Cardinals (2-9), Falcons (4-7) and Lions (4-7) and a trip to play the Jets (3-8) following a rematch with the NFC North-leading Bears (8-3) on the road. There's a legitimate question, though, about whether the Packers have enough steam left to win out like they did in 2016 with six straight victories to win the division at 10-6 and reach the NFC championship game.

"I knew we had a tough stretch. Four really tough places to play," Rodgers said. "I didn't think we'd go 1-4 on that stretch, but that's where we're at. We're here: 4-6-1. We have to win our last five, and even that might not be enough."

This will be the first time since Rodgers took over as the starter in 2008 that the Packers don't reach double-digit wins in the regular season when Rodgers doesn't miss any games to injuries. They were 7-9 in 2017 and 8-7-1 in 2013 when Rodgers broke his collarbone. They were 6-10 in 2008.

The injuries are the most tangible reason why the Packers might not be able to recover to reach the playoffs this year. Already missing several starters, they saw left tackle David Bakhtiari, left guard Lane Taylor, wide receiver Equanimeous St. Brown, wide receiver/kick returner Trevor Davis and safety Kentrell Brice all leave the game with injuries.

The Packers, though, have been missing that mojo they've had so often in the Rodgers era all year long. This was their season low in points (14) and yards (254).

"Sitting on the sideline, we kept asking ourselves why we're so unlucky," said Jones, who had 93 total yards on 20 touches.

He added: "You can tell the guys in this locker room want it. We want it more than anyone else, and we're right there each and every game, but it feels like it gets taken from us."

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

Program connects Rapid City area veterans with service dogs

By **ARIELLE ZIONTS**, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — After Chuck Brookens and his dog, Finn, walked on to a dock at Canyon Lake Park on a recent Friday, he bent down to comfort the nervous puppy, who is afraid of heights.

"Good boy," Brookens said as he gave Finn a treat for sitting down.

While in this instance Brookens was the one caring for Finn, it's Finn who is being trained as a professional service dog so he can comfort and help his owner, who has post-traumatic stress disorder after serving in the Iraq War.

Brookens, a 35-year-old Rapid City resident, bought Finn after Tom Vallette of the Veterans Service Office at Pennington County told him about the office's new initiative that connects veterans with service dogs, the Rapid City Journal reported.

He said Vallette called him a "prime candidate" for the program and linked him with two local organizations that assist veterans in finding, affording and training service dogs.

RescueX2, raises money for veterans who need help paying for a dog, and Super Dogs for Super Heroes helps veterans find and train a service dog ideal for their needs and lifestyle, Vallette said.

"I'm able to pair them up with these guys and help alleviate if you will, part of their PTSD. A lot of research has shown that service animals are relaxing for people," said Vallette, who served in Afghanistan.

"Just him being a companion of mine helps me stay out of my own head ... keeps me from just sitting there, dwelling on stuff in the past because I've got to focus on him and his needs," Brookens said of Finn,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 15 of 42

a five-month-old miniature Australian shepherd.

Brookens said when Finn realizes that he's feeling anxious, he lays down at his feet to calm him down. Finn also nudges Brookens to alert him to shadows, people and animals during walks or in crowds.

Wayne Swier, a 32-year-old veteran who served in Afghanistan, also got a service dog after Vallette encouraged him to do so.

Raz, a three-year-old boxer-pit bull mix that Swier adopted from a friend, helps Swier with his PTSD by keeping him calm and alert in crowds. In the future, he'll also learn to wake Swier up during nightmares.

Swier, who wears an above-the-knee prosthetic after he lost part of his leg to a bomb in Afghanistan and uses a wheelchair to get around his home in Johnson Siding, is also training Raz to help him with physical tasks such as picking up dropped items and pushing his wheelchair toward him if he falls while walking.

"It's peace of mind for me and it's peace of mind for (my wife) to actually have a dog there that's going to be willing to help out," Swier said, adding that Raz follows him everywhere around the house.

Swier and Brookens bring their pets for service dog training with Becky Flanagan of Super Dogs for Super Heroes, and Swier also trains through online programs. Both said they feel comfortable working with Flanagan since she is a veteran herself.

Swier said he hopes other veterans seeing people like him take advantage of the new service dog program will encourage them not to be afraid to ask for help.

"For this current generation of veterans, a lot of them are like me, they get out, they want to be reclusive, they don't want to talk about their problems, they kind of suffer in silence and they don't want to ask for help but they need help. And I think a service dog is definitely something that more often than not, a lot of them could use," he said.

"I think (this program) will open door for more veterans being OK with, 'OK I've admitted that I need the help with this, maybe I should also go to counseling too,'" Swier said.

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

Yankton families welcome international students in program

By REILLY BIEL, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — The Yankton campus of Mount Marty College (MMC) is seeing a rich diversity of culture.

At the start of the fall semester, the college welcomed 17 new international students from: Brazil, Spain, Argentina, Australia, Canada, Colombia, Mexico, Republic of Georgia, Serbia, Venezuela and the United Kingdom.

While MMC has welcomed international students before, this is the first time so many have come at once. With this influx, MMC administrators decided to try a new program in which Yankton community members act as "welcome families" to these students, helping them integrate into the community and acting as surrogate parents, the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reported.

MMC Dean of Enrollment Stephanie Moser said new head men's soccer coach Carlos Saenz was the program's most vocal supporter.

"He's been a game-changer for us," she remarked.

Saenz's support of the program draws from his own experience as a former international student from Peru. He attended MMC in the early 2010s as a soccer player.

"I never felt like an international student," he said. "Mount Marty did a really good job making me feel welcome here."

He remained in the area following his graduation in 2012, acting as an assistant soccer coach last year. Following his transition to head soccer coach, he brought the idea of recruiting more international students to school administrators, including MMC President Dr. Marc Long and MMC Athletics Director Chris Kassin.

"One of Mount Marty's core values is hospitality, so they knew the potential of bringing these students in," he said.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 16 of 42

After getting approval to move forward, Saenz estimates he reached out to more than 1,000 potential students in the hopes of bringing in more students for the college's athletics program.

"Ashley (Dimmer, associate director of admissions) told me I had to contact that many people and that I'd get maybe 3 percent of them," Saenz recalled.

Though he is arguably the face of this recruitment effort, Saenz made it clear that bringing in these students was a group effort.

"Everyone from the president to admissions to the athletics department made it happen," he said. "I was just the connection (to it) and they embraced and supported that. Myself and the students are thankful for that."

He added that recruiting students is only part of the process. Another important factor is making the students, particularly those from other countries, feel welcome and able to adapt to the area.

Connecting the international students to the community was the idea everyone agreed on, Saenz said, adding that the results have been positive thus far.

"It's been great for (the students) to feel like they have an American family who care about them and want to learn from them," he said.

The Press & Dakotan spoke with three international students and their welcome families to see what their experiences have been since they arrived at MMC.

Born in Moldova and raised in Spain, Gabriel Ivlev decided he wanted to attend school in America in order to study in college and be an athlete. He spent two years playing soccer at Indian Hills Community College in Iowa, earning an associate's degree in business. Upon graduation, he chose to come to MMC to get his bachelor's in business and continue playing soccer.

He said that MMC is a much smaller school than Indian Hills, but feels more familiar.

"You have a lot of people looking out for you," he remarked.

One of those people is Moser herself, who decided to sign her family up as a welcome family after learning that MMC employees could also be a part of the program.

"My sister hosts an international student in high school, so I thought it'd be a great experience," she said.

She has invited Ivlev over to her home for dinner with her family — husband Brad and kids Quentin and Patyon — and occasionally cooks for Ivlev and his teammates in their shared home.

"I feel like I almost adopted an entire house," she remarked.

She noted that her children are currently studying Spanish in their respective schools and that Ivlev's presence has been beneficial for them.

"Not many of us have had the opportunity to travel with our kids internationally," she said. "This is a great opportunity for (my children) to meet someone from another country and learn about their culture."

Ivlev noted the lifestyles of people in the U.S. and Spain are completely opposite.

"In Spain, they follow the Mediterranean diet — which is healthier than American food — and are very laid back and take things at their own time," he said. "People in America wake up, go to work and follow a strict schedule. They also like big stuff, like big trucks and big houses."

He said he's also still adapting to the cold temperatures that come with Midwestern winters.

From the MMC perspective, having this many international students at one time has been a learning curve, Moser said.

"A great situation of being on the college campus is having the opportunity to learn from our students and the different experiences they bring with them," she said.

Ivlev agrees.

"For the teams, they bring a lot more talent, which can turn the team into a very competitive one," he said. "I'd say, bring more international students."

Juan Duarte of Colombia went to a Benedictine high school that has connections to Benedictine institutes in the United States, which helped him learn about MMC and influenced his decision to come here to start off his college career. A basketball player studying business management, Duarte was paired with Yankton couple Kate and Mason Schramm as his welcome family.

Like him, the Schramms have experienced being far from home.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 17 of 42

"When we moved to West Virginia after college, there were several individuals that took us in as if we were their family and helped us get comfortable in our new home," Kate Schramm said. "Since then, we always said that if there was an opportunity for us to do that for somebody else, we needed to take that and pay forward the love and kindness we had been shown."

During their first meeting, Duarte recalled the Schramms taking him to Willa B's for breakfast, walking the Meridian Bridge and visiting the farmer's market.

"We wanted to take advantage of the nice weather and show off the more beautiful sites of Yankton," Kate Schramm explained.

The Schramms have had Duarte over for game nights and have become acquainted with his parents through Facebook messenger.

"We hope to see them sometime and they want to come visit," Mason Schramm said. "We've created another extended family with them."

Duarte has shared with them his experiences of growing up in Bogota, a city with a population of 8 million. However, he said he is adapting to life in Yankton well.

"The open space here is good, and it's a peaceful environment," he said.

By the time basketball season starts, Kate Schramm will have given birth to the couple's first child. However, they won't let that deter them from attending Duarte's sporting events.

"We're going to wear Mount Marty gear and have noise-canceling headphones so we can bring the baby," Kate Schramm said.

Duarte said having this type of familial element has helped with his transition to Yankton.

"We international students need that feeling of home away from home," he said.

A junior soccer player majoring in exercise science, Irakoze Mugenzi of Ontario, Canada, first came to the United States to attend Eastern Oklahoma State College, from which he received an associate's degree. Wanting to further his education and continue playing soccer elsewhere, he received an offer from MMC.

"I thought the offer was not only great, but also what Mount Marty stood for as a school," he said, noting he was drawn to its religious values and goals.

"Everything was a check-mark — a great small town, a great community and Coach Carlos did a great job informing me of everything I needed to know," he said.

His welcome family, Wayne and Marge Kindle, were interested in acting as a welcome family due to their previous experience with international students.

"Several years ago while serving as principal at Yankton Middle School, we did an exchange with students and staff from Costa Rica, as well as hosted students and staff from Japan," Wayne said. "Both of these were wonderful experiences for our family and students here in Yankton. My wife, Marge, and I felt the same about this opportunity."

Mugenzi said he and his girlfriend, Alexandria, have both been made to feel welcome by the Kindles.

"They've been amazing," he said. "They've had dinner with us, taken us to the (Yankton High School) homecoming football game — which was an amazing sight to see — and helped me get stuff for the house I live in with my teammates."

The Kindles have also attended Mugenzi's soccer games and assisted him with the smaller details of settling into a new community, such as finding a place to get a haircut.

"Any questions we have, they're there to answer them," Mugenzi remarked.

Wayne said acting as a surrogate family for both Mugenzi and Alexandria has been an enjoyable experience.

"Honestly, we consider ourselves fortunate to have both Koze and Alexandria," he said. "In this short amount of time we have known them, they have become family to us. It may be that they won't be able to make it home for Thanksgiving, so we will have two more joining us, and that is a Thanksgiving blessing to our family."

He encourages others in the community to consider acting as welcome families for future international students.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 18 of 42

"There are many rewards in getting to know our young people from other countries and in our own country," Wayne said. "You get to hear a lot of great perspective, learn about other cultures and, in our case, pass along an experience to our grandchildren that in turn we hope fosters unity and peace for other generations."

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

Man dies in car crash in eastern South Dakota

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — A 24-year-old man is dead after a car crash in eastern South Dakota. Authorities say the driver drifted into a ditch a mile south of Brookings on Sunday morning. The 2014 Buick Regal hit an approach, vaulted and rolled. The driver was not wearing a seat belt and was thrown from the car. He died at the scene.

The name of the victim has not been released. South Dakota's Highway Patrol is investigating.

Deadwood officials revisit sign, merchandise display rules

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — Officials in Deadwood are taking another look at rules for sandwich boards and mannequins in the city's historic district.

The Deadwood City Commission is working on revisions to the city's sign ordinance, the Black Hills Pioneer reported .

"We're not here to deter businesses," said Commissioner Gary Todd.

Deadwood Planning and Zoning Administrator Bob Nelson Jr. said the city hasn't enforced the ordinances that ban free-standing signs and displays of merchandise on the exterior of buildings in the city's historic district.

"However, sandwich board signs can be allowed if proof of property line is provided and the sign is at least three feet from the right of way line," Nelson said.

Nelson said he wants the authorization to write citations. He said the code infractions are mainly been seen on Main Street. Nelson said his office has received complaints about mannequins covering other businesses signs.

Commissioner Dave Ruth said the signs and displays take up space on the sidewalk and can be a safety hazard. Ruth said the enforcement issue may come from a lack of clarity on who is tasked with overseeing enforcement efforts.

Todd suggested allowing a uniformed officer to accompany Nelson as he issues citations.

Commissioner Sharon Martinisko said she wants to educate businesses about the ordinance before issuing citations.

"If we move forward, personally, I would like to see that every single business on Main Street and other places be given a copy of these ordinances and given the opportunity to comply," she said.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

UK's May fights to sell Brexit deal to a skeptical country

By JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May was starting a frantic two-week race Monday to convince the British public, and a skeptical Parliament, to back the Brexit deal she has struck with the European Union.

May was gathering her Cabinet for a meeting hours after returning from Brussels with the divorce agreement approved by the 27 other EU leaders. She plans to address lawmakers in the House of Commons later in the day.

The deal needs to be approved by Parliament, but scores of legislators — from both the opposition and May's governing Conservative Party — say they will oppose it.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 19 of 42

May aims to convince them that the deal "honors the referendum" in 2016 that saw Britain vote to leave the EU.

She argues that the British people are sick of endless debates about Brexit, and backing the deal will allow "us to come together again as a country whichever way we voted."

Parliament's vote is due before Christmas, likely the week of Dec. 10.

Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay conceded that "it's going to be a challenging vote." But he said Britain would be in "choppy waters" if the deal was rejected.

Rejection by Parliament would plunge Britain into a political crisis just weeks before it is due to leave the EU on March 29.

Both Britain and the EU are adamant that the U.K. can't renegotiate the deal, struck after 18 months of tense negotiations. May says "it is the best possible deal. It is the only deal."

That hasn't stopped pro-Brexit campaigners pushing for a cleaner break from the bloc, and pro-EU activists trying to stop Britain leaving at all.

On Monday, a European court threw out a challenge from 13 Britons living in other EU nations seeking the annulment of the Brexit negotiations.

The 13 said they were not allowed to vote in the 2016 referendum because they were living abroad and said their court case was the only way to avoid losing EU citizenship when Britain I.

The EU general court said that the opening of the Brexit negotiations had no direct impact on their situation.

Raf Casert in Brussels contributed to this story.

See the AP's Brexit coverage at: <https://www.apnews.com/Brexit>

India cautious as it looks to recover American body

By ASHOK SHARMA, Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indian officials have traveled repeatedly in recent days near the remote island where an American missionary was killed by people who have long resisted the outside world. But they have not set foot onto North Sentinel Island since the killing, and it remains unclear if they will.

"They are a treasure," Dependera Pathak, director-general of police on the Andaman and Nicobar island groups, said of the Sentinelese people. "We cannot go and force our way in. We don't want to harm them."

The Sentinelese, who scholars believe are descendants of Africans who migrated to the area about 50,000 years ago, survive on the small, forested island by hunting, fishing and gathering wild plants. Almost nothing is known of their lives, except that they attack outsiders with spears or bows and arrows.

American John Allen Chau was killed by islanders in mid-November after paying fishermen to smuggle him to the island, where outsiders are effectively forbidden by Indian law. The fishermen told authorities that they saw the Sentinelese bury Chau's body on the beach. The notes Chau left behind say he wanted to bring Christianity to the islanders.

A boat carrying police and other officials approached North Sentinel on Friday and Saturday, watching the Sentinelese through binoculars. On Saturday the tribesmen were armed with spears and bows and arrows, but they did not attempt to shoot them at the authorities, Pathak said.

"We watched them from a distance and they watched us from a distance," he said.

Officials have not given up on recovering the body, he said. But they are moving very gingerly, studying the 2006 killing of fishermen whose boat had drifted onto the island.

"We are looking carefully at what happened then, and what (the Sentinelese) did," he said. "We are consulting anthropologists to see what kind of friendly gesture we can make."

The islanders buried the two fishermen on the beach in 2006, but dug up the corpses after a few days and propped them upright. Authorities apparently never recovered those bodies, and the killings were never investigated.

There has been no significant contact with the Sentinelese for generations. Anthropologists used to occasionally drop off gifts of coconuts and bananas, but even those visits were stopped years ago.

Anthropologist P.C. Joshi said he understands why authorities want to recover the body.

"If there is a death, then the cause of death should be known. It's important," said Joshi, a professor at Delhi University.

"Of course, we can't prosecute" the islanders if they killed Chau, he said. Plus, he noted, it may already be too late to learn much from the body, since the heat and humidity on North Sentinel will cause rapid decomposition.

"Ultimately, it's becoming futile," he said.

Associated Press writer Tim Sullivan contributed to this report.

Mexico to up security at border after migrants try to cross

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — Mexico pledged to shore up security near its border with the United States and local authorities said that 39 migrants were arrested after a peaceful march devolved into chaos when U.S. agents fired tear gas into Mexico to stop some migrants who tried to breach the border.

Mexico's Interior Ministry said Sunday it would immediately deport those who tried to "violently" enter the U.S. from Tijuana. Meanwhile, Tijuana's municipal government said that more than three-dozen migrants were arrested for disturbing the peace and other charges stemming from the march and what followed.

The vast majority of the more than 5,000 Central American migrants camped out for more than a week at a sports complex in Tijuana returned to their makeshift shelter to line up for food and recuperate from an unsettling afternoon.

Lurbin Sarmiento, 26, of Copan, Honduras, walked back to the sports complex with her 4-year-old daughter shaken from what had unfolded a short time earlier at the Tijuana River and U.S. border.

She had been at the bottom of the river, a concrete riverbed conveying a trickle of water, near the border with her daughter when U.S. agents fired tear gas.

"We ran, but the smoke always reached us and my daughter was choking," Sarmiento said.

She said she never would have gotten that close with her daughter if she thought there would be gas.

The gas reached hundreds of migrants protesting near the border after some of them attempted to get through the fencing and wire separating the two countries. American authorities shut down the nation's busiest border crossing at San Ysidro for several hours at the end of the Thanksgiving weekend.

The situation devolved after the group began a peaceful march to appeal for the U.S. to speed processing of asylum claims for Central American migrants marooned in Tijuana.

Mexican police had kept them from walking over a bridge leading to the Mexican port of entry, but the migrants pushed past officers to walk across the Tijuana River below the bridge. More police carrying plastic riot shields were on the other side, but migrants walked along the river to an area where only an earthen levee and concertina wire separated them from U.S. Border Patrol agents.

Some saw an opportunity to breach the crossing.

An Associated Press reporter saw U.S. agents shoot several rounds of tear gas after some migrants attempted to penetrate several points along the border. Mexico's Milenio TV showed images of migrants climbing over fences and peeling back metal sheeting to enter.

Honduran Ana Zuniga, 23, also said she saw migrants opening a small hole in concertina wire at a gap on the Mexican side of a levee, at which point U.S. agents fired tear gas at them.

Children screamed and coughed. Fumes were carried by the wind toward people who were hundreds of feet away.

"We ran, but when you run the gas asphyxiates you more," Zuniga told the AP while cradling her 3-year-old daughter Valery in her arms.

As the chaos unfolded, shoppers just yards away on the U.S. side streamed in and out of an outlet mall,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 21 of 42

which eventually closed.

Throughout the day, U.S. Customs and Border Protection helicopters flew overhead, while U.S. agents on foot watched beyond the wire fence in California. The Border Patrol office in San Diego said via Twitter that pedestrian crossings were suspended at the San Ysidro port of entry at the East and West facilities. All northbound and southbound traffic was halted for several hours. Every day more than 100,000 people enter the U.S. there.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said in a statement that U.S. authorities will continue to have a "robust" presence along the Southwest border and that they will prosecute anyone who damages federal property or violates U.S. sovereignty.

"DHS will not tolerate this type of lawlessness and will not hesitate to shut down ports of entry for security and public safety reasons," she said.

More than 5,000 migrants have been camped in and around a sports complex in Tijuana after making their way through Mexico in recent weeks via caravan. Many hope to apply for asylum in the U.S., but agents at the San Ysidro entry point are processing fewer than 100 asylum petitions a day.

Irineo Mujica, who has accompanied the migrants for weeks as part of the aid group Pueblo Sin Fronteras, said the aim of Sunday's march toward the U.S. border was to make the migrants' plight more visible to the governments of Mexico and the U.S.

"We can't have all these people here," Mujica said.

Tijuana Mayor Juan Manuel Gastelum on Friday declared a humanitarian crisis in his border city of 1.6 million, which he says is struggling to accommodate the crush of migrants.

U.S. President Donald Trump took to Twitter on Monday to express his displeasure with the caravans in Mexico and to make another pitch for his promised border wall.

"Mexico should move the flag waving Migrants, many of whom are stone cold criminals, back to their countries," Trump tweeted. "Do it by plane, do it by bus, do it anyway you want, but they are NOT coming into the U.S.A. We will close the Border permanently if need be. Congress, fund the WALL!"

Trump has repeatedly suggested without evidence that the migrant caravans are full of hardened criminals, but they are mostly poor people with few belongings who are fleeing gang violence. During his presidential campaign, he promised he'd have Mexico pay for the wall.

Mexico's Interior Ministry said Sunday the country has sent 11,000 Central Americans back to their countries of origin since Oct. 19, when the first caravan entered the country. It said that 1,906 of those who have returned were members of the recent caravans.

Mexico is on track to send a total of around 100,000 Central Americans back home by the end of this year.

Associated Press writer Amy Guthrie contributed to this story from Mexico City.

Snowstorm batters parts of Midwest, 100s of flights canceled

CHICAGO (AP) — A wintry storm is battering much of the Midwest early Monday, bringing blizzard-like conditions that have grounded hundreds of flights and closed major highways at the end of the Thanksgiving weekend.

The Chicago Department of Aviation reported early Monday that average departure delays at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport are 77 minutes, and the flight-tracking website FlightAware reported that more than 350 flights headed to or from the U.S. were canceled.

Heavy snow was expected to continue through the early hours of Monday with up to a foot (30 centimeters) of snow expected in Chicago, including wind gusts of up to 50 mph (80 kph) likely to cause whiteout conditions, according to The National Weather Service.

Parts of southeastern Wisconsin, just north of Chicago, suffered a glancing blow from the storm, with about 9 inches (23 centimeters) of blowing and drifting snow.

Forecasters predict more than a foot of snow is likely in southeast Nebraska, northeast Kansas, northwest

Missouri and southwest Iowa. Downed tree limbs and power lines will continue to cause power outages. In Kansas, a large stretch of Interstate 70, spanning much of the state, was closed between Junction City and WaKeeney on Sunday, and Gov. Jeff Colyer declared a state of emergency.

Separately, a portion of Interstate 29 was shut down due to heavy snow in Missouri, near the Iowa border. Winter storm warnings and winter weather advisories are in effect from central Missouri into eastern Michigan.

Ukraine demands Russia release vessels as tensions build

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Ukraine's president demanded Monday that Russia immediately release Ukrainian sailors and ships seized in a standoff around Crimea that sharply escalated tensions between the two countries and drew international concern.

The two neighbors have been locked in a tense tug-of-war since Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea, but the incident late Sunday in which Russian coast guard ships fired on Ukrainian navy vessels near the Kerch Strait directly pitted the two militaries, placing them on the verge of an open conflict.

The Ukrainian navy said six of its seamen were wounded when Russian coast guards opened fire on three Ukrainian ships near the Kerch Strait and then seized them. Russia said that three Ukrainian sailors were lightly injured and given medical assistance.

Ukraine's president, Petro Poroshenko, chaired an emergency meeting of his Cabinet early Monday and asked parliament to introduce martial law in response to what he described as Russian aggression.

"We consider it as an act of aggression against our state and a very serious threat," the president said. "Unfortunately, there are no 'red lines' for the Russian Federation."

Martial law could entail a variety of measures including closing the borders, imposing restrictions on foreigners entering the country, a ban on gun sales, a ban of any political gatherings and rallies and even closing down media outlets if they are deemed a threat to national security.

An emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council was also called for Monday. The European Union and NATO called for restraint from both sides.

Poroshenko had a phone call Monday with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg to discuss the situation. NATO later said that at Poroshenko's request its ambassadors and Ukraine's envoy will hold emergency talks in Brussels later Monday.

NATO said Stoltenberg expressed the U.S.-led military alliance's "full support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty, including its full navigational rights in its territorial waters under international law."

Poroshenko said at a meeting of Ukraine's national security council Monday that "we demand that (the ships and crews) are urgently turned over to the Ukrainian side" and called for a "de-escalation" of the crisis around Crimea.

Russia and Ukraine have traded blame over the incident that further escalated tensions that have soared since Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014 and backed a separatist insurgency in eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine said its vessels were heading to the Sea of Azov in line with international maritime rules, while Russia charged that they had failed to obtain permission to pass through the Kerch Strait separating Crimea from the Russian mainland.

The narrow strait is the only passage between the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. It's spanned by a 19-kilometer (11.8-mile) bridge that Russia completed this year. While a 2003 treaty designates the Kerch Strait and Sea of Azov as shared territorial waters, Russia has sought to assert greater control over the passage since the annexation of Crimea.

"There is no doubt that it was done by blessing or, perhaps, even a direct order from the top," said Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. "While planning that provocation, Ukraine had undoubtedly hoped to get additional benefits from the situation, expecting the U.S. and Europe to blindly take the provocateurs' side."

He urged the West to "calm down those in Ukraine who are trying to unleash a military hysteria to get

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 23 of 42

political gains in connection with the planned elections” — a reference to Ukraine’s presidential vote in March.

A motion to introduce martial law requires a simple majority of votes in the 450-seat parliament, which Poroshenko’s party controls. If martial law is introduced as proposed for 60 days, it will derail the presidential election campaign, which was expected to start on Dec. 30 with the vote in March.

Some lawmakers lashed out at Poroshenko’s move as an attempt to influence the vote. Polls show Poroshenko trailing far behind arch-rival Yulia Tymoshenko.

“Martial law in Ukraine would present a wonderful chance to manipulate the presidential elections,” said Oksana Syroid, a deputy speaker of parliament who is a member of the Samopomich faction.

She noted that martial law was not introduced in 2014 or 2015 despite large-scale fighting between Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed separatists in the east.

President Vladimir Putin’s spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said that Poroshenko’s initiative to introduce martial law “clearly smacks of electoral intrigues.”

“We believe that it’s wrong and dangerous to solve electoral tasks by waving a flag of war,” he said.

Meanwhile, hundreds of protesters from far-right party National Corps waved flares at a protest in the snowy streets outside the Ukrainian parliament Monday. They brandished yellow-and-blue flags with the Ukrainian national symbol, the trident, and a huge white banner reading “Don’t back down!”

Yuras Karmanau in Minsk, Belarus, and Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. FIRST GENE-EDITED BABIES CLAIMED IN CHINA

A Chinese researcher claims that he helped make the world’s first genetically edited babies — DNA he says he altered with a powerful new tool, AP learns.

2. MEXICO TO TAKE STRONG ACTION AGAINST MIGRANTS

Mexican officials pledge to shore up security near its border with the U.S. after some migrants “violently” tried to breach the border at Tijuana and U.S. agents fired tear gas into Mexico to stop them.

3. UKRAINE LAWMAKERS MULL MARTIAL LAW

President Petro Poroshenko demands that Russia immediately release Ukrainian sailors and ships Moscow seized in a standoff around Crimea.

4. WHERE TRUMP IS HEADED

Trump is bound for Mississippi for two rallies to try to keep the Senate seat held by Cindy Hyde-Smith in Republican hands.

5. FDA DEEMED LAX ON MEDICAL DEVICES

An AP investigation into the \$400 billion global market finds that more than 1.7 million people have been injured and nearly 83,000 killed.

6. INSIGHT LANDER POISED FOR TOUCHDOWN ON MARS

A NASA spacecraft’s six-month journey to the red planet nears its dramatic grand finale in what experts hope will be a soft precision landing.

7. WINTRY STORM BATTERS MIDWEST

Hundreds of flights are grounded, major highways closed and schools in several states shuttered after a snowstorm blankets much of the region.

8. APPLE HEADS TO WASHINGTON

The iPhone maker is at the Supreme Court to defend the way it sells apps against claims by consumers that the company has unfairly monopolized the market.

9. FEDS TRY TO MEASURE AUTISM IN CHILDREN

A new U.S. government estimate on the developmental disorder doesn’t necessarily mean the numbers

of kids affected is rising.

10. VIKINGS BEAT PACKERS IN NFC NORTH SHOWDOWN

Kirk Cousins bounces back from his worst game of the season with 342 passing yards and three touchdowns and Minnesota beats Green Bay 24-17.

Mississippi senator banking on boost from Trump rallies

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS, Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The final chapter of the 2018 midterms is nearing a close in Mississippi, where the prevalent themes of President Donald Trump and race have combined for a much closer contest than anyone expected in one of the country's most deeply conservative states.

Republican Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, appointed to the seat in April, gives unwavering support to the president who will campaign for her at two rallies on Monday, a day ahead of the runoff. Trump also has thanked her right back on Twitter for voting for "our Agenda in the Senate 100% of the time."

She is up against Democrat Mike Espy, a former congressman and U.S. agriculture secretary who is seeking to become Mississippi's first black senator since Reconstruction. And in the final weeks of the campaign, race has become a dominant issue.

Hyde-Smith has drawn fire for attending a white private school that was founded after court-ordered school desegregation of public schools. She's been seen in a photo wearing a replica hat of a Confederate soldier and in a video praising a supporter by saying, "If he invited me to a public hanging, I'd be on the front row."

Mississippi has a history of racially motivated lynchings and violence against people who sought voting rights for black citizens. Some 38 percent of the state's residents are black, and Espy is trying to boost their turnout and pick up support from white voters who are uneasy with Trump or the racially tinged stories about Hyde-Smith.

The winner Tuesday finishes the final two years of a term started by Republican Sen. Thad Cochran. He resigned in April amid health concerns.

It's the last U.S. Senate race to be decided in 2018 and will determine whether Republicans pad their slim majority.

Hyde-Smith's support of Trump is unmistakable. She used both her opening and closing statements of the only debate of the runoff campaign to promote Monday's presidential rallies, citing the online address to get tickets. Even on trade and tariffs, where Trump's decisions could hurt Mississippi farmers, Hyde-Smith praised the president.

"I have met with the president, and I proudly support him in negotiating these trades," she said. "All the Mississippi farmers want is a fair deal, and I'm excited that the president has stepped up to renegotiate these deals."

Hyde-Smith and Trump are set to appear together at a late Monday afternoon event in the northeastern city of Tupelo, best known as the birthplace of Elvis Presley. Then, they fly to the Gulf Coast for a larger evening rally in Biloxi.

Democrats also have used some star power. Former Vice President Joe Biden has endorsed Espy, and three Democrats who could run for president in 2020 — Sens. Kamala Harris of California and Cory Booker of New Jersey and former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick — have been to Mississippi to campaign for the former congressman who served as agriculture secretary in 1993 and 1994 under Democratic President Bill Clinton.

For Espy, turnout is key. He has to close the gap in a state where Trump received 58 percent in 2016 and that hasn't elected a Democrat to the U.S. Senate since 1982.

About a third of Mississippi voters were African-American in the four-way race on Election Day, and Espy won support from about 80 percent of them, compared to about 20 percent of white voters, according to VoteCast, a wide-ranging survey of the electorate conducted by The Associated Press.

If Espy's campaign can boost African-American turnout to 40 percent and he can win 9 out of 10 of their

votes, he would only need less than a quarter of white votes to secure a victory.

Espy hasn't hammered Hyde-Smith on Trump at every turn. His campaign has focused more on issues such as social justice, health care and raising wages.

"My approach is Mississippi first," Espy said at last week's debate. "That means that Mississippi over party, Mississippi over person — I don't care how powerful that person might be."

Espy also has carefully picked his time to talk about race. He does remind voters while Hyde-Smith was in a white academy, he and his twin sister were being called racial slurs while integrating Yazoo City High School in 1969.

Hyde-Smith has apologized to "anyone that was offended" by the hanging comment, saying she meant no ill will. She and her campaign have refused to talk about the Confederate hat and have called the school issue a personal attack on her family meant to draw attention away from issues.

Walmart asked Hyde-Smith to return a \$2,000 campaign contribution because of the hanging remark.

For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. midterm elections: <http://apne.ws/APPolitics> . Follow Emily Wagster Pettus on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/EWagsterPettus> .

Anxiety abounds at NASA as Mars landing day arrives

By MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A NASA spacecraft's six-month journey to Mars neared its dramatic grand finale Monday in what scientists and engineers hoped would be a soft precision landing on flat red plains.

The InSight lander aimed for an afternoon touchdown, as anxiety built among those involved in the \$1 billion international effort.

InSight's perilous descent through the Martian atmosphere, after a trip of 300 million miles (482 million kilometers), had stomachs churning and nerves stretched to the max. Although an old pro at this, NASA last attempted a landing at Mars six years ago.

The robotic geologist — designed to explore Mars' mysterious insides — must go from 12,300 mph (19,800 kph) to zero in six minutes flat as it pierces the Martian atmosphere, pops out a parachute, fires its descent engines and, hopefully, lands on three legs.

"Landing on Mars is one of the hardest single jobs that people have to do in planetary exploration," noted InSight's lead scientist, Bruce Banerdt. "It's such a difficult thing, it's such a dangerous thing that there's always a fairly uncomfortably large chance that something could go wrong."

Earth's success rate at Mars is 40 percent, counting every attempted flyby, orbital flight and landing by the U.S., Russia and other countries dating all the way back to 1960.

But the U.S. has pulled off seven successful Mars landings in the past four decades. With only one failed touchdown, it's an enviable record. No other country has managed to set and operate a spacecraft on the dusty red surface.

InSight could hand NASA its eighth win.

It's shooting for Elysium Planitia, a plain near the Martian equator that the InSight team hopes is as flat as a parking lot in Kansas with few, if any, rocks. This is no rock-collecting expedition. Instead, the stationary 800-pound (360-kilogram) lander will use its 6-foot (1.8-meter) robotic arm to place a mechanical mole and seismometer on the ground.

The self-hammering mole will burrow 16 feet (5 meters) down to measure the planet's internal heat, while the ultra-high-tech seismometer listens for possible marsquakes. Nothing like this has been attempted before at our smaller next-door neighbor, nearly 100 million miles (160 million kilometers) away.

No experiments have ever been moved robotically from the spacecraft to the actual Martian surface. No lander has dug deeper than several inches, and no seismometer has ever worked on Mars.

By examining the deepest, darkest interior of Mars — still preserved from its earliest days — scientists hope to create 3D images that could reveal how our solar system's rocky planets formed 4.5 billion years ago and why they turned out so different. One of the big questions is what made Earth so hospitable to life.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 26 of 42

Mars once had flowing rivers and lakes; the deltas and lakebeds are now dry, and the planet cold. Venus is a furnace because of its thick, heat-trapping atmosphere. Mercury, closest to the sun, has a surface that's positively baked.

The planetary know-how gained from InSight's two-year operation could even spill over to rocky worlds beyond our solar system, according to Banerdt. The findings on Mars could help explain the type of conditions at these so-called exoplanets "and how they fit into the story that we're trying to figure out for how planets form," he said.

Concentrating on planetary building blocks, InSight has no life-detecting capability. That will be left for future rovers. NASA's Mars 2020 mission, for instance, will collect rocks for eventual return that could hold evidence of ancient life.

Because it's been so long since NASA's last Martian landfall — the Curiosity rover in 2012 — Mars mania is gripping not only the space and science communities, but everyday folks.

Viewing parties are planned coast to coast at museums, planetariums and libraries, as well as in France, where InSight's seismometer was designed and built. The giant NASDAQ screen in New York's Times Square will start broadcasting NASA Television an hour before InSight's scheduled 3 p.m. EST touchdown; so will the National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia, and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The InSight spacecraft was built near Denver by Lockheed Martin.

But the real action, at least on Earth, will unfold at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, home to InSight's flight control team. NASA is providing a special 360-degree online broadcast from inside the control center.

Confirmation of touchdown could take minutes — or hours. At the minimum, there's an eight-minute communication lag between Mars and Earth.

A pair of briefcase-size satellites trailing InSight since liftoff in May will try to relay its radio signals to Earth, with a potential lag time of under nine minutes. These experimental CubeSats will fly right past the red planet without stopping. Signals also could travel straight from InSight to radio telescopes in West Virginia and Germany. It will take longer to hear from NASA's Mars orbiters.

Project manager Tom Hoffman said Sunday he's trying his best to stay outwardly calm as the hours tick down. Once InSight phones home from the Martian surface, though, he expects to behave much like his three young grandsons did at Thanksgiving dinner, running around like crazy and screaming.

"Just to warn anybody who's sitting near me ... I'm going to unleash my inner 4-year-old on you, so be careful," he said.

For AP's complete coverage of the Mars landing: <https://apnews.com/MarsLanding>

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

AP Exclusive: First gene-edited babies claimed in China

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE, AP Chief Medical Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — A Chinese researcher claims that he helped make the world's first genetically edited babies — twin girls born this month whose DNA he said he altered with a powerful new tool capable of rewriting the very blueprint of life.

If true, it would be a profound leap of science and ethics.

A U.S. scientist said he took part in the work in China, but this kind of gene editing is banned in the United States because the DNA changes can pass to future generations and it risks harming other genes.

Many mainstream scientists think it's too unsafe to try, and some denounced the Chinese report as human experimentation.

The researcher, He Jiankui of Shenzhen, said he altered embryos for seven couples during fertility treatments, with one pregnancy resulting thus far. He said his goal was not to cure or prevent an inherited

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 27 of 42

disease, but to try to bestow a trait that few people naturally have — an ability to resist possible future infection with HIV, the AIDS virus.

He said the parents involved declined to be identified or interviewed, and he would not say where they live or where the work was done.

There is no independent confirmation of He's claim, and it has not been published in a journal, where it would be vetted by other experts. He revealed it Monday in Hong Kong to one of the organizers of an international conference on gene editing that is set to begin Tuesday, and earlier in exclusive interviews with The Associated Press.

"I feel a strong responsibility that it's not just to make a first, but also make it an example," He told the AP. "Society will decide what to do next" in terms of allowing or forbidding such science.

Some scientists were astounded to hear of the claim and strongly condemned it.

It's "unconscionable ... an experiment on human beings that is not morally or ethically defensible," said Dr. Kiran Musunuru, a University of Pennsylvania gene editing expert and editor of a genetics journal.

"This is far too premature," said Dr. Eric Topol, who heads the Scripps Research Translational Institute in California. "We're dealing with the operating instructions of a human being. It's a big deal."

However, one famed geneticist, Harvard University's George Church, defended attempting gene editing for HIV, which he called "a major and growing public health threat."

"I think this is justifiable," Church said of that goal.

In recent years scientists have discovered a relatively easy way to edit genes, the strands of DNA that govern the body. The tool, called CRISPR-cas9, makes it possible to operate on DNA to supply a needed gene or disable one that's causing problems.

It's only recently been tried in adults to treat deadly diseases, and the changes are confined to that person. Editing sperm, eggs or embryos is different — the changes can be inherited. In the U.S., it's not allowed except for lab research. China outlaws human cloning but not specifically gene editing.

He Jiankui (HEH JEE'-an-qway), who goes by "JK," studied at Rice and Stanford universities in the U.S. before returning to his homeland to open a lab at Southern University of Science and Technology of China in Shenzhen, where he also has two genetics companies.

The U.S. scientist who worked with him on this project after He returned to China was physics and bio-engineering professor Michael Deem, who was his adviser at Rice in Houston. Deem also holds what he called "a small stake" in — and is on the scientific advisory boards of — He's two companies.

The Chinese researcher said he practiced editing mice, monkey and human embryos in the lab for several years and has applied for patents on his methods.

He said he chose embryo gene editing for HIV because these infections are a big problem in China. He sought to disable a gene called CCR5 that forms a protein doorway that allows HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, to enter a cell.

All of the men in the project had HIV and all of the women did not, but the gene editing was not aimed at preventing the small risk of transmission, He said. The fathers had their infections deeply suppressed by standard HIV medicines and there are simple ways to keep them from infecting offspring that do not involve altering genes.

Instead, the appeal was to offer couples affected by HIV a chance to have a child that might be protected from a similar fate.

He recruited couples through a Beijing-based AIDS advocacy group called Baihualin. Its leader, known by the pseudonym "Bai Hua," told the AP that it's not uncommon for people with HIV to lose jobs or have trouble getting medical care if their infections are revealed.

Here is how He described the work:

The gene editing occurred during IVF, or lab dish fertilization. First, sperm was "washed" to separate it from semen, the fluid where HIV can lurk. A single sperm was placed into a single egg to create an embryo. Then the gene editing tool was added.

When the embryos were 3 to 5 days old, a few cells were removed and checked for editing. Couples

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 28 of 42

could choose whether to use edited or unedited embryos for pregnancy attempts. In all, 16 of 22 embryos were edited, and 11 embryos were used in six implant attempts before the twin pregnancy was achieved, He said.

Tests suggest that one twin had both copies of the intended gene altered and the other twin had just one altered, with no evidence of harm to other genes, He said. People with one copy of the gene can still get HIV, although some very limited research suggests their health might decline more slowly once they do.

Several scientists reviewed materials that He provided to the AP and said tests so far are insufficient to say the editing worked or to rule out harm.

They also noted evidence that the editing was incomplete and that at least one twin appears to be a patchwork of cells with various changes.

"It's almost like not editing at all" if only some of certain cells were altered, because HIV infection can still occur, Church said.

Church and Musunuru questioned the decision to allow one of the embryos to be used in a pregnancy attempt, because the Chinese researchers said they knew in advance that both copies of the intended gene had not been altered.

"In that child, there really was almost nothing to be gained in terms of protection against HIV and yet you're exposing that child to all the unknown safety risks," Musunuru said.

The use of that embryo suggests that the researchers' "main emphasis was on testing editing rather than avoiding this disease," Church said.

Even if editing worked perfectly, people without normal CCR5 genes face higher risks of getting certain other viruses, such as West Nile, and of dying from the flu. Since there are many ways to prevent HIV infection and it's very treatable if it occurs, those other medical risks are a concern, Musunuru said.

There also are questions about the way He said he proceeded. He gave official notice of his work long after he said he started it — on Nov. 8, on a Chinese registry of clinical trials.

It's unclear whether participants fully understood the purpose and potential risks and benefits. For example, consent forms called the project an "AIDS vaccine development" program.

The Rice scientist, Deem, said he was present in China when potential participants gave their consent and that he "absolutely" thinks they were able to understand the risks.

Deem said he worked with He on vaccine research at Rice and considers the gene editing similar to a vaccine.

"That might be a layman's way of describing it," he said.

Both men are physics experts with no experience running human clinical trials.

The Chinese scientist, He, said he personally made the goals clear and told participants that embryo gene editing has never been tried before and carries risks. He said he also would provide insurance coverage for any children conceived through the project and plans medical follow-up until the children are 18 and longer if they agree once they're adults.

Further pregnancy attempts are on hold until the safety of this one is analyzed and experts in the field weigh in, but participants were not told in advance that they might not have a chance to try what they signed up for once a "first" was achieved, He acknowledged. Free fertility treatment was part of the deal they were offered.

He sought and received approval for his project from Shenzhen Harmonicare Women's and Children's Hospital, which is not one of the four hospitals that He said provided embryos for his research or the pregnancy attempts.

Some staff at some of the other hospitals were kept in the dark about the nature of the research, which He and Deem said was done to keep some participants' HIV infection from being disclosed.

"We think this is ethical," said Lin Zhitong, a Harmonicare administrator who heads the ethics panel.

Any medical staff who handled samples that might contain HIV were aware, He said. An embryologist in He's lab, Qin Jinzhou, confirmed to the AP that he did sperm washing and injected the gene editing tool in some of the pregnancy attempts.

The study participants are not ethicists, He said, but "are as much authorities on what is correct and

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 29 of 42

what is wrong because it's their life on the line."

"I believe this is going to help the families and their children," He said. If it causes unwanted side effects or harm, "I would feel the same pain as they do and it's going to be my own responsibility."

AP Science Writer Christina Larson, AP videographer Emily Wang and AP translator Fu Ting contributed to this report from Beijing and Shenzhen, China.

This Associated Press series was produced in partnership with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Trump to rally for GOP's Senate candidate in Mississippi

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is heading to Mississippi for two rallies to try to keep a Senate seat in Republican hands.

Trump will be campaigning Monday for GOP Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, who is in a runoff Tuesday against Democrat Mike Espy. The former congressman was agriculture secretary under President Bill Clinton.

Espy is trying to become the first African-American to represent Mississippi in the Senate since Reconstruction.

Trump plans to speak Monday afternoon at a rally in Tupelo and then that night at a rally in Biloxi.

Trump returned Sunday evening from Florida, where he spent the Thanksgiving holiday at his Mar-a-Lago club. He visited his nearby golf course all five days he spent in Florida, and he took time to talk to troops stationed abroad on Thanksgiving Day.

Spinal-cord stimulators help some patients, injure others

By MITCH WEISS and HOLBROOK MOHR, Associated Press

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP) — Desperate for relief after years of agony, Jim Taft listened intently as his pain management doctor described a medical device that could change his life.

It wouldn't fix the nerve damage in his mangled right arm, Taft and his wife recalled the doctor saying, but a spinal-cord stimulator would cloak his pain, making him "good as new."

Taft's stimulator failed soon after it was surgically implanted. After an operation to repair it, he said, the device shocked him so many times that he couldn't sleep and even fell down a flight of stairs. Today, the 45-year-old Taft is virtually paralyzed, a prisoner in his own bed, barely able to get to the bathroom by himself.

"I thought I would have a wonderful life," Taft said. "But look at me."

For years, medical device companies and doctors have touted spinal-cord stimulators as a panacea for millions of patients suffering from a wide range of pain disorders, making them one of the fastest-growing products in the \$400 billion medical device industry. Companies and doctors aggressively push them as a safe antidote to the deadly opioid crisis in the U.S. and as a treatment for an aging population in need of chronic pain relief.

But the stimulators — devices that use electrical currents to block pain signals before they reach the brain — are more dangerous than many patients know, an Associated Press investigation found. They account for the third-highest number of medical device injury reports to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, with more than 80,000 incidents flagged since 2008.

Patients report that they have been shocked or burned or have suffered spinal-cord nerve damage ranging from muscle weakness to paraplegia, FDA data shows. Among the 4,000 types of devices tracked by the FDA, only metal hip replacements and insulin pumps have logged more injury reports.

The FDA data contains more than 500 reports of people with spinal-cord stimulators who died, but details are scant, making it difficult to determine if the deaths were related to the stimulator or implant surgery.

Medical device manufacturers insist spinal-cord stimulators are safe — some 60,000 are implanted an-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 30 of 42

nally — and doctors who specialize in these surgeries say they have helped reduce pain for many of their patients.

Most of these devices have been approved by the FDA with little clinical testing, however, and the agency's data shows that spinal-cord stimulators have a disproportionately higher number of injuries compared to hip implants, which are far more plentiful.

The AP reported on spinal stimulators as part of a nearly yearlong joint investigation of the global medical devices industry that included NBC, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and more than 50 other media partners around the world. Reporters collected and analyzed millions of medical records, recall notices and other product safety warnings, in addition to interviewing doctors, patients, researchers and company whistleblowers.

The media partners found that, across all types of medical devices, more than 1.7 million injuries and nearly 83,000 deaths were reported to the FDA over the last decade.

The investigation also found that the FDA — considered by other countries to be the gold standard in medical device oversight — puts people at risk by pushing devices through an abbreviated approval process, then responds slowly when it comes to forcing companies to correct sometimes life-threatening products.

Devices are rarely pulled from the market, even when major problems emerge. And the FDA does not disclose how many devices are implanted in the U.S. each year — critical information that could be used to calculate success and failure rates.

The FDA acknowledges its data has limitations, including mistakes, omissions and under-reporting that can make it difficult to determine whether a device directly caused an injury or death. But it rejects any suggestion of failed oversight.

"There are over 190,000 different devices on the U.S. market. We approve or clear about a dozen new or modified devices every single business day," Dr. Jeffrey Shuren, the FDA's medical device director said at an industry conference in May. "The few devices that get attention at any time in the press is fewer than the devices we may put on the market in a single business day. That to me doesn't say that the system is failing. It's remarkable that the system is working as it does."

In response to reporters' questions, the FDA said last week that it was taking new action to create "a more robust medical device safety net for patients through better data." "Unfortunately, the FDA cannot always know the full extent of the benefits and risks of a device before it reaches the market," the agency said. In the last 50 years, the medical device industry has revolutionized treatment for some of the deadliest scourges of modern medicine, introducing devices to treat or diagnose heart disease, cancer and diabetes.

Pete Corby, who injured his back working as a movie stuntman, said a spinal-cord stimulator helped him deal with his constant pain and stop using the opioids he'd become dependent on.

"This is the greatest thing that saved my life, literally saved my life," said Corby, estimating that up to three-quarters of his original pain was alleviated by the stimulator.

Medical device companies have "invested countless resources — both capital and human — in developing leading-edge compliance programs," said Janet Trunzo, head of technology and regulatory affairs for AdvaMed, the industry's main trade association.

At the same time, medical device makers also have spent billions to try to influence regulators, hospitals and doctors.

In the U.S., where drug and device manufacturers are required to disclose payments to physicians, the 10 largest medical device companies paid nearly \$600 million to doctors or their hospitals last year to cover consulting fees, research and travel and entertainment expenses, according to an AP and ICIJ analysis of data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. This figure doesn't include payments from device manufacturers like Johnson & Johnson and Allergan, which also sell other products.

On top of that, lobbying records show that the top four spinal-cord stimulator manufacturers have spent more than \$22 million combined since 2017 to try to influence legislation benefiting their overall business, which includes other devices.

Some companies have been fined for bribing physicians, illegally promoting products for unapproved uses and paying for studies that proclaim the safety and effectiveness of their products, according to the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 31 of 42

joint investigation.

In a 2016 case, Olympus Corp. of the Americas, the largest U.S. distributor of endoscopes and related medical equipment, agreed to pay \$623.2 million "to resolve criminal charges and civil claims relating to a scheme to pay kickbacks to doctors and hospitals," according to the U.S. Justice Department. Olympus said that it "agreed to make various improvements to its compliance program."

In a case the previous year involving spinal-cord stimulators, Medtronic Inc. agreed to pay \$2.8 million to settle Justice Department claims that the company had harmed patients and defrauded federal health care programs by providing physicians "powerful" financial inducements that turned them into "salesmen" for costly procedures. Medtronic denied wrongdoing. "As a matter of policy, Medtronic does not comment on specific litigation," the company said in a statement. "We do stand behind the safety and efficacy of our Spinal Cord Stimulators and the strong benefits this technology provides to patients, many of whom have tried all other therapy options to no benefit."

Some doctors enthusiastically promote spinal-cord stimulators without disclosing to patients they've received money from medical device manufacturers. Some experts say doctors are not legally required to disclose such payments, but they have an ethical obligation to do so. Sometimes the money goes to the doctors' hospitals, and not directly to them.

As for Taft, he said he just wanted to get better, but he has lost hope.

"This is my death sentence," Taft said, stretched out beneath his bed's wooden headboard on which he's carved the words "death row."

"I'll die here," he said.

A generation ago, tens of thousands of women were injured by the Dalkon Shield, an intrauterine device that caused life-threatening infections. Consumer advocates demanded testing and pre-market approval of medical devices to prevent deaths and injuries associated with defective products.

So in 1976, Congress passed the Medical Device Amendments, a law meant to assure Americans that devices recommended by their doctors would do good and not harm.

"Until today, the American consumer could not be sure that a medical device used by his physician, his hospital or himself was as safe and effective as it could or should be," President Gerald Ford said when he signed the bill into law.

Charged with carrying out the law, the FDA created three classes of medical devices. High-risk products like spinal-cord stimulators are designated to be held to the most rigorous clinical testing standards. But the vast majority of devices go through a less stringent review process that provides an easy path to market for devices deemed "substantially equivalent" to products already approved for use.

As designed by Congress, that process should have been phased out. Instead, it became the standard path to market for thousands of devices, including hip replacements implanted in tens of thousands of patients that would later be recalled because metal shavings from the devices made some people sick.

The AP found that the FDA has allowed some spinal-cord stimulators to reach the market without new clinical studies, approving them largely based on results from studies of earlier spinal stimulators.

Spinal stimulators are complex devices that send electrical currents through wires placed along the spine, using a battery implanted under the skin. An external remote controls the device.

The four biggest makers of spinal-cord stimulators are Boston Scientific Corp., based in Marlborough, Massachusetts; Medtronic, with headquarters in Ireland and the U.S.; Nevro, in Redwood City, California; and Illinois-based Abbott, which entered the market after its \$23.6 billion purchase of St Jude Medical Inc.

St. Jude's application to go to market with its first spinal stimulator contained no original patient data and was based on clinical results from other studies, while Boston Scientific's application for its Precision spinal-cord stimulator was based largely on older data, though it did include a small, original study of 26 patients who were tracked for as little as two weeks.

Once approved, medical device companies can use countless supplementary requests to alter their products, even when the changes are substantial.

For example, there have been only six new spinal-cord stimulator devices approved since 1984, with

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 32 of 42

835 supplemental changes to those devices given the go-ahead through the middle of this year, the AP found. Medtronic alone has been granted 394 supplemental changes to its stimulator since 1984, covering everything from altering the sterilization process to updating the design.

"It's kind of the story of FDA's regulation of devices, where they're just putting stuff on the market," said Diana Zuckerman, president of the National Center for Health Research, who has studied medical devices for nearly 30 years.

Medical device manufacturers have cited multiple industry-funded studies showing the effectiveness of spinal-cord stimulation in the treatment of chronic pain. Experts say treatment is considered successful if pain is reduced by at least half, but not every patient experiences that much pain reduction.

A 2016 study looking at different stimulation systems found "significant evidence" that they were "a safe, clinical and cost-effective treatment for many chronic pain conditions."

But Zuckerman noted that the more extensive studies came after the devices were being widely used on people.

"These patients are guinea pigs," she said.

FDA said in a statement that it approves, clears or grants marketing authorization to an average of 12 devices per business day and its decisions are "based on valid scientific evidence" that the devices are safe and effective.

Dr. Walter J. Koroshetz, director at the neurological disorders and stroke division at the National Institutes of Health, said trials for medical devices like spinal-cord stimulators are generally small and industry-sponsored, with a "substantial" placebo effect.

"I don't know of anyone who is happy with spinal-cord technology as it stands," Koroshetz said. "I think everybody thinks it can be better."

Every time Jim Taft walked into his pain management doctor's office, he would glance at the brochures touting spinal-cord stimulators — the ones with pictures of people swimming, biking and fishing.

Inside the exam room, Taft said, his doctor told him the device had been successful for his other patients and would improve his quality of life.

On lifetime worker's compensation after his right arm was crushed as he was hauling materials for an architectural engineering company, Taft had been seeing the doctor for five years before he decided to get a stimulator in 2014. What finally swayed him, he said, was the doctor's plan to wean him off painkillers.

"I felt backed into a corner," said, Taft, who lives in West Columbia, South Carolina.

Taft said his pain management doctor praised the technology, saying stimulators had improved the quality of life for his patients. But four years later, Taft is unable to walk more than a few steps.

Taft is one of 40 patients interviewed by the AP who said they had problems with spinal-cord stimulators. The AP found them through online forums for people with medical devices. Twenty-eight of them said their spinal-cord stimulators not only failed to alleviate pain but left them worse off than before their surgeries.

Zuckerman, who has worked at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and as a senior policy adviser to then-first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, said no doctor wants to think they're harming patients.

"But there's a tremendous financial incentive to downplay, ignore or forget bad patient experiences and just focus on how happy patients are," she said.

More than half the patients interviewed by the AP said they felt pressured to get stimulators because they feared their doctors would cut off their pain medications — the only thing helping them.

Stimulators are considered a treatment of "last resort" by insurance companies, as well as Medicare and Medicaid. That means doctors must follow a protocol before insurance will pay for the device and implantation.

Physicians must show that conservative treatments failed to help, and patients also undergo psychological assessments to evaluate the likelihood of success. They then typically undergo a trial period lasting three days to a week with thin electrodes inserted under the skin. If patients say they got relief from the external transmitter sending electrical pulses to the contacts near their spines, they have surgery to

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 33 of 42

implant a permanent stimulator.

Taft said his three-day trial helped reduce his pain so, a few days before his surgery, he began preparing for a new life. He ordered lumber to refurbish a patio and deck for his wife, Renee, as thanks for her years of support.

In April 2014, Boston Scientific's Precision stimulator was implanted in Taft by Jason Highsmith, a Charleston, South Carolina, neurosurgeon who has received \$181,000 from the company over the past five years in the form of consulting fees and payments for travel and entertainment. A Boston Scientific sales representative was in the operating room — a common practice, the AP found.

Highsmith would not comment on the payments. Other doctors have defended the practice, saying they do important work that helps the companies — and ultimately patients — and deserve to be compensated for their time.

From the time Taft was cut open and the device placed inside his body, he had nothing but problems, according to hundreds of pages of medical records reviewed by the AP. The device began randomly shocking him, and the battery burned his skin.

Taft and his wife complained repeatedly, but said his doctors and a Boston Scientific representative told them that spinal-cord stimulators don't cause the kind of problems he had.

That runs counter to Boston Scientific's own literature, which acknowledges that spinal stimulators and the procedures to implant them carry risks, such as the leads moving, overstimulation, paralysis and infections.

That also is not reflected in the AP's analysis of FDA injury reports, which found shocking and burning had been reported for all major models of spinal-cord stimulators. For Boston Scientific devices, infection was the most common complaint over the past decade, mentioned in more than 4,000 injury reports.

In response to questions, the company called infection "unfortunately a risk in any surgical procedure" that the company works hard to avoid. It added that the FDA's data "shouldn't be interpreted as a causal sign of a challenge with our device. In fact, many examples of reportable infections include those that were caused by the surgical procedure or post-operative care."

"In our internal quality assessments, over 95 percent of the injury reports were temporary or reversible in nature," the company added.

Taft said had he known the devices hurt so many people, he would have reconsidered getting one. A Boston Scientific sales representative tried reprogramming the device, he said, but nothing worked.

"I told them that it feels like the lead is moving up and down my spine," Taft said. "They said, 'It can't move.'" But in July 2014, X-rays revealed the lead indeed had moved — two inches on one side.

Highsmith told the AP the electrode broke from "vigorous activity," though Taft said that would not have been possible due to his condition. Taft said he was in such bad shape after his surgery that he was never able to redo the patio and deck for his wife or do anything else vigorous.

That October, Highsmith said, he operated on Taft to install a new lead, tested the battery and reinserted it.

Still, Taft's medical records show that he continued to report numbness, tingling and pain. During a January 2015 appointment, a physician assistant wrote that the device "seemed to make his pain worse."

The stimulator was surgically removed in August 2015. The following June, Taft got a second opinion from a clinic that specializes in spinal injuries, which said he had "significant axial and low back pain due to implantation and explantation" of the stimulator.

Highsmith said other doctors have documented severe arthritis in Taft and that, while he has not examined Taft in more than three years, it's "likely his current condition is the result of disease progression and other factors."

He did not answer questions about whether he informed Taft of the risks associated with stimulators.

The doctor said the overwhelming majority of his spinal-cord stimulator patients gain significant pain relief.

"Unfortunately, in spite of the major medical breakthroughs with devices like these, some patients still suffer from intractable pain," he said.

Renee Taft, a paralegal, reached out to Boston Scientific in 2017, but said the company refused to help because her husband's stimulator had been removed and blamed Taft for his problems, also saying he

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 34 of 42

had engaged in "rigorous physical activity" after surgery.

In the letter from the company's legal department, Boston Scientific also noted that federal law shielded manufacturers from personal liability claims involving medical devices approved by the FDA.

In response to questions from the AP, Boston Scientific again blamed Taft's "activity level" but didn't elaborate. The company also said other factors could contribute to his problems such as "hyperalgesia, a phenomenon associated with long-term opioid use which results in patients becoming increasingly sensitive to some stimuli."

Brenda Simpson-Davis of Milton, Florida, said Boston Scientific also disregarded her complaints after her husband suffered a life-threatening infection following implant surgery.

George Davis, 57, had three Medtronic spinal-cord implants between 2003 and 2007 after a car accident mangled his back. They temporarily reduced some of his pain, but he said the non-rechargeable batteries that were supposed to last for years never did and he tired of multiple surgical removals.

In 2015, his pain management doctor urged him to try Boston Scientific's Precision Spectra, which he called the best on the market. Unlike Davis's old models, it had a rechargeable battery.

Within weeks of his surgery, Davis said, he started feeling pain shooting down his back and legs and a burning sensation at the implant site. After his skin started turning black, the doctor performed emergency surgery to remove the device.

Months later, Davis reluctantly agreed when his doctor urged him to try another Boston Scientific model but found that device even worse.

Over the next year, he spent more than 100 days in and out of hospitals battling a life-threatening infection. Today, Davis says he has trouble getting out of bed.

Boston Scientific said it never received the stimulators that were implanted in Taft and Davis so could not "conclusively identify" the causes of their problems. "Numerous factors can contribute to a patient's ongoing symptoms, from increased physical activity to the onset of pain in other areas," the company said.

Simpson-Davis said she spoke with attorneys around the country, who warned her about the high bar set for a lawsuit. Finally, she found a Texas lawyer who said he will consider taking the case if she can find another two dozen potential plaintiffs.

"To me, it's not about the money, It's about the people. It's about them knowing what they're getting themselves into," she said.

For years, Valerie McJunkin had been seeking relief from a rare neurological disorder that made her legs and feet feel like they were on fire. So when a medical device company sales representative and her West Virginia pain management doctor recommended what sounded to her like a "miracle device," she was all in.

They said a new kind of stimulator — one that targeted a bundle of sensory nerve cells in the lower back — was better than a spinal-cord device. She just needed to undergo a weeklong trial.

When McJunkin showed up at the pain clinic this January for the trial, the Abbott sales representative was there, along with her doctor and his staff. They explained every detail. This device wasn't for everyone, but she was the perfect candidate, she recalled them saying.

Over the next week, they called or texted her nearly every day to see if the stimulator was easing her torment. And since the trial did seem to help, she went ahead with the implant.

Within days, though, the device began randomly shocking her — a sharp pain that felt like a lightning bolt.

When McJunkin called her doctor and the Abbott representative, she said they suggested that she was at fault because "stimulators don't do that." It wasn't until she received a certified letter from Abbott in March that she learned it wasn't all in her head: The company said her device was being recalled due to a glitch that could cause patients some "discomfort."

Since 2005, there have been 50 recalls involving spinal stimulators, averaging about four per year in the last five years. Roughly half the recalls involved stimulators made by Medtronic, the world's largest device manufacturer, though none warned of a risk of serious injury or death.

In early September, McJunkin invited an AP reporter to accompany her when she met with her doctor and the company sales representative to request the device be removed.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 35 of 42

The Abbott salesman and her doctor both suggested she get another stimulator, saying she had run out of options, especially since her doctor couldn't write prescriptions for opioids because of a government crackdown. If she didn't get another stimulator, he said, she faced a lifetime of pain. He did not suggest other options, such as steroid shots or continued physical therapy.

"I'm not trying to force your mind," the doctor said. "But for me, would I want to live my life like this?... If I get that new battery and it totally helps, that changes my life 180 degrees, right? But if I don't I already know what's going to happen to me: I'll be suffering for the rest of my life."

On the drive home to Martinsburg, West Virginia, McJunkin gripped the steering wheel of her car, her tattoo reading "persevere" visible on her forearm.

"You trust your doctor. You think he's going to do the right thing," she said. She paused, fighting back tears. "I just wanted to live without pain. But now that hope is gone."

In late October, her doctor removed the device.

The experience of nearly all the 40 patients interviewed by the AP mirrored McJunkin's: Their pain was reduced during the trial but returned once their stimulators were implanted.

Experts say the answer may be a placebo effect created when expectations are built up during the trial that only the stimulator can offer relief from pain, exacerbated by patients not wanting to disappoint family members, who often have been serving as their caregivers.

"If patients know this is a last resort, a last hope, of course they will respond well," said Dr. Michael Gofeld, a Toronto-based anesthesiologist and pain management specialist who has studied and implanted spinal-cord stimulators in both the U.S. and Canada.

By the time the trial ends, the patient is "flying high, the endorphin levels are high," Gofeld said.

Manufacturer representatives are heavily involved during the entire process. Along with often being in the operating room during surgery in case the physician has questions, they meet with patients to program the devices in the weeks following surgery.

Most of the patients interviewed by the AP said the adjustments to their devices were performed by sales representatives, often with no doctor or nurse present. That includes one patient who was billed for programming as if the doctor was in the room, though he was not.

"People who are selling the device should not be in charge of maintenance," Gofeld said. "It's totally unethical."

In a 2015 Texas case, a former Medtronic sales representative filed suit contending she was fired after complaining that the company trained employees to program neurostimulators without physicians present. She also claimed that a Medtronic supervisor snatched surgical gloves away from her when she refused to bandage a patient during a procedure, pushed her aside and then cleaned and dressed the patient's wound. Medtronic denied the allegations, and the case was settled on undisclosed terms.

In the Justice Department case involving Medtronic, a salesman who said he earned as much as \$600,000 a year selling spinal-cord stimulators claimed sales representatives encouraged physicians to perform unnecessary procedures that drove up the costs for Medicare and other federal health programs.

"While there have been a few instances where individuals or affiliates did not comply with Medtronic's policies, we acted to remedy the situation in each case once discovered and to correct any misconduct," the company said.

Gofeld said he believes stimulators do work, but that many of the problems usually arise when doctors don't choose appropriate candidates. And he thinks the stimulators are used too often in the U.S.

Nevro, one of the four big manufacturers, has cited estimates that there are as many as 4,400 facilities in the U.S. where spinal-stimulation devices are implanted by a variety of physicians, including neurosurgeons, psychiatrists and pain specialists.

It's a lucrative business. Analysts say stimulators and the surgery to implant them costs between \$32,000 and \$50,000, with the device itself constituting \$20,000 to \$25,000 of that amount. If surgery is performed in a hospital, the patient usually stays overnight, and the hospital charges a facility fee for obtaining the device. Costs are typically covered by insurance.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 36 of 42

The AP found that doctors can make more money if they perform the surgery at physician-owned outpatient surgery centers, since the doctor buys the device, marks it up and adds on the facility fee.

In Canada, where Gofeld now works, he said the surgeries are done only by those who specialize in the procedures. He said spinal-cord stimulators should be used when pain starts and not after failed back surgeries.

"By then," he said, "it's too late."

While manufacturers and top FDA officials tout stimulators as a weapon in the battle against opioids, neurosurgeons like Steven Falowski are the front-line evangelists.

"Chronic pain is one of the largest health-care burdens we have in the U.S. It's more than heart disease, cancer and diabetes combined," Falowski said in an interview.

He referred AP to Corby, as one of his surgical patients who was helped by a spinal-cord stimulator.

Corby got the device more than two years ago and says that, after some initial adjustments, he hasn't had any further problems. He says he wouldn't trade the stimulator for opioids.

"I was actually buying them on the street ... a little like a druggie because I couldn't get them anymore" from his pain doctor, Corby said.

Falowski said opioids are good for acute pain, but were never meant to treat long-term chronic pain. For him, that's where spinal-cord stimulators come in.

If they're used early enough for pain, they can prevent people from going on opium-based pain killers, said Falowski, who speaks at neuromodulation conferences and teaches other doctors how to implant stimulators.

Since 2013, device manufacturers have paid Falowski — or St. Luke's University Health Network in Fountain Hill, Pennsylvania, where he works — nearly \$863,000, including \$611,000 from St. Jude or its new parent company, Abbott, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services database. The payments range from consulting fees to travel and entertainment expenses.

Falowski said he has conducted research and done other work for manufacturers, adding, "The contracts with industry are with my hospital and not with me."

St. Luke's told the AP that it keeps the majority of the payments from device makers, but that Falowski "may receive a portion of these payments through his annual compensation."

Another of Falowski's patients was Lisa Snyder of Kempton, Pennsylvania, who was searching for relief from a painful nerve disorder. By the time she came to Falowski, she had cycled through three spinal-cord stimulators, which were removed for reasons ranging from infection to rejection.

"Not everybody could do it, but he was confident he could," she said.

After her fourth implant this March, "I complained about this battery right away. I knew it was positioned funny. It burned," Snyder said.

AP's analysis showed Abbott products were more likely than other major models to include reports of a hot or burning sensation near the site of the battery, with about 5,600 injury reports since 2008 referring to the words "heat" or "burn."

Abbott said that many of the "adverse events" reports in the FDA's data stemmed from a device that was voluntarily recalled in 2011. The company added that feeling a temperature increase at the implant site "is often a reality for rechargeable spinal-cord stimulation systems," which is why the company is now concentrating on devices that do not need to be recharged.

Snyder said she felt like Falowski's nurse and physician assistant downplayed the problems and that the reprogramming of her device was conducted by the Abbott sales representative, with no medical staff present. On at least one occasion, she was charged as if the medical staff was there, when she said they weren't, according to insurance bills reviewed by the AP.

Despite insisting nothing was wrong with the unit, Snyder said, Falowski called her one day out of the blue. "He said 'Under no circumstances are you to turn it on.' I asked him why and he wouldn't say," Snyder recalled.

Falowski then scheduled immediate surgery to remove the stimulator, she said.

Falowski called Snyder a difficult patient and said she was receiving "100 percent pain relief" when she had the stimulator removed, adding that she "remained very appreciative of her care." He added that programming is "performed under the direction of a physician."

"The physician is not present during the entire programming session, but provides oversight and direction....The only time programming sessions are billed is when the physician is actively seeing the patient during a visit which was the case with this patient," he said.

Snyder disputed the doctor's characterization of her and became angry after being told Falowski and his hospital received money from manufacturers.

"They need to be a little bit upfront," she said.

Falowski said doctors do important work for medical device companies, and he has been involved in device development, education, clinical trials and research.

"You're trying to help patients and you realize as a physician by yourself you're not going to generate \$200 million to make the next best implant for a patient and it's going to take a company to do that," he said. "So I think the important part in that relationship is transparency and disclosures."

Experts interviewed by the AP said doctors are not legally required to tell their patients about financial relationships with medical device manufacturers, but that it would be the right thing to do.

"The patient should be fully informed before consenting to a procedure," said Genevieve P. Kanter, an assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania who specializes in internal medicine, medical ethics and health policy.

All Snyder ever wanted was to feel better. Today, she often is immobilized by pain.

Before the latest stimulator, she could walk, stand and cook meals. Now, she finds it hard to get out of bed and rarely leaves her house. She says the device has ruined her life.

"My fear is I'll be like this forever," she said.

Washington D.C.-based Associated Press reporters Meghan Hoyer and Matthew Perrone contributed to this report, as did Denver-based video journalist P. Solomon Banda.

Contact AP's investigative team at Investigative@ap.org

Analysis: Strong opposition showing challenges Taiwan's Tsai **By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press**

BEIJING (AP) — A strong showing by Taiwan's opposition Nationalist Party in local elections over the weekend presents a major challenge to independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen as she grapples with growing economic, political and military pressure from rival China.

While Saturday's polls were largely decided by local concerns, Beijing cast a heavy shadow after two years of unrelenting efforts to restrict Taiwan's participation in international society and advertise its threat to use force to bring the island under its control.

Tsai's Democratic Progressive Party lost power in its southern stronghold of Kaohsiung, while the Nationalists notched up 15 wins in the 22 major races being contested.

Independent Ko Wen-je appeared to have won re-election in Taipei, the capital, although his Nationalist rival Ting Shou-chung has filed for a recount. The DPP won just six major races.

Analysts and local media cited dissatisfaction with Tsai and the DPP rather than approval for the Nationalists, also known as the KMT, as a prime reason for the outcome.

"Rather than thinking that Saturday's results were because the KMT did a good job in opposition, it is more accurate to say they were due to voters' overwhelmingly negative perception of the DPP," Eric Yu of National Chengchi University's Election Study Center was quoted as saying in the Taipei Times on Monday.

Another factor cited was the Nationalists' Han Kuo-yu, who ended 20 years of DPP rule in Kaohsiung by soundly defeating his DPP rival, and seemed to galvanize opposition to the status quo under Tsai. While his candidacy received little initial support from the party establishment, Han rode a wave of grass-roots sup-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 38 of 42

port and went on to stump for other Nationalist candidates, adding momentum to the Nationalists' sweep.

Although China claims Taiwan as its own territory, it had largely withheld overtly intervening in the elections despite accusations of spreading disinformation. China has sought to isolate Tsai over her refusal to endorse its "one China" principle that designates Taiwan as a part of China.

However, a spokesman on Sunday was quick to cite the election results as evidence that Taiwanese were becoming fed up with Tsai's approach.

The outcome "reflected the strong will of the public in Taiwan to share the benefits of peaceful development across the Taiwan Straits, and their desire to improve the island's economy and people's well-being," Ma Xiaoguang, spokesman for the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office, was quoted as saying by China's official Xinhua News Agency.

The office's Taiwanese counterpart fired back swiftly, saying the elections — along with referendums on topics such as same-sex marriage and Taiwan's name used at the Olympics — were an "internal affair whose results testified to the mature development of Taiwan's democracy."

"This lies at the core of Taiwan's democratic values, which Beijing should respect and correctly understand," the Mainland Affairs Council said on its website.

"The only correct way to advance prosperity between the people of the two sides and eliminate differences is through communication and exchanges without political preconditions," the council said.

The true impact of China's pressure campaign was difficult to gauge. Taiwanese voters are notoriously capricious, often changing sides based on their feelings toward a particular candidate, rather than over principle or policy. While the vast majority favor maintaining Taiwan's de facto independent status — as Tsai has done — they are also deeply concerned about falling behind China in the financial stakes, as working on the mainland has become an ever-more appealing option for young Taiwanese facing wage stagnation and limited markets at home.

Tsai resigned as DPP head on Saturday once the election results came in and now faces a considerably more hostile landscape as she contemplates running for re-election in 2020. Beijing has shown no sign of easing the pressure on her administration and is expected to begin wooing the more China-friendly election victors such as Han and the Nationalists' Taichung mayor-elect, Lu Shiow-yen.

Tsai's efforts at reforming the government and economy have also encountered headwinds, particularly her push to reduce generous civil service pensions.

"The election results are a major warning to Tsai's governing team," said Frank Cheng-shan Liu, a professor at National Sun Yat Sen University in Kaohsiung, who predicted increased friction within the DPP and greater difficulty in pushing Tsai's reform agenda.

However, Liu said the results had far less to do with Tsai's refusal to recognize the "one China" principle than with dissatisfaction over economic growth. While expected to grow at a relatively healthy pace of 2.6 percent this year, Taiwan's high-tech economy is generating fewer opportunities than in the past, while disparities in income are growing.

China's best option would be to stay low-key, since increased hostility could build resentment and shore up support for Tsai ahead of the 2020 election, Liu said.

"To play the friendly card is the best way to win the people's heart. If China continues to suppress Taipei, it will produce a counter-effect," he said.

Elsewhere over the weekend, voters in China's semi-autonomous region of Hong Kong elected a pro-establishment politician to the legislature in a by-election called after the incumbent was ejected from the body for "improper oath taking," one of six pro-democracy legislators ousted on that charge.

Chan Hoi-yan's sizable victory in the Kowloon West constituency ends the opposition's hopes of regaining veto power in the assembly and continues to reduce the influence of the pro-democracy camp that has been shrinking since widespread 2014 demonstrations fizzled out with little result.

China took control of the former British colony in 1997 under a system whereby it was to retain its own economic, legal and political systems for 50 years under Beijing's overall guidance.

The disqualification of pro-democracy candidates and demands for loyalty to China's ruling Communist

Party are undermining confidence in the "one country, two systems" framework that has also been offered to Taiwan, said Ivan Choy, a professor of government and public administration at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

That has produced a "negative example" for Taiwan in terms of faith in China's promises and enthusiasm for unification with the mainland, Choy said.

"The deteriorating situation of the human right and freedom in Hong Kong would build up a negative demonstration effect to Taiwan," he said.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Christopher Bodeen has covered politics in China and Taiwan for The Associated Press for more than two decades. Associated Press reporter Alice Fund contributed to this report from Hong Kong.

Ex-Trump campaign adviser Papadopoulos to report to prison

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge ordered former Trump campaign foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos to report to prison as scheduled, rejecting his last-minute bid to delay his two-week sentence.

Papadopoulos is to begin serving his sentence Monday.

He was sentenced in September for lying to the FBI in the Russia investigation. He had sought a postponement of his prison term until an appeals court had ruled in a separate case challenging the constitutionality of special counsel Robert Mueller's appointment.

But in a 13-page opinion Sunday, U.S. District Court Judge Randolph Moss said Papadopoulos had waited too long to contest his sentence. Moss noted that Papadopoulos had agreed not to appeal in most circumstances as part of his plea agreement and the judge said the challenge to Mueller's appointment was unlikely to be successful in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Four different federal judges have upheld Mueller's appointment as proper.

"The prospect that the D.C. Circuit will reach a contrary conclusion is remote," Moss wrote.

Papadopoulos had filed an initial motion on Nov. 16, nearly two months after the deadline for appealing his conviction or sentence. He followed up with a request to delay his sentence pending that motion on Wednesday, the day before Thanksgiving.

"Papadopoulos waited until the eleventh hour to seek relief; indeed, he did not file his second motion — the stay request — until the last business day before he was scheduled to surrender to serve his sentence," Moss' order states. "He has only his own delay to blame.

Responding to the judge's order, Papadopoulos wrote in a tweet Sunday that he looked forward to telling the full story behind his case. In recent months, he has spent many nights posting on Twitter, as has his wife, venting anger about the FBI and insisting he was framed by the government. He has also offered to testify before the Senate's intelligence committee, which is investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election, if he's granted immunity or other conditions.

"The truth will all be out. Not even a prison sentence can stop that momentum," Papadopoulos tweeted. "Looking forward to testifying publicly shortly after. The wool isn't going to be pulled over America's eyes forever."

Papadopoulos pleaded guilty last year to lying to federal agents about his interactions with Russian intermediaries during the 2016 presidential campaign. He also forfeited most of his rights to contest his conviction.

His lawyer argued that the appellate case could constitute new evidence that could allow him to mount a challenge. That case was brought by a witness refusing to comply with a Mueller grand jury subpoena.

Papadopoulos' sentence, issued by Moss on Sept. 7, was far less than the maximum six-month sentence sought by the government but more than the probation that Papadopoulos and his lawyers had asked for. Moss at the time noted that many similar cases resulted in probation but said he imposed a sentence of incarceration partly to send a message to the public that people can't lie to the FBI.

Papadopoulos, the first campaign aide sentenced in Mueller's investigation, triggered the initial Russia investigation two years ago. Memos written by House Republicans and Democrats and now declassified show that information about Papadopoulos' contacts with Russian intermediaries set in motion the FBI's counterintelligence investigation in July 2016 into potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign. That probe was later taken over by Mueller.

The White House has said that Papadopoulos was a low-level volunteer on the campaign.

US agents fire tear gas as some migrants try to breach fence

By **CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press**

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — U.S. border agents fired tear gas on hundreds of migrants protesting near the border with Mexico on Sunday after some of them attempted to get through the fencing and wire separating the two countries, and American authorities shut down the nation's busiest border crossing from the city where thousands are waiting to apply for asylum.

The situation devolved after the group began a peaceful march to appeal for the U.S. to speed processing of asylum claims for Central American migrants marooned in Tijuana.

Mexican police had kept them from walking over a bridge leading to the Mexican port of entry, but the migrants pushed past officers to walk across the Tijuana River below the bridge. More police carrying plastic riot shields were on the other side, but migrants walked along the river to an area where only an earthen levee and concertina wire separated them from U.S. Border Patrol agents.

Some saw an opportunity to breach the crossing.

An Associated Press reporter saw U.S. agents shoot several rounds of tear gas after some migrants attempted to penetrate several points along the border. Mexico's Milenio TV showed images of migrants climbing over fences and peeling back metal sheeting to enter.

Honduran Ana Zuniga, 23, also said she saw migrants opening a small hole in concertina wire at a gap on the Mexican side of a levee, at which point U.S. agents fired tear gas at them.

Children screamed and coughed. Fumes were carried by the wind toward people who were hundreds of feet away.

"We ran, but when you run the gas asphyxiates you more," Zuniga told the AP while cradling her 3-year-old daughter Valery in her arms.

Mexico's Interior Ministry said around 500 migrants tried to "violently" enter the U.S.

The ministry said in a statement it would immediately deport those people and would reinforce security.

As the chaos unfolded, shoppers just yards away on the U.S. side streamed in and out of an outlet mall, which eventually closed.

Throughout the day, U.S. Customs and Border Protection helicopters flew overhead, while U.S. agents held vigil on foot beyond the wire fence in California. The Border Patrol office in San Diego said via Twitter that pedestrian crossings were suspended at the San Ysidro port of entry at both the East and West facilities. All northbound and southbound traffic was halted for several hours. Every day more than 100,000 people enter the U.S. there.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said in a statement that U.S. authorities will continue to have a "robust" presence along the Southwest border and that they will prosecute anyone who damages federal property or violates U.S. sovereignty.

"DHS will not tolerate this type of lawlessness and will not hesitate to shut down ports of entry for security and public safety reasons," she said.

More than 5,000 migrants have been camped in and around a sports complex in Tijuana after making their way through Mexico in recent weeks via caravan. Many hope to apply for asylum in the U.S., but agents at the San Ysidro entry point are processing fewer than 100 asylum petitions a day.

Irineo Mujica, who has accompanied the migrants for weeks as part of the aid group Pueblo Sin Fronteras, said the aim of Sunday's march toward the U.S. border was to make the migrants' plight more visible to the governments of Mexico and the U.S.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 41 of 42

"We can't have all these people here," Mujica told The Associated Press.

Tijuana Mayor Juan Manuel Gastelum on Friday declared a humanitarian crisis in his border city of 1.6 million, which he says is struggling to accommodate the crush of migrants.

U.S. President Donald Trump took to Twitter Sunday to express his displeasure with the caravans in Mexico.

"Would be very SMART if Mexico would stop the Caravans long before they get to our Southern Border, or if originating countries would not let them form (it is a way they get certain people out of their country and dump in U.S. No longer)," he wrote.

Mexico's Interior Ministry said Sunday the country has sent 11,000 Central Americans back to their countries of origin since Oct. 19, when the first caravan entered the country. It said that 1,906 of those who have returned were members of the recent caravans.

Mexico is on track to send a total of around 100,000 Central Americans back home by the end of this year.

Associated Press writer Amy Guthrie contributed to this story from Mexico City.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Nov. 26, the 330th day of 2018. There are 35 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 26, 1941, U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull delivered a note to Japan's ambassador to the United States, Kichisaburo Nomura (kee-chee-sah-boor-oh noh-moo-rah), setting forth U.S. demands for "lasting and extensive peace throughout the Pacific area." The same day, a Japanese naval task force consisting of six aircraft carriers left the Kuril Islands, headed toward Hawaii.

On this date:

In 1789, Americans observed a day of thanksgiving set aside by President George Washington to mark the adoption of the Constitution of the United States.

In 1825, the first college social fraternity, the Kappa Alpha Society, was formed at Union College in Schenectady, N.Y.

In 1883, former slave and abolitionist Sojourner Truth died in Battle Creek, Mich.

In 1917, the National Hockey League was founded in Montreal, succeeding the National Hockey Association.

In 1942, the Warner Bros. motion picture "Casablanca," starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, had its world premiere at the Hollywood Theater in New York.

In 1943, during World War II, the HMT Rohna, a British transport ship carrying American soldiers, was hit by a German missile off Algeria; 1,138 men were killed.

In 1950, China entered the Korean War, launching a counteroffensive against soldiers from the United Nations, the U.S. and South Korea.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon's personal secretary, Rose Mary Woods, told a federal court that she'd accidentally caused part of the 18-1/2-minute gap in a key Watergate tape.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan appointed a commission headed by former Senator John Tower to investigate his National Security Council staff in the wake of the Iran-Contra affair.

In 1991, the Stars and Stripes were lowered for the last time at Clark Air Base in the Philippines as the United States abandoned one of its oldest and largest overseas installations, which was damaged by a volcano.

In 1992, the British government announced that Queen Elizabeth II had volunteered to start paying taxes on her personal income, and would take her children off the public payroll.

In 2000, Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris certified George W. Bush the winner over Al Gore in the state's presidential balloting by a 537-vote margin.

Ten years ago: Teams of heavily armed gunmen, allegedly from Pakistan, stormed luxury hotels, a popular tourist attraction and a crowded train station in Mumbai, India, leaving at least 166 people dead

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Nov. 26, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 140 ~ 42 of 42

in a rampage lasting some 60 hours. A Missouri mother on trial in a landmark cyberbullying case was convicted by a federal jury in Los Angeles of three minor offenses for her role in a mean-spirited Internet hoax that apparently drove a 13-year-old girl, Megan Meier, to suicide. (However, Lori Drew's convictions were later thrown out.)

Five years ago: The U.S. flew two B-52 bombers over the East China Sea, defying Beijing's move to assert greater military control over the area's disputed islands. Pope Francis denounced the global financial system that excluded the poor as he issued the mission statement for his papacy. Actress-singer Jane Kean, 90, best known for playing Trixie in a musicalized revival of "The Honeyymooners" on "The Jackie Gleason Show," died in Burbank, California.

One year ago: Congressman John Conyers of Michigan gave up his leadership position as the top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, while denying allegations that he had sexually harassed female staff members. Amid allegations that he had groped women in the past, Minnesota Democratic Sen. Al Franken said he felt "embarrassed and ashamed," but that he looked forward to gradually regaining the trust of voters. (Franken announced less than two weeks later that he was resigning from Congress.) Pixar's "Coco" achieved the fourth-best Thanksgiving weekend ever at the box office, with an estimated \$71.2 million over the five days.

Today's Birthdays: Impressionist Rich Little is 80. Singer Tina Turner is 79. Singer Jean Terrell is 74. Pop musician John McVie is 73. Actress Marianne Muellerleile is 70. Actor Scott Jacoby is 62. Actress Jamie Rose is 59. Country singer Linda Davis is 56. Actor Scott Adsit is 53. Blues singer-musician Bernard Allison is 53. Country singer-musician Steve Grisaffe is 53. Actress Kristin Bauer is 52. Actor Peter Facinelli is 45. Actress Tammy Lynn Michaels Etheridge is 44. DJ/record label executive DJ Khaled (KAL'-ehd) is 43. Actress Maia (MY'-ah) Campbell is 42. Country singer Joe Nichols is 42. Contemporary Christian musicians Anthony and Randy Armstrong (Red) are 40. Actress Jessica Bowman is 38. Pop singer Natasha Bedingfield is 37. Country singer-musician Mike Gossin (Gloriana Rock) is 34. Rock musician Ben Wysocki (The Fray) is 34. Singer Lil Fizz is 33. Singer Aubrey Collins is 31. Actress-singer-TV personality Rita Ora is 28.

Thought for Today: "Don't for heaven's sake, be afraid of talking nonsense! But you must pay attention to your nonsense." — Ludwig Wittgenstein, Austrian-born philosopher (1889-1951).