

# Groton Daily Independent

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**Card Shower  
for**

**Dee Baily's  
90th Birthday**

**Send to:**

**715 W. Willow**

**Groton, SD 57445**

**Her birthday is Dec. 21**

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

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

## **JOHNSON AGENCY**

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

[www.johnsonagencygroton.com](http://www.johnsonagencygroton.com)

102 N Main St. Office: 605/397-2424  
Groton, SD 57445 Home: 605/397-8565



## Groton Area Schedule of Events

### **Friday, December 14, 2018**

Debate at Brookings High School (Brookings Bell)  
5:15pm: Basketball: Boys C Game vs. Redfield-Doland @ Redfield Jr-Sr High School followed by JV and varsity games.

### **Saturday, December 15, 2018**

Debate at Brookings High School (Brookings Bell)  
8:00am: Basketball: Boys C Tournament vs. Aberdeen Roncalli, Hamlin, Ipswich, Leola-Frederick, Redfield-Doland, Sioux Valley, Sisseton @ Groton Area High School Arena

9:00am: Wrestling: Boys Varsity Tournament TBA vs. Madison @ Madison High School

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## Hunter Schaller Update 12-12-18

Hunter had a good night and so far a good day. A big day. This morning, He had all his therapies and had assistance in standing 2 times. He has been now comfortably resting sitting in a regular chair. His trach has now been downsized and plugged. And with hope and God, they plan on taking the trach completely out the 17th! Hunter has still not come around yet, but these other blessings give us more than hope for the future.

Here's a picture of Hunter today, which we thought you'd all appreciate. Just waiting on that contagious smile!

Can't thank God and all you enough for allowing all of us to be able to be here with Hunter.

Keep the prayers coming

#allforhunt

#huntingforabiggerreason

- Hunter Schaller Family



#allforHunt Fundraiser

- Keychains \$10

All proceeds to go to the family. You can order at the Groton High School office, Professional Management Services, Lori's Pharmacy or BK Custom T's

## Fund set up at First State Bank

An account has been set up at First State Bank in Groton for Hunter Schaller. Anyone wanting to donate can make checks to "Hunter Schaller Benefit" and mail or drop off at the First State Bank in Groton. Hunter was involved in a motor vehicle accident on November 21st and is in ICU in Sioux Falls. Schaller is a junior at GHS and is the son of Steve Schaller and Julie Schaller.

A GoFundMe page has been established for the Schaller family, started by Peyton Johnson. Thus far, in nine days, \$11,880 has been raised of the \$15,000 goal. To donate, [click here](#).

## HUNTER SCHALLER BENEFIT

# ALL-U-CAN-EAT CHISLIC & SHRIMP



Friday, December 14

starting @5:30pm - Ferney Bar

Includes steak chislic & multiple types of shrimp  
for just \$30 per person

**100% of proceeds to benefit the Schaller Family!**

## **AAA Illuminates the Dangers of Driving with Cloudy Headlights** **Deteriorated headlights produce 80 percent less light than when new**

Dec. 11, 2018 – New research from AAA reveals that clouded or yellowed headlights generate only 20 percent of the amount of light that new headlights do, leading to dangerous nighttime driving conditions. This decrease is caused by sunlight damage to protective plastic coatings, resulting in discoloration that considerably diminishes the headlight's ability to provide adequate light on dark roadways. With 50 percent of crashes occurring at night, AAA urges drivers to check their headlights for signs of deterioration and invest in new headlights or, at a minimum, a low-cost service to boost the safety of driving after dark.

"Walk through any parking lot and it is evident that deteriorated headlights are a problem for most vehicle owners," said Greg Brannon, AAA's director of Automotive Engineering and Industry Relations. "Headlights on the road in the United States, even when new, don't produce a sufficient amount of lighting, so any reduction in performance is a real safety issue."

AAA examined the impact deterioration can have on the amount of light produced by conducting research using an accredited laboratory to test headlights from two popular sedans, approximately 11 years in age. Results from the degraded headlights were measured against new headlights to quantify the amount of light produced for each. All testing was done in accordance with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 108 as set forth by the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Research revealed that deteriorated headlights, when used on low beam, provided just 22 percent of the amount of light a new headlight does when operating at full capacity. AAA also examined the effects that replacing or restoring a headlight can have on improving the amount of light produced. Replacing headlights with original equipment manufacturer parts is the most effective method to restore light output back to 100 percent.

Aftermarket parts also performed well, restoring light output between 83 and 90 percent, however these did fail to meet certain requirements for light intensity and were found to be more likely to produce glare for oncoming traffic. Restoring headlights, while the most cost effective option, offered less of an improvement in light output than replacement. Professional and DIY restoration returned light output back to approximately 70 percent. Both restoration methods, however, produced more glare than is acceptable according DOT criteria.

Compounding the problem of driving with deteriorated headlights is the fact that U.S. headlights have significant shortcomings. Previous AAA research found that halogen headlights fail to safely illuminate unlit roadways at speeds as low as 40 mph, with high beam settings offering only marginal improvements. Even the most advanced headlights tested illuminated just 40 percent of the sight distances that the full light of day provides. By not maintaining headlights, drivers are unknowingly operating in dangerously dim conditions.

"Driving at night with headlights that produce only 20 percent of the light they did when new, which is already subpar, is a risk drivers shouldn't take," continued Brannon. "Especially when there are convenient and inexpensive solutions that can dramatically improve lighting performance."

Most headlights are made of plastic and exposure to sunlight breaks down the plastic coating, causing discoloration that obscures the amount of light produced. Depending on where and how the vehicle is used, headlights can begin showing signs of deterioration as early as three years to five years.

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Unlike batteries or tires, most drivers are not in the habit of routinely inspecting their headlights. AAA suggests drivers check their headlights for changes in appearance such as yellowing or clouding and if the bulb is difficult to see, it is time to have the lenses replaced or restored as soon as possible. AAA recommends replacement since this method offers the most improvement in the amount of light produced. Both replacement and restoration services are provided by many repair shops including many AAA Approved Auto Repair facilities.

## Methodology

Headlight assemblies used in testing were for the left (driver's) side of the vehicle. To quantify headlight performance, AAA contracted an accredited testing laboratory with expertise in automotive headlights and conducted testing according to industry standards. Headlights were tested according to FMVSS-108 standards with no modifications to the headlight assemblies under test or to the test procedures.

The professional headlight restoration systems used a power sanding technique to remove the original protective film from the headlight lens. The resulting scratched surface of the polycarbonate was then polished using increasingly finer grades of sanding discs and a protectant film applied to the entire surface of the headlight lens. Full methodology available in the research report found here.

AAA provides automotive, travel, and insurance services to 59 million members nationwide and over 100,000 members in South Dakota. AAA advocates for the safety and mobility of its members and has been committed to outstanding road service for more than 100 years. AAA is a non-stock, non-profit corporation working on behalf of motorists, who can now map a route, find local gas prices, discover discounts, book a hotel, and track their roadside assistance service with the AAA Mobile app (AAA.com/mobile) for iPhone, iPad and Android. For more information, visit [www.AAA.com](http://www.AAA.com).

## **PUMP PRICES FALL to CHEAPEST OF THE YEAR**

### **Fill Up for Less - AAA Announces New Gas Discount for Members**

December 10, 2018 - What a gift for those planning to hit the road for the holidays! At \$2.44, the national gas price average has set a new record low for 2018. This is nearly a nickel less than this time last December. AAA expects the national gas price average to fluctuate through the end of the month and possibly end the year as cheap as \$2.40.

Here in South Dakota, gas prices have also been falling slowly but pretty steadily since mid-October, with today's average at \$2.40 for a gallon of regular unleaded – the lowest price we've seen this year.

"With filling up costing far less, drivers will have more change jingling in their pockets this holiday season, especially compared to this summer" says Marilyn Buskohl, spokesperson for AAA South Dakota. "And now, AAA members who take advantage of the new Shell discount can save even more".

AAA Members save at Shell through the Fuel Rewards® Program

Announced just this week, AAA members can now save up to five cents per gallon through December 31, 2019, when filling up at participating Shell branded stations across the U.S. through the Fuel Rewards® program. AAA members just need to sign-up at [AAA.com/Shell](http://AAA.com/Shell) to reap the benefits of this new Discount and Reward program.

An added benefit, members registering for the first time in the Fuel Rewards® program will save 25 cents per gallon on their first fill-up through January 31, 2019. Before providing payment when fueling up, members will see prices roll back at the pump when they enter their Fuel Rewards® Alternative ID, which they use to join, typically a phone number.

### **Quick Stats**

The nation's top 10 largest monthly decreases are: Iowa (-40 cents), Kansas (-40 cents), Nebraska (-40 cents), Missouri (-38 cents), Arkansas (-37 cents), South Dakota (-36 cents), Georgia (-36 cents), Wisconsin (-36 cents), Mississippi (-36 cents) and Alabama (-36 cents).

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The nation's top 10 least expensive markets are: Missouri (\$2.00), Oklahoma (\$2.06), South Carolina (\$2.06), Texas (\$2.08), Kansas (\$2.09), Alabama (\$2.09), Arkansas (\$2.09), Mississippi (\$2.10), Louisiana (\$2.10) and Iowa (\$2.15).

South Dakota Average Gas Prices:

Current Avg. \$2.40

Yesterday Avg. \$2.40

Week Ago Avg. \$2.45

Month Ago Avg. \$2.76

Year Ago Avg. \$2.50

## Crude Supplies

About two-thirds of the retail cost of a gallon of gasoline is determined by the cost of crude oil. Globally, crude supply is growing faster than anticipated. Contributing to the surplus is the United States' record-breaking production levels – which hit the highest level ever recorded by the Energy Information Administration at 11.7 million b/d last month. In addition, there is more Iranian supply in the market than expected due to the U.S. granting crude sanction waivers to some of Iran's largest importers, including India, South Korea and Japan.

To help reduce the growing surplus of global crude supply, this week the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) met to discuss the potential of cutting crude production by up to 1 million barrels per day. The announcement was expected yesterday, but the cartel delayed the decision until Friday to give time for non-OPEC countries, including Russia, to decide if they will join the production reduction agreement. Following the delay on Thursday, crude oil prices trended cheaper than earlier in the week because the announcement was not as firm as the market expected. AAA forecasts that as long as crude stays below the \$60/bbl mark, Americans will continue to see cheaper gas prices through the end of the year. It has been said: "Changes in gasoline and diesel prices at the retail level mirror changes in crude oil prices."

## Winter Fuel & Driving Tips

As you hit the road this winter, AAA offers these tips to help conserve fuel and keep motorists safe:

If possible, only run the engine and heater long enough to remove the chill. This will help to conserve fuel. Also, parking your car in a garage will help it stay warm.

As a precaution, keep at least half a tank of fuel in your vehicle at all times. It helps to reduce condensation in the fuel system. It also helps ensure an adequate reserve of fuel to run the engine for heat should your car become disabled in a remote location.

Be sure to pack an emergency roadside kit in your car containing a mobile phone and car charger, first-aid kit, blankets, drinking water and snacks, a flashlight with extra batteries, a basic toolkit, warning flares, an ice scraper, jumper cables and a shovel.

Motorists can find current gas prices at [GasPrices.AAA.com](http://GasPrices.AAA.com) and along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at [AAA.com/mobile](http://AAA.com/mobile).

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## Today in Weather History

December 13, 2008: An intense low-pressure area moved out of the Rockies and across the Central Plains bringing widespread snow, blizzard conditions, and extreme winds chills to central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota into the early morning hours of the 15th. Snowfall amounts of 1 to as much as 12 inches along with winds gusting to 50 mph caused widespread near zero visibilities and dangerous travel conditions. Winds chills fell into the 35 below to 45 below zero range. Many vehicles became stuck or stranded along several highways and along Interstates 29 and 90. Interstate 90 was closed from the Wyoming line to Murdo from late on the 13th until the morning of the 14th. Interstate 29 was also closed for much of the 14th. The Onida, Agar, and Gettysburg Volunteer Fire Department found it difficult to respond to a structure fire south of Gettysburg. Due to whiteout conditions, the structure was lost to the fire by the time the fire departments arrived. Most area schools were closed on Monday due to the road conditions along with the bitter cold wind chills. Some of the heaviest snowfall amounts included: 6 inches at Watertown, Browns Valley, Sisseton, Waubay, and Castlewood; 7 inches at Ortonville, Webster, Clear Lake, Faulkton, and Aberdeen; 8 inches at Milbank, 9 inches at Britton and Wheaton; 10 inches at Clear Lake, and 12 inches at Roscoe. Mobridge received 2 inches and Pierre received 4 inches of snowfall with this storm

December 13, 1997: A freak cold snap and snowstorm struck parts of northern Mexico left 12 people dead, and the area paralyzed. It snowed in the city of Guadalajara for the first time since 1881, leaving amazed residents to gawk at the white stuff and make snowmen. The temperature plunged to 5 degrees in Chihuahua.

1915 - A heavy snowstorm kicked off the snowiest winter in modern records for western New England. (The Weather Channel)

1962 - A severe Florida freeze occurred. Morning lows reached 35 degrees at Miami, 18 degrees at Tampa, and 12 degrees at Jacksonville. It was the coldest December weather of the 20th century and caused millions of dollars damage to crops and foliage. In Georgia, the morning low of 9 degrees below zero at Blairsville established a state record for the month of December. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A major winter storm produced high winds and heavy snow in the Southern Rockies and the Southern High Plains. Snowfall totals in New Mexico ranged up to 25 inches at Cedar Crest, with up to three feet of snow reported in the higher elevations. Winds of 75 mph, with gusts to 124 mph, were reported northeast of Albuquerque NM. El Paso TX was buried under 22.4 inches of snow, including a single storm record of 16.8 inches in 24 hours. The snowfall total surpassed their previous record for an entire winter season of 18.4 inches. Record cold was experienced the next three nights as readings dipped into the single numbers. High winds ushering unseasonably cold air into the southwestern U.S. gusted to 100 mph at Grapevine CA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Low pressure off the Atlantic coast produced up to a foot of snow in eastern Nassau County and western Suffolk County of southeastern New York State. Mild weather prevailed across the western half of the country. Nine cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Goodland KS with a reading of 74 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Strong northwesterly winds, ushering bitterly cold arctic air into the central U.S., produced squalls with heavy snow in the Great Lakes Region. Snowfall totals in Upper Michigan ranged up to 24 inches at Manistique. Nine cities in Arkansas and Texas reported record low temperatures for the date, including Calico Rock AR with a reading of 4 degrees above zero. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2002 - A powerful Pacific storm system plowed into the western United States during the 13th-16th, producing high winds, heavy rains, significant mountain snowfall and causing 9 deaths (Associated Press). Rainfall amounts exceeding 10 inches occurred in parts of California, and wind gusts over 45 mph produced up to 1.9 million power outages during the period (Pacific Gas & Electric).

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Today

Tonight

Friday

Friday  
Night

Saturday



Becoming  
Sunny

Mostly Clear

Sunny

Mostly Clear

Sunny

High: 39 °F

Low: 21 °F

High: 40 °F

Low: 22 °F

High: 42 °F

Today's Outlook

Icy roadways with light snow ending this morning over eastern SD and western MN

Highs in the **upper 30s to low 40s**, coolest over eastern SD and western MN

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD  
[www.weather.gov/abr](http://www.weather.gov/abr)

Tonight's Outlook

Lows in the **20s**

Graphic Created  
12/13/2018 6:33 AM

Published on: 12/13/2018 at 6:34AM

Icy roadways, and lingering light snow to give way to a sunny sky by this afternoon as temperatures rise into the upper 30s to low 40s.

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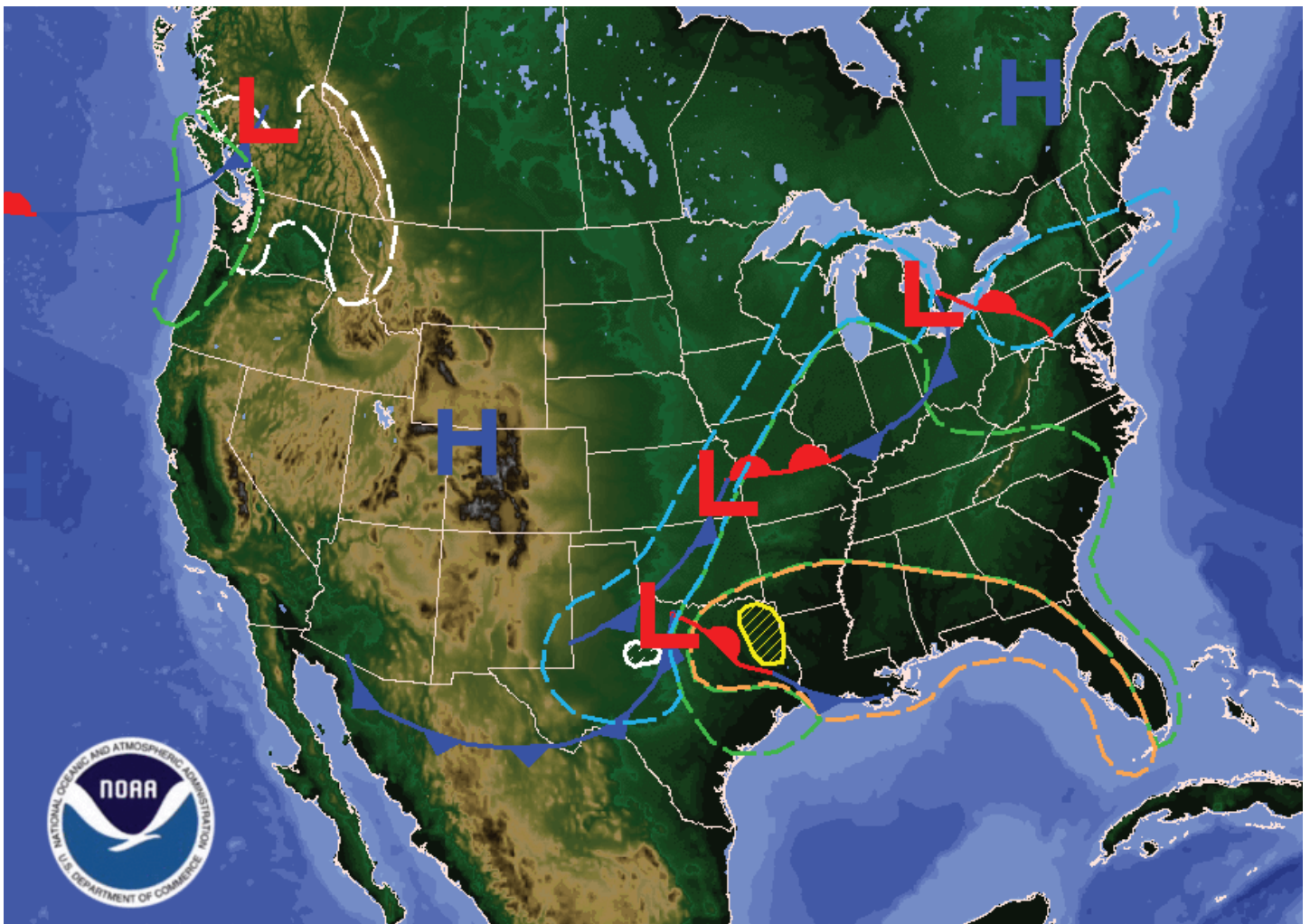
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 33 °F at 3:18 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 12 °F at 7:29 AM**  
**High Gust: 11 mph at 8:46 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 57° in 1921**  
**Record Low: -34° in 1917**  
**Average High: 26°F**  
**Average Low: 6°F**  
**Average Precip in Dec.: 0.21**  
**Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00**  
**Average Precip to date: 21.41**  
**Precip Year to Date: 15.81**  
**Sunset Tonight: 4:51 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:06 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Dec 13, 2018, issued 3:55 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Hamrick 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)





## THE REAL THING!

It has always been difficult for missionary families to be together at special times. Often hearts ache for the joy and happiness that unites loved ones at special times for special reasons and seasons.

The headmaster of a school for the children of missionaries knew that feeling very well. His parents were missionaries and he spent many birthdays alone as well as many holidays. He knew that one of his students was having a particularly difficult time one Christmas and decided to visit him in his room.

After talking for a few minutes he asked, John, what would you like for Christmas this year?

Looking at a picture of his father on the wall he said, I would like my father to step out of that frame.

That's what Jesus did. He stepped out of the Old Testament frames that prophesied of His coming. He became the real thing when he walked among the people, laid His hands on the sick and restored them to health, fed the hungry with bread that would last throughout eternity and gave the water of life to those dying of thirst.

The Son of God willingly and voluntarily made Himself nothing when He assumed a human body and a human nature and became the real thing. Jesus is God seeing us through human eyes, hearing us with human ears, touching lives with human hands and loving us with a human heart. In Jesus, we see God with us!

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for sending us the Real Thing. Through Him we know how much You love us. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Philippians 2:5-11 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

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## 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

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## News from the Associated Press

### **Standing Rock veterans cemetery getting more federal money**

FORT YATES, N.D. (AP) — The Standing Rock Sioux tribe is getting \$291,000 from the federal government to expand and improve the All Nations Veterans Cemetery in Fort Yates.

The money is through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The agency last year gave the tribe nearly \$5 million to build the cemetery.

The 8-acre cemetery is expected to serve more than 2,200 tribal veterans and their families.

### **Wednesday's Scores**

**By The Associated Press**

#### **BOYS PREP BASKETBALL**

Lakota Nation Tournament

First Round=

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 70, Todd County 64

Lower Brule 75, Custer 51

Omaha Nation, Neb. 45, McLaughlin 43

Pine Ridge 68, Oelrichs 28

Red Cloud 76, Marty Indian 45

St. Francis Indian 90, Little Wound 68

Tiospa Zina 71, Crow Creek 62

White River 119, Crazy Horse 38

#### **GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL**

Lakota Nation Tournament

First Round

Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 73, Tiospa Zina 53

Crow Creek 75, Omaha Nation, Neb. 51

Little Wound 55, McLaughlin 50

Lower Brule 66, St. Francis Indian 65, OT

Pine Ridge 62, Marty Indian 26

Red Cloud 68, Oelrichs 28

Todd County 77, Custer 35

White River 31, Crazy Horse 21

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

### **SD Lottery**

**By The Associated Press**

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

Dakota Cash

01-02-04-11-15

(one, two, four, eleven, fifteen)

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America

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02-03-13-22-49, Star Ball: 9, ASB: 2

(two, three, thirteen, twenty-two, forty-nine; Star Ball: nine; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$12.47 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$262 million

Powerball

04-09-21-29-64, Powerball: 26, Power Play: 2

(four, nine, twenty-one, twenty-nine, sixty-four; Powerball: twenty-six; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$230 million

## South Dakota tops Bellevue 78-52, loses Hagedorn for season

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Cody Kelley scored 18 points, Tyler Peterson added 17 on 8-for-10 shooting, Triston Simpson 11 with six assists and South Dakota cruised past NAIA-member Bellevue University 78-52 on Wednesday night.

Kelley scored 14 points in the first half when South Dakota shot 60 percent (18 of 30) to build a 42-26 halftime lead. The Coyotes (5-5) finished shooting 59 percent from the field, 32 of 54, including six 3-pointers and had 21 assists.

Bellevue University grabbed a 5-4 lead on a Josh Lindsey-Hunter 3-pointer, but held it for just 14 seconds. Simpson sparked an 11-3 run over the next 3:39 and the Coyotes pulled away from there.

Lindsey-Hunter scored 11 points to lead the Bears, who were held to 37-percent shooting, 21 of 57. The disparity inside was telling as the Coyotes outscored Bellevue 46-18 in the paint.

South Dakota had seven steals, outscored Bellevue 6-0 on fast-break points and scored 14 points off 13 turnovers.

South Dakota announced senior Tyler Hagedorn (13 ppg, 5.9 rebounds), sidelined all season by a torn plantar fascia, will redshirt.

## No. 7 Oregon women hold off South Dakota State 87-79

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Oregon coach Kelly Graves figured the Ducks would have to fight for a win at mid-major South Dakota State.

"This isn't a place you want to come play, but I think it makes us better," Graves said. "They test you, they test you. Nobody that knows basketball would be surprised at that score. There's not one coach in Division I basketball that would be surprised at that score. These guys are good, and we knew that."

Satou Sabally scored a season-high 27 points and had six rebounds and No. 7 Oregon used a big second half to beat South Dakota State 87-79 on Wednesday night. Sabrina Ionescu added 26 points and eight rebounds to help the Ducks (8-1) avoid losing their second straight game. The then-No. 3 Ducks lost at Michigan State on Sunday.

Madison Guebert and Myah Selland each scored 21 points for South Dakota State (6-4). Season scoring leader Macy Miller had 14.

"We don't take this as a moral victory," Guebert said. "We're right there, and that's very frustrating, to know that you're right there and you're that close to beating a Top 10 school. We can't be content with that."

Down 45-40 at the half, Oregon was 11 for 20 from the field in the third quarter. The Ducks led by seven late in the period, and the Jackrabbits cut it to two with under a minute to play in the game. Ionescu hit a deep 3-pointer with 46 seconds to play to seal it.

Ionescu had 16 second-half points.

"We just stepped it up in that second half and we knew we had to make stops," Ionescu said. "We got in the locker room and talked about the things we needed to do. We knew that if we could make a run we could keep going from there. My team got me the ball where I was comfortable shooting."

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South Dakota State was up 49-40 in the third, Oregon's second-largest deficit of the season. From that point, the Ducks outscored the Jackrabbits 25-11 to finish the quarter.

## BIG PICTURE

Oregon returns home for six straight games, which includes the start of the Pac-12 schedule. ... South Dakota State has faced four ranked teams in its nonconference schedule, beating No. 21 Drake.

## STAT OF THE NIGHT

Sabally entered the game averaging 14.3 points. She scored Oregon's first ten points of the game and had hit her scoring average by halftime.

## UP NEXT

Oregon: Hosts No. 5 Mississippi State on Dec. 18.

South Dakota State: Hosts Savannah State on Friday night.

More AP college basketball: <https://apnews.com/tag/Collegebasketball> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](https://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## New hip surgery for Nevada's Drew; redshirt back next year

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Nevada point guard Lindsey Drew will sit out the remainder of the basketball season for the No. 7 Wolf Pack after undergoing hip surgery while recovering from a ruptured Achilles.

The university issued a statement shortly after Wednesday's surgery that said Drew will redshirt the remainder of the 2018-19 season and plans to play as a redshirt senior for Nevada next season.

Drew averaged 8.1 points, 4.3 assists and 4.1 rebounds for Nevada last season before he was sidelined the rest of the year when he injured his Achilles tendon against Boise State last Feb. 14.

Nevada Coach Eric Musselman said Wednesday Drew had been working hard to recover from that injury and they look forward to his return next season.

Nevada (10-0) hosts South Dakota State (9-3) in a non-conference game Saturday.

## Ballot measure planned if lawmakers don't fulfill tax cuts

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota conservative group plans to push lawmakers to fulfill a law calling for tax cuts after the state's U.S. Supreme Court victory this year clearing the way for major new online sales tax revenues.

But Americans for Prosperity-South Dakota has a backup plan if officials don't deliver: let voters decide in the 2020 election.

The organization backed by billionaire brothers David and Charles Koch is proposing a ballot question to simply phase in a half-cent sales tax cut over five years. The group wants the Republican-controlled Legislature to pass the rate cuts, but the ballot question is a "fallback," State Director Don Haggar said Wednesday.

"I'm confident the Legislature will honor their word," Haggar said. "If the Legislature isn't able to come up with a solution ... this session, or if they decide, 'Oh we've changed our minds and we want to spend this money,' well we won't hesitate to put this on the ballot."

The ballot question proposal comes amid ambiguity in a law requiring a 2016 half-cent sales tax hike for teacher pay to be scaled back if the state gained the ability to collect the tax on online purchases. Under the law, the state's 4.5 percent rate is to be rolled back by one-tenth of a percent for every additional \$20 million the state reaps, with a floor of 4 percent.

It was ultimately South Dakota's case that led to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in June to overturn two decades-old high court decisions that made it tougher for states to collect sales taxes for certain purchases online. The state began collections Nov. 1, but officials believe new legislation is required for the envisioned tax reductions to occur.

Haggar called the group's plan a "simple" solution, saying it would unhitch the rate cut from online sales

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taxes and simply phase it in over five years. The measure calls for a rate reduction of one-tenth of a percent each July from 2021-25.

Haggar said he's confident online sales tax collections will exceed the loss in revenues from the proposed tax cut. He said it would help the Legislature honor its word and potentially improve economic growth.

Americans for Prosperity-South Dakota said in a statement that the group is marshaling activists across the state and urging lawmakers to keep their pledge. Placing the proposal on the 2020 ballot would require supporters to gather thousands of signatures.

A spokeswoman for Gov.-elect Kristi Noem said in a statement that Noem is committed to preserving the state's "low-tax legacy." The incoming governor is looking forward to releasing her budget proposal in January and "working with the Legislature on these issues," spokeswoman Kristin Wileman said.

Incoming Senate Minority Leader Troy Heinert, who opposes the plan, said the intent of the sales tax hike was to increase teacher salaries. The Democratic lawmaker said it's still unclear how much revenue will be generated on purchases from out-of-state retailers.

He said rolling back the tax hike would lead to lower educator pay and losing teachers, which would affect programming and class sizes.

"The reduction ... that they're talking about hurts nobody but the students in South Dakota," Heinert said.

## **SDSU, Stiegelmeier agree on 5-year contract extension**

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota State and coach John Stiegelmeier have agreed on a five-year contract extension.

The deal will keep the longtime Jackrabbits coach on the sideline through the 2023 season. The university announced the contract extension Wednesday without providing financial terms. The Argus Leader reports Stiegelmeier made \$255,000 this season.

The 61-year-old is the winningest football coach in SDSU history, leading the Jackrabbits to a 158-99 record in 22 seasons.

SDSU is making its second consecutive Football Championship Subdivision semifinal appearance on Friday night, at North Dakota State. The Jackrabbits have made the postseason seven years in a row and eight times in 10 seasons.

More AP college football: <https://apnews.com/Collegefootball> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](https://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## **SD conservation agency amasses over 1.8 million archives**

**By KAIJA SWISHER, Black Hills Pioneer**

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — People who have lived in Spearfish all their lives are often surprised to find out that the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery also includes the National Fish and Aquatic Conservation Archives — meaning that there are items from every state and several foreign countries in its collection of more than 14,000 objects and 1.8 million archival records such as documents, photos, blueprints, etc.

"The FWS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) only has three national archives/repositories, and Spearfish is lucky to house one of them," April Gregory, curator, told the Black Hills Pioneer, describing that there have been over 330 fisheries facilities across the United States since the establishment of the U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries in 1871, and the archives in Spearfish houses documents from many of those. "People across the board are surprised and impressed when they learn that the U.S. Fish and Fisheries Commission, one of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's predecessor agencies, was the nation's first federal conservation agency and was established . . . nearly 150 years ago. Most people have no idea that fisheries conservation work has been going on in this country for that long."

Carlos Martinez, director of the hatchery, explained that the collection is national in scope. The hatchery began collecting items in the 1970s and was officially designated as an archive site in the mid-1990s, thanks in part to Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., who served in the U.S. Senate from 1997 to 2015 and was instrumental in getting the appropriations designated to construct a building to house the archives in Spearfish. Every

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Congressional representative from South Dakota since has supported the hatchery and archives, Martinez said, and the collection is not stagnant — it continues to grow. In 2018, he said, archival material from at least a dozen hatcheries in the Southwest and Pacific Northwest was accessioned.

"Established in 1896, D.C. Booth (hatchery) has a storied history in the Black Hills and the federal fisheries program," Martinez said. "It is a fabulous place to house a significant collection that is national in scope."

When asked what the curator's role consists of, Gregory's short answer included the care and management of the collection through accessioning, cataloging, administration, and housekeeping/pest control; internal and external promotion of the archives; securing new donations; responding to research requests; designing new exhibits and interpretation signs; visitor outreach; and more.

"This position combines my interest in history with my love of wildlife and the outdoors," she said. "It is also a nice mix of hands-on work, manual labor work, research work, working with people and outreach/education work, and, yes, computer work. It is a diverse job — one where you are not stuck at the computer all day or doing the same task over and over. I've also always wanted to work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as I believe in their mission to work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people."

Gregory explained that the main focus of the archive collection is the national history of fisheries work of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its predecessor agencies.

"The agency has an impressive history. It is our nation's oldest federal conservation agency with its roots dating to 1871 with the establishment of the U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries by Congress," she said, describing that in 1903, the Commission became the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, and in 1940, it became the Fish and Wildlife Service.

"The fisheries programs of the FWS are approaching their 150th anniversary — an impressive milestone," she said, describing that the archives has paper documents, photographs, maps, letters, etc., dating from throughout that history, including fishery station logbooks, annual reports, egg collection and stocking reports, original blueprints, photos, research papers, correspondence — and there is also a collection of objects that relate to fisheries work, dating from the late 1800s through today. Examples include scientific fisheries equipment, employee uniforms, office equipment, maintenance equipment, and transportation equipment like buckets, pails, troughs, trucks, and boats. "One of our smallest items is a tracking device inserted into the nose of a fish (used for scientific research), and some of the largest items are fish stocking trucks," Gregory said.

She added that the National Fish and Aquatic Conservation Archives brings in researchers from around the country.

"Researchers have included conservationists, writers, historians, scientists, filmmakers, and educators, as well as the interested public," Gregory said. "The hatchery itself receives over 160,000 visitors each year, resulting in a positive economic impact for the community of Spearfish."

And her role in that positive impact is not unnoticed.

"April serves the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contributing her knowledge, skills, and abilities toward increasing others' awareness to the role fisheries played in North American history," Martinez said. "She oversees a significant growth in the number and importance of artifacts housed at the museum, as well as striving to make the resources more widely known among researchers, historians, and the general public. April's position is instrumental in accommodating and collaborating with the 160,000 visitors and 14,000 volunteer hours D.C. Booth receives annually, in addition to countless researchers who benefit from the National Fish and Aquatic Conservation Archives."

Gregory, who began in the position of curator in January 2017 after serving as the executive director of the Booth Society since 2011, credited Randi Smith, who served as the collection's first curator through March 2014, with building the archives into what it has become.

"It's my job, as the next curator, to continue caring for what she accumulated, and what I accumulate, it will be the next curator's job to care for, and it will continue down the line," she said.

When asked the estimated worth of the archives, Gregory responded with, "Priceless," and added that

the Fish and Wildlife Service holds and manages the collection in trust for the American public.

"The FWS recognizes the importance of museum collections to its missions and is committed to proper stewardship of these resources," she said. "FWS follows Department of Interior policies and procedures for managing museum collections that meet the highest standards of the museum profession."

Crucial aspects to maintaining the collection include pest control, housekeeping/cleaning, monitoring the environment, including temperature and humidity, and cataloging backlogged archival documents.

"These maintenance activities are extremely important to ensure the continued existence of our nation's conservation fisheries history — the documents and artifacts provide evidence of activities and tell us more about individuals and institutions," Gregory said. "They tell stories. They also increase our understanding of past work and decisions so that current and future generations can learn from those decisions."

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

## Senate confirms South Dakota judge for 8th Circuit Court

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Senate has confirmed a South Dakota lawyer to serve as a judge on the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

President Donald Trump in June nominated Jonathan Kobes, attorney for South Dakota U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds. The Argus Leader reports that Kobes was confirmed Tuesday. The vote was split until Vice President Mike Pence broke the tie in favor of Kobes.

The 44-year-old Kobes will replace Judge Roger Wollman, who has served on the 8th Circuit since being appointed by President Ronald Reagan in 1985.

Kobes joined Rounds' staff in 2014 after working for Raven Industries, DuPont Pioneer and POET. He was a law clerk for Wollman after graduating from law school.

The 8th Circuit hears appeals from trial courts in the Dakotas, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri and Arkansas.

## I-90 crash near Mitchell kills 2 women, injures teenage girl

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Two women died and a teenage girl was seriously injured in a one-vehicle crash on Interstate 90 in Hanson County.

The Highway Patrol says the three people were in a sport utility vehicle that went in the median and rolled several times, coming to rest on its roof in a driving lane shortly after 10:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The 52-year-old driver and a 43-year-old passenger died at the scene 4 miles east of Mitchell. A 17-year-old passenger was taken to a Mitchell hospital with injuries the patrol says are serious but not life-threatening.

Their names were not immediately released.

## Jackrabbits score 90 points at halftime in record 139-72 win

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota State scored 90 points at halftime and the Jackrabbits ran up a school-record 139-72 win against Savannah State.

Mike Daum had a double-double in the first half and finished with 37 points and 17 rebounds on Tuesday night.

The Jackrabbits set single-game school records for points in a half, 3-pointers made (23) and field goals made and attempted (53 of 87). SDSU's 139 points were one shy of the Summit League record held by former member Troy in 1995.

Daum had 26 points and 12 rebounds in the first half, and the Jackrabbits (9-3) eased up in the second half after leading 90-33 at the break. They shot 76 percent (35 of 46) in the fast-paced first half.

Skyler Flatten scored 29 points and David Jenkins had 28 points, making 8 of 11 3-pointers. Tevin King dished 13 assists. The Rabbits had a 31-3 run in the first period.

Jaquan Dotson had 17 points for Savannah State (3-8) and John Grant added 15.

South Dakota State maintained the nation's longest active home-winning streak, earning its 26th victory



at Frost Arena.

## Apple deepens Austin ties, expands operations east and west

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Apple will build a \$1 billion campus in Austin, Texas, break ground on smaller locations in Seattle, San Diego and Culver City, California, and over the next three years will expand in Pittsburgh, New York and Colorado.

The tech giant said Thursday that the new campus in Austin, less than a mile from existing Apple facilities, will open with 5,000 positions in engineering, research and development, operations, finance, sales and customer support. The site, according to Apple, will have the capacity to accommodate 15,000 employees.

The three other new locations will have more than 1,000 employees each.

Early this year, Apple said that it would make more than \$30 billion in capital expenditures in the U.S. over the next five years. That, the company said in January, would create more than 20,000 new jobs at existing and new campuses that Apple planned to build.

There are already 6,000 Apple employees in Austin, its largest operation outside of company headquarters in Cupertino, California, where 37,000 people are employed.

"Apple has been a vital part of the Austin community for a quarter century, and we are thrilled that they are deepening their investment in our people and the city we love," said Austin Mayor Steve Adler in a prepared statement Thursday.

Apple said nearly a year ago that it would begin canvassing the U.S. for another campus.

Cities offered incentives to lure the company, but CEO Tim Cook avoided a high-profile competition that pitted them against one another as Amazon did over the last year and a half.

Amazon announced in November after a 14-month search it had selected Long Island City, Queens, and Arlington, Virginia, as the joint winners. Each site will employ around 25,000 people.

Cities are eager to bring in more tech employers because companies like Apple and Amazon ladle out six-figure salaries to engineers and other skilled workers.

The infusion of thousands of new and highly paid residents can ripple through an economy, with those employees filling restaurants, theaters, buying property and paying taxes.

Annual pay will vary at the new locations, but Apple workers in Cupertino have an average annual salary of about \$125,000, according to a report the company submitted to the city.

## As protectors abandon Trump, investigation draws closer

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump has now been abandoned by two of his most powerful protectors, his longtime lawyer and the company that owns the National Enquirer tabloid, bringing a perilous investigation into his campaign one step closer to the Oval Office.

Both Michael Cohen and American Media Inc. now say they made hush money payments to a porn star and a Playboy Playmate for the purposes of helping his 2016 White House bid, an apparent campaign finance violation.

The women alleged affairs with Trump, and federal prosecutors say the payments were made at Trump's direction.

The admissions by Cohen and AMI conflict with Trump's own evolving explanations. Since the spring, Trump has gone from denying knowledge of any payments to saying they would have been private transactions that weren't illegal.

Though prosecutors have implicated Trump in a crime, they haven't directly accused him of one, and it's not clear that they could bring charges against a sitting president even if they want to because of Justice Department protocol.

Nonetheless, Trump's changing explanations have clouded the public understanding of what occurred and are running head-on into facts agreed to by prosecutors, AMI and Cohen, who pleaded guilty to campaign

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finance violations and other crimes and was sentenced on Wednesday.

"You now have a second defendant or group of defendants saying that these payments were made for the primary purpose of influencing the election, and that it was done in coordination with Trump and his campaign," said Rick Hasen, an election law expert at the University of California, Irvine.

Trump's first explanation of the payment that would eventually help lead Cohen to a three-year prison sentence came at 35,000 feet over West Virginia.

Returning to Washington on Air Force One, Trump on April 6 for the first time answered questions about the reports of \$130,000 in hush money paid to porn star Stormy Daniels, issuing a blanket denial to reporters while saying they would "have to ask Michael Cohen."

Three days later, the FBI raided Cohen's office, seizing records on topics including the payment to Daniels. Furious, Trump called the raid a "disgrace" and said the FBI "broke into" his lawyer's office. He also tweeted that "Attorney-client privilege is dead!"

The raid was overseen by the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan and arose from a referral from special counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating Russian election interference. At the time, Cohen said he took out a personal line of credit on his home to pay Daniels days before the 2016 election without Trump's knowledge.

Later that month in a free-wheeling "Fox & Friends" interview, Trump acknowledged that Cohen represented him in the "crazy Stormy Daniels deal."

In May, Trump and his attorneys began saying Cohen received a monthly retainer from which he made payments for nondisclosure agreements like the one with Daniels. In a series of tweets, Trump said those agreements are "very common among celebrities and people of wealth" and "this was a private agreement."

People familiar with the investigation say Cohen secretly recorded Trump discussing a potential payment for former Playboy Playmate Karen McDougal two months before the election. On the tape, Cohen is heard saying that he needed to start a company "for the transfer of all of that info regarding our friend David," a possible reference to David Pecker, Trump's friend and president of AMI.

When Cohen began to discuss financing, Trump interrupted him and asked, "What financing?"

"We'll have to pay," Cohen responded.

Prosecutors announced Wednesday that AMI acknowledged making one of those payments "in concert" with the Trump campaign to protect him from a story that could have hurt his candidacy. The company avoided prosecution under a deal with prosecutors.

In August, Cohen pleaded guilty to campaign finance violations and other charges, saying he and Trump arranged the payment of hush money to Daniels and McDougal to influence the election. That next day, Trump argued that making the payments wasn't a crime and that the matter was a civil dispute, then took a swipe at his former employee.

"If anyone is looking for a good lawyer, I would strongly suggest that you don't retain the services of Michael Cohen!" he tweeted.

Earlier this week, Trump compared his situation to one involving President Barack Obama's 2008 campaign. The Federal Election Commission, which typically handles smaller campaign finance violations, where the actions aren't willful, with civil penalties that are typically fines, docked the Obama campaign \$375,000 for regulatory civil violations. The fines stemmed from the campaign's failure to report a batch of contributions, totaling nearly \$1.9 million, on time in the final days of the campaign.

But legal analysts said the accusations against Trump could amount to a felony because they revolve around an alleged conspiracy to conceal payments from campaign contribution reports - and from voters. It's unclear what federal prosecutors in New York will decide to do if they conclude that there is evidence that Trump himself committed a crime.

The Justice Department, in opinions issued by its Office of Legal Counsel, has said a sitting president cannot be indicted because a criminal case would interfere with the duties of the commander in chief. Prosecutors in the Southern District of New York, and with Mueller's office, would presumably be bound by that legal guidance unless the Justice Department were to nullify the opinions.

Politically, Trump's shifting claims could harm his credibility with voters, but legally they may not make

much of a difference.

"It's not clear to me that he's made any false statements in legal documents that could open him to liability for perjury," Hasen said.

For the payments themselves to be a crime rather than a civil infraction, prosecutors would need to show that Trump knew that what he was doing was wrong when he directed Cohen to pay the women and that he did so with the goal of benefiting his campaign.

Trump has not yet laid out a detailed defense, though he could conceivably argue that the payments were made not for the purposes of advancing his campaign but rather to prevent sex stories from emerging that would be personally humiliating to him and harm his marriage.

That argument was advanced by former Sen. John Edwards, a North Carolina Democrat, in a similar campaign finance case that went to trial. But that may be tougher for Trump than it was for Edwards given the proximity of the president's payment to the election — timing that, on its face, suggests a link between the money and his political ambitions.

Still, the cases aren't always easy, as proven by the 2012 trial of Edwards. Jurors acquitted Edwards on one charge of accepting illegal campaign contributions, but couldn't reach a verdict on the five remaining counts including conspiracy and making false statements. Prosecutors elected not to retry Edwards, the Democratic vice presidential nominee in 2004 and a candidate for president in 2004 and 2008.

Tucker reported from Washington.

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

## UK leader seeks EU lifeline after surviving confidence vote

By JILL LAWLESS and DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May was seeking a lifeline from European Union leaders Thursday after winning a no-confidence vote among her own Conservative lawmakers.

May was meeting Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar and European Council President Donald Tusk before an EU summit in Brussels at which she will seek reassurances about the deal that she can use to win over a skeptical British Parliament, particularly pro-Brexit lawmakers whose loathing of the deal triggered Wednesday's challenge to her leadership.

May caused an uproar in Parliament this week when she scrapped a planned vote on the deal at the last minute to avoid a heavy defeat. Two days later she won a leadership vote among 317 Conservative lawmakers by 200 votes to 117.

The victory gives May a reprieve — the party can't challenge her again for a year. But the size of the rebellion underscores the unpopularity of her Brexit plan.

The EU is adamant there can be no substantive changes to the legally-binding withdrawal agreement but have suggested that there could be some "clarifications."

May's Brexit Secretary, Stephen Barclay, told the BBC that there were signs of "positive" movement from the EU on the one issue that has proved the most intractable — a legal guarantee designed to prevent the re-implementation of physical border controls between Northern Ireland, which is part of the U.K., and the Republic of Ireland, a member of the EU.

The provision, known as the backstop, would keep the U.K. part of the EU customs union if the two sides couldn't agree on another way to avoid a hard border.

Pro-Brexit lawmakers strongly oppose the backstop, because it keeps Britain bound to EU trade rules, and unable to leave without the bloc's consent. Pro-EU politicians consider it an unwieldy and inferior alternative to staying in the bloc.

"There is movement, but the question is how do we ensure that that movement is sufficient for colleagues?" Barclay said. "But colleagues also need to focus on the fact that alternative deals also need a

backstop.”

Re-opening the negotiations to address the border problem also raises the risk that May could lose concessions on other parts of the deal, Barclay said.

Among EU leaders there is sympathy for May’s predicament — but also exasperation at Britain’s political mess and little appetite to reopen the negotiations. On Thursday, the German parliament has approved a motion stating that the Brexit deal can’t be renegotiated, underlining the stance of the government and European Union allies.

The largely symbolic motion states that “there will not be an agreement that is better and fairer for both sides. Any hope that a rejection of the agreement could lead to its renegotiation must prove to be illusory.”

“It must be clear to all that the finely balanced overall package cannot be undone again,” it adds.

Meanwhile, the clock is ticking down to Britain’s departure from the bloc, which is due to take place on March 29 — deal or no deal. A parliamentary schedule published Thursday shows the Brexit deal won’t be debated or voted on before the House of Commons rises for a two-week Christmas break on Dec. 20.

The no-confidence vote has left May weakened, and was won after she promised colleagues she would quit as leader before the next British election in 2022. It also has left lawmakers from the governing Conservative Party at loggerheads over the way ahead.

Prominent pro-Brexit legislator Jacob Rees-Mogg said that May should resign even though she won the vote.

He said Britain needed “somebody who can unite the country and the Conservative Party, and she has to ask herself is she realistically that person?”

Foreign Minister Alistair Burt said in a tweet that Conservative Brexiteers would never be satisfied.

“They never, ever stop. ... After the apocalypse, all that will be left will be ants and Tory MPs complaining about Europe and their leader,” he wrote.

Danica Kirka reported from London. Geir Moulson in Berlin and Lorne Cook in Brussels contributed to this story.

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

## Turkey train crash leaves 9 dead, dozens injured

By **BURHAN OZBILICI** and **SUZAN FRASER**, Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — A high-speed train hit a railway engine and crashed into a pedestrian overpass Thursday at a station in the Turkish capital of Ankara, killing nine people and injuring dozens, officials said.

The 6:30 a.m. train from Ankara to the central Turkish city of Konya collided head-on with the engine, which was checking the tracks at the capital’s small Marsandiz station, Transport Minister Mehmet Cahit Turhan told reporters after inspecting the site. The high-speed train, which the Anadolu Agency said was carrying 206 passengers, usually passes through that station without stopping.

At least two cars derailed, hitting the station’s overpass, which then collapsed onto the train. Three engine drivers and six passengers were killed in the crash, Turhan said. One passenger died after being hospitalized while the others were killed at the scene.

Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said 84 other people had sought medical help after the crash.

Television footage showed emergency services working to rescue passengers from wrangled cars and debris. Hurriyet newspaper said sniffer dogs assisted efforts to find survivors. Turhan said later no one else was believed to be trapped.

It wasn’t immediately clear if a signaling problem caused the crash. Authorities detained three state railway employees over suspected negligence and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed a thorough investigation.

Passenger Ayse Ozyurt told the IHA news agency that the accident occurred 12 minutes after the train left the main station and that it had not yet gained its maximum speed.

"The train was not fast at that time yet," she said. "Suddenly, there was a frightening breakage ... and the train was off the rail."

Konya, about 260 kilometers (160 miles) south of Ankara, is home to the tomb of the Sufi mystic and poet Jalaladdin Rumi, attracting thousands of pilgrims and tourists. The crash occurred during an annual week of remembrance for Rumi, when many travel to Konya to watch Whirling Dervishes, members of a Sufi sect, perform.

Turkey has had a raft of train crashes this year.

In July, 24 people were killed and more than 70 injured when most of a passenger train derailed in northwestern Turkey after torrential rains caused a section of the tracks to collapse. Last month, 15 people were injured when a passenger train collided with a freight train in Turkey's central province of Sivas.

Mehmet Guzel in Istanbul contributed.

This version corrects the death toll in a July 2018 train accident in northwestern Turkey. Twenty-four people were killed, not 10.

## Migrant girls vanish into Asian trafficking networks

By KRISTEN GELINEAU and NINIEK KARMINI, Associated Press

FATUKOKO, Indonesia (AP) — The stranger showed up at the girl's door one night with a tantalizing job offer: Give up your world, and I will give you a future.

It was a chance for 16-year-old Marselina Neonbota to leave her isolated village in one of the poorest parts of Indonesia for neighboring Malaysia, where some migrant workers can earn more in a few years than in a lifetime at home. A way out for a girl so hungry for a life beyond subsistence farming that she walked 22 kilometers (14 miles) every day to the schoolhouse and back.

She grabbed the opportunity — and disappeared.

The cheerful child known to her family as Lina joined the army of Indonesians who migrate every year to wealthier countries in Asia and the Middle East for work. Thousands come home in coffins, or vanish. Among them, possibly hundreds of trafficked girls have quietly disappeared from the impoverished western half of Timor island and elsewhere in Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara province.

The National Agency for Placement and Protection of Indonesian Workers has counted more than 2,600 cases of dead or missing Indonesian migrants since 2014. And even those numbers mostly leave out people like Lina who are recruited illegally -- an estimated 30 percent of Indonesia's 6.2 million migrant workers.

On that night in 2010, Lina didn't seem to sense the danger posed by the stranger named Sarah. But Lina's great-aunt and great-uncle, who had raised her, were hesitant.

Sarah insisted they could trust her; she was related to the village chief. And Lina would only be gone two years.

Lina's aunt, Teresia Tasoin, knew a Malaysian salary could support the whole family. Her husband — fighting both a teenager's excitement and a crushing headache — doubted he could stop Lina from going.

Still, the couple wanted to hold a Catholic prayer service for Lina before she left. Sarah promised she would only take Lina to the provincial capital of Kupang for one night to organize her paperwork, then bring her back the next day. It was a lie.

Less than one hour after Sarah walked into their home, she walked back out with Lina. And just like that, their girl was gone.

Looking back on it now, Tasoin crumbles under the weight of what-ifs. "I regret it," she says through tears. "I regret letting her go."

When it comes to tracking the fate of migrants, Asia is the blackest of black holes.

It has more migrants than any region on earth, with millions traveling within Asia and to the Mideast for work. Yet it has the least data on those who vanish. In an exclusive tally, The Associated Press found

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more than 8,000 cases of dead and missing migrants in Asia and the Mideast since 2014, in addition to the 2,700 listed by the U.N.'s International Organization for Migration. More than 2,000 unearthed by the AP were from the Philippines alone. And countless other cases are never reported.

These workers reflect part of the hidden toll of global migration. An AP investigation documented at least 61,135 migrants dead or missing worldwide over the same period, a tally that keeps rising. That's more than double the number found by the IOM, the only group that has tried to count them.

While it's not clear how many left for jobs, in general workers make up about two-thirds of international migrants, according to the International Labor Organization; the rest are fleeing everything from drug violence to war and famine. Migrants may die on perilous journeys through deserts or at sea, while many others like Lina disappear into networks that traffic in people.

In deeply Christian East Nusa Tenggara, the church has become one of the few advocates for the dead and disappeared. With the impoverished province home to the highest number of trafficking cases in the country, nuns and priests have transformed themselves into counter-trafficking crusaders.

Inside a little church across from Lina's house, Sister Laurentina is praying before a riveted crowd. Slight and soft-spoken, the nun — who like many Indonesians goes by only one name — is nonetheless a giant presence before the parishioners. There is danger in trusting illegal recruiters, she warns. There is death.

Her words are not hyperbole. She waits at the airport for the arrival of nearly every migrant worker's corpse that is flown back to Kupang, a ritual that has earned her the nickname "Sister Cargo." One day after her warning to parishioners, she will be back at the airport, praying over the 89th coffin this year that has returned from Malaysia with the remains of a local migrant. Some die from accidents or illness, she says. Others from neglect and abuse.

Laurentina is one of the few people in West Timor even trying to track the missing. Since 2012, she has traveled across the island to educate villagers on the dangers of traffickers. She has held at least 20 meetings this year alone.

Laurentina asks each audience if anyone has lost contact with a relative who migrated for work. And at every meeting, for six years, at least one or two people have told her: Yes, my child is missing. Most are girls.

The remoteness of West Timor and a lack of education mean many people just don't understand the danger. But even for those who do, a trip through the drought-punished region makes clear why they risk their lives to leave.

Gnarled trees cling to barren hills. Many of the rivers have run dry. Emaciated dogs lick desperately at cracked-open coconuts lying on the dusty ground.

With no real industry here, generations of villagers have migrated to Malaysia to work as maids or on plantations. But in the past few years, migrant trafficking has picked up, as traffickers move to the most remote areas in search of fresh, unsuspecting prey. Many victims end up overworked and underpaid, and some are forced into prostitution.

In the village of Oe'Ekam, priest Maximus Amfotis watches as locals line up at a water tank, filling containers some will have to lug several kilometers home. He regularly hears of local teens migrating to Malaysia for work, never to return. There was a new case just two weeks ago, he says. The cycle seems endless.

"If we cannot stop this problem," he says, "I fear that the current generation will be lost."

Unlike Lina, Orance Faot was betrayed by her own flesh and blood.

The road to her house is so rocky that by the time you arrive, it feels like you've gone through an hours-long earthquake. The sunny, hardworking girl was just 14 when she traveled down that same rocky path four years ago on a motorbike bound for Kupang.

That morning, Orance told the grandmother she lived with, Margarita Oematan, that she was going with her older cousin Yeni to a priest's house to study the Bible. When she failed to return, her uncle went looking for her. He walked as far as the river where she sometimes swam, but found no trace of his niece or Yeni. A driver later told the family that the girls had hired a bike.

When the family finally got hold of Yeni, she denied knowing what had happened to Orance. But the

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Faots suspected Yeni had turned Orance over to a recruiter. Eventually, they did something few here do — they went to the police.

In much of West Timor's remote interior, electricity, phones and cars are a luxury. So absolute is the isolation that some islanders have never even seen the sea. So when a child goes missing, many families don't know who can help.

Families also hesitate to contact officials because they often accept payment from the recruiters, who exploit a tradition known as *okomama*. The practice involves placing a small gift — a bit of money or betel nut — in a basket in exchange for a favor. The offering is a show of respect. It is also a contract.

The Faots, though, say they never received anything for Orance.

Yeni told police she had introduced Orance to a Chinese man, according to an investigator. The Chinese man told officials he had handed Orance over to a recruiter who often sends girls to work as maids in Malaysia. But the recruiter — who would later be convicted in a different trafficking case — denied knowing Orance, said the investigator, who spoke anonymously because he was not authorized to discuss the case.

Orance's case is hardly an anomaly, the investigator says. In his visits to nearly 150 villages, most of the families he's interviewed say they have lost contact with at least one relative who migrated for work. And most of the missing, he says, are girls.

The fact that Orance appears to have been lured by her own cousin is also typical. Field recruiters almost always have some connection to their victims, making them seem trustworthy. For each person they hand over, a field recruiter gets anywhere from a few hundred to more than a thousand dollars from agents up the chain, police and experts say.

Officials searched immigration records for Orance, without success. That's not surprising, as traffickers often falsify names, birthdays and addresses on migration papers.

Finding these girls is virtually impossible, says Among Resi, head of the IOM's counter-trafficking and labor migration unit in Indonesia. The families have almost no details on where their child has gone. They rarely even have a photo.

The assumption, Resi says, is that many of the girls are trapped in their employers' homes. Domestic workers are highly vulnerable to abuse, because they toil behind closed doors for families who often take their passports to stop them from fleeing. Other girls, Resi says, may have run away and ended up in abusive relationships or encountered other dangers.

Some answers to the fate of the missing can be found by talking to those who returned. Yunita Besi, the daughter of a village chief, was 18 when she went with a recruiter promising work as a maid in Malaysia. For months, she says, she and a group of girls were bounced from one locked house to another, forbidden from going outside or using phones. Those who broke the rules, she says, were beaten.

She eventually ended up in the port town of Dumai, and knew she'd soon be shipped to Malaysia. One day, when the security guards were away, she managed to call her father. He ordered her to put the recruiter on the line, then threatened to call the police if his daughter was not released. Yunita was set free.

Orance's family is still hoping for a call of their own. But after four years of silence, much of that hope has given way to dread.

In their home today, Orance exists only on paper. A report card cataloguing her cleverness. A school photo capturing her big brown eyes. A birth certificate memorializing the day she entered their world, and a police report memorializing the day she left.

"So many coffins are coming back with bodies," Oematan says. "I'm always afraid that someday, it will be Orance inside one."

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Adelina Sau's long journey home came in a shrink-wrapped coffin marked "Fragile."

Her grave lies along the side of a lonely road. Staring out from the tombstone's tiles is a blurry picture of her face, an image taken from a photo a cop snapped of her passport.

That grainy picture-of-a-picture is the only photo of Adelina that her family has. A copy hangs on the wall of their tin-roofed house, above a few sacks of rice that will feed the family half the year. The rest of

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the time, they will survive on their corn and cassava crops.

Tall and sturdy, Adelina was strong enough as a child to help her parents lug buckets of rice from the farm to their home. Though obedient, she grew tired of their poverty, and envied her friend's new clothes.

So Adelina got excited when a recruiter visited her house in 2013, offering a babysitting job in Malaysia for \$200 a month. At 15, Adelina was too young to legally migrate for work, but the recruiter promised he would take care of her documents. Which is how Adelina entered Malaysia on a passport listing her age as six years older, her family says.

The recruiter's other promises fell apart. Adelina returned home after a year, having been paid just \$200 total.

A few weeks later, another recruiter came knocking.

This time, her family says, it was a neighbor's friend named Flora. She offered Adelina a job as a maid in Malaysia, an offer flatly rejected by Adelina's mother, Yohanna Banunaek. Her daughter had just been cheated by the last recruiter, she told Flora.

But the next morning, while Banunaek was working on the farm, Flora returned to the house and left with Adelina.

When Banunaek came home, she was frantic. She ordered a relative of Flora's to try and contact her. A week later, she says, a gift from Flora arrived: Around \$30. The family never heard from her again. They didn't report Adelina's disappearance because they didn't know how.

A year passed with no news. Still, in 2015, Adelina's sister, Yeti, accepted a job as a babysitter in Malaysia. Two years later, Yeti returned home safely, having been paid what she was promised. For her, the deal had been a dream. For Adelina, a nightmare.

Word of Adelina's fate finally arrived in February this year. So painful were the details that her mother couldn't eat for a week.

Adelina had been working as a maid for a Malaysian family when a local lawmaker's office received a tip from neighbors who suspected she was being abused. Officials found bruises on her head and face and infected wounds on her hand and legs, police said. She was hospitalized, but died the next day. An autopsy found septicemia and cited possible abuse and neglect.

A grim photo of Adelina on local news sites showed her sleeping outside the home on a ragged mat near the family's dog. A 59-year-old woman was charged with murder. Her trial is pending.

Adelina's parents kept their daughter's coffin inside their home for two days before laying her to rest.

A few months later, Yeti gave birth to a baby girl. She named her Adelina. Banunaek believes the baby holds her daughter's soul.

Banunaek clings to this belief, and to the sweet memories of her lost girl. Along with the blurry photo, there's little else she has left.

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Five years after Lina went missing, the military paid a chance visit to her village. Lina's uncle, Laurencius Kollo, told them about the night his niece walked out the door with Sarah. The soldiers alerted the police, who took an official report.

Kollo and his wife waited for news. It never came.

The years dragged on. Kollo prayed every night for his niece's return. He would walk and walk around the village to try and release his pain.

And then, one day in March this year, word arrived that a neighbor's daughter was returning home from Malaysia. Maybe, Kollo thought, Lina was coming with her.

In a rush of hope and excitement, the frail 69-year-old climbed a tree to pick some betel leaves. As he clung to the branches, he watched the sun set and daydreamed about Lina. Maybe this would be the day he could finally hug her.

Lost in his memories, Kollo slipped. He crashed to the earth and blacked out.

When he awoke, his arm was broken. And so was his heart.

Because Lina never came home that day.



## 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. IN TRUMP'S ORBIT, SHIFTING EXPLANATIONS

The president's knowledge of any payments to women who claim to have been mistresses shift as his legal exposure grows.

### 2. SENATE TO VOTE ON AID TO YEMEN

Lawmakers may decide to pull assistance from the Saudi-led war in Yemen, a measure that would rebuke the kingdom after the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

### 3. OUT OF THE FRYING PAN, INTO THE FIRE

Having survived a bitter no-confidence vote, British Prime Minister Theresa May is at the EU headquarters in Brussels for crunch Brexit talks.

### 4. CANADIANS DETAINED FOR 'ENDANGERING NATIONAL SECURITY'

China's detentions of two Canadian men, one an entrepreneur the other a former diplomat, raise the stakes in a three-way international dispute with the U.S.

### 5. AP EXCLUSIVE: WHO IRANIAN HACKERS ARE TARGETING

The group known as Charming Kitten has been trying to break into the personal emails of more than a dozen U.S. Treasury officials and other high-profile targets.

### 6. THE LOST GIRLS

Scores of Indonesian girls are disappearing into a trafficking network in the country's impoverished province of East Nusa Tenggara, AP finds.

### 7. SPACE TOURISM CLOSER TO REALITY

Virgin Galactic is gearing up to take the long-awaited step of trying to fly its tourism rocket ship to the edge of space.

### 8. HIGH-SPEED RAIL TRAGEDY IN TURKEY

A train hits a railway engine and crashes into a pedestrian overpass at a station in Ankara, killing at least nine people and injuring 46 others.

### 9. WHERE APPLE IS EXPANDING TO

The tech giant says it plans to build a \$1 billion campus in Austin, Texas, and also says it plans to establish locations in Seattle, San Diego and Culver City, California.

### 10. RAPTORS, MINUS KAWHI, ROUT WARRIORS

Toronto, without its top player, sweeps the season series from two-time defending NBA champion Golden State with 113-93 victory.

## AP Exclusive: Iran hackers hunt nuclear workers, US targets

By RAPHAEL SATTER, AP Cybersecurity Writer

LONDON (AP) — As U.S. President Donald Trump re-imposed harsh economic sanctions on Iran last month, hackers scrambled to break into personal emails of American officials tasked with enforcing them, The Associated Press has found — another sign of how deeply cyberespionage is embedded into the fabric of US-Iranian relations.

The AP drew on data gathered by the London-based cybersecurity group Certfa to track how a hacking group often nicknamed Charming Kitten spent the past month trying to break into the private emails of more than a dozen U.S. Treasury officials. Also on the hackers' hit list: high-profile defenders, detractors and enforcers of the nuclear deal struck between Washington and Tehran, as well as Arab atomic scientists, Iranian civil society figures and D.C. think tank employees.

"Presumably, some of this is about figuring out what is going on with sanctions," said Frederick Kagan, a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute who has written about Iranian cyberespionage and was among those targeted.

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Kagan said he was alarmed by the targeting of foreign nuclear experts.

"This is a little more worrisome than I would have expected," he said.

The hit list surfaced after Charming Kitten mistakenly left one of its servers open to the internet last month. Researchers at Certfa found the server and extracted a list of 77 Gmail and Yahoo addresses targeted by the hackers that they handed to the AP for further analysis. Although those addresses likely represent only a fraction of the hackers' overall effort — and it's not clear how many of the accounts were successfully compromised — they still provide considerable insight into Tehran's espionage priorities.

"The targets are very specific," Certfa researcher Nariman Gharib said.

In a report published Thursday, Certfa tied the hackers to the Iranian government, a judgment drawn in part on operational blunders, including a couple of cases where the hackers appeared to have accidentally revealed that they were operating from computers inside Iran. The assessment was backed by others who have tracked Charming Kitten. Allison Wikoff, a researcher with Atlanta-based Secureworks, recognized some of the digital infrastructure in Certfa's report and said the hackers' past operations left little doubt they were government-backed.

"It's fairly clear-cut," she said.

Calls to Iranian officials were not returned late Wednesday, the beginning of the weekend in the country.

Iran has previously denied responsibility for hacking operations, but an AP analysis of its targets suggests that Charming Kitten is working in close alignment with the Islamic Republic's interests. The most striking among them were the nuclear officials — a scientist working on a civilian nuclear project for the Pakistan's Ministry of Defense, a senior operator at the Research and Training Reactor in the Jordanian city of Ramtha, and a high-ranking researcher at the Atomic Energy Commission of Syria.

The trio suggested a general interest in nuclear technology and administration. Others on the hit list — such as Guy Roberts, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs — pointed to an eagerness to keep track of officials charged with overseeing America's nuclear arsenal.

"This is something I've been worried about," Roberts said when alerted to his presence on the list.

Still more targets are connected to the Iran deal — a 2015 pact negotiated by former U.S. President Barack Obama's administration and other world powers that called for Tehran to curb its uranium enrichment in exchange for the lifting of international sanctions. Trump tore up the deal in May over the objections of most of America's allies and has re-imposed a series of punishing restrictions on Iran since.

One of Charming Kitten's targets was Andrew J. Grotto, whose tenure on the U.S. National Security Council straddled the Obama and Trump administrations and who has written about Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Jarrett Blanc, the State Department coordinator responsible for the implementation of the nuclear deal under Obama, was also on the list. He said news of his targeting was no shock.

"I've retained contact with Iranian counterparts since leaving government," he said. "I'd be very surprised if there were not Iranian groups trying to hack into my various email accounts."

Like the Russian hackers who have chased after America's drone, space and submarine secrets, the list indicates that Iranian spies were also interested in the world of U.S. defense companies. One of those targeted is a senior director of "breakthrough technology" at the aerospace arm of Honeywell International Inc., the New Jersey-based industrial conglomerate; another is a vice president at Virginia-based Science Applications International Corp., a prominent Pentagon contractor.

Honeywell said it was aware that one of its employees had their personal account "exposed," adding that there was no evidence that the company's network was compromised. SAIC said it found no trace of any hacking attempt against its employee's account.

There were Iranian targets too, including media workers, an agronomist and a senior employee of the country's Department of Environment — a possible sign that Tehran's crackdown on environmentalists, which began earlier this year, continues apace.

Hacking has long been a feature of the tense relationship between the United States and Iran, whose militant brand of Shia Islam has challenged American interests in the Middle East since 1979.

It was against Iran that U.S. and Israeli spies are said to have deployed the pioneering, centrifuge-rattling

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computer worm dubbed Stuxnet in a bid to sabotage the country's uranium enrichment capabilities. Iranian hackers in turn are blamed for denial of service assaults on American banks and computer-wrecking cyberattacks in Saudi Arabia, Iran's regional archrival.

The Charming Kitten campaign uncovered by Certfa is far less sophisticated, generally relying on a password-stealing technique called phishing. Two Nov. 17 emails provided to the AP by Jim Sisco of Enodo Global Inc., a Virginia-based risk advisory firm that was targeted by Charming Kitten, mimic the look and feel of Gmail security alerts, a technique used by hackers across the globe.

An analysis of Certfa's data shows the group targeted at least 13 U.S. Treasury employees' personal emails, including one belonging to a director at the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, which fights money laundering and terror financing, and one used by the Iran licensing chief at the Office of Foreign Asset Control, which is in charge of enforcing U.S. sanctions. But a few employees' LinkedIn profiles referenced back office jobs or routine tax work.

That suggested "a fairly scattershot attempt," said Clay Stevenson, a former Treasury official who now consults on sanctions and was himself targeted by Charming Kitten.

Others' experience suggests a more professional effort.

Georgetown University professor and South Asia security expert Christine Fair said she had only recently returned from a conference in Afghanistan attended by Iranian officials and a visit to the Iranian border when she learned she was in the hackers' sights.

"The timing is uncanny," she said.

Another Charming Kitten target was an intern working for the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a Washington think tank that has been one of the Iran deal's fiercest critics. How the intern — whose email isn't public and whose name appears nowhere on the organization's website — crossed the hackers' radar is not clear. The foundation issued a statement calling the revelation "yet another indicator that Iran must be viewed as a nefarious actor in all theatres in which it operates."

Kagan, the scholar, said most signs pointed to a serious, state-backed operation.

"It doesn't look like freelancers," he said.

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Monika Mathur and Desmond Butler in Washington contributed to this report.

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Online:

Certfa's report: <https://blog.certfa.com/posts/the-return-of-the-charming-kitten>

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Raphael Satter can be reached at: <http://raphaelsatter.com>

## Detention of Canadians raises stakes in China-US-Canada row

By **CHRISTOPHER BODEEN** and **ROB GILLIES**, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China confirmed Thursday it has detained two Canadian men, raising the stakes in a three-way dispute over a Chinese technology executive facing possible extradition from Canada to the United States.

Entrepreneur Michael Spavor and former diplomat Michael Kovrig were taken into custody Monday on suspicion of "engaging in activities that endanger the national security" of China, said foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang.

Lu said Canada was informed but declined to say whether the men have been provided with lawyers. He said the cases are being handled separately by local bureaus of the national intelligence agency in Beijing, where Kovrig was picked up, and the northeastern city of Dandong, where Spavor lived.

"The legal rights of the two Canadians are being safeguarded," Lu told reporters at a daily briefing.

The two cases ratchet up pressure on Canada, which is holding Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of Huawei Technologies Ltd. She was arrested Dec. 1 at the request of the United States, which wants her extradited to face bank fraud charges.

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Canadian officials have been unable to contact Spavor "since he let us know he was being questioned by Chinese authorities," said Canadian Global Affairs spokesman Guillaume Berube. "We are working very hard to ascertain his whereabouts and we continue to raise this with the Chinese government."

Kovrig is an analyst on northeast Asia for the International Crisis Group, a think tank, who took a leave of absence from the Canadian government. He lives in Hong Kong.

Spavor runs tours of North Korea along with sports, business and other exchanges through his company, Paektu Cultural Exchange. He has met leader Kim Jong Un and was instrumental in bringing former NBA star Dennis Rodman to the North's capital, Pyongyang, in 2013.

Acquaintances said Spavor was due Monday in Seoul, the South Korean capital, but failed to arrive.

The detentions echo that of another Canadian, Keven Garratt, who was picked up in 2014 in what was seen as retaliation for Canada's arrest of a Chinese spying suspect wanted in the United States. Garratt was held for 750 days in 2014-16 and sentenced to eight years in prison on spying charges but then deported.

The broadly defined national security charge encompasses both traditional espionage and other forms of information gathering such as interviewing dissidents and contacting non-governmental organizations.

Meng was arrested while changing planes in Vancouver but has been released on bail.

The U.S. accuses Huawei of using a Hong Kong shell company to deceive banks and do business with Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions.

China earlier warned of unspecified dire consequences if Meng wasn't released.

The editor-in-chief of the Global Times, a Communist Party-run tabloid known for its provocative views, warned in a video Wednesday night of "retaliatory measures" if Canada doesn't free Meng.

"If Canada extradites Meng to the U.S., China's revenge will be far worse than detaining a Canadian," said Hu Xijin, speaking in English.

Canada has asked China for extra security at its embassy because of protests and anti-Canadian sentiment and has advised foreign service staff to take precautions, a senior Canadian official told reporters.

The United States and China have emphasized that trade talks are separate from Meng's case, though President Donald Trump said Tuesday he would intervene if it would help produce a deal.

"If I think it's good for what will be certainly the largest trade deal ever made — which is a very important thing — what's good for national security — I would certainly intervene if I thought it was necessary," Trump told Reuters in an interview.

The suggestion Meng could be a political pawn makes the situation more awkward for Canada.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau bristled at Trump's assertion, saying: "Regardless of what goes on in other countries, Canada is, and will always remain, a country of the rule of law."

Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said it was "quite obvious" any foreign country requesting extradition should ensure "the process is not politicized."

"Trump's remarks could be interpreted as creating the appearance that the arrest also had political motivations," said Gregory Yaeger of the Stroock law firm, a former Justice Department attorney.

"This could undermine the U.S.'s reputation as a country that follows the 'rule of law,' and could ultimately undermine both the Meng prosecution and the trade talks."

Earlier this year, Trump drew fire for intervening on behalf of Huawei's smaller Chinese rival, ZTE Corp., after the company was barred from buying U.S. technology over exports to Iran and North Korea.

Trump restored access after ZTE agreed to pay a \$1 billion fine, change its board and executives and install a team of U.S.-selected compliance managers.

Also Thursday, Ministry of Commerce spokesman said Chinese and U.S. officials were in "close contact" over the trade dispute but gave no timeline for possible face-to-face talks.

Asked whether a Chinese delegation would go to Washington, spokesman Gao Feng said, "China welcomes the U.S. side to come to China for consultations, and also is open to communicating with the United States."

Gao said the two sides had reached a "common understanding" on agricultural products, energy and automobiles, which the two sides previously announced. He said additional details would be announced later.

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Gillies reported from Toronto. Associated Press writer Paul Wiseman in Washington and video journalist

Dake Kang in Beijing contributed.

## Senate to vote on aid to Yemen in wake of Khashoggi slaying

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senators are expected to vote Thursday on a resolution that would call on the U.S. to pull assistance from the Saudi-led war in Yemen, a measure that would rebuke Saudi Arabia after the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

The Senate may also consider a separate resolution condemning the journalist's killing as senators have wrestled with how to respond to the Saudi journalist's murder. U.S. intelligence officials have concluded that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman must have at least known of the plot, but President Donald Trump has been reluctant to pin the blame.

Senators voted 60-39 on Wednesday to open debate on the Yemen resolution, signaling there is enough support to win the 50 votes needed. But it's unclear how amendments to the measure could affect the final vote, which is expected to come Thursday.

While enough Republicans support the resolution, which was sponsored by Republican Sen. Mike Lee of Utah and Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and most other Republicans oppose it.

"I think every single member of this body shares grave concerns about the murder of Khashoggi and wants accountability," McConnell, R-Ky., said on the Senate floor Wednesday morning. "We also want to preserve a 70-year partnership between the United States and Saudi Arabia, and we want to ensure it continues to serve American interests and stabilizes a dangerous and critical region."

Senators have been enraged by Khashoggi's October killing and the White House response, and that outrage prompted several Republicans to support the Yemen resolution because it would be seen as a rebuke to the longtime ally. Others already had concerns about the war in Yemen, which human rights groups say is wreaking havoc on the country and subjecting civilians, many of them children, to indiscriminate bombing and disease.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker, a Republican from Tennessee, is preparing the separate, alternate resolution condemning the journalist's killing. McConnell urged senators to vote for Corker's measure, which he said "does a good job capturing bipartisan concerns about both the war in Yemen and the behavior of our Saudi partners more broadly." Corker has not released the full text of that resolution.

It appears unlikely that the House would be willing to consider either measure. House leaders added a provision to an unrelated House rule that would make it harder for lawmakers there to call up a Yemen resolution if the Senate passes it. The rule barely passed, 206-203, after Democrats railed against the Yemen provision.

CIA Director Gina Haspel briefed House leaders on the Khashoggi slaying on Wednesday, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis are scheduled to brief the full House on Thursday.

Pompeo and Mattis briefed the Senate last month and told senators that there was "no direct reporting" or "smoking gun" to connect the crown prince to Khashoggi's death at a Saudi consulate in Turkey. But a smaller group of senators leaving a separate briefing with Haspel days later said there was "zero chance" the crown prince wasn't involved.

Khashoggi, who had lived in the U.S. and wrote for The Washington Post, had been critical of the Saudi regime. He was killed in what U.S. officials have described as an elaborate plot as he visited the consulate in Istanbul for marriage paperwork.

Pressed on a response to the slaying, Trump has been reluctant to condemn the crown prince. He said the United States "intends to remain a steadfast partner" of the country, touted Saudi arms deals worth billions of dollars to the U.S. and thanked the country for plunging oil prices.

Saudi prosecutors have said a 15-man team sent to Istanbul killed Khashoggi with tranquilizers and then dismembered his body, which has not been found. Those findings came after Saudi authorities spent weeks

denying Khashoggi had been killed in the consulate.

Whatever is passed this month, lawmakers in both chambers have signaled that they will continue to press Saudi Arabia next year.

The top Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey, is pushing tough legislation with a growing bipartisan group of senators that would halt arms sales and impose sanctions, to send what he called a "global message" to not just the Saudis but also to other regimes. "Just because you're our ally, you can't kill with impunity," Menendez said.

"The current relationship with Saudi Arabia is not working," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who supports Menendez's measure and is expected to become chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee in 2019. "You're never going to have a relationship with the United States Senate unless things change."

House Democrats are also expected to keep the issue alive when they take the majority in January. The top Democrat on the House intelligence committee, California Rep. Adam Schiff, said he intends to lead a "deep dive" into Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Democratic Rep. Eliot Engel of New York, the likely incoming chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said he would hold hearings on Saudi Arabia early next year.

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Associated Press writers Lisa Mascaró, Kevin Freking and Padmananda Rama contributed to this report.

## Raptors rout Warriors 113-93 without Kawhi to complete sweep

By MICHAEL WAGAMAN, Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Minus their top player and with their coach still mourning his mother's death two days earlier, the Toronto Raptors put an emphatic stamp on a season sweep of Golden State.

They did it with the two-time defending NBA champion Warriors nearly at full strength, too, a very different scenario from when the teams played in Toronto less than two weeks ago.

Kyle Lowry had 23 points and 12 assists to lead a balanced Toronto offense while leading scorer Kawhi Leonard sat out, and the Raptors dominated from the start in routing the Warriors 113-93 on Wednesday night.

"When you play them you have to do a lot of things well," said Toronto assistant Adrian Griffin, who spoke with reporters after the game while head coach Nick Nurse left to be with his family in Iowa for his mother's funeral.

"Give our guys credit, they came in ready to play and they fought with great intensity. We knew it was going to be a challenge for us and I thought that Kyle did a phenomenal job leading the team. He is an All-Star, no doubt."

Serge Ibaka added 20 points, Danny Green scored 15, Pascal Siakam had 13 and Fred VanVleet 10 to help the Raptors improve to an NBA-best 23-7, matching the 2014-15 squad for the best start in franchise history.

They did it despite not having Leonard for a second consecutive night. Toronto's star forward has a sore right hip and was considered questionable before the game. He was ruled out less than 30 minutes before tip-off.

"Long term we want (Leonard) healthy," Lowry said. "We want him to take the time and get right. But knowing that him being out, a lot of things go through other people. I've been here a long time and we've always said, 'Next man up.' That's how we've always treated everything."

The Raptors also lost 7-foot center Jonas Valanciunas to a dislocated left thumb in the first half.

So with all that, might this have been Toronto's most satisfying win of the season? Not so fast, Lowry said.

"A good win for us," he explained. "Another game on the journey of 82."

Kevin Durant had 30 points, seven rebounds and five assists for Golden State. The Warriors had won four straight heading into a much-anticipated showdown between two teams many expect to reach the NBA Finals.

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"We didn't start the game off with a sense of urgency," Durant said. "I don't think we overlooked anybody tonight. They just played better than us."

Despite playing the second half of a back-to-back following a 123-99 win over the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday, Toronto appeared to be the fresher team. The Raptors repeatedly beat the sluggish Warriors to loose balls and outrebounded them 48-40.

It was Toronto's first win in Oakland since Feb. 8, 2004.

"It's a different vibe, a different feeling when you're on the climb like Toronto is and Milwaukee is like we were a few years ago," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "It's harder to get up for each game. There are certain nights where you can just feel it; you don't have that energy. It's not an excuse. It's just reality."

The Raptors beat the Warriors in overtime earlier this season behind a season-high 37 points from Leonard. Golden State didn't have Stephen Curry or Draymond Green for that game, but both were back for the rematch while Leonard sat out.

It hardly mattered.

Toronto led by 18 in the first half and was up 93-67 early in the fourth quarter following a three-point play by Greg Monroe.

VanVleet said the Raptors' defense was as impressive as their offense.

"They're one of the best teams in the league for a reason and their offense is so lethal that you try to take the main guys out and make them do things that they're not comfortable doing," VanVleet said. "I thought we did a good job following the game plan."

Kerr benched his starters midway through the fourth as the Oracle Arena crowd filed for the exits.

Curry scored 10 points on 3-of-12 shooting. Green was 1 for 5 and finished with two points as Golden State went 6 for 26 on 3-pointers.

ODDS AND ENDS

The Raptors swept the Warriors for the first time since 2001-02. Toronto is only the second Eastern Conference team since 2014-15 to sweep Golden State. . The Warriors fell to 0-5 this season when held under 100 points. . Curry moved past Hall of Famer Rick Barry into sixth place on the Warriors' career list for games played with 643.

QUOTABLE

"He's like that fire extinguisher that you need to break in case of emergency. He steps right in there, he doesn't miss a beat. He just calms everyone down." — Griffin talking about Monroe, who had five points and five rebounds in 7½ minutes.

TIP-INS

Raptors: Nurse will rejoin the team Friday in Portland. . Toronto went 4-0 in California this season for the first time in franchise history. ... Lowry's double-double was his 100th with Toronto. ... Green picked up a technical foul less than four minutes into the first quarter. ... VanVleet (back) started after being questionable before the game.

Warriors: Shaun Livingston left with a pelvic bruise in the fourth quarter. . Andre Iguodala sat out a second straight game with a hip injury sustained during warmups Monday. Kerr said Iguodala is day to day but added the team is taking a cautious approach. ... Kerr said there was no new update on DeMarcus Cousins but left open the possibility that the All-Star center could practice again with the G-League team in Santa Cruz.

UP NEXT

Raptors: Play at Portland on Friday.

Warriors: Play at Sacramento on Friday.

More AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/tag/NBA> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## Poisoning claims, divorce spat in Arizona journalism saga

By FELICIA FONSECA, Associated Press

PRESCOTT, Ariz. (AP) — An award-winning Arizona newspaper publisher and his wife are locked in a bizarre divorce case that has morphed into something more: a journalism ethics saga.

Joseph Soldwedel has accused wife Felice Soldwedel in a lawsuit of trying to kill him by poisoning him, and detailed the allegations in one of the small-town newspapers he owns, the 13,000-circulation Prescott Daily Courier.

None of the three news stories in the paper named his wife. But the Courier ran an ad accusing her by name, with a photo of her, bordered with images of skulls and rats. The ad said she had an unnamed accomplice, and it offered a \$10,000 reward for tips.

Soldwedel's wife of eight years calls the poisoning claims ludicrous and says he is retaliating against her for seeking a divorce.

"I've had people call me, text me, 'Felice, is that you in the paper? Oh my god,'" she told The Associated Press. "It almost makes you feel like you want to leave town. He made me look like this horrible person."

The lawsuit alleging poisoning seeks \$18 million from Felice Soldwedel and was filed a week after a prosecutor said there was no evidence of a crime and declined to file charges.

"It's highly problematic for a publisher to be using the editorial resources of the paper to pursue a personal vendetta," said Edward Wasserman, dean of the graduate journalism school at the University of California, Berkeley. He added: "The whole thing is pretty bizarre because someone who is not the publisher would not get that kind of attention, absent law enforcement taking it seriously."

Soldwedel said the coverage was proper and he wanted to ensure law enforcement thoroughly investigates his claims. The Prescott paper did not run a story about the police investigation clearing his wife, he said, because "we don't think it's concluded."

"I'm hoping to get her into court and to get it into trial and bring up enough evidence to the surface that police could not ignore it," he told the AP.

Soldwedel's father built Western News and Info Inc. by buying smaller newspapers across Arizona. Joseph Soldwedel, now 66, delivered newspapers as a boy and at 23 became publisher of a paper in the chain. He has run the chain that owns and partially owns 13 newspapers for more than three decades.

In 2001, he won an award from the Arizona Newspaper Association after launching a newspaper to investigate southern Arizona law enforcement and government agencies. He did so after he said police entered his home on what he claimed were false pretenses.

Felice Magana joined Western News in 1999 and worked as an advertising sales executive. They married in 2010; it was the third marriage for both of them. They signed a prenuptial agreement guaranteeing she would receive \$900,000 if they divorced and \$1 million if Joseph Soldwedel died.

He is now seeking to annul the marriage and invalidate the agreement. The divorce case will be tried in February, and Joseph Soldwedel's attorney is expected to raise the poisoning allegations to try to nullify the prenuptial agreement, said John Mull, the lawyer representing Felice Soldwedel.

In 2016, Soldwedel said he had shortness of breath, headaches and fever that he first attributed to the flu. But he began to suspect he had been poisoned and sent hair and nail samples to a Colorado laboratory to test. The lab's general manager, Kaily Bissani, told the AP that thallium — a heavy metal once used in rat poison — was found at levels six to 15 times higher than normal.

A toxicologist Soldwedel hired to interpret the results said there was a "strong probability" he was intentionally poisoned because Soldwedel didn't have any environmental exposure to thallium.

Soldwedel said he believes his wife slipped poison into his food, and his attorney requested police investigate in September 2017. Prescott police searched Felice Soldwedel's computer and cellphone records and found nothing to indicate she poisoned him.

In October 2017, police collected their own samples of his hair and found no signs of thallium or illicit drugs. But by then, Soldwedel said, he had cut his hair and undergone therapy to rid his body of heavy metals. He said he has mostly recovered.



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Police decided to test for illicit drugs a hair sample that Soldwedel had sent to the Colorado lab, and it came back positive for methamphetamine. Soldwedel told the AP he suspects his wife dosed his shampoo and food with methamphetamine, another claim she denies. Police did not retest that sample for thallium.

Thallium is sometimes found as an impurity in illegal drugs, and prosecutors suggested thallium in the sample could be caused by methamphetamine use.

Around the time Felice Soldwedel filed for divorce in April 2017, she reported to police her husband was stalking or harassing her. Joseph Soldwedel pleaded guilty to aggravated harassment and criminal damage. He's on probation. The Prescott Daily Courier did not publish any stories about the case.

Felice Soldwedel, 63, first read about the poisoning allegations in a December 2017 issue of the newspaper left on her driveway, even though she wasn't a subscriber.

No one from the newspaper has sought her side of the story, she said.

Joseph Soldwedel said that he never instructed reporters at his papers not to contact her, but that doing so could put him at legal risk because he is under court order not to contact her.

"We're not going to test it," he said.

Reporting all sides of stories is a basic journalism rule, said Mi-Ai Parrish, a professor at Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and former publisher of the Arizona Republic, the state's largest newspaper. "Having ethics and credibility in journalism is paramount, and you damage not only the reputation of yourself but of your publication," she said.

Joseph Soldwedel said he was careful not to name his estranged wife until her identity became public through his lawsuit. He said his staff urged him to hold off on the initial story for a few months to see how the police investigation played out.

"Everybody wasn't on board 100 percent but said, 'OK.' I do have ultimate authority," he said.

## US seeks to counter growing Chinese influence in Africa

By **MARIA DANILOVA** and **CARA ANNA**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration wants to see an increase in U.S. investment and trade in Africa as part of a new strategy aimed at countering China's growing influence on the continent.

National security adviser John Bolton is expected to lay out priorities Thursday for what the administration calls "the continent of the future" during remarks at the Heritage Foundation. Critics are skeptical because it has taken so long into the presidency to announce the initiative and Trump has made disparaging remarks about a region that is home to 1.2 billion people.

Addressing members of Congress on Wednesday, Assistant Secretary of State Tibor Nagy warned of China's increasing economic, military and political influence in Africa, a continent with some of the world's fastest-growing economies and trillions of dollars' worth of natural resources.

"One of the things that really, really irritated me during my trips to Africa is you go to an African city and there is a stadium invariably built by the Chinese," Nagy told the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

He said African countries will benefit from increased investment by U.S. companies and projects that will create jobs and bring higher environmental and business standards.

"We must remain a positive alternative and make clear that engaging with the United States will mean greater prosperity and security for Africa," Nagy said. "Our potential in Africa is limitless."

Africa is facing a "demographic tsunami," he said, with the continent's population expected to double by 2050 to some 2.5 billion people, half under the age of 24. That is why, he said, it was important to create jobs and opportunities for them.

Any renewed U.S. effort to counter China in Africa, however, will face some obstacles.

"The Trump administration has shown little or no serious interest in Africa and has gotten off to a rocky start in its relations," Johnnie Carson, a former assistant secretary for African affairs during the Obama presidency, told The Associated Press. "Unveiling a new strategy may give the administration an opportunity for a course correction, but only if it begins to take Africa seriously."

Congress passed legislation earlier this year creating a \$60 billion international development agency,

widely viewed as a response to Chinese overseas development programs.

China opened its first overseas military base last year in the Horn of Africa nation of Djibouti, the site of the only permanent U.S. military base on the continent.

As Beijing and others seek to grow their military presence, the U.S. is pulling back. The Pentagon in November said it planned a 10 percent cut in the U.S. Africa Command's total force of 7,200 troops, to be carried out over several years, as its global focus shifts from counterterrorism to perceived threats from Russia and China.

Whatever the Trump administration's new Africa strategy, perceptions are an immediate hurdle. The president is known for his reported unflattering remarks: comparing some countries to a filthy toilet, referring to the nonexistent nation of "Nambia" and saying Nigerians — from Africa's biggest economy and a top oil producer — would never return to their "huts" once they saw the U.S.

His first tweet as president that mentioned Africa was an inaccurate claim about alleged white-owned farm seizures in South Africa. His only other tweet mentioning Africa praised his wife during her multinational visit this year.

While Congress has restrained some of his administration's proposed deep cuts in foreign aid, Trump has put forth no signature Africa project and there is no sign he intends to visit.

In the meantime, "China has been doubling down on Africa across the board with a dramatic commercial strategy combined with increased arms sales, linkages to political parties and cultural exchanges," said Grant Harris, former senior director for African affairs at the White House during the Obama administration. "The U.S. needs to show itself to be the better long-term partner to African states."

Jennifer Cooke, director of the Institute for African Studies at George Washington University, said the U.S. should avoid trying to be too transactional.

"We are not going to beat China at its own game, which is massive investments and in infrastructure and roads, ports, railroads and vanity projects," Cooke said. "What sets the U.S. apart has been a broader engagement, beyond government, looking at development, civil society and, frankly, serving as something of a moral authority on human rights, democracy and governance issues."

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Anna reported from Johannesburg.

## Trump's 10 Terrorists: The evolution of a statistic

By CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For some time now, President Donald Trump has been encouraging people to think of Mexico as a portal for international terrorists who "pour" into the U.S. Except, he says, for 10 who were recently caught by the U.S.: "These are very serious people."

These 10 do not exist, except as a federal statistic that Trump and his vice president put through a rhetorical grinder in service of describing emigrants from Mexico as a menace.

There is, in fact, genuine concern about the potential for Islamic extremists to make their way across the border into the U.S. But that concern applies more to the Canadian border, where Trump is not planning to put up a wall.

Here is how the myth of the "very serious" 10 developed over the months, culminating this week in Trump's assertion that "we caught 10 terrorists. These are over the last very short period of time — 10."

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In July 2017, a State Department report on terrorism comes out, breaking down perceived threats by country, and it does not fit into Trump's story about danger from the south.

It says: "There are no known international terrorist organizations operating in Mexico, no evidence that any terrorist group has targeted U.S. citizens in Mexican territory, and no credible information that any member of a terrorist group has traveled through Mexico to gain access to the United States."

At most, it notes that "Mexican government officials observed on social media an increase in terrorist group sympathizers in its territory over the previous year."

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That report dwells much more on the northern neighbor, home to "Canada-based violent extremists inspired by terrorist groups such as ISIS and al-Qaida and their affiliates and adherents." Moreover, Canada has experienced episodes of terrorism at the hands of sympathizers of those organizations. And, the report says, Canada faces a "significant challenge in prosecuting individuals who have traveled abroad to engage in terrorism, due to the difficulty in proving association with terrorist organizations or having committed specific terrorist acts."

Yet the State Department credits both Canada and Mexico with cooperating with the U.S. on terrorism and strengthening protections. And no evidence has emerged that terrorists are pouring in from Canada, either.

In January, a joint report by the Homeland Security and Justice departments states that Homeland Security had 2,554 "encounters" worldwide with people on a terrorist watch list who were trying to travel to the U.S. That breaks down to an average of seven per day, and is the seed of what becomes Trump's claim about the "very serious" 10.

The vast majority were trying to come by air, 2,170, with 335 by land and the rest by sea. Nothing ties them specifically to Mexico.

Vice President Mike Pence misrepresents the finding the next month, attributing all of those encounters to the Mexico border: "I learned yesterday at the Hidalgo border center that along the southern border of the United States, we actually still apprehend 1,100 individuals a day, who are attempting to enter this country illegally, including seven individuals a day who are either known or suspected terrorists."

There's more wrong with his statement than that.

The people encountered by Homeland Security were denied entry to the U.S., not apprehended en masse as Pence says. In some cases law enforcement authorities were notified for "appropriate action," says the report, giving no detail on arrests or any charges.

As well, it may be a stretch to characterize everyone on the watch list as a "known or suspected" terrorist. The list is an initial trip-wire identifying people who, rightly or wrongly, raise some concern. The standard for placing someone on the list is reasonable suspicion, a lower bar than the probable cause needed to arrest someone for an alleged crime.

In June, the average of seven per day grows to 10, without new statistics being announced. "On average, my department now blocks 10 known or suspected terrorists a day from traveling to or attempting to enter the United States," says Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen.

In September, the next annual State Department terrorism report is released, finding "no credible evidence indicating that international terrorist groups have established bases in Mexico, worked with Mexican drug cartels, or sent operatives via Mexico into the United States. The U.S. southern border remains vulnerable to potential terrorist transit, although terrorist groups likely seek other means of trying to enter the United States." More episodes of terrorism are noted in Canada.

Late in the month, with the Trump administration signaling concern about Central American migrants making their way north, and Trump continually prodding for money to build his wall, the statistic is brought out, and misshapen, again.

"In the last fiscal year, we apprehended more than 10 terrorists or suspected terrorists per day at our southern border from countries that are referred to in the lexicon as other than Mexico," Pence says. "That means from the Middle East region."

The average of 10 a day has grown again, to more than 10. And Pence again says this all happened at the Mexico border.

This time, when Pence's office is asked about the claim, his people acknowledge the error. Later the same day, the vice president correctly attributes the number to all points of entry into the U.S.

Trump, though, continues to drum up fear about Muslim extremism coming via Mexico and migrants, tweeting Oct. 22: "Sadly, it looks like Mexico's Police and Military are unable to stop the Caravan heading

to the Southern Border of the United States. Criminals and unknown Middle Easterners are mixed in. I have alerted Border Patrol and Military that this is a National Emergency. Must change laws!"

The next day he tells reporters in the Oval Office: "I spoke with Border Patrol this morning. ... They say that over the course of the year, over the course of many years, they have intercepted good and bad people, including people from the Middle East."

Yet he acknowledges, "There's no proof of anything."

This month, Trump's proposed southern wall becomes the prickly centerpiece of a budget struggle that threatens to idle parts of the government starting Dec. 21 barring a deal.

In his contentious public meeting with the Democratic leaders, Rep. Nancy Pelosi and Sen. Chuck Schumer, Trump makes a case for varied menaces from Mexico, describing those trying to get into the U.S. as carriers of disease — an assertion he did not support — and criminals.

He renders the average of 10 watch-list travelers per day encountered by Homeland Security last year as "10 terrorists," never mind suspects, recently "caught" trying to get in.

The White House's support for that assertion? The same report that got the ball weirdly rolling almost a year ago: a daily average of encounters in 2017, not 10 terrorists in the flesh, very serious or not.

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Colleen Long contributed to this report.

## Former HUD chief Julian Castro moves toward presidential run

By PAUL J. WEBER, Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Former Obama housing chief Julian Castro says he's taking a step toward a possible White House campaign in 2020 by forming a presidential exploratory committee. The Texas Democrat tells The Associated Press that he will announce a decision Jan. 12.

The move Wednesday gives the 44-year-old former San Antonio mayor an early start to what's shaping up as a crowded Democratic field without a clear front-runner to challenge President Donald Trump.

Castro indicated in an AP interview that his mind was all but made up.

"I know where I'm leaning, for sure," said Castro, who has said for weeks that it was likely he would seek the nomination.

An exploratory committee usually is a formality before a candidate launches a presidential campaign. It legally allows potential candidates to begin raising money.

But just as important for Castro, the step gives him an early jump on bigger name Democrats who are considering running but are taking a slower approach.

No potential contender is more ascendant than outgoing Rep. Beto O'Rourke, who lost last month in a surprisingly close race against Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas. O'Rourke has excited donors and activists who are now prodding him to seek the presidency.

Sens. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Cory Booker of New Jersey, along with former Vice President Joe Biden, are also potential candidates.

Castro would be among the youngest candidates in the field and the most prominent Latino. He played down the attention that others are generating and pointed to past election cycles in which early favorites ended up faltering.

"People might say right now, 'Well, hey, you're way down here in polling that's taken.' The most dangerous place to be right now is actually in the pole position," Castro said. "It doesn't bother me that in December of 2018 I'm not right up at the top of the list. If I decide to run, it would be because I believe I have a compelling message and I'm going to work hard and get to the voters and I believe I can be successful."

Castro, who attended O'Rourke's election-night party in El Paso last month, said O'Rourke doesn't complicate his own chances.

"He's talented. He ran a good race against Ted Cruz," Castro said. "I'll let him talk about his future."

Castro said he has not spoken to former President Barack Obama about his potential candidacy but

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plans on consulting Democratic leaders. Obama has spoken to O'Rourke, who has said he won't make a decision on 2020 until after leaving Congress in January.

Obama picked Castro to take over the Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2014. Two years later, Castro was on the short list of Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's potential running mates.

For Castro, running for president would fulfill a destiny that Democrats have projected since he was elected San Antonio mayor at 34, followed by his star-making turn as the keynote speaker at the Democratic National Convention in 2012.

He is the grandson of a Mexican immigrant and son of a Latina activist. His twin brother, Joaquin Castro, is a Democratic congressman from Texas. Julian Castro said the Latino community has been treated "like a pinata" under Trump and deserved a candidate in the field.

"I'm also very mindful, especially now for the Latino community, that there's a particular meaning to my candidacy," Castro said. "We can't go through the 2020 cycle with nobody on that stage because of what's happened over the last couple of years."

Young and telegenic, Castro rose to national prominence early in his career as a Latino leader from a state that Democrats are eager to retake after decades of Republican dominance. But in Texas, O'Rourke has eclipsed Castro after getting closer to a statewide victory than any Democrat in a generation. It now puts Texas in the formerly unthinkable position of having two Democratic presidential candidates in the same year.

The last Texas Democrat to run for president was Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, who had a short-lived campaign in 1976.

Maryland Rep. John Delaney is the only declared 2020 Democratic presidential candidate so far. Others are expected to announce their intentions in the coming weeks.

Follow Paul J. Weber on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/pauljweber](http://www.twitter.com/pauljweber)

## AP Interview: Jones says farmers scared by Trump's tariffs

By LISA MASCARO, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Doug Jones said Alabama's soybean farmers and automobile manufacturers are "scared to death" over President Donald Trump's tariff wars, but he cautioned Democrats from spending too much time attacking the president as the party tries to win back heartland voters ahead of the 2020 presidential election.

In an Associated Press interview, the Democrat who won a stunning victory from the Deep South a year ago Wednesday said he doesn't think there's enough evidence to impeach the president, even as prosecutors allege Trump directed his lawyer to make illegal hush money payments. Democrats' time would be better spent conducting oversight of the administration, he said, and working with the president to improve trade policies, the Affordable Care Act and other issues.

"I don't think you have to just jump into that right now because it can not only politically backfire," he said about impeachment. "There would be backlash. Our country is divided enough as it is. Democrats right now have an opportunity to try to get some things done."

Thanks to Republican victories in midterm elections last month, Jones will soon be one of the few remaining Democratic senators from a deeply conservative state. That status has made him something of a guide for his party on how to win back Democrats who voted for Trump 2016.

As longtime friend of Joe Biden, Jones said he hopes the former vice president makes a run as the party's pick for 2020.

"Democrats need to do a better job at reaching the heartland of America," he said. Biden is "probably the best one qualified to do that. He's been doing it for a long, long time, and I'm hoping to see that. I am sure, I feel confident, that there are others as well. We may not know who they are just yet."

Trump remains popular in Alabama, but that's shifting, Jones claimed, as voters in the middle "don't

like a lot of the hateful rhetoric." And while partisans on both sides will remain dug in, for or against the president, others "really can't point to a lot of things" that are better now, other than tax cuts, after the president's first two years in office.

"They're beginning to question," he said.

Jones says the path for Democrats is to stay focused on the "kitchen table" issues that helped him defeat conservative Republican Roy Moore, who faced decades-old allegations of improper sexual relations with young women, to become the first Democrat to the Senate from Alabama in a generation.

The senator said that even in Alabama people are starting to question whether Trump's "nationalistic approach" on tariffs is a threat to their financial well-being.

Soybean farmers are watching their crops rot and automobile manufactures, which he says have played a leading role in boosting the economy after other industries declined, face high costs of steel and aluminum tariffs.

"They're beginning to say, Ok, we put you in here to try to get us a better deal, but there's got to be an end game. Tell us what the end game is and how long this is going to last."

Facing his own re-election in 2020, Jones acknowledged having taken some tough votes in the Senate, including against the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court.

"It's a mixed bag," he said.

But he said Democratic gains being made in the Deep South — as evidenced by his own election and the closer than expected race for a Senate seat in neighboring Mississippi won by the Republican — shows that the shift.

"Things are changing," he said.

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

## Canada says entrepreneur feared detained in China

By **ROB GILLIES** and **PAUL WISEMAN**, Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — A second Canadian man is feared detained in China in what appears to be retaliation for Canada's arrest of a top executive of telecommunications giant Huawei. The possible arrest raises the stakes in an international dispute that threatens relations.

Canada's Global Affairs department on Wednesday said Michael Spavor, an entrepreneur who is one of the only Westerners to have met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, had gone missing in China. Spavor's disappearance follows China's detention of a former Canadian diplomat in Beijing earlier this week.

"We have been unable to make contact (with Spavor) since he let us know he was being questioned by Chinese authorities," Global Affairs spokesman Guillaume Bérubé said. "We are working very hard to ascertain his whereabouts and we continue to raise this with the Chinese government."

Spavor is a fluent Korean speaker with longstanding ties to the North through his company, Paektu Cultural Exchange. He was instrumental in bringing NBA player Dennis Rodman to Pyongyang in 2013 and has organized a number of tours and joint cultural projects with the North since then. His disappearance sparked immediate concern in the circle of people who travel to North Korea. Acquaintances said he was due in Seoul on Monday, but never showed up.

Canada's announcement came hours after Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said she was worried another citizen had been detained in China following Monday's arrest of former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig in Beijing.

At the root of the dispute is Canada's recent arrest of Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, for possible extradition to the United States.

A Canadian court on Tuesday released Meng on bail, confining her to Vancouver and its suburbs while she awaits possible extradition. The U.S. accuses Huawei of using a Hong Kong shell company to do business with Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions.

The detention of Kovrig and possible detention of Spavor reflect an increasingly bold approach to international disputes under President Xi Jinping, who has overseen a vast expansion of China's diplomatic,

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military and economic power. China has often retaliated against foreign governments and corporations in diplomatic disputes, but rarely by holding foreign nationals.

The United States and China have taken pains this week to emphasize that their trade talks are entirely separate from the U.S. case against the top Chinese technology executive. But with a few words, President Donald Trump obliterated the distinction on Tuesday, saying he'd waded into the case if it would help produce a trade agreement with China.

"If I think it's good for what will be certainly the largest trade deal ever made — which is a very important thing — what's good for national security — I would certainly intervene if I thought it was necessary," Trump told Reuters in an interview.

The comment suggests Meng could be a political pawn in negotiations and makes things more awkward for Canada, which arrested her on America's behalf during a Dec. 1 layover at the Vancouver airport.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau bristled at Trump's assertion, saying: "Regardless of what goes on in other countries, Canada is, and will always remain, a country of the rule of law."

Freeland said it was "quite obvious" any foreign country requesting extradition should ensure "the process is not politicized."

Canada has also asked China for extra security at its embassy because of protests and anti-Canadian sentiment and has advised foreign service staff to take precautions, a senior Canadian official told reporters.

Meng's arrest came the same day that Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed over dinner in Buenos Aires to a 90-day cease-fire in a trade war that has shaken global financial markets and raised worries about the impact on the world economy.

The truce was meant to buy time for more substantive talks over U.S. allegations that China steals U.S. technology and forces American companies to hand over trade secrets in exchange for access to the Chinese market.

U.S. officials have insisted the sanctions case against Meng had nothing to do with the ongoing trade talks. Top White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow told "Fox News Sunday" that "there's a trade lane ... and there is the law enforcement lane. They are different."

"Both Canadian and American officials have emphasized that the Meng arrest is separate from the trade talks," said Gregory Yaeger, special counsel at the Stroock law firm and a former Justice Department trial attorney.

"Trump's remarks could be interpreted as creating the appearance that the arrest also had political motivations. This could undermine the US's reputation as a country that follows the 'rule of law,' and could ultimately undermine both the Meng prosecution and the trade talks."

Still, there is precedent for Trump intervening on behalf of a Chinese company accused of violating U.S. sanctions.

Trump drew fire from Capitol Hill in June when he reached a deal that spared another Chinese telecommunications company, ZTE, from U.S. sanctions that probably would have put it out of business after it was accused of selling equipment to Iran and North Korea. U.S. regulators planned to bar it from receiving U.S. components that it depended on, effectively a corporate death sentence.

But Trump issued a reprieve, perhaps partly because U.S. tech companies, major suppliers to ZTE, would also have been scorched. ZTE agreed to pay a \$1 billion fine, change its board and management, and let American regulators monitor its operations.

Speaking outside the White House Wednesday, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross urged reporters not to jump to the conclusion that Trump will actually intervene in Meng's case.

"Let's see what he actually decides," Ross said. "Let's see where we go from there."

Philip Levy, senior fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and an economic adviser in President George W. Bush's White House, noted that "there's a real value to keeping these things separate."

"Do we want China to seize an (American) executive when they want to get a concession on trade talks in the future?" he asked.

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Wiseman reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Eric Talmadge and Christopher Bodeen in Beijing and Rafael Wober in Hong Kong contributed to this report.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Dec. 13, the 347th day of 2018. There are 18 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 13, 2003, Saddam Hussein was captured by U.S. forces while hiding in a hole under a farmhouse in Adwar, Iraq, near his hometown of Tikrit.

On this date:

In 1862, Union forces led by Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside launched futile attacks against entrenched Confederate soldiers during the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg; the soundly defeated Northern troops withdrew two days later.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson arrived in France, becoming the first chief executive to visit Europe while in office.

In 1928, George Gershwin's "An American in Paris" had its premiere at Carnegie Hall in New York.

In 1937, the Chinese city of Nanjing fell to Japanese forces during the Sino-Japanese War; what followed was a massacre of war prisoners, soldiers and citizens. (China maintains that up to 300,000 people were killed; Japanese nationalists say the death toll was far lower, and some maintain the massacre never happened.)

In 1944, during World War II, the light cruiser USS Nashville was badly damaged in a Japanese kamikaze attack off Negros Island in the Philippines that claimed 133 lives.

In 1977, an Air Indiana Flight 216, a DC-3 carrying the University of Evansville basketball team on a flight to Nashville, crashed shortly after takeoff, killing all 29 people on board.

In 1978, the Philadelphia Mint began stamping the Susan B. Anthony dollar, which went into circulation the following July.

In 1981, authorities in Poland imposed martial law in a crackdown on the Solidarity labor movement. (Martial law formally ended in 1983.)

In 1996, the U.N. Security Council chose Kofi Annan (KOH'-fee AN'-nan) of Ghana to become the world body's seventh secretary-general.

In 1997, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in Los Angeles for the 1 billion-dollar Getty Center, one of the largest arts centers in the United States.

In 2000, Republican George W. Bush claimed the presidency a day after the U.S. Supreme Court shut down further recounts of disputed ballots in Florida; Democrat Al Gore conceded, delivering a call for national unity.

In 2002, Cardinal Bernard Law resigned as Boston archbishop because of the priest sex abuse scandal.

Ten years ago: The White House weighed its options for preventing a collapse of the troubled U.S. auto industry. Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford won the Heisman Trophy after guiding the highest-scoring team in major college football history to the national championship game.

Five years ago: North Korea's state-run media announced the execution the day before of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's uncle, portraying Jang Song Thaek as a morally corrupt traitor. Reality TV star Khloe Kardashian filed for divorce from Lamar Odom after four years of marriage.

One year ago: Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton appointed Lt. Gov. Tina Smith to fill the Senate seat of fellow Democrat Al Franken until a special election in November, 2018. Congressional Republicans reached agreement on a major overhaul of the nation's tax laws that would provide generous tax cuts for corporations and the wealthiest Americans; middle- and low-income families would get smaller tax cuts. The New York Times published claims by three women that they had been raped by music mogul Russell Simmons in the 1980s and 1990s; Simmons denied the allegations.



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Today's Birthdays: Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz is 98. Actor-comedian Dick Van Dyke is 93. Actor Christopher Plummer is 89. Country singer Buck White is 88. Music/film producer Lou Adler is 85. Singer John Davidson is 77. Actress Kathy Garver (TV: "Family Affair") is 73. Singer Ted Nugent is 70. Rock musician Jeff "Skunk" Baxter is 70. Country musician Ron Getman is 70. Actor Robert Lindsay is 69. Country singer-musician Randy Owen is 69. Actress Wendie Malick is 68. Former Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is 68. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is 65. Country singer John Anderson is 64. Singer-songwriter Steve Forbert is 64. Singer-actor Morris Day is 62. Actor Steve Buscemi (boo-SEH'-mee) is 61. Actor Johnny Whitaker (TV: "Family Affair") is 59. Rock musician John Munson (Semisonic; Twilight Hours) is 56. Actress-reality TV star NeNe Leakes is 52. Actor-comedian Jamie Foxx is 51. Actor Bart Johnson is 48. Actor Jeffrey Pierce is 47. TV personality Debbie Matenopoulos is 44. Rock singer-musician Thomas Delonge is 43. Actor James Kyson Lee is 43. Actress Kimee Balmilero (TV: "Hawaii Five-0") is 39. Actress Chelsea Hertford is 37. Rock singer Amy Lee (Evanescence) is 37. Actor Michael Socha is 31. Neo-soul musician Wesley Watkins (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 31. Actor Marcel Spears (TV: "The Mayor") is 30. Singer Taylor Swift is 29. Actress Maisy Stella is 15.

Thought for Today: "To know how to say what others only know how to think is what makes men poets or sages; and to dare to say what others only dare to think makes men martyrs or reformers — or both." — Elizabeth Charles, British writer (1828-1896).