

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 1 of 51

- 1- Midwest Masonry Ad
- 1- Dee Baily Card Shower
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 2- Hunter Schaller Page
- 3- Tonight on GDILIVE.COM
- 4- Teachers go caroling
- 4- Fjeldheim celebrated 40th
- 5- Schuelke organizes costumes
- 5- Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 7- Today's Forecast
- 8- Yesterday's Weather
- 8- National Weather map
- 8- Today's Weather Almanac
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 11- News from the Associated Press

**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.

## Midwest Masonry & concrete Pumping

**Greg Heilman, owner**

405 E 1st Ave., Groton

Greg: 253/929-9137

Mike: 605/492-7041

midwestmasonry1@yahoo.com



## 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

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 2 of 51



**ALL FOR HUNT**



**HUNTING FOR A BIGGER REASON**

**I can do all things through Christ** Philippians 4:13  
**who strengthens me.**



This is a Fundraiser for Hunter Schaller and his family organized by Peyton Johnson and family. Designed by Peyton Johnson.

Orders are due by December 19th and will be ready the week of January 7th.

[Click here to place an order](#)



#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!**

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 3 of 51

It's Boys' Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Redfield/Doland  
Pheasants**

**VS**



**Groton Area Tigers**

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018  
Varsity Game at 8 p.m.  
at Redfield

This GDILIVE.COM event is sponsored by

**Aberdeen**  
**Chrysler Center**

901 Auto Plaza Drive  
Aberdeen, SD

**800.874.9173**

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 4 of 51



**This group of talented Groton Area teachers was out and about spreading Christmas cheer Thursday and one of the stops was at James Valley Telecommunications.** (Photo lifted from NVC Facebook Video)



**Ryan Fjeldheim's friends wanted to share their love for him by wishing Ryan a Happy 40th Birthday on Sunday!** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



As Deb Schuelke put it, "This is where miracles happen!" Deb was working on organizing the customs for the Carnival of Silver Skates. This is her fourth year being on the Silver Skates board of directors and her speciality is costume designs. According to Schuelke, there are more out for Carnival of Silver Skates this year than last year, roughly over 100 skates will be taking to the ice. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## Groton Prairie Mixed

**Team Standings:** Cheetahs 67, Coyotes 65, Foxes 61 ½ Chipmunks 61, Jackelopes 54 ½ Shih Tzus 51

**Men's High Games:** Randy Stanley 232, Roger Spanier 220, Brad Larson 200

**Women's High Games:** Sue Stanley 213, Vicki Jorgensen 200, Darci Spanier 182

**Men's High Series:** Randy Stanley 594, Roger Spanier 562, Brad Waage 517

**Women's High Series:** Vicki Jorgensen 495, Sue Stanley 484, Darci Spanier 467

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 6 of 51

## Today in Weather History

December 14, 1994: Snow accumulated over all of South Dakota on the 14th but was heavy in the central part of the state and at a few places in the northwest. The greatest accumulations were 11 inches at Murdo and 10 inches at the Lake Sharpe project and near Stephan. The storm caused numerous accidents, but no fatalities or injuries were reported. Eight inches of snow fell at McLaughlin and Miller, with 7 inches at Faulkton and McIntosh, 6 inches at Eagle Butte and Timber Lake, and 5 inches at Mobridge, Kennebec, and near Highmore.

December 14, 1996: Heavy snow of 6 to 20 inches fell across most of central, north central, and part of northeast South Dakota during the late evening of the 14th. Strong north winds of 20 to 35 mph created near-blizzard conditions and heavy drifting across the area. Travel was tough if not impossible, with several cars going into the ditch. A two-car accident between Blunt and Pierre left several people injured. Many activities were postponed or canceled. Some snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Fort Pierre, Ipswich, Kennebec, Aberdeen, and Pollock; 7 inches at Mobridge; 8 inches at Lake Sharpe, Clark, and Mellette; 9 inches at Roscoe, Gettysburg, and McIntosh; 10 inches at Highmore, Eagle Butte, 22 miles SSW of Keldron, and at West Whitlock; 11 inches at Blunt and Miller; 12 inches at Ree Heights, McLaughlin, and Onida; 13 inches at Highmore; 14 inches at Redfield; 15 inches at Timber Lake; 18 inches at Faulkton; and 20 inches at Hoven.

December 14, 1287: A powerful storm affected the Netherlands and Northern Germany on this day. Called the St. Lucia's flood, which was the day before, this storm broke a dike, flooding much of the land in what is now the Waddenzee and IJsselmeer. A significant percentage of the country's population perished in this disaster and had been rated as one of the most destructive floods in recorded history. The death toll from this storm was between 50,000 to 80,000 people. Also, 180 residents of Hickling village, which is 137 miles north-east of London was impacted by this storm. The storm surge rose a foot above the high altar in the church. From British-History.ac.uk, "Hickling was one of the townships that suffered most severely from the tremendous storm of December, 1287, no fewer than nine score persons being drowned there. In the priory the water rose more than a foot above the high altar, and all the canons fled away except two, who stayed behind and managed to save the horses and other property by bringing them up into the dormitory over the vaulted undercroft."

December 14, 1952: Trace of snow or sleet at or near Pensacola, Crestview, DeFuniak Springs, Quincy, Carrabelle, Tallahassee, St. Marks, Monticello, Madison, Mayo, Live Oak, Lake City, Glen St. Mary, and Hilliard in Florida. Frozen precipitation occurred before noon at most points, but happened in the afternoon at Mayo and Lake City and near Hilliard. Temperatures were above freezing and snow or sleet melted as it fell.

December 14, 1997: Central Mississippi and western Alabama saw significant snowfall of 4 to 8 inches on this day. In Mississippi, this was one of the heavier snowfalls to occur since 1929. The weight of the snow caused limbs of trees to break, which knocked down power lines.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 7 of 51

Today



Sunny

High: 44 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear  
then Patchy  
Fog

Low: 21 °F

Saturday



Sunny

High: 44 °F

Saturday  
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 23 °F

Sunday



Sunny

High: 40 °F

**Highs: Lower 40s to Lower 50s**  
**Lows: 20s**

**Warm and Dry Weather Continues**

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Updated: 12/14/2018 4:53 AM Central

Published on: 12/14/2018 at 4:58AM

Warm and dry weather will continue through the weekend. The warmest temperatures are expected on Saturday, but winds will increase, as well, as a front sweeps through the Dakotas.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 8 of 51

## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 42 °F at 2:21 PM

Low Outside Temp: 23 °F at 9:13 PM

High Gust: 15 mph at 4:39 AM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 55° in 1998

Record Low: -30° in 1917

Average High: 26°F

Average Low: 6°F

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.23

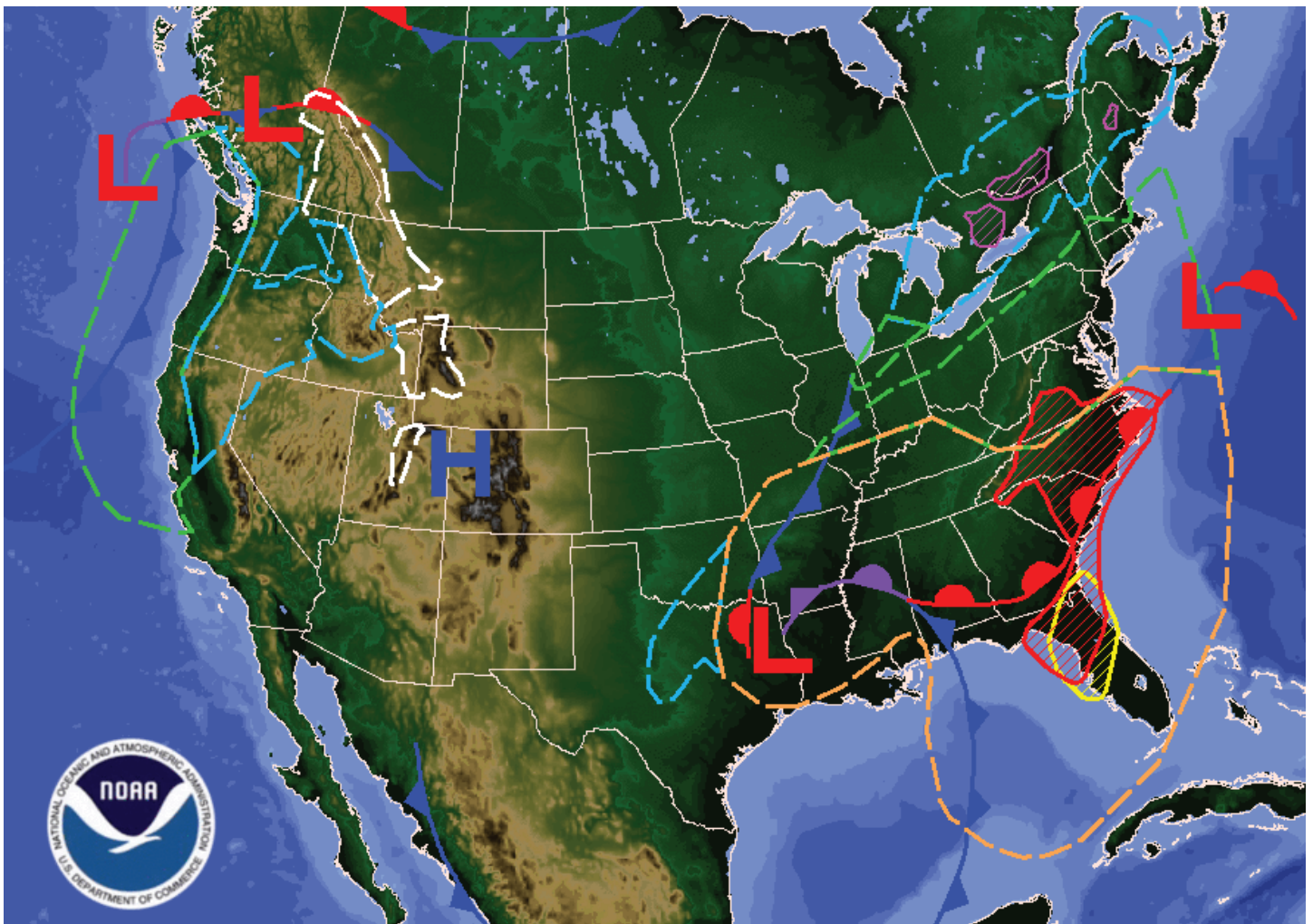
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.43

Precip Year to Date: 15.81

Sunset Tonight: 4:51 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:07 a.m.



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Dec 14, 2018, issued 3:38 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)



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 9 of 51



## FACING FEAR WITH FACTS

A bright light on a dark night would frighten most individuals if it was unexpected. How much more frightening would it be if an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and God's glory lit up the area where sheep were quietly sleeping and shepherds were watching to make certain that they were safe.

Sensing the fear of the shepherds the angel said confidently, Don't be afraid of this Light! The angel wanted to calm their pounding hearts. I came with Good News. News that will bring great joy to everyone, everywhere who is willing to accept the Good News!

How gracious is our God. The shepherds did what any of us would do: react with apprehension and fear. Yet, God, in His love and mercy first gave them His assurance that they were safe and then explained to them what had happened. A Savior, Christ, who is the Anointed One, the One that you have been waiting for, even the LORD, has been born!

There is a wonderful lesson here for each of us. Rarely do we get through any day without something unusual sometimes a tragedy, perhaps a life threatening or grief producing event invading our lives. It is normal and natural to react with fear and wonder.

But as God said to the shepherds then and as He says to us every day, Don't be afraid. Good News awaits you. Your Savior is here. Turn to Him in faith and He will save you!

Prayer: How thankful we are, Father, to know that Your Son, our Savior, is with us every moment of every day. Calm our fears, encourage our hearts through Him. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Luke 2:8-12 Then the angel said to them, Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

## 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

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 11 of 51

## News from the Associated Press

### Woman dies in crash in which SUV plunges off cliff

HERMOSA, S.D. (AP) — A 78-year-old woman is dead after a single-vehicle crash in Custer County. The Highway Patrol says the woman's sport utility vehicle went off a road 6 miles west of Hermosa, down an embankment and then off a 50-foot cliff, coming to rest on its roof. The woman was pronounced dead at the scene shortly before 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. Her name wasn't immediately released.

### Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

#### BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Christian 57, Leola/Frederick 46  
Beresford 47, Flandreau 45  
Bridgewater-Emery 73, Menno 51  
Canistota 56, Freeman 38  
Colman-Egan 47, Garretson 46  
Colome 54, Gregory 46  
DeSmet 72, Lake Preston 57  
Hamlin 67, Deuel 52  
Harding County 60, Hettinger/Scranton, N.D. 42  
Hill City 44, New Underwood 30  
Ipswich 60, Langford 30  
Kimball/White Lake 55, Mitchell Christian 46  
Lennox 58, Madison 57  
Platte-Geddes 72, Burke 50  
Sioux Falls Roosevelt 64, Sioux Falls Washington 49  
Sioux Valley 88, Baltic 54  
Sisseton 72, Flandreau Indian 55  
Stanley County 60, Philip 36  
Timber Lake 52, Mobridge-Pollock 49  
Vermillion 65, Irene-Wakonda 41  
Waubay/Summit 51, Waverly-South Shore 32  
Wessington Springs 52, Hitchcock-Tulare 25  
Wilmot 51, Great Plains Lutheran 40  
Yankton 62, Brandon Valley 60, OT  
Lakota Nations Invitational  
Makosica Bracket  
Quarterfinal  
Omaha Nation, Neb. 61, Little Wound 57  
Pine Ridge 67, Lower Brule 37  
Red Cloud 78, Tiospa Zina Tribal 76  
White River 67, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 53  
Paha Sapa Bracket  
Quarterfinal  
Crow Creek 65, Marty Indian 39

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 12 of 51

Custer 63, Oelrichs 45  
McLaughlin 57, St. Francis Indian 49  
Todd County 65, Crazy Horse 29  
**GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL**  
Arlington 57, Elkton-Lake Benton 14  
Beresford 55, Flandreau 54  
Bon Homme 58, Scotland 52  
Brandon Valley 57, Yankton 41  
DeSmet 66, Lake Preston 29  
Dell Rapids St. Mary 58, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 24  
Dupree 44, McIntosh 38  
Hamlin 70, Deuel 26  
Hitchcock-Tulare 57, Wessington Springs 36  
Kimball/White Lake 40, Mitchell Christian 19  
Lennox 71, Madison 33  
Leola/Frederick 51, Aberdeen Christian 37  
New Underwood 46, Hill City 17  
Philip 73, Stanley County 36  
Ponca, Neb. 36, Vermillion 32  
Potter County 52, Highmore-Harrold 42  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 93, Sioux City, North, Iowa 14  
Sioux Valley 52, Baltic 34  
St. Thomas More 62, Alliance, Neb. 30  
Timber Lake 50, Mobridge-Pollock 40  
Winner 67, Burke 42  
Lakota Nations Invitational(equals)  
Makosica Bracket(equals)  
Quarterfinal(equals)  
Crow Creek 50, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 44  
Pine Ridge 61, Little Wound 51  
Red Cloud 62, Lower Brule 37  
Todd County 68, White River 66  
Paha Sapa Bracket(equals)  
Quarterfinal(equals)  
Custer 52, Crazy Horse 38  
Marty Indian 58, McLaughlin 43  
St. Francis Indian 66, Oelrichs 31  
Tiospa Zina Tribal 55, Omaha Nation, Neb. 46

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

## Death row executions remain near historic lows in 2018

By JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three states resumed executions of death row inmates in 2018 after long breaks, but nationwide, executions remained near historic lows this year, according to an annual report on the death penalty released Friday.

The report by the District of Columbia-based Death Penalty Information Center says 25 executions

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 13 of 51

were carried out in 2018, the fourth consecutive year in which there have been fewer than 30 executions nationwide.

Since the death penalty was re-instated in the United States in 1976, the number of executions peaked in 1999 with 98. They were at their lowest in 2016 with 20, according to center statistics. Americans' support for the death penalty similarly peaked in the 1990s and has declined since, according to public opinion polls by Gallup. A 2018 Gallup poll showed 56 percent of Americans supported the death penalty for a person convicted of murder.

Executions in 2018 were clustered in eight states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas. About half of all the executions in 2018 took place in Texas, which carried out 13 death sentences. Tennessee was second with three. Alabama, Florida and Georgia each had two while Nebraska, Ohio and South Dakota each carried out one.

Florida's execution Thursday of Jose Antonio Jimenez for fatally beating and stabbing a woman during a burglary was the most recent. According to a list maintained by the Death Penalty Information Center, there are no other executions scheduled this year.

Nebraska, Tennessee and South Dakota were the three states that resumed executions this year. Nebraska's execution of Carey Dean Moore was the state's first execution in more than 20 years. It was also the first time any state has used the drug fentanyl in an execution. This year marked the first time in nearly nine years that Tennessee carried out an execution. South Dakota ended a six-year stretch without executions when it executed Rodney Berget, who was convicted of killing a corrections officer during a prison escape attempt.

Tennessee's executions came at the end of a systematic challenge to lethal injection there while executions in Nebraska and South Dakota involved inmates who gave up challenges to their execution, said Death Penalty Information Center executive director Robert Dunham. The center doesn't take a side in the debate over the death penalty, Dunham said, but has criticized the way states carry out the death penalty, singling out problems with bias and secrecy, among others.

All the inmates executed in 2018 were men, and all but two of the executions were carried out by lethal injection, according to a center database.

Two Tennessee inmates, David Miller and Edmund Zagorski, chose to die by electric chair because of concerns about pain associated with the state's lethal injection procedure. Both unsuccessfully argued to courts that Tennessee's lethal injection procedure, which uses the drug midazolam, results in a prolonged and torturous death. Before this year, the last time a state used the electric chair to execute an inmate was 2013.

The report says that 41 new death sentences have been imposed so far this year, the fourth straight year with fewer than 50 new death sentences.

And while three states resumed executions this year, Washington became the 20th state to abolish the death penalty in October, when its Supreme Court said capital punishment in the state was "imposed in an arbitrary and racially biased manner."

The report notes two death row inmates were freed in 2018: California inmate Vicente Benavides and Florida inmate Clemente Aguirre-Jarquín. Benavides, who was on death row for nearly 25 years after being convicted of raping and killing his girlfriend's 21-month-old daughter, was freed after California's highest court ruled that false medical testimony was presented at his trial. Aguirre-Jarquín, who spent 14 years behind bars for the murder of his two neighbors, was freed after evidence showed that the daughter of one of the victims confessed to the murders and her blood was at the scene.

Seventeen inmates currently have execution dates set for 2019, according to center records.

## In plea deal, Russian woman admits to being a secret agent

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Russian gun-rights activist admitted Thursday that she was a secret agent for the Kremlin who tried to infiltrate conservative U.S. political groups as Donald Trump rose to power.

Maria Butina, 30, agreed to plead guilty to a conspiracy charge as part of a deal with federal prosecutors. "Guilty," Butina said in a slight accent when asked how she wanted to plead. Dressed in a green jail uniform with her red hair pulled into a long ponytail, Butina spoke softly and mostly kept her eyes on the judge.

The Butina case has provided a vivid glimpse into Russia's influence operations in the United States at a time when the U.S. intelligence community has determined that Russia was trying to help elect Trump by releasing emails stolen from Democrats and conducting a social media campaign in an attempt to sow political discord.

The case also lays bare how Russia tried to exploit one of the most sensitive social issues in the U.S. — gun control — to gain access to the political sphere.

Prosecutors say Butina and her Russian patron, Alexander Torshin, used their contacts in the National Rifle Association to pursue back channels to American conservatives during the 2016 campaign, when Trump, a Republican, defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Court documents detail how Butina saw the Republican Party as prime for Russian influence and courted conservatives through networking and contacts with the NRA. She posed for photos with prominent Republicans, including former presidential candidates, and snagged a picture with Donald Trump Jr. at a 2016 NRA dinner.

As part of her deal, Butina pleaded guilty to a single charge of conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent and she agreed to cooperate with investigators.

The case is separate from special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Prosecutors say it is "very likely" Butina will be deported after her sentence is completed. The charge carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison, though the defense noted Thursday that federal sentencing guidelines recommend no time to six months. She has been jailed since her arrest in July.

According to her plea agreement, Butina's work was directed by Torshin, a former longtime member of the Russian parliament who until recently was an official in Russia's central bank. He is now under sanction by the Treasury Department for his ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Butina acknowledged she "sought to establish unofficial lines of communication with Americans having power and influence over U.S. politics," according to the plea agreement. She admitted that her boyfriend, conservative political operative Paul Erickson, helped her as she tried to use his ties with the NRA to set up the back channels. Erickson, who is referred to as "U.S. Person 1" in court papers, has not been charged. His attorney said he is a good American who "has done nothing to harm our country and never would."

In a 2015 proposal she crafted with Erickson's help, Butina argued it was unlikely Russia would be able to exert influence using official channels and, as an alternative, suggested using back channel communications to build relationships with Republicans, according to court papers.

Pushing her travel to the U.S. and her work with the NRA as selling points, Butina argued that she had already "laid the groundwork for an unofficial channel of communication with the next U.S. administration." She asked for \$125,000 from an unnamed Russian billionaire to attend conferences in the U.S. and meet with people who she thought may have influence with the Republican Party and sent the proposal to Torshin. He responded by telling her the proposal would "be supported, at least in part," according to court documents.

Torshin also asked Butina to help justify him attending a national NRA meeting in 2016 and Butina encouraged his attendance "partly because of the opportunity to meet political candidates," according to her plea agreement. In addition to attending numerous NRA events, Butina organized "friendship dinners" in Washington with influential political figures.

In their filings, prosecutors have said federal agents found Butina had contact information for people suspected of working for Russia's Federal Security Services, or FSB, the successor intelligence agency to

the KGB. Inside her home, they found notes referring to a potential job offer from the FSB, according to the documents.

A senior Russian lawmaker said he was convinced that Butina was pressured to confess.

"They broke her down," Leonid Slutsky, chairman of the State Duma's foreign affairs committee, told Russian news agencies. "Anyone would break down in circumstances like that."

Butina's time in prison has included solitary confinement.

Butina's lawyer, Robert Driscoll, had previously decried the charges against her as "overblown" and said Butina was a student interested in American politics.

On Thursday, prosecutors also appeared to have backed off their assertion that Butina's attendance at American University was little more than a cover to enter the U.S. In their filing, prosecutors said "all available evidence" indicated she had a genuine interest in a graduate school education.

---

Associated Press writer Chad Day contributed to this report.

---

Read the plea agreement: <http://apne.ws/qHA37wM>

## Lawmakers set to debate bill allowing guns in state Capitol

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A measure set for debate in South Dakota's upcoming legislative session would allow concealed pistols inside the state Capitol.

House Majority Leader Lee Qualm told The Associated Press this week that he plans to propose a bill similar to an unsuccessful 2017 measure that would have allowed people with an enhanced permit to bring concealed handguns into the building if they registered beforehand with security.

It's unclear how such a plan would fare under Republican Gov.-elect Kristi Noem's administration.

A spokeswoman for Noem said in a statement that Noem is a strong Second Amendment supporter but won't commit to legislation until she can review its text. Incoming Lt. Gov. Larry Rhoden voted for the 2017 bill as a state representative.

Qualm said he doesn't agree with gun-free zones, adding that Capitol security can't be everywhere, all the time.

"The mood of the country, you know, there's some crazy things that are happening out there, and for us not to be able to defend ourselves and protect ourselves just doesn't make any sense," Qualm said. "We need to be proactive on this."

The 2017 measure would also have included qualified law enforcement officers and qualified retired officers. Outgoing Gov. Dennis Daugaard vetoed the 2017 bill, saying in his veto message that law enforcement protection in the building provides a secure environment.

Republican Sen. Arthur Rusch, an opponent, said that he thinks allowing concealed pistols in the Capitol would make it a riskier place. Rusch said he's satisfied with Capitol security, which is provided by the South Dakota Highway Patrol.

There are no metal detectors or other security checks at the Capitol entrances to enforce the current prohibition on most people carrying guns in the building.

At the end of November, there were 107,172 active regular, gold card and enhanced permits in South Dakota, according to the Secretary of State's office. To date in 2018, 1,474 new enhanced permits have been issued. An enhanced permit has requirements including completing a training course.

The 2019 legislative session begins Jan. 8. Lawmakers are also likely to take up legislation that would allow people to carry concealed handguns without a permit in South Dakota.

## Sioux Falls liquor store ends discounts after state warning

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls liquor store will no longer offer its longtime discount programs after the state determined it violates liquor regulations, an issue that other businesses may be grappling with under the unclear rules.

JJ's Wine, Spirits & Cigars owner Tom Slattery told the Argus Leader that he's shelving the store's rewards and discount programs after receiving a letter Tuesday from the South Dakota Department of Revenue. The department received a complaint about Slattery's discount programs and determined they violated the state's liquor rules, he said.

The agency confirmed that it sent a notice to Slattery after receiving a complaint, but didn't elaborate further on the decision.

Slattery said the state took him by surprise because he got the department's blessing when first implementing the programs a decade ago.

The regulation at issue is one limiting inducement, or in this case, the offering of something of monetary value to persuade or influence the purchase of alcohol, according to Slattery.

The department objected to JJ's Wine, Spirits & Cigars offering quantity discounts on mix-and-match items as well as a rewards program that accumulates points for members based on purchases, he said.

"We're not the only ones that do tiered discounts either," said Slattery, who plans to seek legislative relief. "Everyone in town does tiered discounts."

The scope of the state's interpretation remains unclear, but JJ's might not be the only Sioux Falls retailer contacted by the revenue department. Booze Boys Discount Liquor also informed customers on Tuesday that the store was notified it could no longer offer a discount deal on wine.

Robert Wentz, the store's owner, wasn't immediately available to comment to the newspaper.

---

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

## Roberts County sheriff-elect pleads not guilty to assault

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — The sheriff-elect of Roberts County has pleaded not guilty to assault charges. Twenty-eight-year-old Korey Ware, of Sisseton, is accused of assaulting a 30-year-old man at or near an Aberdeen bar on Oct. 6.

The American News reports that he entered his pleas Wednesday. Trial is scheduled for early February. Ware defeated Tim Farnen in the Republican primary for Roberts County sheriff in June and ran unopposed in the November general election. He faces alternative misdemeanor and felony charges. A felony conviction could affect his ability to serve as sheriff.

---

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

## Ex police chief pleads guilty to sexual contact with girl

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A former Whitewood police chief is awaiting sentencing in two counties after pleading guilty to child sex charges.

The Rapid City Journal reports that 69-year-old Ben Koens, of Belle Fourche, recently pleaded guilty in Butte and Lawrence counties to having sexual contact with a girl under 16. Court documents say the victim was the same person.

Authorities say the sex crimes occurred between 2014 and last spring, years after Koens was fired as police chief in Whitewood in 2011 for undisclosed reasons.

In exchange for Koens' guilty pleas, prosecutors dropped rape charges that could have landed him in prison for life. He now faces up to 15 years in prison on each sexual contact charge when he's sentenced Jan. 28 in Butte County and Jan. 29 in Lawrence County.

---

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



## Ex-Trump lawyer: Hush money paid over election concerns

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's former personal lawyer says he bought the silence of two women because Trump was "very concerned" about how their stories of alleged affairs with him "would affect the election."

In an interview with ABC News that aired Friday, Michael Cohen said he "gave loyalty to someone who, truthfully, does not deserve loyalty."

Cohen was sentenced Wednesday to three years in federal prison. He pleaded guilty to several charges, including campaign finance violations and lying to Congress.

Prosecutors have said Trump directed Cohen to arrange the payments to buy the silence of porn actress Stormy Daniels and former Playboy model Karen McDougal in the run-up to the 2016 campaign.

Cohen says he's angry with himself for the deals.

Trump has denied he directed Cohen to break the law.

## Paris police bracing for more violent protests

PARIS (AP) — Anticipating a fifth straight weekend of violent protests, Paris' police chief said Friday that armored vehicles and thousands of officers will be deployed again in the French capital.

Michel Delpuech told RTL radio that security services intend to deploy the same numbers and strength as last weekend, with about 8,000 officers and 14 armored vehicles again in Paris.

Delpuech said the biggest difference will be the deployment of more groups of patrol officers to catch vandals, who last weekend roamed streets around the Champs Elysees, causing damage and looting. Police arrested more than 1,000 people in Paris last weekend and 135 people were injured, including 17 police officers

A sixth "yellow vest" protester was killed this week, hit by a truck at a protest roadblock. Despite calls from authorities urging protesters — who wear the fluorescent safety vests that France requires drivers to keep in their cars — to stop the protests, the movement rocking the country has showed no signs of abating.

"Last week, we pretty much handled the yellow vests but we also witnessed scenes of breakage and looting by criminals," Delpuech said. "Our goal will be to better control this aspect."

In an effort to defuse the tensions sweeping the country, French President Emmanuel Macron has acknowledged he's partially responsible for the anger behind the anti-government protests. He has announced a series of measures aimed at improving French workers' spending power but has refused to reinstate a wealth tax.

Many protesters have expressed disappointment at the measures and some trade unions are now calling for rolling strikes across the country.

"The best action is to go on strike," said Philippe Martinez, the head of leftist trade union CGT. "There are inequalities in this country and we need to make big company bosses pay."

French Interior minister Christophe Castaner urged protesters to express themselves peacefully in the wake of a two-day manhunt for a man suspected of killing three people in the eastern city of Strasbourg that mobilized hundreds of police.

"I can't stand the idea that today people applaud police forces and that tomorrow some people will think it makes sense to throw stones at us," Castaner said from Strasbourg, where the suspect was killed on Thursday.

See the AP's coverage of France's protests at: <https://apnews.com/FranceProtests>

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 18 of 51

## 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. SENATE REBUKES TRUMP, SAUDI ARABIA OVER KHASHOGGI'S DEATH

The Senate delivered an unusual rebuke of President Donald Trump's response to the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi and signaled new skepticism from Capitol Hill toward the longtime Middle East ally.

### 2. GUATEMALAN CHILD DIES IN CUSTODY AFTER CROSSING US BORDER

Federal immigration authorities have confirmed that a 7-year-old girl who crossed the U.S.-Mexico border with her father last week died after being taken into the custody of the U.S. Border Patrol

### 3. TRUMP'S SEARCH FOR NEW CHIEF OF STAFF HAS REALITY TV FEEL

The chaotic process is hardly a novelty for the Trump administration, which has struggled with high staff turnover and attracting top talent.

### 4. MICHAEL FLYNN UPBEAT AS SENTENCING LOOMS

The former national security adviser is days away from being sentenced in the Russia probe on a felony charge that in different times might have brought an end to his career.

### 5. AFTERMATH OF FRANCE ATTACK SUSPECT SHOOTOUT CAPTURED ON VIDEO

The footage shows armed French security forces and the body of the man slumped in a doorway.

### 6. CANADA CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO SUPER POWERS

First President Donald Trump attacked Canada on trade and now China has the country in its cross-hairs, detaining two Canadians in apparent retaliation for the arrest of a top Chinese tech executive on behalf of the United States.

### 7. PRIEST TRAVELS U.S. SPREADING GOSPEL ONE GOOD DEED AT A TIME

Three years after the pope appointed Father Jim Sichko to a fleet of Catholic missionaries the Kentucky-based priest has been crisscrossing the United States, spreading the Gospel through acts of kindness.

### 8. PELOSI READY TO BECOME HOUSE SPEAKER

After a dramatic week, Nancy Pelosi is set to reclaim the speaker's gavel and go toe-to-toe with President Donald Trump.

### 9. JAZZ SINGER NANCY WILSON DIES

The Grammy-winning "song stylist" and torch singer whose polished pop-jazz vocals made her a platinum artist and top concert performer, died at age 81 after a long illness.

### 10. CHARGERS CLINCH PLAYOFF SPOT WITH WIN OVER CHIEFS

Philip Rivers had a pair of touchdowns in the final minutes, to give Los Angeles a 29-28 victory over Kansas City.

## Prosecutor: 7 held in Strasbourg shooting investigation

BY SAMUEL PETREQUIN and MSTYSLAV CHERNOV

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — Investigators looking into the Strasbourg attack are trying to establish whether the main suspect was helped by accomplices while on the run, Paris prosecutor Remy Heitz said Friday.

The prosecutor, who handles terror cases throughout France, told a news conference on Friday that seven people are in police custody, including four family members of Cherif Chekatt. The 29-year-old was shot dead on Thursday during a police operation which took place in the Neudorf neighborhood of the city.

"We want to reconstruct the past 48 hours in order to find out whether he got some support," Heitz said.

Chekatt was suspected of killing three people near Strasbourg's Christmas market on Tuesday night. Heitz said that, in addition, "a fourth victim is brain dead. Among the 12 other wounded, there is one person in a life-threatening condition and four who remain hospitalized."

After a two-day manhunt, Heitz said, on Thursday evening three officers patrolling in Neudorf spotted a man corresponding to the suspect's description. He noticed their vehicle and tried unsuccessfully to enter a building. When police officers identified themselves, Chekatt turned around and opened fire.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 19 of 51

"A projectile hit the vehicle above the left rear door, two police officers responded, shooting several times, and killed him," Heitz said.

Investigators found a gun, a knife and ammunition on Chekatt's body.

The immediate aftermath of the shootout between French security forces and the suspect was caught on camera from across the street, with video footage showing armed officers at the scene and the body of the man slumped in a doorway.

More officers arrive at the scene soon after, followed by crime scene investigators.

The Paris prosecutor's office formally identified the man as Chekatt, a Strasbourg-born man with a long history of convictions for various crimes, including robberies. Chekatt also had been on a watch list of potential extremists.

Witnesses said the gunman shouted "God is great!" in Arabic and sprayed gunfire from a security zone near the Christmas market on Tuesday. Security forces wounded the man but he managed to escape in a taxi, which dropped him off in Neudorf.

More than 700 officers searched for Chekatt, government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux told CNews television.

Chekatt was well-known to police, but as a common criminal, not a terrorist. He had his first conviction at 13, and had 26 more by the time he died at age 29. He served jail time in France, Germany and Switzerland.

Petrequin reported from Paris.

## Senate rebukes Trump, Saudi Arabia over Khashoggi, Yemen war

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, LISA MASCARO and MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In back-to-back votes against Saudi Arabia, the Senate delivered an unusual rebuke of President Donald Trump's response to the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi and signaled new skepticism from Capitol Hill toward the longtime Middle East ally.

Although the resolutions are largely symbolic — because it's unclear if they will be considered by the House — passage Thursday showed senators seeking to assert oversight of Trump administration foreign policy and the relationship with Saudi Arabia.

It also marked the collapse of the Trump administration's effort in the Senate to contain fallout from the gruesome killing.

One measure recommended that the U.S. end its assistance to Saudi Arabia for the war in Yemen. The other put the blame for the death of Khashoggi squarely on Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Both had been vigorously opposed by the Trump administration and threatened with a presidential veto. Top brass was on Capitol Hill ahead of voting to prevent further action in the House.

"The current relationship with Saudi Arabia is not working," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who opposed the Yemen resolution but called the crown prince "so toxic, so tainted, so flawed" after the Khashoggi's killing that "you're never going to have a relationship with the United States Senate unless things change."

The bipartisan votes came two months after the Saudi journalist's slaying at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul and after Trump persistently equivocated over who was responsible. U.S. intelligence officials concluded that bin Salman must have at least known of the plot, but Trump has repeatedly praised the kingdom.

Senators made clear where they put the blame. The resolution, passed by unanimous agreement, says the Senate believes the crown prince is "responsible for the murder" and calls for the Saudi Arabian government to "ensure appropriate accountability."

Senators voted 56-41 to recommend that the U.S. stop supporting the war in Yemen, a direct affront to the administration's war powers abilities.

Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who co-sponsored the Yemen resolution with Republican Sen. Mike Lee of Utah, called passage a "historic moment."

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 20 of 51

Lee said Khashoggi's death focused attention "on the fact that we have been led into this civil war in Yemen half a world away" and "we've done so following the lead" of Saudi Arabia.

"What the Khashoggi event did was to demonstrate, hey, maybe this isn't a regime that we should just be following that eagerly into battle," Lee said.

As Senate approval loomed, the administration dispatched Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis to the House to make the case against the resolutions and warn of damage they could do to the U.S.-Saudi relationship. A congressional aide and an administration official said their appearance was aimed at stopping any House action on the resolutions.

Pompeo and Mattis had made a similar entreaty to the Senate late last month. But it was roundly panned by senators angered by the secretaries' refusal to accept a CIA determination that assessed the crown prince had ordered Khashoggi's murder.

CIA Director Gina Haspel briefed House leaders Wednesday on the Khashoggi slaying.

The journalist, 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 for marriage paperwork.

Saudi prosecutors have said a 15-man team sent to Istanbul killed Khashoggi 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.

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 Saudis for plunging oil prices.

But Graham and Sen. Bob Menendez, the top Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, have rejected Trump's economic arguments. They are setting the stage for legislation next year that goes further in halting arms sales and taking other measures.

Menendez says economic concerns do not overpower human rights and the U.S. must send a "global message that killing with impunity" will not be tolerated.

Frustration with the crown prince and the White House prompted several Republicans to support the Yemen resolution. Seven Republicans and all Democrats voted for it. Some already had concerns about the war, which human rights groups say is wreaking havoc on the country and subjecting civilians, many of them children, to deadly disease and indiscriminate bombing.

The resolution condemning Saudi Arabia for Khashoggi's slaying was from Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Corker and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Both Republicans opposed the Yemen resolution and voted against it.

McConnell said senators have grave concerns about Khashoggi's killing, but "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."

But McConnell encouraged passage of the Khashoggi resolution and said it provided "a clear and unambiguous message about how we feel about what happened to this journalist."

The Senate debate came as the United Nations secretary general on Thursday announced that Yemen's warring sides have agreed to a province-wide cease-fire and withdrawal of troops in Hodeida, a contested Red Sea port city. The agreement came during peace talks in Sweden.

The brutal four-year-old civil war pits the internationally recognized Yemeni government, supported by a Saudi-led coalition, against the Iran-backed rebels known as Houthis.

---

Associated Press writer Laurie Kellman contributed to this report.

## EU leaders vow to press on with 'no-deal' Brexit plans

By LORNE COOK and JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union leaders expressed deep doubts Friday that British Prime Minister Theresa May can live up to her side of their Brexit agreement and they vowed to step up preparations for a potentially-catastrophic "no-deal" scenario.

May canceled a Brexit vote in the U.K. Parliament this week after it became clear the assembly would reject the deal she concluded with the EU last month. She travelled to Brussels in hope of wringing some concessions from her European partners that would help assuage doubts about the draft divorce agreement back in London.

But EU leaders rejected any attempt to re-negotiate their agreement, a 585-page legal text settling things like the divorce bill and the rights next year of Europeans living in Britain or Britons living in the EU, plus a document laying out their hopes for future relations, which isn't legally binding. They did publish a short text with "assurances" about how the deal would work.

"Very objectively, the signals that we heard yesterday are not especially reassuring about the capacity in Britain to be able to honor the engagement that was undertaken," Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel told reporters.

Expressing a "gigantic doubt" that May can get the deal through Parliament, Michel said: "we are going to be sure to prepare for all hypotheses, including the hypothesis of a no-deal."

No country has ever left the 28-nation EU — the world's biggest trading bloc — and the rules laying out that process are sketchy. Essentially, Brexit is being made up as the process advances. Court challenges have clarified some of the rules. This week, Europe's top court ruled that Britain can change its mind about leaving should it want to. One thing is clear: Brexit will happen on March 29, although a transition period will help ease Britain out over almost two, and possibly up to four, years.

The prospect of a no-deal has shaken markets and the British pound, and created uncertainty for investors and businesses. Brexit involves Britain leaving around 750 international treaties drawn up over 40 years of membership. One of them is the EU's aviation market. Without a deal, British planes won't be able to land in Europe on March 30. Nor will European planes be able to land in the U.K.

May didn't talk to reporters as she entered EU headquarters early Friday for talks with French President Emmanuel Macron, after shuttling around Europe earlier this week seeking support.

Should she make clear her government's needs from the EU, and her plan to persuade Parliament to adopt the agreement in January, EU leaders could convene against next month.

Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic said that "if there is a need we can always convene."

Plenkovic said the statement EU leaders released overnight "is a solid signal, first of all to the prime minister, but also to the U.K. Parliament."

Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel appealed to British MPs to keep the interests of their citizens in mind.

"For internal political reasons some people try to gamble on the relations between the EU and the U.K. for the future. It's bad. This is the best possible deal," Bettel said. "They should think about the interests of their voters and people in their country."

In Britain, Cabinet Office Minister David Lidington, a senior May ally, insisted Thursday's talks in Brussels had been "a welcome first step," noting that the EU had said it wanted a "speedy U.K. trade deal" after Brexit.

But opponents of the government said the meeting showed that May's deal would never get the support of Parliament.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon tweeted that May "has tried, credit to her for that, but, as expected, the EU is not open to renegotiation. It's time to stop this pretense, bring the vote to Parliament and then, when the deal is rejected, seek to bring majority behind a second EU vote. Anything else now is just wasting time."

AP writers Raf Casert and Angela Charlton in Brussels and Geir Moulson in Berlin contributed.

## Canada caught between 2 powers, feeling alone in the world

BY ROB GILLIES and PAUL WISEMAN, Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — First U.S. President Donald Trump attacked Canada on trade. Then Saudi Arabia punished it for speaking up for human rights. Now China has the country in its cross-hairs, detaining two Canadians in apparent retaliation for the arrest of a top Chinese tech executive on behalf of the United States.

Canada is caught between two super powers and taking the punishment — and its ally to the south has been conspicuously absent in coming to its aid.

"We've never been this alone," historian Robert Bothwell said. "We don't have any serious allies. And I think that's another factor in what the Chinese are doing. ... Our means of retaliation are very few. China is a hostile power."

The two Canadians, Michael Kovrig, a former diplomat in China, and Michael Spavor, an entrepreneur who lived in northeastern China near the North Korean border, were taken into custody Monday on suspicion of "engaging in activities that endanger the national security" of China, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said. Canadian consular officials have had no access to them.

Their detentions ratchet up pressure on Canada, which arrested Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of telecommunications giant Huawei, on Dec. 1 at the request of the United States. The U.S. wants her extradited to face charges that she and her company misled banks about the company's business dealings in Iran. A Canadian judge released Meng on bail Tuesday.

The case has set off a diplomatic furor among the three nations in which Canada has been stuck in the middle.

Until now, Canada had a largely good relationship with China, forged by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's father, late Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who helped establish the one-China formula that enabled many other countries to recognize China in the 1970s. Canada acknowledged there is one government of China and does not officially recognize Taiwan.

China has since become Canada's second-largest trading partner, after the United States. Chinese investment has powered real estate booms in Vancouver and Toronto. And one-third of foreign students in Canada are Chinese. Justin Trudeau has even talked about a possible free-trade agreement with China in a bid to diversify Canada's trade, which relies on the U.S. for 75 percent of its exports.

But the Canadian prime minister has said little since news of this week's arrests became public. Opposition Conservative leader Andrew Scheer said Trudeau isn't being forceful enough with the Chinese.

"This situation demonstrates that Justin Trudeau's naive approach to relations with China isn't working," Scheer said.

It's Canada's second dispute with a major power this year. In June, Trump vowed to make Canada pay after Trudeau said he wouldn't be pushed around in talks to hammer out a new North American trade agreement, an unprecedented attack on America's closest ally. Trump called Trudeau weak and dishonest, words that shocked Canadians.

Then Trump said this week that he might intervene in the Huawei case if it would help clinch a trade agreement with China, upending U.S. efforts to separate the court proceeding from U.S.-China trade talks and contradicting Canadian officials who said the arrest was not political.

Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland took a swipe at Trump, saying it was "quite obvious" any foreign country requesting extradition should ensure "the process is not politicized."

"Normally, Canada can count on the United States to back them up on such an issue," said Laura Dawson, a former economic adviser at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa and director of the Canada Institute at the Wilson Center think tank in Washington. Dawson said it's unusual for Washington to "leave Canada hanging high and dry."

"President Trump has made it clear that old alliances don't matter so much anymore," she said. "He has

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 23 of 51

made no secret of his preference for a go-it-alone approach and his lack of regard for traditional alliances.”

In years past the U.S. might have defended Canada when came it under attack and other countries would know the U.S. had Canada’s back. Not now. In August, the Saudi government expelled Canada’s ambassador to the kingdom and withdrew its own ambassador after Canada’s foreign ministry tweeted support for an arrested Saudi activist. The Saudis also sold Canadian investments and ordered their citizens studying in Canada to leave. No country, including the U.S., spoke out publicly in support of Canada.

And now the stakes are much higher. Canada is one of the few countries in the world unabashedly speaking out in defense of human rights and the international rule of law. And Chinese trade with Canada is increasingly key as Canada looks to boost its exports in Asia as its trade with the U.S. is threatened by Trump’s tariffs on Canadian goods.

“At the beginning of Trump there was this idea that maybe the Chinese would replace the Americans” as Canada’s pre-eminent trade partner “but that’s just nuts,” said historian Bothwell, a University of Toronto professor. “Relations for any smaller country with China are really grave.”

Derek Scissors, a China specialist at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, called China’s actions toward Canada “thuggish.”

“You detain a Canadian because the Canadians can’t do anything. It’s bullying behavior,” he said.

Noting Canada was just following a routine extradition process with the United States, Scissors said America should be saying: “Why are you picking up Canadians? You have a problem with us.”

David Mulrone, a former Canadian ambassador to China, said not only the U.S. but other Western nations should be standing up for Canada.

“It would be nice if publicly and also behind the scenes if countries like the United States, the U.K., Australia and France would put in a word on our behalf and let the Chinese know how damaging this is to their reputation and to the notion that China is a safe place to work and pursue a career,” Mulrone said.

“I think a lot of foreigners in China are looking over their shoulder right now,” he added.

Christopher Sands of the School of Advanced International Studies in Washington said the world took note of how Trump treated Canada during trade negotiations and how the U.S. stayed silent when Saudi Arabia overreacted to Canada’s expression of human rights concerns over treatment of the Saudi dissident.

“In normal times, the U.S. sends a signal, usually discreetly, to allies to cut it out and play nice,” Sands said.

“What makes this worse is that China is lashing out at Canada not for Canada’s initiative, but for Canada’s honoring of a U.S. warrant. The damage done by our silence in terms of alliance relations is truly awful,” he said.

Associated Press writer Rob Gillies reported this story in Toronto and AP writer Paul Wiseman reported from Washington.

## Trump’s search for a new chief of staff has reality TV feel

By CATHERINE LUCEY and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Serious contenders are hiding from view. Celebrity hangers-on are applying via Twitter. Fresh names circulate practically on the hour. And the man in charge is stoking much of the confusion.

President Donald Trump’s hunt for a new chief of staff has taken on the feel of a reality TV show.

No leading name has emerged in the days since Trump’s preferred candidate to replace John Kelly bowed out. But the void has quickly filled with drama. British journalist Piers Morgan suggested he would be a good fit in an op-ed for “The Daily Mail,” while former major league slugger Jose Canseco tweeted his interest to Trump. Speculation has swirled around an array of Trump associates, prompting some to distance themselves from the job.

When former House Speaker Newt Gingrich visited the White House this week, he insisted it was merely to see the Christmas decorations.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 24 of 51

Trump met Thursday with former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie to discuss the job, according to a person familiar with the meeting who was not authorized to discuss it publicly.

The chaotic process is hardly a novelty for the Trump administration, which has struggled with high staff turnover and attracting top talent, but it underscored the tumult of Trump's Washington.

In past administrations, chief of staff was a sought-after job, typically awarded after a careful process. Now, many view the job as a risky proposition, given Trump's propensity for disorder and his resistance to being managed.

For his part, Trump insisted Thursday that the process is moving along.

"We're interviewing people now for chief of staff," he said, adding that the short list is now "five people. Really good ones. Terrific people. Mostly well-known, but terrific people."

Trump himself likes to feed the drama, dropping hints about the number of candidates in the running and bantering with journalists about who wants the job. The erratic search recalled the transition period before Trump took office, when prospective aides and television personalities paraded before a pack of journalists in the lobby of Trump Tower.

Author Chris Whipple, an expert on chiefs of staff, called the search process "sad to watch."

"In his first two years, Trump devalued the position by failing to empower anyone to perform the job, and now he's turned the search for a replacement into a reality show," said Whipple, author of "The Gatekeepers," a book on the subject. "The only thing more broken and dysfunctional than the White House itself seems to be the search for the new White House chief of staff."

The president's hunt for a new chief reverted to square one over the weekend when Nick Ayers, Vice President Mike Pence's chief of staff, took himself out of the running and decided that he would instead leave the White House. The announcement surprised even senior staffers who believed that Ayers' ascension was a done deal.

Trump then turned to a list of other candidates that was said to include Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney and Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., the chairman of the conservative House Freedom Caucus. Other possible options mentioned were U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, though both signaled they were happy in their current roles.

By Wednesday, Meadows was out of the running, with the White House saying Trump thinks he is needed in Congress.

Throughout the week, a number of other names were floated, including former Trump deputy campaign manager David Bossie, acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker, White House communications director Bill Shine and press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders. It was not clear how many of those options were being taken seriously.

The breadth of speculation provided on-camera time for many to discuss the speculation. Bossie called it "humbling" to be considered while acknowledging that he did not know if it was a serious list of names. Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum said on CNN that he would decline the job if offered, though it was never clear he was a serious contender.

Sanders responded Thursday to speculation that Trump's aide and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, could be up for the job, saying that she was "not aware that he's under consideration." But she appeared to leave some wiggle room, adding, "He will be great in any role that the president chooses to put him in."

According to a person familiar with the matter, people have been reaching out to the president to suggest the idea, but Kushner believes that he can serve the president best in his current role. The person spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the internal discussions.

A time frame for a decision remained uncertain, with some speculation about the possibility of two people taking over the responsibilities of the chief of staff. And Trump made clear in an interview with Fox News on Thursday that he was still soliciting advice.

"Well, I want somebody that's strong, but I want somebody that thinks like I do. It's my vision — it is my vision, after all," Trump said. "At the same time, I'm open to ideas."

\_\_\_Lemire reported from Amtrak Train No. 2153. Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Zeke Miller contributed to this report.



## Pelosi's triumph: A reminder why she's set to be speaker

By LISA MASCARO, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — It has been quite a week for Nancy Pelosi.

The televised meeting with President Donald Trump. The deal with restless Democrats to secure their votes to become House speaker. The fashion statement of her burnt-orange winter coat, swooshing out the doors of the White House, going viral in social media memes.

It all showed the staying power of the Democratic leader, who is relentless in her drive to reclaim the gavel and wield it with a strength that is nothing like Washington has seen — at least since the last time she did it.

"We've seen some strong speakers like Pelosi and some weaker speakers," said Matthew Green, a professor of political science at Catholic University who has written a book about House speakers.

"What we've seen this week is another demonstration of how effective Pelosi is, in both her negotiation skills and in her ability to stand up publicly to a president of the opposite party," he said. "The most dangerous place to be in Washington is between Pelosi and an undecided vote. It's like a beeline; she goes right for that person. That's her thing."

Pelosi has said this time as speaker would be different. On the campaign trail this fall, she told The Associated Press she would "enjoy it" more because last time it was all "work." She said she wants to "show the power of the gavel."

But even before winning back the speakership, she is employing its strength. Pelosi used it during Tuesday's Oval Office meeting with Trump, refusing his \$5 billion border wall money; on Republicans during their last days in the majority; and on her fellow Democrats to give her their support.

The public display this week points to the return of one of the more powerful leaders in the history of the House, even if she's now term-limited herself to serving as speaker no more than four years. It's the start of a long final act of the 78-year-old mother of five and grandmother of nine, and she's more comfortable than ever taking her seat at the table.

"Leader Pelosi really demonstrated this week why she is about to become the speaker of the House," said Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., part of the newer generation of House leaders. "She had a great week."

Not everyone on the Democratic side is pleased with the turn of events, and Republicans made clear they are more than eager to accommodate Pelosi's rise, employing the kinds of attacks they have for years used against her. They'll be targeting newly elected Democrats who vote for Pelosi for speaker when the new Congress convenes Jan. 3, especially those who had vowed on the campaign trail to oppose her.

Republican National Committee chairwoman Ronna McDaniel tweeted that "So many Dem House candidates have proven themselves to be hypocrites." She tweeted, "Voters won't forget it."

And some House Democrats, including members who have been waiting for Pelosi to step aside so they could rise in leadership, are grumbling over the deal she cut to impose term limits for top leaders. Democrats will vote on that proposal in the new year, and it could very well fail. Pelosi has promised to abide by the deal regardless of the vote.

"I'm not for term limits," the No. 2 Democrat, Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., told reporters. "Is anybody confused about — I am not for term limits."

But Thursday, the speaker-in-waiting capped off the week-that-was by recapping what had just happened — in case anyone missed the social media memes of Pelosi in that coat, exiting the White House.

Pelosi recalled the moment Tuesday in the Oval Office when Trump, arguing with her and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, finally relented and said he'd be "proud" to shut down the government before Christmas — the "Trump shutdown," as she called it — over the border wall.

"Perhaps he doesn't understand people need their paychecks," she said Thursday.

She all but eye-rolled at his insistence that Mexico would pay for it. "I mean really? Really?"

And although Pelosi hasn't spoken to Trump since that day, she confided that he is in her prayers. "I did tell the president that I pray for him. He said, 'That's news, go tell the press.'" And so she did.

In her deal with a group of rebellious House Democrats, Pelosi agreed to limit herself to four years,

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 26 of 51

securing their votes to become speaker. Pelosi said, "They were saying six months."

Pressed on whether she was making herself a lame-duck leader, she told reporters later: "What, four years? No, I don't think that's a lame duck."

It's an assertiveness coming from the House side of the Capitol that has not been as evident under outgoing Speaker Paul Ryan, who insisted he never really wanted the job, or former Speaker John Boehner, who was sent to early retirement by conservatives in his ranks.

She'll be the first House speaker in 50-plus years to reclaim the gavel after an absence, not since legendary speaker Sam Rayburn returned in 1955. One of the most preferred House office buildings next to the Capitol complex carries his name. As the first female speaker when she first held the office, it goes without saying — no woman has done what Pelosi is about to do.

Pelosi has long been a polarizing figure, but in a lopsided way, more demonized by Republicans than beloved by Democrats.

But that seems to be changing after an election that is bringing nearly 40 new Democrats for the House majority, many of them female candidates voted into office on a wave of energy from female voters. The election came against the backdrop of a #MeToo reckoning of women and men in power.

Pelosi is emerging as a leader not only of Democrats on Capitol Hill but also of Democrats and Democratic women nationally — perhaps not quite at the iconic status of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who has seen movies made about her life and tchotchkes forged in her likeness — but nonetheless, the face of the party, ready to go toe-to-high-heeled toe against Trump.

"Nancy showed her value," said Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Mich. "She was steely, but a lady."

---

Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

---

This story has been corrected to show that Pelosi said, "They were saying six months," not "They wanted six months."

## Florida man executed for fatally stabbing woman in 1992

By TAMARA LUSH, Associated Press

STARKE, Fla. (AP) — A man convicted of the fatal stabbing and beating death of a woman in Miami-Dade County 26 years ago was executed Thursday night in Florida.

Jose Antonio Jimenez, 55, received a lethal injection and was pronounced dead at 9:48 p.m. at Florida State Prison in Starke. He was sentenced to death for the 1992 killing of 63-year-old Phyllis Minas in her North Miami apartment.

The U.S. Supreme Court rejected his last-minute appeal earlier Thursday.

The execution took about 15 minutes to complete and Jimenez had no last words to say. As the three-drug protocol was performed, Jimenez appeared to take numerous rapid, deep breaths and occasionally moved his head.

Minas' nephew, Alan Pattee, said in a written statement that his family believes justice was done.

"Mr. Jimenez has shown no remorse or repentance for his crime. My aunt was innocent and loving, and a faithful sister to my father," the statement said. "His execution will allow closure to a painful memory of the vicious murder Mr. Jimenez was responsible for."

Court records show that on Oct. 2, 1992, Minas found Jimenez in her second-floor apartment. During his trial, neighbors said they heard her screaming, and they tried to enter, but someone inside had locked the door.

Prosecutors at the trial said a fingerprint found on the inside of the apartment's front door matched Jimenez' print. Also, the building's custodian said he saw Jimenez jump from a balcony of Minas' second-floor apartment.

The defense argued that Jimenez didn't stab or kill Minas, and that all of the evidence against him was circumstantial.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 27 of 51

Authorities say Jimenez was a cocaine addict who was burglarizing Minas' apartment when she came home and surprised him. Investigators said Minas, a longtime employee of the Miami-Dade Court Clerk's office, was stabbed eight times

After a weeklong trial, Jimenez was found guilty and subsequently sentenced to death.

After his arrest, Jimenez also was convicted of a prior burglary and second-degree murder in the 1990 death of another woman in Miami Beach.

Over the years, he filed various appeals. In an appeal filed with the U.S. Supreme Court this week, Jimenez and his attorneys said detectives who investigated the case gave "false or, at best, misleading testimony." Also, they said, several key police reports were lost.

Additionally, his attorneys filed a motion asking the court to issue a stay of execution and consider whether Florida's lethal injection protocol is cruel and unusual punishment and violates the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The lawyers pointed to the February execution of Eric Branch using the same drugs in which experts later concluded he felt significant pain, including screaming out the word "murderers!" several times as he thrashed about on the gurney.

The justices denied Jimenez's appeals and request for a stay of execution Thursday night.

In July, Gov. Rick Scott signed Jimenez's death warrant and scheduled the execution for August.

But the Florida Supreme Court issued a stay to consider a number of Jimenez's claims, including that he was denied access to public records, that the Florida drug protocol can cause him harm and that it was cruel for him to be executed after 23 years on death row. In October, the court denied all those claims and lifted the stay.

According to corrections officials, there have been 28 executions since Scott took office in 2011.

That's the most of any Florida governor since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976.

---

Associated Press writer Curt Anderson in Miami contributed to this story.

## 7-year-old immigrant girl dies after Border Patrol arrest

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP) — A 7-year-old girl who crossed the U.S.-Mexico border with her father last week died after being taken into the custody of the U.S. Border Patrol, federal immigration authorities confirmed Thursday.

The Washington Post reports the girl died of dehydration and shock more than eight hours after she was arrested by agents near Lordsburg, New Mexico. The girl was from Guatemala and was traveling with a group of 163 people who approached agents to turn themselves in on Dec. 6.

It's unknown what happened to the girl during the eight hours before she started having seizures and was flown to an El Paso hospital.

In a statement, Customs and Border Protection said the girl had not eaten or consumed water in several days.

The agency did not provide The Associated Press with the statement it gave to the Post, despite repeated requests.

Processing 163 immigrants in one night could have posed challenges for the agency, whose detention facilities are meant to be temporary and don't usually fit that many people.

When a Border Patrol agent arrests someone, that person gets processed at a facility but usually spends no more than 72 hours in custody before they are either transferred to Immigration and Customs Enforcement or, if they're Mexican, quickly deported home.

The girl's death raises questions about whether border agents knew she was ill and whether she was fed anything or given anything to drink during the eight-plus hours she was in custody.

Immigrants, attorneys and activists have long raised issues with the conditions of Border Patrol holding cells. In Tucson, an ongoing lawsuit claims holding cells are filthy, extremely cold and lacking basic necessities such as blankets. A judge overseeing that lawsuit has ordered the agency's Tucson Sector, which

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 28 of 51

patrols much of the Arizona-Mexico border, to provide blankets and mats to sleep on and to continually turn over surveillance footage from inside the cells.

The Border Patrol has seen an increasing trend of large groups of immigrants, many with young children, walking up to agents and turning themselves in. Most are Central American and say they are fleeing violence. They turn themselves in instead of trying to circumvent authorities, many with plans to apply for asylum.

Agents in Arizona see groups of over 100 people on a regular basis, sometimes including infants and toddlers.

Arresting such groups poses logistical problems for agents who have to wait on transport vans that are equipped with baby seats to take them to processing facilities, some which are at least half hour north of the border.

The death of the 7-year-old comes after a toddler died in May just after being released from an ICE family detention facility in Texas, and as the administration of Donald Trump attempts to ban people from asking for asylum if they crossed the border illegally. A federal appeals court has temporarily blocked that ban, but the administration asked the U.S. Supreme Court to reinstate it Tuesday.

Cynthia Pompa, advocacy manager for the ACLU Border Rights Center, said migrant deaths increased last year even as the number of border crossing dropped.

"This tragedy represents the worst possible outcome when people, including children, are held in inhumane conditions. Lack of accountability, and a culture of cruelty within CBP have exacerbated policies that lead to migrant deaths," Pompa said.

## Janet Jackson, Def Leppard, Nicks join Rock Hall of Fame

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Janet Jackson joins her brother Michael and the Jackson 5 as members of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, earning induction on Thursday along with Stevie Nicks and the top fan vote-getter, Def Leppard.

Radiohead, the Cure, Roxy Music and the Zombies will also be ushered in next spring at the 34th induction ceremony. It will be held March 29 at Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

Jackson's induction comes after her third time as nominee and many saw it as overdue, given her prowess as a hitmaker with "All For You," "That's the Way Love Goes," "Nasty," "Together Again" and "What Have You Done For Me Lately."

Her career suffered from the fallout after the infamous 2004 Super Bowl appearance where her bare breast was briefly exposed by Justin Timberlake; both said it was a mistake.

But she's had a resurgence of late including an acclaimed tour, headlining festival stints, multiple lifetime achievement honors and a No. 1 album on the main Billboard chart.

Jackson became eligible for the rock hall in 2007 and wasn't nominated until 2016.

The Roots' Questlove, in a social media post earlier this year, said her exclusion had been "highly criminal." He cited the influence of her 1986 album "Control," which he said set off the New Jack Swing trend.

"This was no one's kid sister," he wrote.

Jackson said on Thursday: "Thank you Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. I am truly honored and I am happy to be in there with my brothers."

It will be Nicks' second induction into the rock hall, since she's already there as a member of Fleetwood Mac. She launched a solo career in 1981 with her duet with the late Tom Petty, "Stop Draggin' My Heart Around." Other hits followed, including "Edge of Seventeen," "Stand Back" and "I Will Run to You."

Def Leppard earned more than half a million votes from fans, which are incorporated into more than 1,000 ballots from artists, historians, industry professionals and past winners in deciding who gets honored. The British heavy metal band with a pop sheen were huge sellers in the 1980s on the back of songs like "Photograph" and "Pour Some Sugar on Me."

Frontman Joe Elliott said he was initially ambivalent toward the honor until Jon Bon Jovi suggested it would change his life.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 29 of 51

"When I look at the list of who's in, it's just obvious you'd want to be in that club, isn't it?" he told Billboard earlier this year. "When you think that every band that means anything in the world, starting from the Beatles and the Stones and any artist that influenced them — your Chuck Berrys, your Little Richards, etc., etc. — then of course you want to be in. Why wouldn't you?"

Def Leppard, Nicks and Roxy Music were voted in during their first years as nominees. Other 2019 nominees who didn't make the cut included LL Cool J, Devo, Rage Against the Machine, MC5, John Prine, Todd Rundgren and Kraftwerk.

There's some question about whether Radiohead will shrug its collective shoulder as an inductees. The English band seemed like generic grunge rockers on their initial hit "Creep," but with the album "OK Computer" and beyond have become consistent sonic pioneers. Among its rock hall class, Radiohead has the most impact on the current music scene.

In an interview with Rolling Stone earlier this year, Radiohead's Jonny Greenwood said "I don't care" when asked about the rock hall. Bandmate Ed O'Brien said, "culturally, I don't understand it. I think it might be a quintessentially American thing."

The Cure and frontman Robert Smith resist their initial label as goth rockers, champions of fans who like black makeup, black clothes and darkly romantic songs. They have a durable catalog of hits, including "Friday I'm in Love," "Boys Don't Cry," "Pictures of You" and "Let's Go to Bed."

Roxy Music came out of the 1970s progressive rock scene and had hits with "Love is the Drug" and "More Than This." Dapper member Bryan Ferry had a successful solo career and Brian Eno has been an influential producer.

The heyday of British rockers the Zombies' career was the 1960s, with big sellers "She's Not There" and "Time of the Season."

The hall will announce ticket sales for March's ceremony next month. HBO and SiriusXM will carry the event.

Online: <https://www.rockhall.com>

## Arizona journalism saga has poisoning claim, nasty divorce

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,

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 30 of 51

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.

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.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 31 of 51

## Virgin Galactic tourism rocket ship reaches space in test

By JOHN ANTCZAK, Associated Press

MOJAVE, Calif. (AP) — Virgin Galactic's tourism spaceship climbed more than 50 miles high above California's Mojave Desert on Thursday, reaching for the first time what the company considers the boundary of space.

The rocket ship hit an altitude of 51 miles (82 kilometers) before beginning its gliding descent, said mission official Enrico Palermo. It landed on a runway minutes later.

"We made it to space!" Palermo exclaimed.

The supersonic flight takes Virgin Galactic closer to turning the long-delayed dream of commercial space tourism into reality. The company aims to take paying customers on the six-passenger rocket, which is about the size of an executive jet.

Virgin Galactic founder Richard Branson said there will be more test flights and if all goes well he will take a ride before the public gets its chance.

"I believe that sometime in the second half of next year that we will start being able to put regular people up into space," he said, describing Thursday as one of the best days of his life.

Virgin Galactic considers 50 miles (80 kilometers) the boundary of space because that is the distance used by the U.S. Air Force and other U.S. agencies. That's different from a long-held view that the boundary is at 62 miles (100 kilometers). Virgin Galactic CEO George Whitesides noted that recent research favors the lower altitude.

Whitesides said a review of the data from the test flight will last into the new year.

"This is a huge step forward and once we look at the data we'll see what that pathway is," he said.

At the start of the test flight, a special jet carrying the Virgin Space Ship Unity flew to an altitude near 43,000 feet (13,100 meters) before releasing the craft. The spaceship ignited its rocket engine and it quickly hurtled upward and out of sight of viewers on the ground. The spaceship reached Mach 2.9, nearly three times the speed of sound.

The two test pilots — Mark "Forger" Stucky and former NASA astronaut Rick "CJ" Sturckow — will be awarded commercial astronaut wings, Federal Aviation Administration official Bailey Edwards said.

"It was a great flight and I can't wait to do it again," said Sturckow, who flew on the space shuttle four times.

Virgin Galactic's development of its spaceship took far longer than expected and endured a setback when the first experimental craft broke apart during a 2014 test flight, killing the co-pilot.

"People have literally put their lives on the line to get us here," Branson said. "This day is as much for them as it is for all of us."

More than 600 people have committed up to \$250,000 for rides that include several minutes of weightlessness and a view of the Earth far below. The spaceship will also be used for research: NASA had science experiments on the test flight.

The endeavor began in 2004 when Branson announced the founding of Virgin Galactic in the heady days after the flights of SpaceShipOne, the first privately financed manned spacecraft that made three flights into space.

Funded by the late billionaire Paul G. Allen and created by maverick aerospace designer Burt Rutan, SpaceShipOne won the \$10 million Ansari X Prize. The prize was created to kick-start private development of rocket ships that would make spaceflight available to the public.

When Branson licensed the SpaceShipOne technology, he envisioned a fleet carrying paying passengers by 2007, launching them from a facility in southern New Mexico called Spaceport America.

But there were significant setbacks. Three technicians were killed in 2007 by an explosion while testing a propellant system at Scaled Composites LLC, which built SpaceShipOne and was building the first SpaceShipTwo for Virgin Galactic.

Then, in 2014, SpaceShipTwo broke apart during a test flight by Scaled Composites when the co-pilot prematurely unlocked its unique "feathering" braking system and it began to deploy. The co-pilot was

killed but the injured pilot managed to survive a fall from high altitude with a parachute.

During descent, the craft's twin tails are designed to rotate upward to slow it down then return to a normal flying configuration before the craft glides to a landing on a runway.

New versions of SpaceShipTwo are built by a Virgin Galactic sister company and flight testing is now in-house. Its previous test flight reached 32 miles (52 kilometers).

Branson isn't alone in the space tourism business: Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin is planning to take space tourists on trips, using the more traditional method of a capsule atop a rocket that blasts off from a launch pad. SpaceX's Elon Musk recently announced plans to take a wealthy Japanese entrepreneur and his friends on a trip around the moon.

## EU leaders wary of May's plea for help selling Brexit deal

By JILL LAWLESS and RAF CASERT, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May implored European Union leaders Thursday to help her sell the Brexit divorce deal at home, only to be told that her proposals are not clear enough for the bloc to offer a helping hand now.

Instead, the EU said it would plow ahead with plans for a cliff-edge "no-deal" Brexit on March 29, with a raft of contingency measures to be presented next week.

May came to an EU summit in Brussels seeking support after a week that saw her Brexit deal pilloried in Parliament and her job threatened by lawmakers from her own party. She pleaded with the 27 other EU leaders to "hold nothing in reserve" in helping her sell the Brexit deal to hostile British lawmakers.

"There is a majority in my Parliament who want to leave with a deal, so with the right assurances this deal can be passed," May said, warning her EU counterparts that failure could mean Britain crashing out of the bloc without a deal, "with all the disruption that would bring."

EU officials, however, seemed exasperated at the lack of concrete new ideas from Britain. A proposal for encouraging wording offering to give the U.K. further assurances was left out of the leaders' final summit conclusions on Brexit.

"I do find it uncomfortable that there is an impression perhaps in the U.K. that it is for the EU to propose solutions," European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said at a news conference early Friday. "It is the UK leaving the EU. And I would have thought it was rather more up to the British government to tell us exactly what they want."

He said the British must "set out their expectations" within weeks if they want to make progress and avoid tumbling out of the EU without a deal.

May had earlier acknowledged that major progress was unlikely at the two-day summit, even as she tried to get tweaks to the withdrawal package that she could use to win over opponents — particularly pro-Brexit lawmakers whose loathing of the deal triggered a challenge to her leadership this week.

"I don't expect an immediate breakthrough, but what I do hope is that we can start work as quickly as possible on the assurances that are necessary," May said.

Her week from hell began Monday, when she scrapped a planned vote in Parliament on her Brexit divorce deal at the last minute to avoid a heavy defeat.

Anger at the move helped trigger a no-confidence vote among May's own Conservative lawmakers Wednesday. May won, but more than a third of her party's lawmakers voted against her in a sign of the unpopularity of her Brexit plan. To secure victory, she promised she would step down as Conservative leader before Britain's next national election, which is scheduled for 2022.

The 27 other EU nations are adamant there can be no substantive changes to the legally binding agreement on Britain's withdrawal from the bloc and declared that the deal was "not open for renegotiation."

"It is important to avoid any ambiguity," said French President Emmanuel Macron. "We can't renegotiate something which has been negotiated over several months."

The Brexit deal has many critics but one intractable issue — a legal guarantee designed to prevent physical border controls from being imposed between Northern Ireland, which is part of the U.K., and the



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 33 of 51

Republic of Ireland, a member of the EU. Northern Ireland's 1998 peace accord depends on having an open, invisible border with Ireland.

A Brexit 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, inferior alternative to staying in the bloc.

May told EU leaders that to win U.K. backing for the deal, "we have to change the perception that the backstop could be a trap from which the U.K. could not escape."

But while Britain would like a guarantee that the backstop will be temporary, the EU insists there can be no fixed end date.

"If the backstop has an expiry date, if there is a unilateral exit clause, then it is not a backstop," said Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar. "That would be to render it inoperable."

The leaders gave May a few crumbs of comfort in their summit conclusions. As a sign of goodwill, the EU said preparations for trade relationships would start as soon as possible after British and EU legislatures approved the deal.

They promised to work for speedy new trade deal with Britain to avoid triggering the backstop, and underscored that the measure was intended to be temporary, saying it "would only be in place for as long as strictly necessary."

But May remains a weakened leader atop a government and a Parliament whose members are deeply and damagingly divided over Brexit.

Juncker said it sometimes was tough to fathom his own state of mind but added: "It is even harder to understand the state of mind of the British MPs. "

---

Associated Press writers Danica Kirka in London, Geir Moulson in Berlin and Lorne Cook in Brussels contributed to this report.

---

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

## **Authorities: Wave of hoax bomb threats made across US**

**By MICHAEL R. SISAK, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — A wave of bomb threats emailed Thursday to hundreds of schools, businesses and government buildings across the U.S. triggered searches, evacuations and fear — but there were no signs of explosives, and authorities said the scare appeared to be a crude extortion attempt.

Law enforcement agencies across the country dismissed the threats, saying they were meant to cause disruption and compel recipients into sending money and were not considered credible.

Some of the emails had the subject line: "Think Twice." They were sent from a spoofed email address. The sender claimed to have had an associate plant a small bomb in the recipient's building and that the only way to stop him from setting it off was by making an online payment of \$20,000 in Bitcoin.

"We are currently monitoring multiple bomb threats that have been sent electronically to various locations throughout the city," the New York City Police Department's counterterrorism unit tweeted. "These threats are also being reported to other locations nationwide & are NOT considered credible at this time."

Other law enforcement agencies also dismissed the threats, which were written in a choppy style reminiscent of the Nigerian prince email scam.

The Palm Beach County, Florida, sheriff's office and the Boise, Idaho, police said they had no reason to believe that threats made to locations in those areas were credible. One of the emails wound up in a spam filter, Boise Police Chief William Bones said.

The FBI said it is assisting law enforcement agencies that are dealing with the threats.

"As always, we encourage the public to remain vigilant and to promptly report suspicious activities which

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 34 of 51

could represent a threat to public safety," the FBI said in a statement.

Thursday's scare came less than two months after prominent Democratic officials and CNN's Manhattan offices were targeted with package bombs. The suspect in that case, Cesar Sayoc, is in jail while awaiting trial.

In 2015, an emailed bomb threat prompted different reactions from the nation's two largest public school systems. The Los Angeles school system closed down under threat of a mass attack, but New York City officials quickly saw it as a hoax.

In the wake of Thursday's emails, some schools across the country closed early and others were evacuated or placed on lockdown. Authorities said a threat emailed to a school in Troy, Missouri, about 55 miles (88 kilometers) northeast of St. Louis, was sent from Russia.

The bomb threats also prompted evacuations at city hall in Aurora, Illinois, the offices of the News & Observer in Raleigh, North Carolina, a suburban Atlanta courthouse and businesses in Detroit.

"Organizations nationwide, both public and private, have reported receiving emailed bomb threats today," Michigan State Police spokeswoman Shannon Banner said. "They are not targeted toward any one specific sector."

Penn State University notified students via a text alert about threats to a half-dozen buildings and an airport on its main campus in State College, Pennsylvania. In an update, the school said the threat appeared to be part of a "national hoax."

Officials at Columbine High School in Colorado were dealing Thursday with a bomb threat of a different sort. Students were being kept inside for the rest of the school day after someone called in a bomb threat against the school.

The Jefferson County, Colorado, Sheriff's Office said the caller claimed to have placed explosive devices in the school and to be hiding outside with a gun.

Sheriff's spokesman Mike Taplin said nothing was found at Columbine, where 12 students and a teacher were killed by two students in 1999.

Two dozen other Colorado schools were also temporarily placed on lockout, meaning their doors were locked but classes continued normally, as the threat was investigated.

---

Associated Press writers contributing to this report include: Colleen Slevin in Denver, Rebecca Boone in Boise, Idaho, Kate Brumback in Atlanta, Saman Creel and Don Babwin in Chicago, Margaret Stafford in Kansas City, Missouri, Mark Scolforo in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Skip Foreman in Charlotte, North Carolina, David Fischer in Miami, Michael Balsamo and Eric Tucker in Washington.

---

Follow Sisak at [twitter.com/mikesisak](https://twitter.com/mikesisak)

## UN climate talks inch forward, appear headed for overtime

By FRANK JORDANS, Associated Press

KATOWICE, Poland (AP) — Agreement on the fine print of the Paris climate accord drew closer Thursday, three years after countries sealed the landmark deal on curbing global warming, but negotiators remained divided on some of the thorniest issues and appeared set for overtime.

The Polish diplomat chairing U.N. climate talks in the country's southern city of Katowice issued a series of fresh drafts as the two-week meeting neared its scheduled end on Friday.

Diplomats and ministers had huddled behind closed doors, some through the night, weighing every word of the texts covering issues such as how countries will count both their greenhouse gas emissions and their efforts to reduce them.

Along with the Paris accord rulebook, the other main issues at the talks are how much financial support poor countries will get to combat and adapt to climate change, and what kind of message to send about future work to curb climate change.

Last week, the United States, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait blocked the endorsement of a scientific

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 35 of 51

report on a key element of the Paris climate agreement: capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), if possible. That angered other countries and environmentalists, who accused the four oil-exporting nations of stalling progress toward the accord's most ambitious emissions-cutting target.

Mohamed Adow, a climate expert at Christian Aid, said the discussions on financial support seemed to be moving in the right direction, though the overall outcome of the talks was uncertain.

Developing countries have been promised billions of dollars in aid, loans and other financial support to help them reduce their emissions and adapt to inevitable changes in the world's climate.

But the latest drafts offer little comfort to those countries that also want rich industrial nations to pay for damage already caused by global warming, arguing that they're to blame for most of the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases humans have pumped into the atmosphere.

"Real action requires real money for real solutions," said Adow. "The European Union needs to separate itself from the laggards like Australia, Japan and the United States."

While U.S. President Donald Trump has announced he's pulling out of the Paris accord, American officials dangled the possibility that the U.S. might consider rejoining if it gets more favorable terms.

But China, a key broker of the 2015 Paris accord, dismissed the idea of revising core parts of the pact.

"China and the U.S. have worked together with all other countries to complete the negotiation and thus make the Paris Agreement a milestone achievement in global climate governance," Beijing's chief negotiator, Xie Zhenhua, told reporters. "We will not reopen negotiations on issues where we have already reached agreement."

Xie also pushed back on demands from rich nations for China — the world's largest polluter — to accept the accounting and reporting rules that developed countries must follow, but indicated it might decide to adopt uniform standards further down the line.

He noted that while China is the largest single emitter of polluting gases, its gross domestic product per capita remains below the world average.

The drafts presented late Thursday by Poland's deputy environment minister, Michal Kurtyka, were still likely to face opposition when talks resume in the morning.

One issue certain to draw fire concerned how to reconcile a vestige of the 1992 Kyoto Protocol with efforts to establish a functioning international market in carbon credits, with Brazil and India among those that have been fiercely resisting proposed changes.

Some observers predicted the talks would likely continue into Saturday in an effort to secure a deal this year and maintain confidence in the multi-step global process.

"It was determined in Paris this was the deadline for agreeing on the implementation rules," said Alden Meyer of the Union of Concerned Scientists. "If it slips because countries can't agree or there's major splits among countries, I think that undermines confidence that this process is going to move forward in the way that it needs to."

Others questioned whether the elaborate annual summit, now being staged for the 24th time with over 30,000 participants, is still the best way to fight climate change.

"There is a view among many of us that this is failing," said former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed.

---

Associated Press reporter Monika Scislowaska contributed to this report.

---

Read more stories on climate issues by The Associated Press at <https://www.apnews.com/Climate>

## As probe closes in, Trump distances himself from Cohen

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Abandoned by two of his most powerful protectors, President Donald Trump insisted Thursday that he did not violate campaign finance laws and that the liability for hush-money payments to two women alleging affairs with him rests with his former fixer, Michael Cohen.

Both Cohen and American Media Inc., the company that owns the National Enquirer tabloid, now say

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 36 of 51

they made hush-money payments to a porn actress and a Playboy Playmate for the purpose of helping Trump's 2016 White House bid, a campaign finance violation. Trump, in recent months, has gone from denying knowledge of any payments to saying they would have been private transactions that weren't illegal. He offered yet another explanation Thursday.

"I never directed him to do anything wrong," Trump said of Cohen in an interview with Fox News. "Whatever he did, he did on his own."

Federal prosecutors say the payments were made at Trump's direction. The president, reiterating his claim that he is victim of an overzealous investigation, also argued that any payments were unrelated to his presidential campaign and thus not a violation of federal law.

"Nobody except for me would be looked at like this," Trump said.

Trump tweeted earlier Thursday that Cohen pleaded guilty to campaign finance charges "in order to embarrass the president and get a much reduced prison sentence." The president claimed the charges were "unrelated to me."

"In retrospect, I made a mistake" in hiring Cohen, Trump told Fox News. "I hire usually good people."

Although 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 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 (10,700 meters) over West Virginia.

Returning to Washington on Air Force One on April 6, Trump for the first time answered questions about the reports of \$130,000 in hush-money paid to porn actress 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 and potential coordination with the Trump campaign. 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 that those agreements are "very common among celebrities and people of wealth" and that "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

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 37 of 51

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 when the actions aren't willful and 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.

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 proved 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.

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

## Boy Scouts' money struggles: Is bankruptcy an option?

By DAVID CRARY, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Boy Scouts of America deflected questions about a report suggesting it is considering seeking bankruptcy protection, though the head of the organization said it is exploring "all options" as it tries to stay afloat while facing sexual abuse lawsuits and dwindling membership.

"I want to assure you that our daily mission will continue and that there are no imminent actions or immediate decisions expected," Chief Scout Executive Mike Surbaugh said in a statement issued Wednesday evening.

Surbaugh was responding to a Wall Street Journal report that the BSA, founded in 1910, had hired a law firm to assist in a possible Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing. He described the report as "news speculation," but he acknowledged that the group is "working with experts to explore all options available" as well as the pressures arising from multiple lawsuits related to past instances of sexual abuse.

"We have a social and moral responsibility to fairly compensate victims who suffered abuse during their time in Scouting, and we also have an obligation to carry out our mission to serve youth, families and local communities through our programs," Surbaugh said.

Other institutions facing multifaceted sexual abuse scandals have sought bankruptcy protection recently.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 38 of 51

USA Gymnastics took the step last week as it attempts to settle dozens of lawsuits related to abuse by now-imprisoned gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar. About 20 Roman Catholic dioceses and other religious orders around the U.S. have previously filed for bankruptcy protection as a result of clergy sexual abuse claims.

Surbaugh apologized on behalf of the BSA to those abused during their time in the Boy Scouts.

"We have always taken care of victims — we believe them, we believe in fairly compensating them and we have paid for unlimited counseling, by a provider of their choice, regardless of the amount of time that has passed since an instance of abuse," he said. "Throughout our history we have taken proactive steps to help victims heal and prevent future abuse."

In addition to abuse-related litigation, the Boy Scouts have been trying to reverse a decline in membership. The organizations' current youth participation is about 2.3 million, down from 2.6 million in 2013 and more than 4 million in peak years of the past.

In a major step toward revitalization, the BSA is moving to open all its programs to girls, but even that has caused problems.

Last month, the Girl Scouts of the USA filed a trademark infringement lawsuit against the BSA for dropping the word "boy" from its flagship program in an effort to attract girls.

That suit was in response to the BSA's decision to rename its program for 11- to 17-year-olds; it will be called Scouts BSA rather than the Boy Scouts, though the parent organization will remain the Boy Scouts of America.

Paul Mones, a Los Angeles-based lawyer who has handled many sex-abuse lawsuits targeting the BSA, said the organization has assets of more than \$1 billion, but has been under increasing pressure from litigation as public awareness of sexual abuse intensifies.

Mones was co-counsel in a 2010 sexual abuse case in Portland, Oregon, that led to a nearly \$20 million judgment against the BSA on behalf of a man molested by a Scout leader in the 1980s. As a result of that case, the Oregon Supreme Court ordered the BSA to release previously confidential files on suspected abusers.

Follow David Crary on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CraryAP>

## Lost girls of Indonesia among 61k dead and missing migrants

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.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 39 of 51

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 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.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 40 of 51

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 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 re-



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 41 of 51

cruiter 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 cataloging 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."

---

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 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.

---

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 42 of 51

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.

## Apple to build new Austin hub, expand in other tech hotbeds

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, MATT O'BRIEN and WILL WEISSERT, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Apple plans to build a \$1 billion campus in Austin, Texas, that will create at least 5,000 jobs ranging from engineers to call-center agents while adding more luster to a Southwestern city that has already become a bustling tech hub.

The decision, announced Thursday, comes 11 months after Apple CEO Tim Cook disclosed plans to open a major office outside California on the heels of a massive tax cut on overseas profits, which prompted the company to bring about \$250 billion back to the U.S.

The company said it will also open offices in Seattle, San Diego and Culver City, California, each employing at least 1,000 workers over the next three years. Apple also pledged to add hundreds of jobs each in New York; Pittsburgh; Boston; Boulder, Colorado; and Portland, Oregon.

"They are just picking America's most established superstar cities and tech hubs," said Richard Florida, an urban development expert at the University of Toronto.

Apple's scattershot expansion reflects the increasing competition for engineers in Silicon Valley, which has long been the world's high-tech capital. The bidding for programmers is driving salaries higher, which in turn is catapulting the average prices of homes in many parts of the San Francisco Bay Area above \$1 million. Many high-tech workers are thus choosing to live elsewhere, causing major tech employers such as Apple, Amazon and Google to look in new places for the employees they need to pursue their future ambitions.

"Talent, creativity and tomorrow's breakthrough ideas aren't limited by region or ZIP code," Cook said in a statement.

Cities around the country offered financial incentives in an attempt to land Apple's new campus, but Cook avoided a high-profile competition that pitted them against one another, as Amazon had before deciding to build huge new offices in New York and Virginia.

Amazon could receive up to \$2.8 billion in incentives in New York, depending on how many it ultimately hires there, and up to \$750 million in Virginia. Apple will receive up to \$25 million from a jobs-creation fund in Texas in addition to property-tax rebates, which still need approval. The figure is expected to be a small fraction of what Amazon received.

The government incentives offered to Apple seem "more in the line of normal business site selection" compared with Amazon's public "shakedown," said Mark Muro, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Center.

"There's a growing backlash in the country against the entire process of subsidies and relocation inducements," Muro said. "That said, the Apple numbers for a very significant increase in jobs are much less eye-popping than the Amazon numbers."

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 43 of 51

The spots where Amazon and Apple decided to expand were obvious choices, based on an analysis released earlier this year by CBRE Research. Washington, D.C., ranked as the third best place in North America for tech talent, behind Silicon Valley and Seattle. New York ranked fifth and Austin sixth. No. 4 was outside the U.S.: Toronto.

The new Austin campus, with about 3 million square feet (nearly 280,000 square meters) of office space, will be about a mile from another large office that Apple opened five years ago. Apple currently employs about 6,200 workers in Austin, making it the company's largest hub outside Silicon Valley even before the expansion.

The new jobs are expected to mirror the same mix Apple already has at its Cupertino, California, headquarters, ranging from jobs in technology and research that pay well over \$100,000 to lower-paying positions in customer call centers. Austin Chamber of Commerce Board Chairman Phil Wilson described jobs that Apple will be adding as "mid-skill" and "good-paying."

Virtually all of the jobs in Seattle and San Diego will be in technology — a field where six-figure paychecks plus stock options are standard. The jobs in Culver City, about eight miles from Hollywood, will also be in digital music and video, two areas Apple is expanding in to boost its subscription entertainment offerings.

While much of the \$250 billion overseas profits has been earmarked for buying back company stock and paying higher shareholder dividends, Apple pledged in January to finance more than \$30 billion in capital expenditures in the U.S. over the next five years. It also committed to creating more than 20,000 more U.S. jobs during that same time frame. After adding 6,000 jobs, Apple said it now has 90,000 U.S. workers and is on track to fulfill its expansion pledge on schedule.

Where U.S. companies open new facilities or plants has had the potential for public and political backlash. That potential intensified under the Trump administration, which has pushed companies to keep more of their operations in the U.S.

While Cook has steered mostly clear of President Donald Trump's ire, Apple received some pushback three months ago. Apple sent a letter to the U.S. trade representative warning that the burgeoning trade war with China and rising tariffs could force higher prices for U.S. consumers. Trump in a tweet told Apple to start making its products in the U.S., and not China. Apple uses plants in China and elsewhere to produce components and assemble its products.

Cities have been eager to bring in more tech employers because their hires often make six-figure salaries. That can ripple through the economy, with new employees filling restaurants and theaters, buying property and paying taxes.

But an influx of affluent tech workers can also drive up rent and home prices, making it more difficult for those in lower-paying jobs to make ends meet.

"When tech companies invest in a place and try to hire thousands of workers, it is of course good news for tech workers who are already there and want to be there," said Jed Kolko, chief economist for employment website Indeed.com. "But it can put a strain on the housing market and transportation."

Austin might not feel the stress as much as some other places, Kolko said, because it already has been building more housing in anticipation of more tech employment.

Austin's tech industries accounted for nearly 140,000 local jobs, or 14 percent of Austin's total employment, about twice the national average, according to the city's chamber of commerce.

Apple opened its first office in Austin a quarter century ago, and Dell's headquarters are in nearby Round Rock. Google, Facebook and IBM are among the other notable tech companies with satellite offices in Austin.

Austin landed another coup in July when the U.S. Army announced plans for a "Futures Command" center to train soldiers and develop technology to combat threats from places like China and Russia.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott hailed Apple's new campus as a milestone development that "truly elevates Austin as one of the premier technology hubs in the entire world."

---

This story has been corrected to reflect that Apple's new campus is expected to span 3 million square feet instead of 5,000 square feet and correct the spelling of the first name of Indeed's chief economist to

Jed instead of Jeb as stated in an earlier version.

Liedtke reported from San Ramon, California, and O'Brien reported from Providence, Rhode Island.

## Trump statements evolve from denial to 'I did nothing wrong'

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has offered shifting explanations about hush payments made by his former attorney Michael Cohen to two women who alleged they had affairs with the future president. First, he denied knowing about them. Later, he called them a perfectly legal "private transaction."

Cohen, who this week was sentenced to three years in prison, says he made the payments to help Trump's 2016 White House bid, a campaign finance violation. Federal prosecutors say the payments were made at Trump's direction.

A look at some of Trump's statements:

April 6

Trump issues a blanket denial that he knew anything about payments to adult film star Stormy Daniels, telling reporters they should "ask Michael Cohen."

April 9

After a FBI raid on Cohen's office and hotel room, Trump calls the action a "disgrace." He says the FBI "broke into" his lawyer's office and tweets that "Attorney-client privilege is dead!"

April 26

Trump acknowledges in a "Fox & Friends" interview that Cohen represented him in the "crazy Stormy Daniels deal."

May 3

Trump acknowledges the Daniels payment for the first time, tweeting: "Mr. Cohen, an attorney, received a monthly retainer, not from the campaign and having nothing to do with the campaign, from which he entered into, through reimbursement, a private contract between two parties, known as a non-disclosure agreement, or NDA."

Trump says the agreements are "very common among celebrities and people of wealth," and "this was a private agreement."

July 25

A recording surfaces of Cohen and Trump allegedly discussing a payment to Playboy Playmate Karen McDougal. Trump suggests, without evidence, that the tape may have been doctored, tweeting: "What kind of a lawyer would tape a client? So sad! Is this a first, never heard of it before? Why was the tape so abruptly terminated (cut) while I was presumably saying positive things? I hear there are other clients and many reporters that are taped - can this be so? Too bad!"

Aug. 22

Cohen pleads guilty to campaign finance violations and other charges, saying he and Trump arranged the payments of hush money to Daniels and McDougal to influence the election. That next day, Trump argues that making the payments wasn't a crime and that the matter was a civil dispute, then takes a swipe at his former employee. He tweets: "If anyone is looking for a good lawyer, I would strongly suggest that you don't retain the services of Michael Cohen!"

Dec. 10

Trump compares his situation to one involving President Barack Obama's 2008 campaign and the Federal Election Commission, which typically handles smaller campaign finance violations, where the actions aren't willful, with civil penalties that are typically fines. The agency docked the Obama campaign \$375,000 for regulatory civil violations stemming 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.

The accusations against Trump, legal analysts say, 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

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 45 of 51

Trump himself committed a crime.

Dec. 13

A day after Cohen's sentencing, Trump declares on Twitter: "I never directed Michael Cohen to break the law" and argues that "many campaign finance lawyers have strongly stated that I did nothing wrong with respect to campaign finance laws, if they even apply, because this was not campaign finance." He adds, in an interview on Fox, regarding Cohen: "I never directed him to do anything wrong. Whatever he did, he did on his own."

## 2018's top movie moments, from 'Shallow' to 'The Shining'

By LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A film doesn't have to be great to have a great moment.

They're not mutually exclusive of course, but a great movie moment is something more ephemeral — a few minutes of pure, inexplicable joy, or even jaw-dropping disbelief that you want to revisit immediately. It's the kind of scene you fast-forward to, the kind you want to re-watch with friends and family, the kind that becomes a meme.

Here we look at some of our favorite movie moments from 2018 that stayed with us long after the credits rolled.

Possible spoilers may follow.

### ALLY TAKES THE STAGE IN "A STAR IS BORN"

Surely literal goosebumps are a good sign that you've just seen a pretty stunning movie moment. That's what happens every time I watch the electric "Shallow" scene in "A Star Is Born," and, specifically where Lady Gaga's Ally takes a deep breath and walks out on stage to join Bradley Cooper's Jackson Maine and sing her song in front of thousands of people.

### PAST AND PRESENT MEET IN "MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN"

Ok, so "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again" might barely qualify as a movie, but it has enough smile-inducing moments to give it a pass. Plus, is there a more enjoyable ending of a movie this year than when the young and old versions of all the characters meet up to sing and dance to "Super Trouper"? A little voice in your head might be asking: Are they all dead? And why is there so much metallic fabric in heaven? But then Pierce Brosnan, Stellan Skarsgard and Colin Firth emerge from below a bar, beer in hand and tops zipped down to their belly buttons and logical inquiry just sort of drifts away.

### RECREATING "THE SHINING" IN "READY PLAYER ONE"

In a film full of fanboy indulgences and movie nostalgia, Steven Spielberg got to geek out with his own idol, Stanley Kubrick, by recreating "The Shining's" Overlook hotel in "Ready Player One" and put his own spin on it. Spielberg would never let homage get in the way of his own storytelling, though, so he settles for a brief wink instead of a full on rehash.

### KILLMONGER CHALLENGES T'CHALLA IN "BLACK PANTHER"

It's not often that you find yourself really wondering what is going to happen in a major superhero movie, but "Black Panther" kept audiences guessing and no more so than in one of the tensest and most exciting scenes of the year, when Michael B. Jordan's Erik Killmonger — one of the year's greatest movie villains — challenges Chadwick Boseman's T'Challa for the throne, disarming the sitting ruler first with his words before they fight for the kingdom.

### POOL PARTY IN "EIGHTH GRADE"

Is there anything more uncomfortable than a middle school pool party? How about one you were only invited to because a popular girl's mom has a crush on your dad? That's what Kayla (Elsie Fisher) is contending with in Bo Burnham's "Eighth Grade." Burnham's camera puts the audience right there with Kayla, as she makes her way through the house and to the carnival of souls outside, and we're left to only cringe and root for her through every agonizing moment.

### EXPLAINING HARRY POTTER GANG THEORY IN "THE HATE U GIVE"

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 46 of 51

"The Hate U Give" is a drama, no doubt, but there are some moments of wonderful, heartfelt levity that audiences might not realize from just the logline or trailer alone. In fact some of the best scenes are the lighter ones, including the moment where Starr Carter's (Amandla Stenberg) no-nonsense dad, Mav Carter (Russell Hornsby) explains how the Hogwarts houses are like gangs.

## JAILHOUSE SPIRIT IN "PADDINGTON 2"

The enormously kind bear from Darkest Peru meets one of his greatest challenges when he ends up in the slammer with some unsavory cell block mates, but a little marmalade magic in the kitchen raises everyone's spirits, even Brendan Gleeson's Knuckles McGinty.

## EDDIE BROCK EATS A LOBSTER IN "VENOM"

Was anyone more fully, totally committed to such a bizarre character this year as Tom Hardy was as Eddie Brock/Venom? Look no further than the so-out-there-it-works scene where, ravenously hungry, Eddie jumps into a live lobster tank at a fancy restaurant and takes a bite out of one of the crustaceans. It's an image I wish I could forget, actually, and yet...

## BASTIAN GETS BLOODY IN "GAME NIGHT"

Olivia the West Highland White Terrier solidified her star status in "Widows," but her breakout role was just earlier this year as Jesse Plemons' dog, Bastian, in "Game Night," where she has the misfortune to be in the same room as a bleeding Max (Jason Bateman), one of the funnier moments of the year. Max notices his blood dripping onto the snowy white pup and tries to scrub it off with water. This of course just makes the little Westie pink and wet and itching to shake.

## MOTHERHOOD MONTAGE IN "TULLY"

Pump. Feed. Change the diaper. Dispose of the diaper. Repeat. Jason Reitman and star Charlize Theron go through the monotonous repetition of life with a newborn in a wonderfully conceived montage in "Tully." It is funny, and dark and true. Because sometimes you're just so tired, you accidentally drop your phone on your baby.

And an honorable mention for a few movie moments that became memes: "I just wanted to take another look at you," from "A Star Is Born"; "Mr. Stark, I don't feel so good," from "Avengers: Infinity War"; Henry Cavill gets ready to fight in "Mission: Impossible —Fallout."

Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ladbahr](http://www.twitter.com/ladbahr)

## Pentagon: NKorea slow to negotiate over US war remains

By ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Months after the White House raised hopes for bringing home thousands of U.S. battlefield remains from North Korea, the returns have stalled. Detailed negotiations on future recovery arrangements have not even begun.

The slower pace appears linked to the more talked-about stalemate over North Korea's nuclear weapons.

At a June meeting with President Donald Trump, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un committed to "work toward" the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and to cooperate in recovering U.S. war remains. Neither issue is said to be explicitly dependent on the other, and in August, the North turned over 55 boxes of remains, with expectations of more to come soon. But progress then slowed, as has the nuclear diplomacy.

Trump has said he likely will have a second summit with Kim in January or February, and while the nuclear issue would be the central focus, some believe a second meeting is the best chance to restore momentum to the remains recovery effort.

"It is easy to wonder if that isn't what everyone is waiting on to happen," said Richard Downes, executive director of the Coalition of Families of Korean War and Cold War POW/MIAs, which advocates for a full accounting of the missing.

The remains of thousands of U.S. service members were left behind in North Korea when the war ended

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 47 of 51

in 1953, with the North and South separated by a demilitarized zone and no formal end to the conflict. Joint U.S.-North Korean recovery operations started in 1996 and were halted in 2005 amid rising worries about the North's nuclear ambitions. More than 150 individuals have been identified from the remains that were jointly excavated and returned through 2005; those are separate from the remains in the 55 boxes, which had been stored by the North, probably for decades.

Of the remains repatriated in August in the 55 boxes, two have been positively identified. They are Army Master Sgt. Charles H. McDaniel, of Butler, Missouri, and Vernon, Indiana, and Army Pfc. William H. Jones, of Nash County, North Carolina.

Charles H. McDaniel, Jr., who was 3 years old when his father went missing in November 1950, says the unexpected return of his father's remains has given him a new perspective on life. After having buried the remains in late October in Greenwood, Indiana, McDaniel says he sometimes finds himself gazing alternately at a photo of his 4-year-old granddaughter and a picture of his father in uniform - a reminder that family connections live on.

"I almost feel he's looking at me," McDaniel said in a telephone interview.

McDaniel describes himself as hopeful that more remains will be sent home from North Korea, but he is not optimistic.

"The bigger issue for the world is the missiles and the bombs," he said, referring to concern that a nuclear-armed North Korea will pose an unacceptable threat to the world. "When it's to their benefit they will let loose with something like the 55 boxes (of U.S. remains) to make them look good," without resolving the nuclear issue.

Kelly McKeague, head of the Pentagon agency responsible for worldwide efforts to account for U.S. servicemembers, said in September that he hoped to begin face-to-face negotiations with North Korea by the end of October on terms for resuming recovery missions in spring 2019.

McKeague's agency has detailed knowledge of locations of U.S. remains at former POW camps and elsewhere in North Korea, as well as sites around the country where U.S. airmen went down and were not recovered. But to travel to these locations and undertake excavations, the U.S. needs North Korea's cooperation. In the past, this has meant providing millions of dollars' worth of vehicles and fuel and other forms of support.

A McKeague spokesman, Charles Prichard, said Wednesday that no formal negotiations have begun. He said McKeague believes that "in the foreseeable future" North Korean Army officers and members of his agency will meet to determine the location and date for negotiations on "the finer details" of future recovery operations. An initial North Korean written proposal last summer was rejected by the U.S. as including unreasonable demands.

"At this time, it is still feasible that joint recovery missions could be planned and executed in the spring of 2019," Prichard said. He said the two sides have exchanged letters and documents, but he could not reveal details.

Last summer, Vice President Mike Pence publicly raised hopes for a complete accounting of Korean War remains in the North. Speaking in Hawaii, where he greeted the aircraft that delivered the 55 boxes from North Korea on Aug. 1, Pence spoke of a "new season of hope" for the families of servicemen missing from the 1950-53 war.

Pence asserted that Trump had secured from Kim a promise "to return the remains of all fallen U.S. service members lost in North Korea," although Pentagon officials so far have made limited progress in that direction. Of the nearly 7,700 service members listed as missing from the war, about 5,300 are believed to be in North Korea.

Some worry that the Pentagon's inability thus far to get the North Koreans to the negotiating table may be connected to recently tightened U.S. restrictions on American private aid workers traveling to North Korea.

Daniel Jasper, who has worked in North Korea for the American Friends Service Committee, which works with farmers in North Korea to improve food production, said in an email exchange this week that the limitations have confused the North Koreans. He said the State Department has cut back on exemptions to a U.S. ban on travel to North Korea. This has limited U.S.-based aid groups' work there and inhibited

the flow of humanitarian help.

"The restrictions on humanitarian activities have, no doubt, sent mixed signals to the North Koreans," Jasper said. "We are worried these restrictions may have ripple effects in other areas of relations, including the repatriation operations."

## Doo doo doo doo doo doo: 'Baby Shark' bites into the culture

By **LEANNE ITALIE, AP Entertainment Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — In the wise words of James Corden, there comes along a song every so often that defines a generation.

Doo doo doo doo doo doo.

The late-night TV host, carpool karaoke king and father of three young children was referring specifically, and wryly, to "Baby Shark," now the bloodthirstiest of earworms for some parents and meme lovers everywhere.

Insert shark hands here.

If you don't know what I'm talking about, you've been living inside a sea anemone since at least 2015. That's when an educational content brand in South Korea, Pinkfong, released its first shark video, later breaking the internet with a version mixing animation and two adorable human kids dancing out the story of a shark family, K-pop style, earning more than 2 billion views on YouTube.

If you still don't know what I'm talking about, you haven't spent enough time at summer camp or around a campfire, where singalong versions of said story with said gestures, akin to an old nursery rhyme with the same theme, have rocked on for decades.

Now, thanks to the #babysharkchallenge that has us all singing, doing our shark hands and sharing on social media, and thanks to piles of soft shark heads, toddler attire and other swag that includes singing plush toys and books, "Baby Shark" is a full-on craze, for bite-size fans anyway.

"Our toddler's shark video addiction is a huge issue in our household," said Columbus, Ohio, mom Kitty French. "At first it was a cute melody. Now it's an earworm that literally all of our parent friends understand."

Not all grown-ups are weary. If they were, would they continue to upload themselves in mashups and mixes, from R&B to Santa Claus? Can we do without the absolutely cutest home video of them all, the little girl begging Alexa to play her favorite shark jam, frustrated by the not-so-smart device's inability to understand? What about the Texas family so enamored they synchronized their blinking, blinding holiday yard lights to the snappy tune?

Some parents of special needs kids think "Baby Shark" has not only entertained but helped their young ones.

Holly Anderson is a Utah mother of four, including a 3-year-old son with autism and apraxia of speech. His autism therapist uses children's songs on YouTube to motivate him to sit still and was the first to show him "Baby Shark."

"He's overstimulated visually and usually won't watch any shows on TV or the iPad," Anderson said. "He has a very difficult time staying still, even for a moment, and usually spends his time running around in therapy. I'm honestly not sick of it yet since it's one of the only ways to get him calm after a meltdown."

The one he likes the most is by Pinkfong, she said. The company has put up more than one version. Other parents said their kids prefer versions of baby, mama, papa, grandma and grandpa shark from a content provider called Super Simple. There are many, many other offerings to choose from and many, many more millions of views than the jackpot scored by Pinkfong for its dance version.

Corden, host of "The Late Late Show with James Corden," isn't the only celebrity to take on baby shark madness. He enlisted Sophie Turner and Josh Groban to perform the song on air. Ellen DeGeneres put her spin on the song on her talk show as well and Simon Cowell's 4-year-old son popped up on the "X-Factor UK" as dancing cuteness ensued with singing kids accompanied by adults in shark suits for the opening of the grand final this year.

Bob Cunningham, an educator and senior adviser for the nonprofit consortium Understood.org, which



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 49 of 51

supports parents of kids with learning and attention issues, sees several benefits to "Baby Shark."

"The song has a catchy rhythm and it uses silly sounds as well as colorful and cute animation," he said. "Also, both the music and the animation are predictable, with repeated words, phrases, colors and movements."

The combinations can capture and sustain attention even in children where attention isn't a strength, Cunningham said. The song and video also engage most of the senses simultaneously and combine language with music and movement, which can appeal to kids who struggle with any of those things when they are presented in isolation. For example, the movement can support less developed language and the music can offer support when movements are difficult, he said.

Clearly, other kid content can do the same, but "Baby Shark" ruled at Jason Simms' house, at least for a time.

Simms, who lives in Deep River, Connecticut, said his 14-month-old daughter Fionnuala first heard the song when she was 8 months old but has since tired of it, before her parents did, once her language comprehension skills began kicking in.

"It was one of the first things in life she directly expressed a preference for, so that's why we picked it for her Halloween costume," he said. "At the end of the Super Simple version, it says 'bye bye sharks' and that became how we say bye in our family. She now fusses when she hears it."

But there's plenty more fish in the "Baby Shark" sea.

A Montreal-based company, WowWee, has a Pinkfong license for North America to sell the shark family in plush toys that sing when tummies are squeezed, along with soft song cube versions. Available exclusively on Amazon on pre-order that guaranteed delivery in time for Christmas, they sold out in two and a half days earlier this month, said Davin Sufer, WowWee's chief technology officer.

Sufer would not disclose how many units were gobbled up at \$19.99 each. More will be rolled out at a broader range of retailers come early 2019, along with new offerings. Third-party sellers who nabbed the toys are now offering them for more than \$100 on Amazon.

The privately-held WowWee was already in talks with Pinkfong as far back as nearly a year ago when "Baby Shark" truly exploded, said Sufer, who has three kids of his own, including a 9-year-old daughter who came home from camp last summer singing the song before she knew his involvement.

"The tune itself has an addictive quality to it," he said. "You hear it once or twice and you hear yourself singing, doo doo doo doo doo doo. I could see maybe parents getting a little tired of it, but kids aren't."

## Asian shares fall on poor Chinese economic data

By ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian markets tumbled on Friday after China reported weaker-than-expected economic data, stirring up worries about the state of the world's second largest economy.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index slid 1.7 percent to 21,439.16 and the Kospi in South Korea lost 1.2 percent to 2,070.70. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was down 1.4 percent at 26,165.88. The Shanghai Composite index fell 0.7 percent to 2,616.77. Australia's S&P ASX 200 shed 0.8 percent to 5,614.10. Shares were also lower in Taiwan and Southeast Asia.

WALL STREET: Major U.S. indexes spent the day switching between small gains and losses before settling for a mixed finish. Small companies fell and high-dividend stocks, which investors favor when they want to reduce risk, rose. The S&P 500 index was almost flat at 2,650.54. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 0.3 percent to 24,597.38 while the Nasdaq composite gave up 0.4 percent to 7,070.33. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks slipped 1.6 percent to 1,432.70.

CHINESE DATA: Chinese industrial output and retail sales slowed in November, official data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed Friday. Industrial output rose 5.4 percent over a year ago, compared with a 5.9 percent rise in October. Retail sales grew by 8.1 percent, down from 8.6 percent in the previous month. Investors are keeping close tabs on Chinese economic releases amid the country's trade dispute with the U.S. The two countries have agreed to a 90-day cease-fire on tariffs and are planning to use the

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 50 of 51

time to resolve a myriad of issues.

**ANALYST'S TAKE:** "Markets have been anticipating slower growth in production because of trade tensions. But retail sales show that consumption may not be strong enough to support the external sector," said Francis Tan, investment strategist at UOB Private Bank. "These slower numbers will surface on policymakers' dashboards and there is a possibility of more stimulus early in the new year," he added.

**JAPAN'S TANKAN:** A Bank of Japan survey released Friday measuring confidence among large-scale manufacturers held steady at 19 points. The "tankan" survey, which includes automakers and electronics companies, was flat for the second month after three quarters of decline. It reflects the difference in the number of companies with "favorable" outlooks and those with "unfavorable" ones. Analysts said the showing is decent, given that the Japanese economy contracted in the first and third quarters, but it could be a sign that global trade tensions are still weighing on corporate sentiment.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark U.S. crude fell 10 cents to \$52.48 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract settled at \$52.58 in New York on Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, dropped 34 cents to \$61.11 in London.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar weakened to 113.48 yen from 113.63 yen in late trading Thursday. The euro eased to \$1.1360 from \$1.1361.

AP Business Writer Marley Jay contributed to this report. He can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MarleyJayAP>

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Dec. 14, the 348th day of 2018. There are 17 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 14, 2012, a gunman with a semi-automatic rifle killed 20 first-graders and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, then committed suicide as police arrived; the 20-year-old had also fatally shot his mother at their home before carrying out the attack on the school.

On this date:

In 1799, the first president of the United States, George Washington, died at his Mount Vernon, Virginia, home at age 67.

In 1819, Alabama joined the Union as the 22nd state.

In 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen (ROH'-ahl AH'-mun-suhn) and his team became the first men to reach the South Pole, beating out a British expedition led by Robert F. Scott.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson vetoed an immigration measure aimed at preventing "undesirables" and anyone born in the "Asiatic Barred Zone" from entering the U.S. (Congress overrode Wilson's veto in Feb. 1917.)

In 1962, the U.S. space probe Mariner 2 passed Venus at a distance of just over 21,000 miles, transmitting information about the planet, such as its hot surface temperatures and predominantly carbon dioxide atmosphere.

In 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States, ruled that Congress was within its authority to enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1964 against racial discrimination by private businesses (in this case, a motel that refused to cater to blacks).

In 1972, Apollo 17 astronauts Harrison Schmitt and Eugene Cernan concluded their third and final moonwalk and blasted off for their rendezvous with the command module.

In 1981, Israel annexed the Golan Heights, which it had seized from Syria in 1967.

In 1985, Wilma Mankiller became the first woman to lead a major American Indian tribe as she took office as principal chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Former New York Yankees outfielder Roger Maris, who'd hit 61 home runs during the 1961 season, died in Houston at age 51.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Dec. 14, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 158 ~ 51 of 51

In 1986, the experimental aircraft Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, took off from Edwards Air Force Base in California on the first non-stop, non-refueled flight around the world.

In 1988, President Reagan authorized the U-S to enter into a "substantive dialogue" with the Palestine Liberation Organization, after chairman Yasser Arafat said he was renouncing "all forms of terrorism."

In 2005, President George W. Bush defended his decision to wage the Iraq war, even as he acknowledged that "much of the intelligence turned out to be wrong."

Ten years ago: An Iraqi journalist hurled his shoes at President George W. Bush during a news conference in Baghdad; Bush ducked the flying footwear as they whizzed past his head and landed against the wall behind him. (The shoe-thrower, Muntadhar al-Zeidi (MOON'-tuh-dahr ahl-zay-EE'-dee), ended up spending nine months in prison.)

Five years ago: Bells tolled 26 times in Newtown, Connecticut, to honor the dead on the first anniversary of the Sandy Hook school massacre. China carried out the world's first soft landing of a space probe on the moon in nearly four decades as the unmanned Chang'e 3 lander touched down on the lunar surface. Jameis (cq) Winston won the Heisman Trophy, making the Florida State quarterback the second straight freshman to win the award, after Texas A&M's Johnny Manziel. Actor Peter O'Toole, 81, who'd achieved instant stardom as Lawrence of Arabia and was nominated eight times for an Academy Award without winning, died in London.

One year ago: The Federal Communications Commission voted to repeal the Obama-era "net neutrality" rules, a move that gave internet service providers a free hand to slow or block specific websites and apps as they see fit, or charge more for faster speeds. The most serious charge against James Alex Fields, accused of driving into a crowd protesting a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August, was upgraded to first-degree murder; a 32-year-old woman, Heather Heyer, died and dozens were injured.

Today's Birthdays: Singer-actress Abbe Lane is 87. Actor Hal Williams is 84. Actress-singer Jane Birkin is 72. Pop singer Joyce Vincent-Wilson (Tony Orlando and Dawn) is 72. Entertainment executive Michael Ovitz is 72. Actress Dee Wallace is 70. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ronnie McNeir (The Four Tops) is 69. Rock musician Cliff Williams is 69. Actor-comedian T.K. Carter is 62. Rock singer-musician Mike Scott (The Waterboys) is 60. Singer-musician Peter "Spider" Stacy (The Pogues) is 60. Actress Cynthia Gibb is 55. Actress Nancy Valen is 53. Actor Archie Kao is 49. Actress Natascha McElhone is 49. Actress-comedian Michaela Watkins is 47. Actress-comedian Miranda Hart is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Brian Dalrymple (Soul For Real) is 43. Actress KaDee Strickland is 43. Actress Tammy Blanchard is 42. Actress Sophie Monk is 39. Actor-singer-musician Jackson Rathbone is 34. Actress Vanessa Hudgens is 30. Rock/R&B singer Tori Kelly is 26.

Thought for Today: "Both now and for always, I intend to hold fast to my belief in the hidden strength of the human spirit." — Andrei Sakharov (1921-1989).