

# Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Dec. 31, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 175 ~ 1 of 38



The above photo of the fire hydrant is a perfect example of how hydrants are to be cleared after a storm. This one is located at Washington Street and Third Avenue West. At least it looked great yesterday! (Photo by Paul

Kosel)

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

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

- 2- Angel Tree Thank You
- 2- Help Wanted Ads
- 2- Holiday Garbage Pickup Schedule
- 3- Galaxy Robotics Team in Finals at Mitchell
- 4-6: Robotics Team Photos
- 7- Weekly Vikings Roundup
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## Angel Tree Thank You

Oh my goodness Tina I didn't realize there would be so many presents that's amazing! Thank you so much

Hi Tina wanted to thank you so much for the gifts you dropped off for my kids they had a great Christmas  
Thank you very much

## Homecare Services Caregivers

Flexible, part time positions available in the Groton area. Home Care Services is looking for friendly dependable people to provide care and companionship for elderly and disabled people in their homes. You will be assisting our clients with personal care needs, meal preparations, light housekeeping, errands and other tasks. If you have a passion for helping others and need a flexible schedule, please call our office at (605) 225-1076 or 1-800-899-2578. (1218.0101)

## Front Porch Manager Wanted

Immediate opening for Restaurant General Manager at The Front Porch Bar & Grill in Langford SD. Hiring bonus available! Salary DOE. Must be 21 years old. Contact Suzie Easthouse at (605) 493-6570 or email resume by to langfordfrontporch@venture-comm.net. (1227.0111)



## Holiday Trash Pick-Up

**Garbage pick-up will NOT be on Christmas Day instead pick-up will be the following day, Wednesday, December 26!!**

**Garbage WILL be picked up on New Year's Day, January 1st!!**

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## Galaxy Robotics Team in Finals at Mitchell

Traveling to Mitchell Sat., Nov. 3 for their first out-of-town competition of the year, two of GT Robotics' five teams were matched against each other and tied twice during the semi-finals. But only Groton's Galaxy team (River Pardick, Alex Dutchuk and Isaac Higgins) advanced to the final competition of the day. Galaxy and their aligned team from Mitchell battled against an alliance of two other Mitchell teams in the final competition of the day, with the Mitchell duo the victors.

The other Groton team scoring well in the semi-finals was G.A.T. Wrenches (Noah Tullis, Thomas Cranford and Adrian Knudson). At the end of the qualifying rounds, standings of the GT Robotics teams out of the participating 23 teams were:

- Galaxy, 3rd
- G.A.T. Wrenches, 16th
- Geek Squad, 18th (Isaac Smith, Steven Paulson and Lee Iverson, Nick Morris)
- Gear Heads, 19th (Ethan Clark, Jackson Dinger, Axel Warrington and Kamryn Fliehs)
- G-Force, 22nd (Travis Townsend, Tannor McGannon, Danny Feist and Corbin Reich).

It was another learning day for Groton robotists, who will return to their work tables to modify their robots and re-program their functionality so they can compete even better at their next event in Harrisburg Nov. 17.

Rankings of GT Robotics teams at the end of qualifying rounds for the tournaments

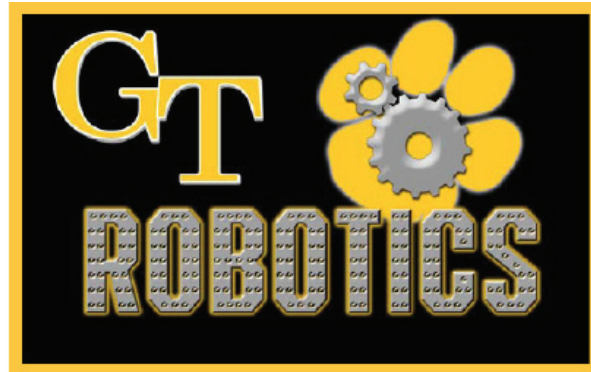
	Tournament	Groton	Mitchell
	Number of teams in Tourney	11	23
9050A	G-Force	2	22
9050B	Gear Heads	10	19
9050C	G.A.T. Wrenches	11	16
9050D	Geek Squad	7	18
9050E	Galaxy	5	3

How far did GT Robotics team get in elimination rounds (playoffs)?

	Tournament	Groton	Mitchell
9050A	G-Force	Champion	
9050B	Gear Heads		
9050C	G.A.T. Wrenches	Final	Semi
9050D	Geek Squad	Semi	
9050E	Galaxy	Semi	Final

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**Geek Squad**  
Left to right are Nick Morris, Steven Paulson, Lee Iverson and Isaak Smith.

(Courtesy Photo)

## Galaxy

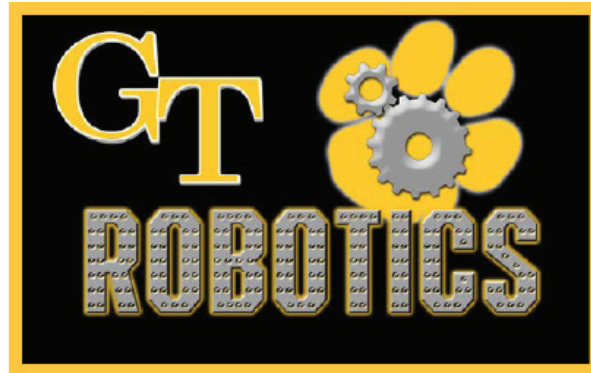
Left to right are Alex Dutchuk, River Pardick and Isaak Higgins. (Courtesy Photo)

**Awards at Mitchell South Dakota VRC Tournament:**  
Judges Award (VRC/VEXU), Tournament Finalists (VRC/VEXU)



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## G-Force

Back, left to right: Tanner McGannon and Travis Townsend; in front, left to right, are Dan Feist and Corbin Reich. (Courtesy Photo)

**Award at Rapid City Regional:** Tournament Finalists (VRC/VEXU)

**Award at 6th Annual Harrisburg VRC State Qualifier:** Tournament Champions (VRC/VEXU)

**Award at GT Robotics October VEX Robotics Tournament:** Tournament Champions (VRC/VEXU)

## Gear Heads

Left to right are Jackson Dinger, Axel Warrington, Ethan Clark and Kamryn Fliehs. (Courtesy Photo)

**Award at 2018 Rapid City Regional:** Judges Award (VRC/VEXU)





**G.A.T. Wrenches**  
Pictured left to right are Noah Tullis and Thomas Cranford; not pictured is Adrian Knudson. (Courtesy Photo)

**Award at 6th Annual Harrisburg VRC State Qualifier:** Tournament Finalists (VRC/VEXU)

**Award at Mitchell South Dakota VRC Tournament:** Sportsmanship (VRC/VEXU)

**Award at GT Robotics October VEX Robotics Tournament:** Tournament Finalists (VRC/VEXU)

## THE WORLD'S LARGEST ROBOTICS COMPETITION

The VEX Robotics Competition, presented by the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation, is the largest and fastest growing middle school and high school robotics program globally with more than 20,000 teams from 50 countries playing in over 1,700 competitions worldwide. Each year, an exciting engineering challenge is presented in the form of a game. Students, with guidance from their teachers and mentors, build innovative robots and compete year-round.

In addition to learning valuable engineering skills, students gain life skills such as teamwork, perseverance, communication, collaboration, project management, and critical thinking. The VEX Robotics Competition prepares students to become future innovators with 95% of participants reporting an increased interest in STEM subject areas and pursuing STEM-related careers.

### CURRENT CHALLENGE: TURNING POINT

VEX Robotics Competition Turning Point is played on a 12'x12' square field configured as seen above. Two (2) Alliances – one (1) "red" and one (1) "blue" – composed of two (2) Teams each, compete in matches consisting of a fifteen (15) second Autonomous Period, followed by a one minute and forty-five second (1:45) Driver Controlled Period.

The object of the game is to attain a higher score than the opposing Alliance by High Scoring or Low Scoring Caps, Toggling Flags, and by Alliance Parking or Center Parking Robots on the Platforms.

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## Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings have failed to reach the playoffs, one year after being a game away from reaching the Superbowl. The Vikings controlled their own destiny on Sunday, just needing to beat a divisional opponent to secure a spot in the post season. Instead, the team fell flat on both offense and defense and losing to the Chicago Bears 24-10, leading many fans to shake their heads and whisper the age-old adage, "Well, there's always next year."

Before you ask, no, the Vikings cannot cut Kirk Cousins. Well, technically they can, but Cousins is only on the first year of a three-year, \$84 million contract that is fully guaranteed – so if the Vikings cut Cousins they would be on the hook for the remaining balance. The Vikings brought in Cousins for games like Sunday, but instead of rising to the occasion, he only completed 20 of 33 passes for 132 yards and one touchdown. If you're doing the math, that's a paltry 4.0 yards per attempt – easily the worst ypa for Cousins this season, particularly concerning because he had his two best games of the year in weeks 15 and 16 (10.24 ypa and 9.04 ypa respectively). Cousins was brought in to help get the Vikings from a good playoff team to a great one, but instead the Vikings missed the tournament all together.

The Vikings' offense couldn't get off the ground, leaving it up to the defense to win the game. Unfortunately, the defense was nowhere to be found. The Vikings defense is usually one of the best in the league at limiting opposing offenses from converting third downs, but on Sunday the team gave up 8 of 14 conversions to Chicago. The Vikings usually fearsome defensive line was a no-show on Sunday, as the team failed to get a sack and only had one quarterback hit and one tackle for a loss. This was the perfect game for one of the Vikings' defensive stars to shine, but instead they all folded, which meant seldom used players like Eric Wilson, Holton Hill, and Ben Gedeon led the team in tackles.

The player of the game on offense was Stefon Diggs. Nobody on offense stood out except Diggs, who hauled in 8 of 10 passes for 47 yards and a touchdown. Diggs' 10 targets were more than Adam Thielen and Kyle Rudolph combined. Diggs also went over the 1,000-yard mark, leaving him with 1,021 receiving yards for the season.

The player of the game on defense was Eric Wilson – if for no other reason than he led the team in tackles and nobody else stepped up. With Eric Kendricks sitting another game out, Wilson was forced to play extended minutes. The second-year player, who was undrafted coming out of college, has played well in Kendricks' absence and was one of the few bright spots in an otherwise uninspired performance by Minnesota's defense.

Even though the Vikings' season is officially over, check back next week as I break down the playoffs to see which teams have what it takes to make it to the Superbowl! If you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL). Skol!

## **Wolves finish the non-conference season with a win over Metro State**

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University Women’s Basketball team picked up a win against Metro State by a final score of 52-41. With the win, the Wolves improve to 5-7 on the season.

Wolves started the game on an 8-0 run in the first 1:26 capped by a three-pointer by Mekash. The Wolves finished the first quarter up by a score of 16-12. NSU and Metro State each scored eight points in the second quarter, as the Wolves took a four-point lead into the intermission. Northern State shot 38.5 percent from the field, 42.7 percent from the 3-point line, and tallied 25 rebounds.

Wolves were out-scored 14-12 in the third quarter but took a two-point lead heading into the final quarter. Northern State started the fourth quarter on a 9-0 run, to take an 11-point lead. Wolves would end up winning by 11 in the final non-conference game of the season. NSU in the game shot 41.7 percent from the field, 31.3 percent from behind the arc, eight points in the paint, and a season high 48 rebounds.

Leading the charge for the Wolves was Brianna Kusler finishing the game with a double-double with career highs with 20 points and 14 rebounds. Lexi Wadsworth also scored in double figures with 11 points and nine rebounds, one steal, and one assist. Tori Mekash tallied nine points, three rebounds, two assists, and one steal. Anika Fredrick recorded four points, four rebounds, one block, and one assist.

Jessi Marti in her return to the court finished the game with three points and five rebounds. Brooke Luitjens finished the game with two rebounds, two assists, and one steal. Alayna Johnson recorded three points, four rebounds, and one assist. Zoe Hardwick tallied two points off the bench for the Wolves. Kendall Kohler tallied two big assists off the bench in the fourth quarter for the Wolves.

Wolves are back in action Friday and Saturday as they head south to face Upper Iowa and Winona State. Tip-off on Friday is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Saturday.



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## **BLIZZARD WARNING**

**Issue Date:6:00 AM Mon, Dec 31, 2018**

**Expiration:6:00 PM Mon, Dec 31, 2018**

...BLIZZARD WARNING IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 PM CST THIS EVENING...

...WIND CHILL ADVISORY REMAINS IN EFFECT FROM 6 PM THIS EVENING TO NOON CST TUESDAY...

\* **WHAT...**Blizzard conditions. Very cold wind chills expected. Additional snow accumulations of up to two inches. Winds gusting as high as 45 mph. Wind chills as low as 35 below zero expected. Improvement expected during the afternoon.

\* **WHERE...**Portions of northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota.

\* **WHEN...**For the Blizzard Warning, until 6 PM CST this evening. For the Wind Chill Advisory, from 6 PM this evening to noon CST Tuesday.

\* **ADDITIONAL DETAILS...**Plan on slippery road conditions. Areas of blowing snow could significantly reduce visibility. The hazardous conditions could impact the morning or evening commute. The dangerously cold wind chills could cause frostbite on exposed skin in as little as 10 minutes.

A Blizzard Warning means severe winter weather conditions are expected or occurring. Falling and blowing snow with strong winds and poor visibilities are likely. This will lead to whiteout conditions, making travel extremely dangerous. Do not travel. If you must travel, have a winter survival kit with you. If you get stranded, stay with your vehicle.

A Wind Chill Advisory means that cold air and the wind will combine to create low wind chills. Frostbite and hypothermia can occur if precautions are not taken. Make sure you wear a hat and gloves.

In Minnesota, the latest road conditions can be obtained at [511mn.org](http://511mn.org), or by calling 5 1 1. In South Dakota, the latest road conditions can be obtained by calling 5 1 1.

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## Today in Weather History

2010: An area of low pressure moved across the Northern Plains on New Year's Eve bringing widespread heavy snowfall along with blizzard conditions. Bitter cold northwest winds of 25 to 40 mph combined with additional snowfall of 6 to 10 inches brought reduced visibility to near zero across much of the region. This storm was the second blizzard in two days across the area. The blizzard conditions continued into early New Year's Day. Both Interstates 29 and 90 were closed from the 31st until Sunday, January 2nd. There were several stranded motorists along Highway 83 with five people being rescued. The total snowfall amounts from the two storms ranged from 6 to 15 inches across the region.

The two-day snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Eagle Butte; 7 inches at Doland; 8 inches at Mobridge and Gann Valley; 9 inches at Castlewood; 10 inches at Murdo, Clark, Ipswich, Kennebec, and Watertown and 11 inches at Clear Lake and Bryant. Locations with a foot or more of snow included 12 inches at Aberdeen, Gettysburg, Highmore, Milbank, Mission Ridge, and Bowdle; 13 inches at Eureka, Pierre, Onida, and Blunt; 14 inches at Mellette, Sisseton, Victor, and Roscoe with 15 inches at Britton, Webster, and Redfield. The snowfall began between 6 am and noon CST on the 31st and ended between 4 am and 11 am CST on January 1st.

1876: A heavy snowstorm hit southern Arkansas, with amounts well over 20 inches in places. 28 inches was reported near Warren, and 24–28 inches was reported at Arkansas City.

1890: According to the National Meteorological Library and Archive from the United Kingdom, during December 1890, Westminster, England saw zero hours of sunshine.

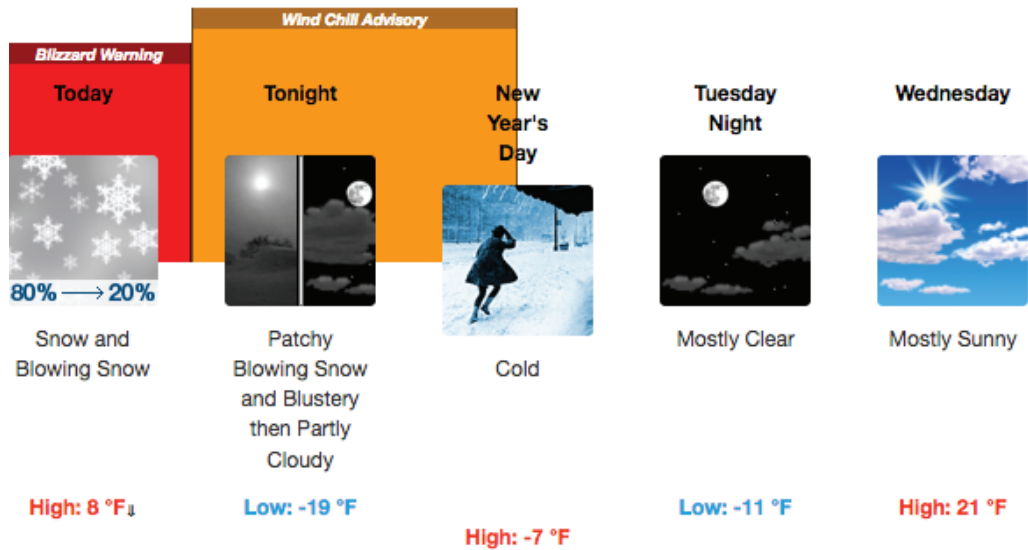
1933: During the last week of December, a series of winter storms pounded the mountainside with 12 inches of rain near Los Angeles. More rain occurred on New Year's Eve, including 4.86 inches in downtown Los Angeles. The 4.86 inches is currently the fourth most rainfall to occur in one day in downtown Los Angeles since 1877. Around midnight, hillsides in at least three mountain locations collapsed sending millions of tons of mud and debris into the Crescenta Valley neighborhoods below. Crescenta Valley is a few miles north of Los Angeles. This mudslide destroyed more than 400 homes. Following the disaster, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the County of Los Angeles built a flood control system of catch basins, and concrete storm drains, designed to prevent a repeat of the 1934 disaster.

1967: The kickoff temperature for the NFL Championship Game between the Dallas Cowboys and the Green Bay Packers was -13°F with a wind chill of -36°F. This game is known as the "Ice Bowl."

2000: The "Snow Bowl" was played between Mississippi St and Texas A&M at Independence Stadium in Shreveport, Louisiana. Snow began about a half hour before kickoff and didn't stop until well after the bowl game.

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## Gradually Improving Conditions Through Late Morning & Early Afternoon

**What To Expect During The Morning Commute**  
**Several Inches Of Snow Accumulation Plus Drifts**  
**Ice Under The Snow In Spots**  
**Blowing Snow with Reduced Visibility**

### Take it Slow When Driving in Snow



- \* 70% of snow and ice-related injuries occur in automobiles
- \* Leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you
- \* Allow extra time for travel



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

[weather.gov/winter](http://weather.gov/winter)

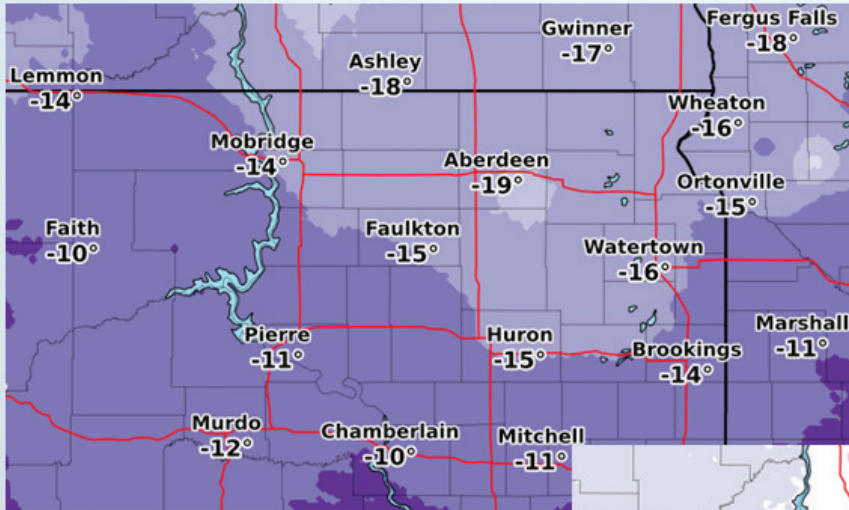
Published on: 12/31/2018 at 3:21AM

What to expect this morning as the Clipper system departs and Arctic high pressure sets in? We are seeing snow continue through the early morning hours - but tapering off. Winds will remain strong with gusts as high as 40 to 50mph. These winds will cause reduced visibility. We will also see falling temperatures through the day with readings falling to between 10 and 20 below tonight with wind chills down to 40 below.

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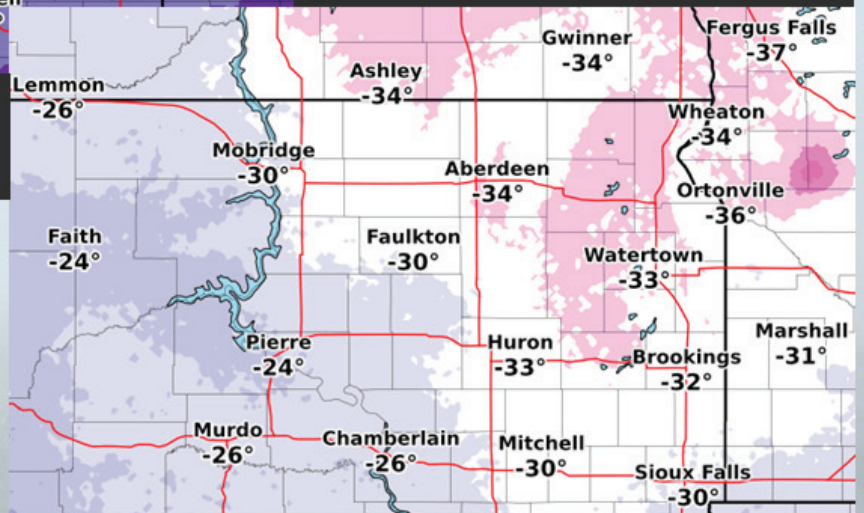
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## Arctic Blast Monday-Tuesday



**Low Temperatures Tuesday Morning**

**Coldest Wind Chills**



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

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

Updated: 12/31/2018 3:29 AM Central

Published on: 12/31/2018 at 3:33AM

It will be bitterly cold following the snow and wind, with Arctic high pressure moving overhead Tuesday. Readings during the day for places like Aberdeen, Sisseton and Watertown won't even get above zero! Warmer air is on the way and it looks to stay for the next week or so.

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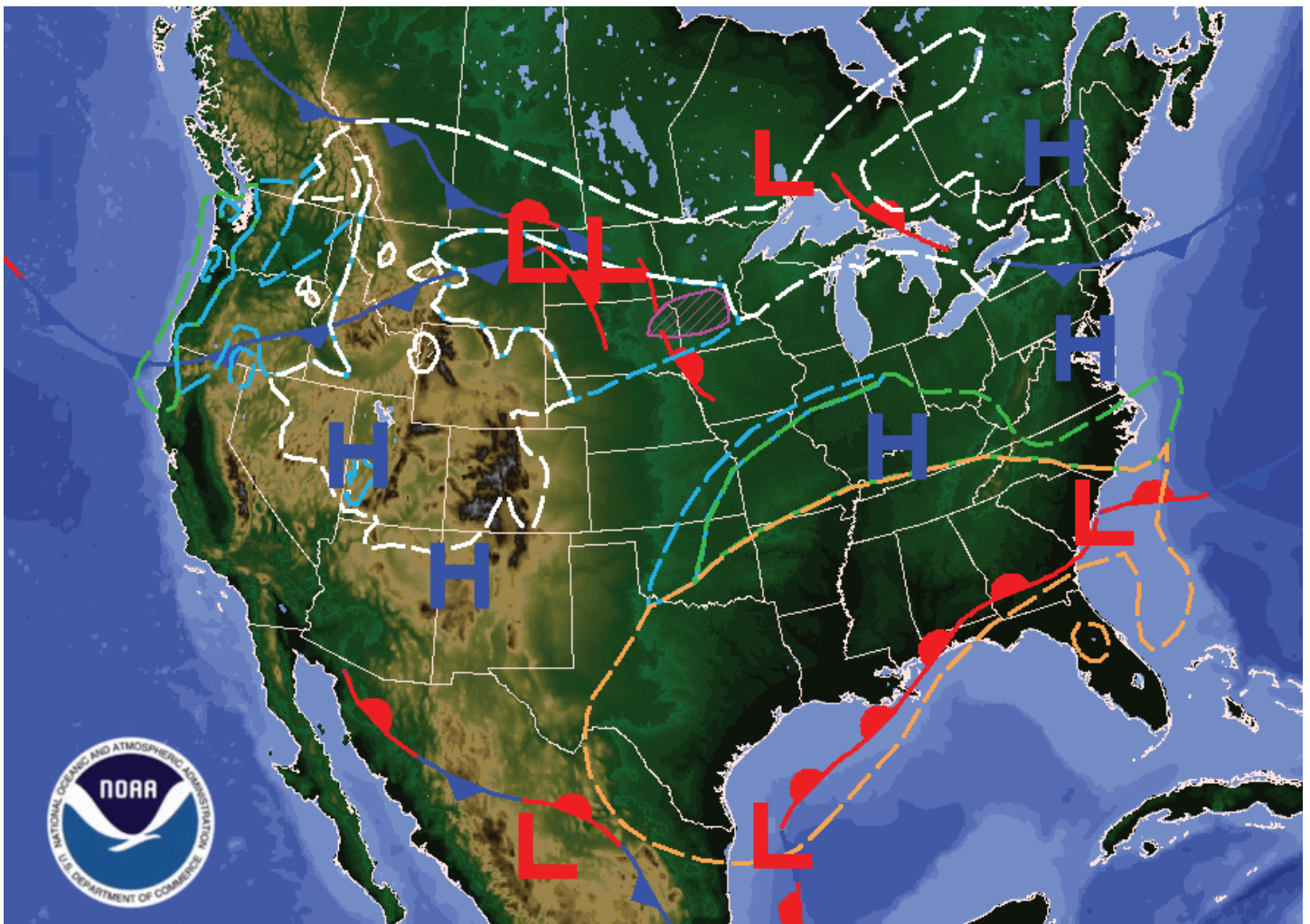
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 30 °F at 3:08 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 13 °F at 12:00 AM**  
**High Gust: 28 mph at 10:07 PM**  
**Precip: 0.00 (Last snow event had .85 moisture)**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 47° in 1999, 1912**  
**Record Low: -39° in 1967**  
**Average High: 22°F**  
**Average Low: 2°F**  
**Average Precip in Dec.: 0.50**  
**Precip to date in Dec.: 0.85**  
**Average Precip to date: 21.70**  
**Precip Year to Date: 16.66**  
**Sunset Tonight: 5:00 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:14 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Dec 30, 2018, issued 4:38 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Hurley with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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## LOOKING FOR GOD IN 2019

You chart the path ahead of me and tell me  
when to stop and rest.  
Every moment you  
know where I am. Psalm 139:3

The Lord says, I will guide you along the  
best pathway for your life. I will advise you  
and watch over you. Psalm 32:8

Because of Christ, we have received an  
inheritance from God, for He chose us from  
the beginning and all things happen just as  
He decided years ago. Ephesians 1:11

The Lord will work out His plans for my  
life for Your faithful love, O Lord, endures  
forever. Dont abandon me, for You made  
me! Psalm 138:8

Seek His will in all you do and He will  
direct your paths. Proverbs 3:6

Prayer: Grant us wisdom, give us faith, increase our trust and watch over us each day, Father, as we seek Your plan for our lives. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 139:3; Psalm 32:8; Ephesians 1:11; Psalm 138:8; Proverbs 3:6

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## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

## News from the Associated Press

### South Dakota students teach science through scavenger hunt

By KAIJA SWISHER, Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — About a dozen sixth-grade students at Spearfish Middle School enjoy science so much that they've approached their teachers about preparing and teaching lessons themselves.

"Having my young scientists teach each other is demonstrating extreme ownership of their learning," sixth-grade science teacher Leslie Wangeman told the Black Hills Pioneer. "It means that they have bought into the importance of what we do in the classroom. The scientists teaching have a much deeper understanding of the topic, along with creating empathy for the amount of time and effort that their own teachers put into lessons. The scientists that are the students in the classroom are much more engaged in their learning, since they are listening to peers."

Wangeman and Kelly Singer, sixth-grade science teacher, decided to honor the initiative the students showed, allowing students to teach lessons, which in turn gives the teachers more time to work with students who are struggling with concepts.

Wangeman explained that about a month into the school year, sixth-grader Gracie Skaley approached her about teaching a lesson on weather, and after Skaley taught her lesson, Wangeman had about a dozen other students approach her with the same request.

"To teach a lesson, the scientist must make an appointment with me where we go over the (state education) standards that we are covering," she said. "They choose what standard they want to teach. The scientists then create a lesson and set up another appointment with me to go over the lesson. Then we plan a date, and they get to teach it. It is a tremendous amount of work on their part. My young scientists have really embraced being in charge of their own learning and have made learning more engaging, and rigorous, than if I were to teach it."

Students Cami Lyons and Malaya Naescher taught a lesson using pennies about a month ago, covering chemical and physical changes, and recently, they presented a science scavenger hunt that they had created for their peers.

Naescher said that they had fun teaching the first lesson but wanted to do something a little different this time.

"It has been so much fun doing this. I love doing this type of stuff, and every time we teach something, it just gets better," Naescher said.

"Our hope for the scavenger hunt is for everyone to get a little bit of learning and hopefully for them to like the scavenger hunt," Lyons said, describing that the students had to go around the school answering questions about what they've learned so far this year or finding objects that demonstrate one of the topics that they've learned about, as a hands-on review. The teams that completed the scavenger hunt the fastest won a prize.

Naescher said that the most interesting part of the lesson was coming up with ideas and hiding the clues for the scavenger hunt, and the most challenging part was putting it together to make it happen.

Both Naescher and Lyons mentioned teaching as a future career goal and recognized the skills that come with an experience like they had Tuesday.

"It expands my learning by helping others in their learning," Lyons said. "It is teaching me to teach others how to be successful."

"Every time it is a blast," Naescher added.

Wangeman said that she and Singer were looking forward to the review that the scavenger hunt would provide to their students.

"Learning comes first, and this is a great way for our scientists to review the concepts," she said. "We both love seeing our scientists moving and working as a team. The other big benefit we look forward to seeing is if the scientists show determination and when they face a problem/mistake, their ability to overcome it."



Wangeman said that the impact this type of experience has on students includes both social and academic achievements.

"The scientists are learning to respect each other and listen when they are being taught by a peer," she said. "They are gaining more in content, because the young scientist teaching can explain the topics better to people of a similar age group than coming from their 'old' and 'uncool' teachers. Those students who set up the scavenger hunt learn the logistics and content that go into creating a lesson. They also get to create the learning environment that they want to be a part of. Who knows how a sixth-grader learns better than a sixth-grader?"

Wangeman added that the collaboration occurs because of the support that they receive from our fellow teachers.

"They are always willing to let students take on challenges and try new ways of learning. We are lucky to work with such amazing and caring professionals," she said.

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

## Student graduates from South Dakota college debt-free

By KATHERINE GRANDSTRAND, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Olaf Hanson did something few college students are able to — he graduated from Northern State University without any debt.

Hanson, who grew up in Fargo, North Dakota, played football for the Wolves, which provided one scholarship. A WolfPACT scholarship, based on academic achievement, also put a dent in his tuition. The rest of his costs he was able to cover through work and paid internships.

"If any one of those pieces would have been missing I wouldn't've been able to do it without (debt)," Hanson told the Aberdeen American News.

Hanson said he isn't sure exactly how much he saved over the course of nine semesters.

The average college student graduating in 2017 from a South Dakota institution — public or private — carried \$31,000 in debt, according to The Institute for College Access and Success. About three-quarters of students that year had at least some student debt.

A full-time student attending Northern from fall 2014 to spring 2018 would have about a \$32,000 bill for tuition and fees alone, according to information from Northern and the South Dakota Board of Regents. That does not include room and board.

Hanson, 23, wasn't taking a full class load this last semester — just one class plus his honors thesis, he said.

He said he's grateful for the donors that funded his academic and athletic scholarships, and the opportunities he has had with internships in town. His internships were with the Aberdeen Development Corp. and Dacotah Bank.

Hanson walked across the Johnson Fine Arts Center stage recently at Northern's winter commencement and starts working full time at Dacotah Bank in Aberdeen Jan. 2. He's worked there part time since his internship.

Growing up in a city that saw tremendous growth in his lifetime — Fargo's population in 1990 was just more than 74,000, and in 2017 it was estimated at more than 122,000, an increase of 64 percent — Hanson said that Aberdeen is just about the right size for him.

"It's big enough where it's got everything that I want, but it's not so big that I have to sit in traffic on my way to the bank on my three-minute commute," he said.

It took a little bit for Hanson to decide exactly what his major was going to be.

"When I came in I was totally undecided," he said. "A lot of people on their visit had their name tag and their intended major, and mine said undecided on it and it was that way for at least the first year."

But once he started taking business classes, it clicked.

"I switched my major from biology all the way to management, and then liked my business classes and

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finance classes. Math and finance classes have always come easy to me, so that helped narrow it down to banking and finance, and then eventually just finance," Hanson said. "I have three minors — economics, accounting and banking and financial services."

His honors thesis was about the millennial recession response.

"I was studying the behavioral finance effects of the Great Recession of 2008 on millennials — particularly Northern State college students," Hanson said.

In his role at Dacotah Bank he'll work with local businesses starting in spring, he said.

In his time at Northern, Hanson got some experience setting up a business through the Northern Honors Entrepreneurs program. After using a bike-sharing service in Fargo, he thought the concept would work at Northern.

"I started reaching out to bike share companies, and as soon as they would find out how big our campus was and how big our community was, I would stop getting responses," Hanson said.

He finally found a company that would provide quotes and get the ball rolling, but then all communication ceased, he said.

"I think what it boils down to is they were launching new programs in Sacramento, California; and Austin, Texas; and Atlanta — cities that were literally doing hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars of business with them, and I was trying to do about \$100,000 of business with them," Hanson said. "I think they just allocated their time accordingly."

Even though it didn't come to fruition, Hanson still said he learned from the experience.

"I definitely don't regret the career path I've taken because that could be a fad that comes and goes before you make your money back on it," he said.

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

## Prices rise as the minimum wage increases in several states

By DAVID A. LIEB, Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — At Granny Shaffer's restaurant in Joplin, Missouri, owner Mike Wiggins is reprinting the menus to reflect the 5, 10 or 20 cents added to each item.

A two-egg breakfast will cost an extra dime, at \$7.39. The price of a three-piece fried chicken dinner will go up 20 cents, to \$8.78. The reason: Missouri's minimum wage is rising.

Wiggins said the price hikes are necessary to help offset an estimated \$10,000 to \$12,000 in additional annual pay to his staff as a result of a new minimum wage law taking effect Tuesday.

"For us it's very simple. There's no big pot of money out there to get the money out of" for the required pay raises, Wiggins said.

New minimum wage requirements will take effect in 20 states and nearly two dozen cities around the start of the new year, affecting millions of workers. The state wage hikes range from an extra nickel per hour in Alaska to a \$1-an-hour bump in Maine, Massachusetts and for California employers with more than 25 workers.

Seattle's largest employers will have to pay workers at least \$16 an hour starting Tuesday. In New York City, many businesses will have to pay at least \$15 an hour as of Monday. That's more than twice the federal minimum of \$7.25 an hour.

A variety of other new state laws also take effect Tuesday. Those include revisions to sexual harassment policies stemming from the #MeToo movement, restrictions on gun sales following deadly mass shootings and revamped criminal penalties as officials readjust the balance between punishment and rehabilitation.

The state and local wage laws come amid a multi-year push by unions and liberal advocacy groups to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour nationwide. Few are there yet, but many states have ratcheted up wages through phased-in laws and adjustments for inflation.

In Arkansas and Missouri, voters this fall approved ballot initiatives raising the minimum wage after state legislators did not. In Missouri, the minimum wage will rise from \$7.85 to \$8.60 an hour on Tuesday as the

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first of five annual increases that will take it to \$12 an hour by 2023.

At Granny Shaffer's in Joplin, waitress Shawna Green will see her base pay go up. But she has mixed emotions about it.

"We'll have regulars, and they will notice, and they will bring it to our attention, like it's our fault and our doings" that menu prices are increasing, she said. "They'll back off on something, and it's usually their tips, or they don't come as often."

Economic studies on minimum wage increases have shown that some workers do benefit, while others might see their work hours reduced. Businesses may place a higher value on experienced workers, making it more challenging for entry-level employees to find jobs.

Seattle, the fastest-growing large city in the U.S., has been at the forefront of the movement for higher minimum wages. A local ordinance raised the minimum wage to as much as \$11 an hour in 2015, then as much as \$13 in 2016, depending on the size of the employer and whether it provided health insurance.

A series of studies by the University of Washington has produced evolving conclusions.

In May, the researchers determined that Seattle's initial increase to \$11 an hour had an insignificant effect on employment but that the hike to \$13 an hour resulted in "a large drop in employment." They said the higher minimum wage led to a 6.9 percent decline in the hours worked for those earning under \$19 an hour, resulting in a net reduction in paychecks.

In October, however, those same researchers reached a contrasting conclusion. They said Seattle workers employed at low wages experienced a modest reduction in hours worked after the minimum wage increased, but nonetheless saw a net increase in average pretax earnings of \$10 a week. That gain generally went to those who already had been working more hours while those who had been working less saw no significant change in their overall earnings.

Both supporters and opponents of higher minimum wages have pointed to the Seattle studies.

The federal minimum wage was last raised in 2009. Since then, 29 states, the District of Columbia and dozens of other cities and counties have set minimum wages above the federal floor. Some have repeatedly raised their rates.

"The federal minimum wage has really become irrelevant," said Michael Saltsman, managing director of the Employment Policies Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based group that receives funding from businesses and opposes minimum wage increases.

The new state minimum wage laws could affect about 5.3 million workers who are currently earning less than the new standards, according to the liberal-leaning Economic Policy Institute, based in Washington, D.C. That equates to almost 8 percent of the workforce in those 20 states but doesn't account for additional minimum wage increases in some cities.

Advocates credit the trend toward higher minimum wages to the "Fight for \$15," a national movement that has used protests and rallies to push for higher wages for workers in fast food, child care, airlines and other sectors.

"It may not have motivated every lawmaker to agree that we should go to \$15," said David Cooper, senior economic analyst at the Economic Policy Institute. "But it's motivated many of them to accept that we need higher minimum wages than we currently have in much of the country."

Follow David A. Lieb at: <http://twitter.com/DavidALieb>

## Bismarck man dies in pickup crash on I-94 in Stark County

RICHARDTON, N.D. (AP) — The North Dakota State Patrol says a 71-year-old Bismarck man is dead after crashing his pickup on Interstate 94 in Stark County.

The patrol says the man was driving a Ford Ranger east on the interstate on his way to Bismarck from Rapid City, South Dakota, when he crashed early Sunday near Richardton in western North Dakota.

Authorities say the driver was killed when he lost control and the pickup rolled. A 46-year-old woman from Anchorage, Alaska, who was a passenger was injured and taken to a Dickinson hospital.

## Swine feedlot proposed for Faulk County could house 8K head

CHELSEA, S.D. (AP) — A swine feedlot proposed for north-central South Dakota could house more than 8,500 pigs.

The feedlot application is pending approval from the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which posted a public notice on its website .

Barry Kerkaert of Wesley Farm in Pipestone, Minnesota, is planning the operation southwest of Chelsea, South Dakota, in Faulk County.

According to the public notice, the proposed feedlot could house up to 7,844 head of swine weighing 55 pounds or more and 704 head of swine weighing less than 55 pounds.

The site's manure pits would have at least 270 days of liquid manure capacity. The manure would be applied to fields in Faulk County.

The American News reports comments can be submitted online until Jan. 11.

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

## South Dakota community rallies to save nursing home

SELBY, S.D. (AP) — Residents of Selby formed a nonprofit to keep the community's nursing home open. But, as two more care centers prepare to close in South Dakota, there are no easy answers to housing the elderly and others in need.

Nursing homes throughout the state and nation have been closing their doors, the Aberdeen American News reported .

Jerry Stiegelmeier, who has an 87-year-old mother in the Selby nursing home that was operated by Good Samaritan Society, said the support behind keeping the facility has been amazing and is something typically unheard of in a town of fewer than 700 people.

"The people that donated say that this is what needed to happen to help our whole community. And not just the people in town, but the surrounding area, too," he said. "If this is the trend, hopefully it all works out as well as it did for Selby."

Good Samaritan got help from the surrounding region, which raised \$500,000. Community members from Selby, Java and Glenham founded a nonprofit agency, Walworth County Care Center, which took over operations of the nursing home Dec. 1.

This story corrects name of town to 'Selby' instead of 'Shelby'.

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

## 29 states have minimum wages above the federal level

By The Associated Press

The federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour has remained the same since 2009. Since then, 29 states and the District of Columbia have set minimum wages above the federal level. Twenty states have minimum wage increases taking effect around the start of the new year.

Here's a look at states exceeding the federal minimum wage, with their current wage and, where applicable, the new one:

Alaska: current \$9.84, new \$9.89.

Arizona: current \$10.50, new \$11.

Arkansas: current \$8.50, new \$9.25.

California, more than 25 employees: current \$11, new \$12.

California, 25 or fewer employees: current \$10.50, new \$11.

Colorado: current \$10.20, new \$11.10.

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Connecticut: current \$10.10.  
Delaware: current \$8.25, new \$8.75.  
District of Columbia: current \$13.25.  
Florida: current \$8.25, new \$8.46.  
Hawaii: current \$10.10.  
Illinois: current \$8.25.  
Maine: current \$10, new \$11.  
Maryland: current: \$10.10.  
Massachusetts: current \$11, new \$12.  
Michigan: current \$9.25, new \$9.45.  
Minnesota: current \$9.65, new \$9.86.  
Missouri, current: \$7.85, new \$8.60.  
Montana: current \$8.30, new \$8.50.  
Nebraska: current \$9.  
Nevada: current \$8.25.  
New Jersey: current \$8.60, new \$8.85.  
New Mexico: current \$7.50.  
New York: current: \$10.40, new \$11.10.  
Ohio, current \$8.30, new \$8.55.  
Oregon: current \$10.75.  
Rhode Island: current \$10.10, new \$10.50.  
South Dakota: current \$8.85, new \$9.10.  
Vermont, current \$10.50, new \$10.78.  
Washington, current \$11.50, new \$12.  
West Virginia, current \$8.75.

## Revelers say hello to 2019, goodbye to an unsettling year

By The Associated Press

Revelers around the globe are bidding a weary farewell Monday to an unsettling year filled with challenges to many of the world's most basic institutions, including politics, trade, alliances and religion. Here's a look at how people are ushering in the new year:

### KIRIBATI

The Pacific island nation of Kiribati was the first in the world to welcome the new year, greeting 2019 with muted celebrations after spending 2018 on the front line of the battle against climate change.

Kiribati is made up of low-lying atolls along the equator which intersect three time zones, the first of which sees the new year 14 hours before midnight in London.

Much of the nation's land mass, occupied by 110,000 people, is endangered by rising seas which have inundated coastal villages. The rising oceans have turned fresh water sources brackish, imperiling communities and raising doubts the nation will exist at the next New Year. Former President Anote Tong said the only future for Kiribati may be mass migration.

The new year was welcomed in the capital, Tarawa, with church services and mostly quiet private celebrations.

### NEW ZEALAND

In Auckland, New Zealand's biggest city, tens of thousands gathered around Sky Tower as fireworks exploded from the top of the 328-meter (1,076-foot) structure. Across the southern hemisphere nation, thousands took to beaches and streets, becoming the first major nation in the world to usher in 2019.

Fireworks boomed and crackled above city centers and harbors.

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## AUSTRALIA

A thunderstorm drenched tens of thousands of people as they gathered for Sydney's traditional spectacular fireworks display, creating a show of its own with dozens of lightning strikes.

Police estimated that more than a million people would crowd Sydney Harbor to view the glittering fireworks. People began gathering early in the day at popular vantage points, including the Opera House and the ends of the Harbor Bridge.

The show was to feature more than 100,000 pyrotechnic effects accompanied by music culminating at midnight with "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," made famous by Aretha Franklin, who died in August.

Police said they were taking precautions to prevent any terrorist attack, but assured revelers there was no specific threat.

"We put obstacles between those large crowds and vehicles to ensure people can get in and out safely and enjoy their night in safety," police Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Walton said.

More than 1 billion people around the world were expected to watch the fireworks on television.

## THE UNITED NATIONS

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres issued a bleak New Year's message that called climate change an existential threat and warned that "it's time to seize our last best chance." He noted growing intolerance, geo-political divisions and inequality, resulting in people "questioning a world in which a handful of people hold the same wealth as half of humanity."

"But there are also reasons for hope," he said. "As we begin this New Year, let's resolve to confront threats, defend human dignity and build a better future — together."

## SOUTH KOREA

After an eventful year that saw three inter-Korean summits and the easing of tensions over North Korea's nuclear program, South Koreans enter 2019 with hopes that the hard-won detente will expand into a stable peace.

Thousands of South Koreans were expected to fill the streets of the capital, Seoul, for a traditional bell-tolling ceremony near City Hall to usher in the new year. Dignitaries picked to ring the old Bosingak bell at midnight include famous surgeon Lee Guk-jong, who successfully operated on a North Korean soldier who escaped to South Korea in 2017 in a hail of bullets fired by his comrades.

Elsewhere, about 10,000 people were expected to attend the tolling of a "peace bell" at Imjingak, a pavilion near the border with North Korea.

## NORTH KOREA

Leader Kim Jong Un will keep North Korea watchers busy on New Year's Day, when he is expected to give his annual address laying out the country's priorities for the year ahead. The speech is often the best gauge of what the North Korean leadership is focused on and what tone it will take in its dealings with the outside world.

Kim's speech it will be parsed carefully for clues about his thinking on denuclearization talks with Washington and a second summit with President Donald Trump, relations with South Korea, and North Korea's efforts to get out from under international sanctions as it tries to build its domestic economy.

In his New Year's speech this past year, Kim proposed talks with South Korea to reduce tensions and said the North would be willing to participate in South Korea's Winter Olympics, setting off a series of summits with the South and the U.S.

## CHINA

New Year's Eve isn't celebrated that widely in mainland China, where the lunar New Year in February is

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a more important holiday, but countdown events were being held in major cities and some of the faithful headed to Buddhist temples for bell-ringing and prayers.

The city of Beijing was holding a gala with VIP guests at the main site of the 2008 Summer Olympics. The event looked ahead to the 2022 Winter Games, which also will be held in the Chinese capital.

Additional police were deployed in parts of Shanghai, where a New Year's Eve stampede in 2014 killed 36 people. In Beijing, outdoor revelers had to brave temperatures well below freezing.

President Xi Jinping, in a message broadcast at the top of the evening news, outlined the country's achievements over the past year and said that by hosting a series of multinational meetings in 2018, "we have put forward China's proposals and sent out China's voice."

In Hong Kong, festive lights on the city's iconic skyscrapers provided the backdrop for a fireworks, music and light show over Victoria Harbor on a chilly evening. About 300,000 people were expected to line the waterfront.

## THAILAND

While many celebrate New Year's Eve with fireworks, hundreds of Thais traveled to Takien Temple in a suburb of Bangkok to lie inside coffins for traditional funeral rituals. Participants believe the ceremony — symbolizing death and rebirth — helps rid them of bad luck and allows them to be born again for a fresh start in the new year.

Participants held flowers and incense in their hands as monks covered them with pink sheets and chanted prayers for the dead.

"It wasn't scary or anything. It is our belief that it will help us get rid of bad luck and bring good fortune to our life," said Busaba Yookong, who came to the temple with her family.

Bangkok is filled with modern glitzy malls and high-rise buildings, but superstitious beliefs still hold sway in many aspects of Thai society.

## PHILIPPINES

Dozens of people have been injured by firecrackers ahead of New Year's Eve, when many across the Philippines set off powerful firecrackers in one of Asia's most violent celebrations despite a government scare campaign and threats of arrests.

The Department of Health said it has recorded more than 50 firecracker-caused injuries in the last 10 days, which is expected to increase overnight when Filipinos usher in 2019 with a bang. Although still a concern, the figure is significantly lower than a year ago, partly because fewer Filipinos have purchased firecrackers due to hard economic times.

Officials have urged centralized fireworks displays to discourage wild and sometimes fatal merry-making. The notorious tradition, worsened by celebratory gunfire that turned deadly, stems from a Chinese-influenced belief that noise drives away evil and misfortune.

## NEW YORK CITY

Snoop Dogg, Sting and Christina Aguilera will welcome 2019 in a packed Times Square along with revelers from around the world who come to see the traditional crystal ball drop.

Spectators are expected to start assembling early in the afternoon for the made-for-TV extravaganza. The celebration will take place under tight security, with partygoers checked for weapons and then herded into pens, ringed by metal barricades, where they wait for the stroke of midnight.

Russia: 4 dead in apartment collapse, apparent gas explosion

MOSCOW (AP) — At least four people died Monday when sections of an apartment building collapsed after an apparent gas explosion in Russia's Ural Mountains region, officials said, and hundreds of rescuers are searching for survivors under the debris.

The authorities said five people were hospitalized with injuries, and 38 other residents remained unaccounted for in the accident in Magnitogorsk, a city of 400,000 about 1,400 kilometers (870 miles) southeast

of Moscow.

The nation's top investigative agency, the Investigative Committee, said the collapse of a section of the ten-storey building was apparently caused by a gas leak. It happened before dawn when most residents were still asleep on the New Year's Eve.

Nearly 1,400 rescuers were searching for those who could have been buried under debris in temperatures of -17 degrees Celsius (1.4 degrees Fahrenheit), which are forecast to plunge to -24 degrees Celsius (-17 degrees Fahrenheit) overnight.

Emergency officials admitted that they were racing against time as the frigid weather reduces the chances to find anyone alive.

Local authorities initially said 68 of those registered in the collapsed section of the building were unaccounted for, but later tracked down some of them.

Magnitogorsk Mayor Sergei Berdnikov told the Tass news agency that 38 people are still missing, adding that it wasn't clear if they were in the building when it collapsed.

Emergency workers have evacuated residents of nearby sections of the building, fearing they could also tumble down.

The Kremlin said that President Vladimir Putin has been briefed on the situation. Cabinet officials arrived in Magnitogorsk to oversee the rescue efforts.

Gas explosions in Russian homes and businesses are common, and they are usually blamed on neglect of safety rules or poor maintenance.

## **Senator: Trump slowing down troop pullout from Syria**

**By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has ordered a slowdown to the withdrawal of U.S. forces in Syria, Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham said Sunday.

"I think we're in a pause situation," the South Carolina Republican said outside the White House after lunch with the president.

Trump announced earlier this month that he was ordering the withdrawal of all the roughly 2,000 troops from war-torn Syria, with aides expecting it to take place swiftly. The president had declared victory over the Islamic State group in Syria, though pockets of fighting remain.

Graham had been an outspoken critic of Trump's decision, which had drawn bipartisan criticism. The announcement also had shocked lawmakers and American allies, including Kurds who have fought alongside the U.S. against the Islamic State group and face an expected assault by Turkey.

"I think we're slowing things down in a smart way," Graham said, adding that Trump was very aware of the plight of the Kurds.

Critics had contended that the U.S. withdrawal would embolden Iran and Russia, which have supported the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

National security adviser John Bolton was expected to travel to Israel and Turkey next weekend to discuss the president's plans with the American allies.

During his appearance on CNN's "State of the Union," Graham previewed his arguments to Trump for reconsidering the Syria pullout.

"I'm going to ask him to sit down with his generals and reconsider how to do this. Slow this down. Make sure that we get it right. Make sure ISIS never comes back. Don't turn Syria over to the Iranians. That's a nightmare for Israel," Graham said.

"And, at the end of the day, if we leave the Kurds and abandon them and they get slaughtered, who's going to help you in the future?" he said. "I want to fight the war in the enemy's backyard, not ours. That's why we need a forward-deployed force in Iraq and Syria and Afghanistan for a while to come."

## **Bangladesh ruling coalition declared winner of disputed vote**



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By **JULHAS ALAM and EMILY SCHMALL, Associated Press**

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Bangladesh's ruling alliance won virtually every parliamentary seat in the country's general election, according to official results released Monday, giving Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina a third straight term despite allegations of intimidation and the opposition disputing the outcome.

The coalition led by Hasina's Awami League party won 288 out of 300 seats — 96 percent — in Sunday's polls, Election Commission Secretary Helal Uddin Ahmed said. The opposition alliance led by prominent lawyer Kamal Hossain won only seven seats.

The opposition rejected the outcome, with Hossain calling the election "farcical" and demanding a new election be held under the authority of a "nonpartisan government."

But Chief Election Commissioner K.M. Nurul Huda ruled out any revote, saying there were no reports of large irregularities.

"There is no scope to hold the election again," Huda said. He said the turnout in Sunday's vote was 80 percent.

Hasina's main rival for decades has been former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, the leader of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, whom a court deemed ineligible to run for office because she is in prison for alleged corruption.

In Zia's absence, opposition parties formed a coalition led by Hossain, an 82-year-old former member of Hasina's Awami League.

Hasina met political leaders and senior military and civil officials at her office on Monday, the United News of Bangladesh agency reported. It said Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi telephoned her and promised to continue to support Bangladesh under her leadership.

Hasina said the victory was "nothing for her personal gain, rather it is a great responsibility toward the country and people."

The opposition says Hasina's leadership has become increasingly authoritarian. More than a dozen people were killed in election-related violence on Sunday, and the election campaign was dogged by allegations of the arrest and jailing of thousands of Hasina's opponents.

Hossain said late Sunday that about 100 candidates from the alliance had withdrawn from their races during the day. He said the alliance would meet Monday to decide its next step.

"We call upon the Election Commission to declare this election void and demand a fresh election under a nonpartisan government," Hossain said.

Calls to several Hasina aides seeking comment were not immediately returned.

Bangladesh's leading newspapers ran banner headlines, some in red, while television stations aired round-the-clock analysis. A headline in the country's leading English-language newspaper, the Daily Star, read, "Hat-trick for Hasina, BNP found missing in polling; atmosphere festive, tuned only to ruling party," referring to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

In an editorial, the newspaper said "this was a one-sided election."

"The blatant and starkest manifestation of an uneven state of affairs was the absence of polling agents of the opposition ... in most, if not almost all, of the polling centers in the country," it said.

The secretary general of Zia's party, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, won a seat in a twist victory. Alamgir is a fierce critic of Hasina and spearheaded the formation of the opposition alliance with Hossain at the helm. Alamgir said Sunday he was rejecting any outcome, but it was unknown after his win was declared what he would do now.

In the run-up to the election, activists from both the ruling party and the opposition complained of attacks on supporters and candidates.

The Daily Star said 16 people were killed in 13 districts in election-related violence on Sunday.

The Associated Press received more than 50 calls from people across the country who identified themselves as opposition supporters complaining of intimidation and threats, and of being forced to vote in front of ruling party men inside polling booths.

While rights groups have sounded alarms about an erosion of Bangladesh's democracy, Hasina has promoted a different narrative, highlighting an ambitious economic agenda that has propelled Bangladesh

past larger neighbors Pakistan and India by some development measures.

Voters “will give us another opportunity to serve them so that we can maintain our upward trend of development, and take Bangladesh forward as a developing country,” Hasina said after casting her ballot along with her daughter and sister in Dhaka.

Some 104 million people in the Muslim-majority country were eligible to vote, including many young, first-time voters, in Bangladesh’s 11th general election since independence from Pakistan.

Both sides were hoping to avoid a repeat of 2014, when Zia and the BNP boycotted and voter turnout was only 22 percent. More than half of the 300 parliamentary seats were uncontested. The Awami League’s landslide victory was met with violence that left at least 22 people dead.

About 600,000 security officials, including army and paramilitary forces, were deployed to counter violence. The telecommunications regulator shut down mobile internet services nationwide to prevent the organizing of protests.

## Scrutiny, criticism of ICE come with immigration enforcement

By COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — The officers suit up in the pre-dawn darkness, wrapping on body armor, snapping in guns, pulling on black sweat shirts that read POLICE and ICE.

They gather around a conference table in an ordinary office in a nondescript office park in the suburbs, going over their targets for the day: two men, both with criminal histories. Top of the list is a man from El Salvador convicted of drunken driving.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s enforcement and removal operations, like the five-person field office team outside Richmond, hunt people in the U.S. illegally, some of whom have been here for decades, working and raising families. Carrying out President Donald Trump’s hard-line immigration policies has exposed ICE to unprecedented public scrutiny and criticism, even though officers say they’re doing largely the same job they did before the election — prioritizing criminals.

But they have also stepped up arrests of people who have no U.S. criminal records. It is those stories of ICE officers arresting dads and grandmothers that pepper local news. Officers are heckled and videotaped. Some Democratic politicians have called for ICE to be abolished.

ICE employees have been threatened at their homes, their personal data exposed online, officials said. “There is a tension around ‘It could be that somebody could find out what I do and hate me for it or do worse than hate me for it,’” Ronald Vitiello, acting head of the agency, told The Associated Press.

Vitiello said the agency is monitoring social media and giving employees resources for when they feel threatened.

ICE, formed after the Sept. 11 attacks, had been told under the Obama administration to focus on removing immigrants who had committed crimes. Trump, in one of his first moves in office, directed his administration to target anyone in the country illegally.

Government data back up that ICE is still mostly targeting people convicted of a crime. But the data also show the agency has greatly ramped up arrests of people who were accused of a crime but not convicted, and increased arrests solely on immigration violations.

ICE arrested 32,977 people accused of crimes and 20,464 with immigration violations during the budget year 2018. There were 105,140 arrests of someone with a criminal conviction and 158,581 arrests overall. The most frequent criminal conviction was for drunken driving, followed by drug and traffic offenses.

By comparison, in the last budget year of the Obama administration, there were 94,751 people arrested with convictions, 6,267 arrests of those with pending charges and 9,086 on immigration violations. There were 111,104 arrests overall.

Advocates say a traffic violation shouldn’t be enough to get you kicked out of the country. They accuse the agency of stoking fear and tearing families apart.

“You need some kind of agency to deal with immigration, but ICE is not that,” New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, a Democrat, said on radio station WNYC. “ICE’s time has come and gone; it is broken. ICE has

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been sent on a very negative, divisive mission, and it cannot function the way it is.”

In response, some cities have banished ICE from jails where they could easily pick up immigration violators. Police in New York, Baltimore and Seattle rarely, if ever, give up information on when suspected criminals in the U.S. illegally will be released from custody.

ICE officers now do more street operations and say they end up with more “collateral arrests,” people they happen upon who are also in the country illegally. They rarely knock on doors anymore, instead spending hours surveilling and waiting outside. They haunt courthouses.

In New York, a Mexican construction worker who has lived in the United States for more than a decade appeared before a judge. He was a week away from clearing his name in a low-level moving vehicle infraction.

When he walked out of the courthouse, ICE officers were waiting for him. He was sent to a detention center and deported less than two weeks later. He left behind a wife and three children.

“I didn’t do anything,” said the man, who spoke from Mexico but did not want to be identified because he fears for his family. “I am a hard-working person, I am not a criminal. I don’t understand.”

In Richmond, the team has a long list of targets, but they’re the only officers doing fugitive enforcement so they must prioritize. They’ve been trailing the Salvadoran man for days.

They split up into two cars and drive over to his apartment. It’s pitch black. They wait. The radio crackles. An officer says someone has left but it’s so dark it’s impossible to see who it is. Lights flash. It’s not who they’re looking for, it’s a woman. They send her on her way. The officers are jittery, thinking the mistake spooked the target. They wait.

The man eventually emerges from his apartment as the sun begins to rise. He’s wearing a neon-green shirt and construction work boots. He gets into his blue SUV and pulls out. The officers box him in on both sides and flash blue lights.

He’s calm as they search him, and he gives them an expired El Salvador passport. His name: Jose Gilberto Macua Gutierrez.

One of the officers backs Macua’s SUV back into a parking spot, and he’s handcuffed, driven back to the office, fingerprinted and placed alone in a holding cell.

The operation took too long — they missed the window for their second target.

They will try again.

“It’s a rare thing to be arrested in the country if you haven’t violated the law,” Vitiello said. “If someone is here and don’t otherwise come across the criminal justice system, it’s very rare that they are going to be arrested by ICE, despite the perceptions that are out there.”

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Associated Press writers Denise Lavoie and Tom Hays in New York contributed to this report.

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This story has been corrected to show the name is Immigration and Customs Enforcement, not Customs and Immigration Enforcement.

## Trump-Pelosi showdown over shutdown first battle of new era

By LISA MASCARO, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nancy Pelosi often quotes Abraham Lincoln saying public sentiment is everything. It’s a theory that will be put to the test when the new House Democratic majority gavels in this week and votes to end the government shutdown without money for President Donald Trump’s border wall with Mexico.

The high-stakes move to reopen the government will be the first big battle between Trump and Pelosi as Democrats come into control ready to reassert the power of the legislative branch and confront the White House.

Trump is counting on public support as he holds out for \$5 billion to build the wall. He’s signaled he’s in no rush to give up on a signature campaign issue as he launches his own re-election bid in 2020. But

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Pelosi just as strongly believes the public will be on Democrats' side as they try to get government working again, and move on to health care and other priorities — including oversight of the White House.

As the shutdown drags into a second week, shuttering popular Smithsonian museums and creating hardship among some 800,000 federal workers, the stalemate is fast becoming a test of wills rarely seen when Republicans had monopoly control of government in Washington.

"We're going to do our job," said Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., the incoming chairman of the Rules Committee, vowing to pass legislation to re-open government. "The president should take 'yes' for an answer and go back to tweeting."

As Republicans relinquish their hold on Congress, and House Speaker Paul Ryan gives up the gavel, the White House is eager for a showdown with Pelosi believing the crisis will tarnish the opening of the new legislative session, and with it, her expected return to the speaker's office.

Trump is committed for the long haul, according to administration officials unauthorized to speak publicly and granted anonymity. After early threats to shut down government over the wall, he now believes he's got public opinion and, at very least, his base of supporters behind him.

The president has not said he would veto the Democratic legislation, if it lands on his desk. But the idea of clouding Pelosi's speakership only emboldens Trump, the officials said. A prolonged crisis could hobble House Democrats' ability to launch their agenda, which includes investigations of the president and oversight of his administration, including Russian interference in the election.

Rather than reach out for negotiations, the president has been holed up at the White House, tweeting. "Veterans on President Trump's handling of Border Security - 62% Approval Rating," Trump tweeted Sunday, referring to AP VoteCast, a nationwide survey of more than 115,000 midterm voters — including more than 4,000 current and former service members — conducted for The Associated Press by NORC at the University of Chicago. It found that veterans overall approved of Trump's job performance, but women, the fastest growing demographic group in the military, defied that trend with a majority disapproving of him.

Other Republicans, though, are more wary of the White House's approach. Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, said Sunday a prolonged standoff only makes all sides look "silly."

"If we blame each other, this could last a long, long time," Shelby said on CBS' "Face the Nation." "It's not a question of who wins, who loses ... Nobody wins in a shutdown, we all lose."

Pelosi, meanwhile, shows no signs of wavering, eager to both re-open government and to launch the Democratic agenda.

When the House gavels open Thursday, one of the first votes will be on Pelosi's return as speaker. The California Democrat is confident she has the support needed to win.

Democrats in the House are preparing three legislative options to keep government running Day One, aides said. One would be a temporary measure, similar to the Senate-passed bill before Christmas, to keep border security at existing funding levels, \$1.3 billion, and re-open government through Feb. 8, but no money for the wall. The others would also keep border funds at current levels, without wall money, but for the remainder of the fiscal year, though Sept. 30.

On the other side of the Capitol, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer has shown little daylight with Pelosi, and has been able to hold Democrats together, effectively neutralizing the White House's attempt to split his ranks, even after their November losses in the Senate.

Schumer immediately began approaching Democratic senators after the midterm election to hear their views on Trump's \$5 billion demand for the wall, according to a person familiar with the talks but unauthorized to speak publicly. He quickly learned that even the most vulnerable senators from states Trump won in 2016, while favoring border security, did not want to spend the money on the wall.

One red-state Democrat, Montana Sen. Jon Tester, said Sunday that Trump campaigned on having Mexico pay for the wall, but if the president is now saying, "We're still going to build the wall, but were going to have the American taxpayer pay for it — we're going to use the American taxpayer like an ATM machine — that's not the direction to go."

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Republicans, who will still control the Senate under Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, have not signaled their next move. They have largely left the negotiations to Trump and Democrats, and it's unclear if McConnell would consider any of the bills the House, under Pelosi, could pass.

Republican senators are eager to get back to confirming Trump's judicial nominees, and they say they don't want to consider any more shutdown legislation unless they know Trump would sign it into law, after the president rejected their Senate-passed bill.

House Democrats are pushing forward with other priorities in the first weeks of the new Congress, including a Rules package that will impose new transparency and oversight on legislative operations — including a requirement that all bills be considered in committees before coming to the floor for votes. They're also planning early moves on health care, including a resolution to fight the legal challenge to the Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare.

Rep. Lucille Roybal Allard, D-Calif., the incoming chairwoman of the appropriations subcommittee that handles Homeland Security, said in an interview that her office is preparing legislation to keep government running and moving forward.

"Our goal is to make sure we move on our promises," she said, noting that the public has "tremendous influence on what happens" in Washington.

And if the shutdown drags into the new Congress? "I don't even want to think about that."

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Associated Press writer Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

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

## Guatemala village mourns 2nd child to die in US custody

By SONIA PEREZ D., Associated Press

YALAMBOJOCH, Guatemala (AP) — White flowers and flickering candles sat atop a low table inside the simple wooden home in remote, rural Guatemala. Nearby was a small pair of rubber boots, sized to fit an 8-year-old.

Taped to the wall were three photos, alternately smiling and serious, bearing a simple epitaph for the boy whose memory the makeshift altar honored: "Felipe Gomez Alonzo. Died Dec. 24 2018 in New Mexico, United States."

On Christmas Eve, Felipe became the second Guatemalan child this month to die while in U.S. custody near the Mexican border. The deaths prompted widespread criticism of President Donald Trump, who has sought to deflect responsibility toward Democrats even as his Homeland Security secretary vowed additional health screenings for detained migrant children.

In the boy's village of Yalambojoch, in western Guatemala, the political fallout in the United States seemed a world away and there was only deep sadness over his death. Relatives said they had no idea that such a tragedy could occur. Nor had they heard about U.S. policies that led to thousands of migrant children being separated from their parents earlier this year.

"We don't have a television. We don't have a radio," Catarina Gomez, Felipe's sister, said Saturday. "We didn't know what had happened before."

The hamlet, set on a plain and surrounded by spectacular, pine-covered mountains, is a place of crushing poverty and lack of opportunity, home to a single small school, dirt roads that become impassible during the rainy season and rudimentary homes without insulation, proper flooring, water or electricity.

The community is populated by families who fled to Mexico during the bloodiest years of Guatemala's 1960-1996 civil war but returned after the signing of peace accords. There are no jobs, and people live off meager subsistence farming and local commerce. Residents say the Guatemalan government has turned a blind eye to their plight, a complaint that can be heard in other impoverished villages in the country.

Felipe's sister, Catarina, said that in recent years "everyone started heading for the United States," so much so that a local project to boost education financed with Swedish help was abandoned because there were practically no more young people to take the classes.

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It was extreme poverty and lack of opportunity that drove Felipe's father, Agustin Gomez, to decide that he and the boy would set off for the United States. Others from the community had been able to cross the U.S. border with children, and he figured they would have the same luck. Felipe was chosen because he was the oldest son. It didn't occur to anyone that the journey could be dangerous.

"I didn't think of that, because several families had already left and they made it," the boy's mother, Catarina Alonzo said, speaking in the indigenous Chuj language as her stepdaughter translated into Spanish.

Felipe was healthy when they left, according to the family. The last time he spoke with his mother was a day before they were taken into detention by border agents. Felipe told her he was well, that he had eaten chicken, that the next time they talked would be by phone from the United States.

Instead, the call that came Christmas Day was from her husband, who said Felipe had died the day before.

The two had been apprehended a week earlier, on Dec. 18, near the Paso del Norte bridge connecting El Paso, Texas, to Juarez, Mexico, according to border officials. Father and son were held at the bridge's processing center and then the Border Patrol station in El Paso before being transferred on Dec. 23 to a facility in Alamogordo, New Mexico, about 90 miles (145 kilometers) away.

After an agent noticed Felipe coughing, father and son were taken to an Alamogordo hospital, where Felipe was found to have a 103-degree fever (39.4 degrees Celsius), officials have said.

Felipe was held for observation for 90 minutes, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, before being released with prescriptions for amoxicillin and ibuprofen.

But the boy fell sick hours later and was admitted to the hospital on Christmas Eve. He died just before midnight.

New Mexico authorities said late Thursday that an autopsy showed Felipe had the flu, but more tests need to be done before a cause of death can be determined.

The other Guatemalan child, 7-year-old Jakelin Caal, died Dec. 8 in El Paso. She showed signs of sepsis, a potentially fatal condition brought on by infection, according to officials.

On Saturday, Trump claimed that Felipe and Jakelin were "very sick" before they reached the border, though both young migrants passed initial health screenings by Border Patrol.

Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said last week that prior to this month, no child had died in the agency's custody in more than a decade.

On Sunday he called for a "multifaceted solution" on immigration, including not only better border security and new immigration laws but more aid to the Central American countries the migrants are fleeing from.

Referring to the U.S. pledge earlier this month of \$5.8 billion in development aid for Central America, McAleenan called it "a tremendous step forward."

"There are green shoots of progress both on security and the economic front in Central America. We need to foster that and help improve the opportunities to stay at home," he said on ABC's "This Week."

Outside the Gomez family home in Yalambojoch, women gathered wearing lavender skirts in the intricate patterns typical of indigenous garb in Guatemala. Colorful tapestries hung on a clothesline above the muddy yard.

Taped to the door were a pair of Felipe's artworks. One was a rendering of a blue balloon with a green string; in the other, a white horse jumped over a fence against a yellow sun and tangerine sky.

Among the villagers grieving Felipe's death was his 7-year-old best friend, Kevin. Two days before Felipe and his dad left, the two boys quarreled.

"They were crying because they had fought," said Felipe's sister, Catarina.

By the time Kevin came back to look for his friend, he had left for the United States. Kevin now knows that Felipe has died, the family said.

Trying to fight back tears, Catarina Alonzo said her son promised before leaving that when he was grown, he would work to send money home. Felipe also wanted to buy her a cellphone so she could see pictures of him from afar.

Now she hopes for only two things: That Felipe's body is returned as soon as possible for burial, and that her husband can remain in the United States to work off debt and support their other kids.

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The Guatemalan Consulate in Phoenix has said that Agustin Gomez was released on a humanitarian license allowing him to remain in the United States for now. Felipe's body is expected to be sent back to Guatemala around mid-January.

Associated Press writers Nomaan Merchant in Houston and Zeke Miller and Colleen Long in Washington contributed to this report.

## Throng to pack Times Square for mild, rainy New Year's Eve

NEW YORK (AP) — Snoop Dogg, Sting and Christina Aguilera will welcome 2019 in a packed Times Square Monday along with revelers from around the world who come to see the traditional crystal ball drop, fireworks and a blizzard of confetti.

Spectators are expected to start assembling in early afternoon for the made-for-TV extravaganza. As has been the case for years, the celebration will take place under tight security, with partygoers checked for weapons and then herded into pens, ringed by metal barricades, where they wait for the stroke of midnight.

Any repeat visitors from last year's celebration will undoubtedly be praying for better weather. Last year's event was one of the coldest on record at 10 degrees Fahrenheit. Forecasters say Monday's party will take place amid mild temperatures but possibly rain. Umbrellas are banned for security reasons.

Rain or shine, performers will try to light up the crowd.

Bastille and New Kids On The Block will perform medleys of their hit songs on "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve," and singer-songwriter Bebe Rexha will perform John Lennon's "Imagine" before the 60-second countdown to the midnight ball drop.

People who arrive early enough to grab a standing spot in Times Square itself may have a good view of the stages where the entertainers perform. The rest of the throngs, stuffed into pens stretching several blocks north toward Central Park, will be able to follow the action on viewing screens.

There are no public toilets in the pens, backpacks are banned and there are no garbage cans either, so picnicking for the event can be rough. But revelers will have plenty of companionship, though experts say probably well short of the 1 million to 2 million spectators claimed by city officials and organizers.

Thousands of police officers will be on hand to provide security, with the help of bomb-sniffing dogs, 1,225 security cameras and 235 "blocker vehicles" used to stop any potential vehicle attacks.

The show's official programming begins at 6 p.m., with the lighting and raising of the New Year's Eve Ball up a pole atop One Times Square. The Sino-American Friendship Association will flip the giant switch that lights the ball before presenting a Chinese cultural performance culminating in red and gold pyrotechnics.

The ball drops during the midnight countdown. This year, the ball is a 12-foot (3.5-meter) diameter geodesic sphere covered with 2,688 Waterford crystal triangles lit by 32,256 LEDs. The numerals "2019" will burst into light at midnight accompanied by pyrotechnics and the release of 3,000 pounds of confetti.

Mixed in with the confetti will be tens of thousands of wishes from around the world. People write their wishes on pieces of confetti posted on a mobile "wishing wall" in Manhattan or submit them online. Some of the wishes will be read onstage throughout the evening.

## Former Afghanistan commander warns of plans to cut troops

By KEVIN FREKING, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The former top U.S. commander in Afghanistan said Sunday that withdrawing up to half the 14,000 American troops serving there would reduce the incentive for the Taliban to negotiate a peace deal after more than 17 years of war.

Retired Gen. Stanley McChrystal said the U.S. has "basically traded away the biggest leverage point we have." McChrystal's comments were in response to reports that President Donald Trump had ordered the Pentagon to develop plans to withdraw thousands of American troops by next summer. Outgoing Defense Secretary Jim Mattis mentioned the order in his resignation letter. Mattis' last day in the administration is Monday.

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The U.S. and NATO formally concluded their combat mission in 2014, but American and allied troops remain, conducting strikes on the Islamic State group and the Taliban and working to train and build the Afghan military.

"If you tell the Taliban that we are absolutely leaving on date certain, cutting down, weakening ourselves, their incentives to try to cut a deal drop dramatically," McChrystal said on ABC's "This Week."

McChrystal also said he's worried that the Afghan people will lose confidence in the U.S. as an ally that can be counted on.

"I think we probably rocked them," said McChrystal, who commanded U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan for about a year.

He also was critical of President Donald Trump personally, saying he doesn't believe Trump tells the truth. The comment came when asked what he would say if he were asked to join the Trump administration.

"I think it's important for me to work for people who I think are basically honest, who tell the truth as best they know it," he said.

When asked if Trump is immoral, McChrystal responded: "I think he is."

It's not the first time he's criticized a sitting president. President Barack Obama accepted McChrystal's resignation in June 2010 after he made scathing remarks in a magazine article about administration officials, including about Obama and Vice President Joe Biden.

## Lion kills worker after escaping locked area at conservatory

BURLINGTON, N.C. (AP) — A lion killed a young worker at a wildlife conservatory Sunday after it got loose from a locked space, the center said.

Alexandra Black, 22, of New Palestine, Indiana, was killed Sunday after being attacked by the lion in an enclosure that was being cleaned at the Conservators Center, news outlets reported, citing a statement from the Caswell County Sheriff's Office.

The lion was shot and killed after attempts to tranquilize the animal failed, deputies said.

A "husbandry team" led by a professionally trained animal keeper was carrying out the routine cleaning when the lion somehow got loose, the center said in a statement.

It wasn't clear how the lion escaped the area that was supposed to be locked, said the center, which is closed until further notice.

"This is the worst day of my life. We've lost a person. We've lost an animal. We have lost the faith in ourselves a little today," said Mindy Stinner, the executive director of the Conservators Center, according to WTVD-TV .

Black had graduated from Indiana University in May with a degree in animal behavior, according to her LinkedIn page . She had been working at the conservatory for about two weeks, her family said.

"She was a beautiful young woman who had just started her career, there was a terrible accident, and we are mourning," Black's family said in a statement, according to news outlets. "But, she died following her passion."

The center said the lion was fatally shot to allow county personnel to retrieve Black.

The facility was founded in 1999 and is in Burlington, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northwest of Raleigh.

On its website, the center said it began giving public tours in 2007 and gets more than 16,000 visitors annually. It has more than a dozen employees and currently houses more than 80 animals and more than 21 species.

The center says it took in 14 lions and tigers in 2004 to assist the U.S. Department of Agriculture with caring for animals that were living in "unacceptable conditions."

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This story has been corrected to show that Black graduated from Indiana University, not Indiana State University.



## Kim Jong Un expected to ring in 2019 with big policy speech

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Kim Jong Un will be keeping North Korea watchers busy on New Year's Day, when he is expected to give his annual address laying out the country's top priorities for the year ahead.

The speech, which is normally broadcast on North Korea's state-run television network, is often the best gauge of what the North Korean leadership is focused on and what tone it will take in its dealings with the outside world.

For 2019, it will be parsed carefully for clues about Kim's thinking on denuclearization talks with Washington and a second summit with President Donald Trump, relations with South Korea and Pyongyang's efforts to get out from under international sanctions as it tries to build up its domestic economy.

A look at Kim's plate for the coming year:

### THE ECONOMY

This is Kim's primary concern. He made that clear in his 2018 News Year's address and his government has been hammering it home ever since.

In his first televised speech, at a military parade in 2012, Kim vowed the nation would never again have to tighten its belts, a reference to the economic hardships it has faced, including a disastrous famine in the 1990s.

While they remain isolated and unable to travel or experience foreign media freely, North Koreans are aware of the yawning prosperity gap between themselves, South Korea and China. Kim has tried to address that by initiating infrastructure projects in major cities, building up the capital and allowing — if not overtly supporting — the spread of the market economy. What's not clear is how far he is willing to go with the kind of fundamental, systemic reforms needed to really ensure sustainable growth.

North Korea has hinted it wants to join the World Trade Organization and be more a part of the global economic community. But that would also require some risky moves — like increased transparency and commitment to global rules and norms. A big question is how much control Kim is willing to relinquish in exchange for prosperity.

North Korea is entering the fourth year of a five-year economic plan that Kim announced with great fanfare at a rare congress of his ruling party in 2016. If precedent is any indication, he will go into some detail outlining, sector by sector, the country's successes so far and emphasizing what remains to be done. This part of the speech is usually couched in deliberately vague, broad or aspirational language and is directed at the domestic party leadership.

But if Kim is serious about change, this could be where he drops some important hints.

### THE NUKES

North Korea is still standing firmly behind the agreements it made with Trump at the Singapore summit.

The problem is that North Korea's interpretation of what they agreed to is at odds with that of the Trump administration.

Kim never agreed to unilaterally throw away his hard-won nuclear arsenal, which he maintains is a necessary deterrent to the threat of an attack by the United States. The North's moratorium on nuclear tests and long-range missile launches also isn't part of the summit agreement and there is no explicit promise in the Singapore joint statement that the North won't continue producing or developing its missiles.

So while the missiles have stopped flying for now, there's still a lot up in the air.

Kim agreed the North would "work toward the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." But from the North's perspective, it must include the removal of what it has always claimed is the reason why it has nukes in the first place — the threat of a U.S. nuclear attack. While not directly criticizing Trump, a tactic it is likely to stick with until it sees the overall process as seriously off the rails, the North has tried to play him against his advisers while it pushes for security guarantees and sanctions relief.

The bottom line is that North Korea hasn't given up much since Singapore. And it doesn't think Wash-

ington has, either.

Trump has said a second summit could be held soon. The New Year's speech gives Kim a golden opportunity to set the goalposts and to try to further detach Trump from his advisers.

## THE SOUTH

In contrast to Pyongyang's dealings with Washington, relations between North and South Korea have seen a major thaw.

With three leaders' summits in 2018 and dozens of other meetings, the Koreas have opened a liaison office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong, created border buffers and no-fly zones to reduce military tensions, and jointly surveyed North Korea's outdated railways and roads with the goal of connecting them with the South. They even vowed to make a bid to jointly host the 2032 Summer Olympics.

But Seoul cannot proceed without the removal of U.S.-led international sanctions. While President Moon Jae-in sees inter-Korean reconciliation as a crucial part of nuclear diplomacy, his enthusiasm for engagement has caused discomfort in Washington. Pyongyang, meanwhile, has already begun expressing its frustration with the slowdown in inter-Korean projects and demanded that Seoul break from Washington's lead.

Some analysts expect Kim to further try to drive a wedge between the allies with a nationalistic call for stronger inter-Korean cooperation, while painting Washington as a bad-faith actor refusing to take corresponding measures to the North's unilateral dismantlement of a nuclear test site and the suspension of nuclear and long-range missile tests.

Associated Press writer Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul, South Korea, contributed to this report. Talmadge is the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief. Follow him on Instagram and Twitter: @EricTalmadge

## Trump's promise of a wall may not be fulfilled as advertised

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three confidantes of President Donald Trump, including his departing chief of staff, are indicating that the president's signature campaign pledge to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border would not be fulfilled as advertised.

Trump sparked fervent chants of "Build that wall!" at rallies before and after his election and more recently cited a lack of funding for a border wall as the reason for partially shutting down the government. At times the president has also waded off the idea that the wall could be any kind of barrier.

However, White House chief of staff John Kelly told the Los Angeles Times in an interview published Sunday that Trump abandoned the notion of "a solid concrete wall early on in the administration."

"To be honest, it's not a wall," Kelly said, adding that the mix of technological enhancements and "steel slat" barriers the president now wants along the border resulted from conversations with law enforcement professionals.

Along the same lines, White House counselor Kellyanne Conway called discussion of the apparent contradiction "a silly semantic argument."

"There may be a wall in some places, there may be steel slats, there may be technological enhancements," Conway told "Fox News Sunday." "But only saying 'wall or no wall' is being very disingenuous and turning a complete blind eye to what is a crisis at the border."

Sen. Lindsey Graham, the South Carolina Republican who is close to the president, emerged from a Sunday lunch at the White House to tell reporters that "the wall has become a metaphor for border security" and referred to "a physical barrier along the border."

Graham said Trump was "open-minded" about a broader immigration agreement, saying the budget impasse presented an opportunity to address issues beyond the border wall. But a previous attempt to reach a compromise that addressed the status of "Dreamers" — young immigrants brought to the U.S. as children — broke down last year as a result of escalating White House demands.

Graham said he hoped to end the shutdown by offering Democrats incentives to get them to vote for wall

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funding and told CNN before his lunch with Trump that "there will never be a deal without wall funding."

Graham proposed to help two groups of immigrants get approval to continue living in the U.S: about 700,000 young "Dreamers" brought into the U.S. illegally as children and about 400,000 people receiving temporary protected status because they are from countries struggling with natural disasters or armed conflicts. He also said the compromise should include changes in federal law to discourage people from trying to enter the U.S. illegally.

"Democrats have a chance here to work with me and others, including the president, to bring legal status to people who have very uncertain lives," Graham said.

The partial government shutdown began Dec. 22 after Trump bowed to conservative demands that he fight to make good on his vow and secure funding for the wall before Republicans lose control of the House on Wednesday. Democrats have remained committed to blocking the president's priority, and with neither side engaging in substantive negotiation, the effect of the partial shutdown was set to spread and to extend into the new year.

In August 2015 during his presidential campaign, Trump made his expectations for the border explicitly clear, as he parried criticism from rival Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor.

"Jeb Bush just talked about my border proposal to build a 'fence,'" he tweeted. "It's not a fence, Jeb, it's a WALL, and there's a BIG difference!"

Trump suggested as much again in a tweet on Sunday: "President and Mrs. Obama built/has a ten foot Wall around their D.C. mansion/compound. I agree, totally necessary for their safety and security. The U.S. needs the same thing, slightly larger version!"

Aside from what constitutes a wall, neither side appeared ready to budge off its negotiating position. The two sides have had little direct contact during the stalemate, and Trump did not ask Republicans, who hold a monopoly on power in Washington until Thursday, to keep Congress in session.

Talks have been at a stalemate for more than a week, after Democrats said the White House offered to accept \$2.5 billion for border security. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer told Vice President Mike Pence that it wasn't acceptable, nor was it guaranteed that Trump, under intense pressure from his conservative base to fulfill his signature campaign promise, would settle for that amount.

Conway claimed Sunday that "the president has already compromised" by dropping his request for the wall from \$25 billion, and she called on Democrats to return to the negotiating table.

"It is with them," she said, explaining why Trump was not reaching out to Democrats.

Democrats maintain that they have already presented the White House with three options to end the shutdown, none of which fund the wall, and insist that it's Trump's move.

"At this point, it's clear the White House doesn't know what they want when it comes to border security," said Justin Goodman, Schumer's spokesman. "While one White House official says they're willing to compromise, another says the president is holding firm at no less than \$5 billion for the wall. Meanwhile, the president tweets blaming everyone but himself for a shutdown he called for more than 25 times."

After canceling a vacation to his private Florida club, Trump spent the weekend at the White House. He has remained out of the public eye since returning early Thursday from a 29-hour trip to visit U.S. troops in Iraq, instead taking to Twitter to attack Democrats. He also moved to defend himself from criticism that he couldn't deliver on the wall while the GOP controlled both the House and Senate.

"For those that naively ask why didn't the Republicans get approval to build the Wall over the last year, it is because IN THE SENATE WE NEED 10 DEMOCRAT VOTES, and they will give us "NONE" for Border Security!" he tweeted. "Now we have to do it the hard way, with a Shutdown."

Democrats have vowed to pass legislation restoring the government as soon as they take control of the House on Thursday, but that won't accomplish anything unless Trump and the Republican-controlled Senate go along with it.

The shutdown has forced hundreds of thousands of federal workers and contractors to stay home or work without pay.

Associated Press writers Lisa Mascaro and Kevin Freking in Washington contributed to this report.

## **Kids who assault on US bases can still escape accountability**

**By JUSTIN PRITCHARD and REESE DUNKLIN, Associated Press**

Despite new rules addressing sexual assault among the children of U.S. service members, the federal government failed to fix a flaw that on many military bases has let alleged juvenile abusers escape accountability or treatment.

New records obtained by The Associated Press underscore how few child-on-child sex assault reports pursued by military investigators are prosecuted. That problem is most serious on U.S. installations overseas, where at least 47,000 children are enrolled in Pentagon-run schools.

Children and teens suspected of sex crimes on U.S. bases overseas often faced no legal consequences, such as court-ordered rehabilitation, records obtained through the Freedom of Information Act show. Those held to account were generally either kicked off base into the civilian world or received modest punishments, the records show.

One, for example, was told to write a 1,000-word essay about "the difference between appropriate and inappropriate touching." Another avoided punishment by enlisting in the Army. A third, who was put on curfew after two girls accused him of sexual assault, was investigated a year later in an alleged rape, a case that also went unprosecuted.

Congress ordered internal investigations and mandated Pentagon reforms this summer after an Associated Press investigation revealed the problems of juvenile sexual assault on U.S. military bases, including the failure of the Defense and Justice Departments to help either victims or offenders.

One proposed reform would have required federal prosecutors with jurisdiction over civilians on base to transfer child-on-child sex assault cases to counterparts in state juvenile justice systems, which have resources dedicated to rehabilitation. But that requirement did not survive final negotiations over the legislation.

Federal prosecutors, under pressure to win big convictions, don't take juvenile sex assault cases because they can be hard to prove and require extra paperwork, former prosecutors say. Military officials privately bemoan what they see as the Justice Department's indifference while publicly noting their own limitations.

"We could bar that kid from being on post, or we could move the family from the post, but beyond that, the authorities really reside outside the military," Army Secretary Mark Esper told senators at a May hearing.

Representatives of the Defense and Justice Departments have been meeting for several months to resolve problems that AP's investigation highlighted.

Officials are "considering a range of options to ensure that these types of cases are effectively addressed," Justice Department spokesman Wyn Hornbuckle told the AP. The idea is to use state courts when possible, he added.

That would not apply to U.S. installations in Europe and Asia, where U.S. officials can be reluctant to involve prosecutors from host nations.

AP's review of investigative reports in which military officials documented prosecution decisions found that about one in 10 on overseas Army, Navy or Marines bases were accepted from 2007 into 2017.

Weak cases don't explain the lack of prosecutions. Army criminal investigators concluded that nearly 90 percent of juvenile sex crime allegations on bases were credible, records show. Naval Criminal Investigative Service agents do not routinely record whether they believe allegations, but on the Navy and Marines bases where NCIS works, AP identified two dozen unprosecuted cases in which an alleged attacker confessed.

The Justice Department refused to share data on the prosecution of juveniles for sex crimes committed overseas. The department added that its lawyers decline to prosecute cases for many reasons, including strength of evidence, age of the suspect and severity of the alleged crime.

Congress acted in response to AP stories that identified nearly 700 cases of child-on-child sexual assault or rape on American military installations worldwide over a decade. Military investigators buried some cases, AP found, while many of those they investigated fell into the legal and bureaucratic netherworld.

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Military lawyers cannot prosecute the civilian children of service members and contractors. Given the infrequency of federal prosecution, kids suspected of sexually assaulting other kids rarely get the kind of court-supported rehabilitation that research shows will prevent most young offenders from committing another sex crime.

Lawmakers directed the Pentagon's inspector general and the Government Accountability Office to investigate. They also ordered the Department of Defense Education Activity, which oversees the Pentagon's network of schools in seven U.S. states and 11 other countries, to create new policies to track and respond to reports of child-on-child sexual assault. Legal protections that students in U.S. public schools enjoy were extended to the military-run schools as well.

The AP's investigation also found that the military's Family Advocacy Program has denied services to sex-assault victims because their alleged attacker was not an adult. Spokeswoman Lt. Col. Carla Gleason said Pentagon experts are now "working on identifying gaps in our family advocacy processes and programs concerning problematic juvenile sexual behavior." Congress appropriated \$10 million for family advocacy services over the next year.

In contrast, efforts to pressure the Justice Department to change the way it handles juvenile sex assault prosecutions have floundered.

When Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., asked the Justice Department's inspector general to review why federal prosecutors rarely take such cases, Inspector General Michael Horowitz responded that any action would be premature, pending the outcome of the ongoing discussions between the Justice and Defense Departments.

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the chamber's No. 2 Republican, had proposed requiring federal authorities to share legal jurisdiction over juvenile crimes with states. That proposal was watered down in negotiations with the House of Representatives, and the final bill that President Donald Trump signed in August contained language merely urging that such authority be shared.

Cornyn said in a statement he would "keep fighting to allow local prosecutors to pursue these cases so our most vulnerable and their families can get the justice they deserve." Spokeswoman Ryann DuRant said the senator will introduce similar legislation in 2019.

One of the rare cases in which federal prosecutors filed sexual assault charges against military kids involved a 10-year-old who was accused of abusing five younger boys at Fort Huachuca in Arizona.

The abuser was first reported in August 2010. Records show investigators didn't pursue a criminal case until a second report four months later. The boy was sentenced to probation and ordered to get treatment.

"He needed to go somewhere to be rehabilitated," Assistant U.S. Attorney Ann DeMarais said during a court hearing this summer, after the boy landed in custody for a probation violation. "We know he can succeed and do really well in a controlled environment."

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Pritchard reported from Los Angeles, Dunklin from Dallas.

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Reach the reporters on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/lalanewsman> and <https://twitter.com/ReeseDunklin>.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Dec. 31, the 365th and final day of 2018.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 31, 1972, Major League baseball player Roberto Clemente, 38, was killed when a plane he chartered and was traveling on to bring relief supplies to earthquake-devastated Nicaragua crashed shortly after takeoff from Puerto Rico.

On this date:

In 1759, Arthur Guinness founded his famous brewery at St. James's Gate in Dublin.

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In 1775, during the Revolutionary War, the British repulsed an attack by Continental Army generals Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold at Quebec; Montgomery was killed.

In 1879, Thomas Edison first publicly demonstrated his electric incandescent light by illuminating some 40 bulbs at his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey.

In 1904, New York's Times Square saw its first New Year's Eve celebration, with an estimated 200,000 people in attendance.

In 1946, President Harry S. Truman officially proclaimed the end of hostilities in World War II.

In 1951, the Marshall Plan expired after distributing more than \$12 billion in foreign aid.

In 1985, singer Rick Nelson, 45, and six other people were killed when fire broke out aboard a DC-3 that was taking the group to a New Year's Eve performance in Dallas.

In 1986, 97 people were killed when fire broke out in the Dupont Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico. (Three hotel workers later pleaded guilty in connection with the blaze.)

In 1987, Robert Mugabe (moo-GAH'-bay) was sworn in as Zimbabwe's first executive president.

In 1995, the syndicated comic strip "Calvin and Hobbes," created by Bill Watterson, came to an end after a 10-year run.

In 1997, Michael Kennedy, the 39-year-old son of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was killed in a skiing accident on Aspen Mountain in Colorado. Pianist Floyd Cramer died in Nashville at age 64.

In 2001, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani spent his final day in office praising police, firefighters, and other city employees in the wake of 9/11, and said he had no regrets about returning to private life.

Ten years ago: The U.N. Security Council held an emergency meeting on an Arab request for a binding and enforceable resolution condemning Israel and halting its military attacks on Gaza. A man left four gift-wrapped bombs in downtown Aspen, Colo. in a bank-robbery attempt, turning New Year's Eve celebrations into a mass evacuation. (The man, identified as 72-year-old James Chester Blanning, shot and killed himself.)

Five years ago: Only hours before the law was to take effect, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, acting on a request from an organization of Catholic nuns in Denver, blocked implementation of part of President Barack Obama's health care law that would have forced some religion-affiliated organizations to provide health insurance for employees that included birth control. Character actor James Avery, who'd played the Honorable Philip Banks in "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," died in Glendale, California, at age 68.

One year ago: New Yorkers endured the second-coldest New Year's Eve celebration on record; the temperature in the city was 10 degrees Fahrenheit as a glittering crystal ball dropped with a burst of confetti and dazzling fireworks in Times Square. Bitterly cold temperatures spread across the Deep South; the dangerous temperatures would grip wide areas of the U.S. from Texas to New England for days. The Cleveland Browns joined the 2008 Detroit Lions as the only teams in NFL history to go 0-and-16, losing to the Pittsburgh Steelers 28-24. On the last day of the year, "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" surpassed "Beauty and the Beast" as the top-grossing film in North America in 2017.

Today's Birthdays: TV producer George Schlatter is 89. Actor Sir Anthony Hopkins is 81. Actor Tim Conside (TV: "My Three Sons") is 78. Actress Sarah Miles is 77. Rock musician Andy Summers is 76. Actor Sir Ben Kingsley is 75. Producer-director Taylor Hackford is 74. Fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg is 72. Actor Tim Matheson is 71. Pop singer Burton Cummings is 71. Actor Joe Dallesandro is 70. Rock musician Tom Hamilton (Aerosmith) is 67. Actor James Remar is 65. Actress Bebe Neuwirth is 60. Actor Val Kilmer is 59. Singer Paul Westerberg is 59. Actor Don Diamont is 56. Rock musician Ric Ivanisevich (Oleander) is 56. Rock musician Scott Ian (Anthrax) is 55. Actress Gong Li is 53. Author Nicholas Sparks is 53. Actor Lance Reddick is 49. Pop singer Joe McIntyre is 46. Rock musician Mikko Siren (Apocalyptica) is 43. Donald Trump Jr. is 41. Rapper PSY (Park Jae-sang) is 41. Rock musician Bob Bryar is 39. Rock musician Jason Sechrist (Portugal. The Man) is 39. Actor/singer Erich Bergen is 33. DJ/vocalist Drew Taggart (The Chainsmokers) is 29. Olympic gold medal gymnast Gabby Douglas is 23.

Thought for Today: "Though the past haunts me as a spirit, I do not ask to forget." — Felicia Dorothea Browne Hemans, English poet (1793-1835).