

## Groton Area Schedule of Events

### Thursday, January 17, 2019

Boys Basketball hosts Aberdeen Roncalli (7th grade game at 3 p.m., 8th grade game at 4 p.m., C game at 5:15 p.m., JV at 6:30 p.m. with varsity to follow.)

5:00pm: Wrestling: Boys Varsity Triangular vs. Clark/Willow Lake, Hamlin @ Clark Junior-Senior High School (We will wrestle C/WL and Hamlin. We will NOT wrestle Webster.)

### Friday, January 18, 2019

Speech Fiesta Debate at Watertown High School

No School - Faculty Inservice at Warner High School

6:30pm: Girls Varsity Basketball Game vs. Aberdeen Roncalli @ Aberdeen Roncalli High School.



### 81st Annual

## Carnival of Silver Skates

Sunday, January 27th—2:00 and 6:30  
Groton Ice Rink—West Side of Groton, SD

Join us for a fun “Road Trip”!

Admission: 13 & older—\$3.00 / 6-12—\$2.00

Parking: Provided around the rink and on the ice or cozy up on the bleachers  
(Ice parking begins at 10 am, then again at 4:30 pm)

\*\*Check us out on Facebook at “Silver Skates”

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

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 2 of 63

## Skating Rink Hours

**Open Monday - Thursday: 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Friday: 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

**Saturday: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.**

**Sunday: 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

## Rip 'n Ravel

Rip n' Ravel C.F.E.L. club met at the Aberdeen home of Bonnie Erdmann. Eleven members were present. President Marie Sternhagen conducted the business meeting. Program books for 2019 were filled out. Carol Osterman and Merry-Jo- Ball gave lesson "our Experiences with real good." Ella Johnson will host meeting on February 4 at 1:30 p.m. Lesson will be on Cracker Barrel Discussions.

Merry Jo Ball Sec.

## Groton Prairie Mixed

**Team Standings:** Cheetahs 28 ½ Foxes 24, Chipmunks 19, Jackelopes 17 ½ Shih Tzus 17, Coyotes 14

**Men's High Games:** Rick Carlson 257, Brad Waage 225, Doug Jorgensen 203

**Women's High Games:** Angie Carlson 211, Nicole Kassube 168, Karen Spanier 162

**Men's High Series:** Rick Carlson 626, Brad Waage 566, Doug Jorgensen 544

**Women's High Series:** Sue Stanley 450, Angie Carlson 445, Nicole Kassube 439

## Groton Coffee Cup

**Jan. 15 Team Standings:** James Valley 12, Kens 11, Biker chix 9, Ten Pins 8

**High Games:** Vickie Kramp 180, 177; Nancy Radke 174; Sandi Bistedeau 163

**High Series:** Vickie Kramp 507, Nancy Radke 440, Sandi Bistedeau 431

## Conde National

**Jan. 14 Team Standings:** Cubs 13, Pirates 10½, Mets 8, Tigers 7, Braves 6½, Giants 3.

**Men's High Games:** Butch Farmen 201, Collin Cady 198, Ryan Bethke 195

**Men's High Series:** Collin Cady 534, Butch Farmen 529, Russ Bethke 523, Lance Frohling 523.

**Women's High Games:** Sandy Hoops 177, Kira Cady 167, Vickie Kramp 166.

**Women's High Series:** Kira Cady 482, Vickie Kramp 448, Mary Larson 440.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 3 of 63

It's Boys' Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Roncalli  
Cavaliers**

**VS**



**Groton Area Tigers**

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019

8:00 p.m.

in the Groton Area Arena

**Broadcast Sponsored by**  
Allied Climate Professionals  
Bahr Spray Foam  
Blocker Construction  
Doug Abeln Seed Company  
James Valley Seed - Doug Jorgensen  
John Sieh Agency  
Locke Electric  
Milbrandt Enterprises, Inc.  
Northeast Chiropractic Clinic  
Professional Management Services, Inc.  
Sanford Health  
Tyson DeHoet Trucking  
Weber Landscaping

## Nehls, Kassube win the 18th Annual Mobridge Ice Fishing Tournament

Mobridge, SD - The midwest's largest 2-person team fishing tournament finished Saturday, January 12th in Mobridge, SD. Anglers from 14 states fished on Lake Oahe for their share of over \$225,000 in cash and prize. Winning the one day tournament was the team of Kevin Nehls and Chris Kassube of Groton, SD. They brought in a 6 walleye limit weighing a total of 23.39 pounds. They also caught the big walleye of the tournament. Their 30.5" behemoth tipped the scale at 12.73 pounds. A grand total of 1279 walleyes were weighing 1865 pounds.

First Place went to Kevin Nehls of Groton and Chris Kassube of Bath with six fish for 23.39 pounds. The runner-up had 16.23 pounds of fish.

4th: Scott Kampa and Tristan Kampa with six fish and 13.70 pounds.

45th: Kevin Krueger and Dan Krueger with six fish and 9.20 pounds.

66th: Ronald Anderson and Blake Anderson with six fish and 8.22 pounds.

105th: Lance Larsen and Jeff Krueger with six fish and 6.93 pounds.

145th: Tyler Kampa, Columbia, and Karen Kampa, Columbia, with one fish for 145 pounds.

225th: Mike Nehls, Groton, and Jordan Nehls, Lincoln, with three fish for 3.51 pounds.

271st: Nathan Tunheim, Groton, and Kyle Tunheim, Milliken, with two fish and 2.26 pounds.

322nd: Cole Kampa, Columbia, and Lane Florey, Bath, with one fish for 1.17 pounds.

- Information from the Mobridge Ice Fishing Tournament Facebook Page



**Kevin Nehls (right) caught the largest walleye at the Mobridge Ice Fishing Tournament held this past weekend. His fish weighed in at 12.73 pounds and was 30.5 inches long. The person on the left is a tournament staff member. According to the Mobridge Tribune, "The fish was caught on Nehls' line but it was Kassube who reached into the six-inch hole in the ice to grab the fish by the mouth and pull it onto the ice. It was described by Nehls as a team effort to land the monster walleye."** (Photo from Mobridge Ice Fishing Tournament Facebook Page)

**Tristan Kampa and his dad, Scott Kampa, Groton, took fourth place at the Mobridge Ice Fishing Tournament held this past weekend. They caught six fish for a total of 13.70 pounds.** (Photo from Mobridge Ice Fishing Tournament Facebook Page)



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 5 of 63



Kevin Nehls, Groton, (left) and Chris Kassube, Bath, (right) caught the most pounds of fish at the Mobridge Ice Fishing Tournament held this past weekend. They caught six fish for a total of 23.39 pounds. And to boot, Kevin Nehls won the fishing shack. (Photos from Mobridge Ice Fishing Tournament Facebook Page)

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 6 of 63

## Dual Wrestling

### Webster Area 47.0, Groton Area 24.0

120: Dragr Monson (Groton Area) over Cade Roerig (Webster Area) (Fall 0:00)  
152: Garrett Shroeder (Groton Area) over Unknown (For.)  
160: Lane Krueger (Groton Area) over Unknown (For.)  
170: Alex Maunu (Webster Area) over Evin Nehls (Groton Area) (Fall 0:00)  
182: Cade Shoemaker (Webster Area) over Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) (TF 15-0 0:00)  
285: Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) over Chase Sigdestad (Webster Area) (Fall 0:00)

### Redfield Area 66.0, Groton Area 3.0

120: Bradyn Robbins (Redfield Area) over Dragr Monson (Groton Area) (Fall 4:34)  
152: Corbin Schwartz (Redfield Area) over Garrett Shroeder (Groton Area) (Fall 1:49)  
160: Dylan Whitley (Redfield Area) over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) (Fall 1:18)  
170: Trevor Frost (Redfield Area) over Evin Nehls (Groton Area) (Fall 0:40)  
182: Drew Masat (Redfield Area) over Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) (Fall 3:55)  
285: Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) over Gavin Nichols (Redfield Area) (Dec 7-5)

## Locke places first at Philip

Groton's wrestling squad went to Philip on Saturday for the Invitational tournament. Wyatt Locke placed first at 220 pounds, Dragr Monson placed third at 113 pounds, Adrian Knutson placed fifth at 285 pounds, Grady O`Neill placed seventh at 182 pounds, Garret Schroeder placed eighth at 152 pounds and Lane Krueger placed eighth at 160 pounds.

**113:** Champ. Round 1 - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) received a bye; Quarterfinals - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) over Eathan Dolney (Webster Area) (Fall 1:24); Semifinals - Burk Blasius (Philip Area) over Dragr Monson (Groton Area) (Fall 2:42); Cons. Semis - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) over Cade Roerig (Webster Area) (TF 17-1 3:47); 3rd Place Match - Dragr Monson (Groton Area) over Griffin Tobin (Mt. Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica-Stickney) (Fall 0:35)

**152:** Champ. Round 1 - Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) received a bye; Quarterfinals - Chance Grill (Custer/Edgemont) over Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) (Fall 1:33); Cons. Round 2 - Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) received a bye; Cons. Round 3 - Colby Fitch (Philip Area) over Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) (Fall 1:36); 7th Place Match - Logan Sauder (St. Thomas More) over Garret Schroeder (Groton Area) (Fall 2:30)

**160:** Champ. Round 1 - Brandan Gehrke (Clark/Willow Lake) over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) (Fall 0:40); Cons. Round 1 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) over Tyler Wright (Douglas) (Fall 1:43); Cons. Round 2 - Lane Krueger (Groton Area) over Reece Risseeuw (Mt. Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica-Stickney) (Fall 4:55); Cons. Round 3 - Daniel Gleason (Douglas) over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) (Fall 0:55); 7th Place Match - Jesse Jankord (St. Thomas More) over Lane Krueger (Groton Area) (Fall 0:49)

**160:** Champ. Round 1 - Elijah Steele (Custer/Edgemont) over Evin Nehls (Groton Area) (Fall 1:44); Cons. Round 1 - Evin Nehls (Groton Area) received a bye; Cons. Round 2 - Grayson DeVries (Philip Area) over Evin Nehls (Groton Area) (Fall 1:59)

**170:** Champ. Round 1 - Micaiah Grace (Custer/Edgemont) over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) (Fall 1:26); Cons. Round 1 - Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) received a bye; Cons. Round 2 - Cole Pranger (Mt. Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica-Stickney) over Thomas Cranford (Groton Area) (Dec 6-3)

**182:** Quarterfinals - Cody Donnelly (Philip Area) over Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) (Fall 2:42); Cons. Round 1 - Cade Entwisle (McCook Central/Montrose) over Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) (Fall 0:21); 7th Place Match - Grady O`Neill (Groton Area) over Ty Dailey (Custer/Edgemont) (Fall 0:35)

**220:** Quarterfinals - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) received a bye; Semifinals - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) over Grey Gilbert (Harding County) (Fall 3:13); 1st Place Match - Wyatt Locke (Groton Area) over Marcus Harkless (Hot Springs) (Fall 2:55)

**285:** Quarterfinals - Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) received a bye; Semifinals - Chase Sigdestad (Webster Area) over Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) (Fall 1:31); Cons. Semis - Kellen Cassidy (Mt. Vernon/Plankinton/Corsica-Stickney) over Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) (Fall 2:15); 5th Place Match - Adrian Knutson (Groton Area) over Caleb Maciejewski (Hot Springs) (For.)

## Activities association turns down \$20,000—for now

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — While they did it with regret, on Wednesday the South Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors turned down a \$20,000 sponsorship.

The offer came from Alliance Highway Safety of Nashville, Tennessee. Alliance organizes campaigns to promote highway safety at sports and entertainment venues in 24 states.

Alliance would like to provide signage, public address announcements and scoreboard/video messages at the wrestling, boys' and girls' basketball and track state tournaments. The organization would provide championship banners and T-shirts to individual team members. Alliance would also have a highway safety display at the events.

According to information from the highway safety organization: "Alliance doesn't sell anything but will collect surveys from the attendees to measure demographic information as well as the awareness and attitudes toward the campaign."

For its participation in the four state tournaments, Alliance offered to pay the activities association \$20,000.

SDHSAA Executive Director Daniel Swartos assured the board that Alliance would take care of all its signage and booth space and not put an extra burden on site hosts.

SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director John Krostrand cautioned the board to wait until they found out if the association's corporate sponsors, who pay considerably more than \$20,000, would accept the new sponsorship. SDHSAA's five corporate sponsors each pay from \$50,000 to \$125,000 annually.

"To me it's different," Swartos said of Alliance. "It's more of an awareness campaign."

Swartos noted that one corporate sponsor offers championship banners and corporate sponsors have access to signage and public address announcements at state tournaments. He said corporate sponsors also have access to tickets, program ads, logos on event-related clothing and can help with trophy presentations.

"They're not getting the same things our corporate sponsors are getting," Swartos said of Alliance.

The board decided to check with corporate sponsors and reconsider the Alliance offer at its February meeting.

"I'm worried about \$20,000 costing us more than \$20,000," said board chairman Brian Maher of Sioux Falls.

—30—

## Football coaches may seek schedule change

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — High school football coaches may seek a major scheduling change that would require that the state volleyball tournament be moved to an earlier date.

The South Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors heard about the plan at its Wednesday meeting.

According to SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director John Krogstrand, 11B and nine-man football coaches are concerned about what they see as an abbreviated pre-season schedule. In the 2017 and 2018 seasons, those teams had 10 days of practice prior to the start of the season with just four of them allowed as padded or contact days.

"They don't feel their kids are physically prepared," Krogstrand said. "Most injuries occur in the first two weeks of practice and in early contest games."

To add more practice time, the proposal from football coaches would essentially swap the football championship weekend for the volleyball championship weekend. Volleyball's championship would be played a week earlier to allow football an extra week of practice. SDHSAA avoids scheduling championship games from different sports on the same weekend.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 8 of 63

Board chairman Brian Maher of Sioux Falls said that SDHSAA went through an extensive school calendar study in 2015 in which the switching the football and volleyball championship weekends was considered and rejected.

"I know they looked at flipping this and they didn't," Maher said. "I don't think football should dictate what volleyball gets to do."

The request will go to the athletic directors meeting in March. If approved there, it would come back to the SDHSAA board for final approval.

Other football related news included...

...an update from Krostrand on the All Nations Football Conference which would be made up of Native American schools.

Krostrand said 10 schools have signed up for the conference. Those schools include Little Wound, Red Cloud, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, St. Francis, Flandreau Indian School, Tiospa Zina, Crow Creek, Lower Brule, Crazy Horse and Takini.

Krostrand said schools in Nebraska and North Dakota are also interested in joining the conference.

...a warning from Krogstrand that the west side of the Dakota Dome in Vermillion would not be available for the next football championship games.

"We don't want to be in a position to tell someone we're sold out," Krostrand said. SDHSAA staff will monitor the situation.

—30—

## Standards considered for state wrestling dual tournament

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — Progress is being made on setting the standards for adding a dual tournament to the state wrestling tournament.

South Dakota High School Activities Association Assistant Executive Director John Krogstrand told the SDHSAA board on Wednesday that a wrestling advisory committee was working on a format that would determine a team's qualifications for the dual tournament.

Those qualifications included:

- Competing in a minimum of eight duals.
- Fielding a team of 10 wrestlers at the tournament.
- Filing an intention to participate in the tournament.

Krogstrand explained that teams would use the wrestling Power Points system to rank the teams.

Regional dual tournaments were considered, according to SDHSAA Executive Director Daniel Swartos, but the scheduling was determined to be too complicated.

"They wanted something that would result in the least amount of disruption for them," Swartos said.

The proposal will go to the athletic directors' meeting in March and if approved there will make its way back to the SDHSAA board.

—30—



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 9 of 63

## Today in Weather History

January 17, 1996: Two to as much as fifteen inches of snow, high winds from 40 to 60 mph, and cold arctic air resulted in blizzard conditions and extreme wind chills from 40 below to 70 below from the middle morning of the 17th to the early evening of the 18th. Most schools, federal, state, and county offices were closed. Various activities also canceled. Travel was tough due to the near zero visibility with some vehicles stranded. Highway 12 from Webster to the Minnesota border and Interstate-29 closed on the 18th. Hundreds of people were stranded with some people stranded in their vehicles. Some pheasants and wildlife were lost due to the snow packed so hard they could not dig out. Some snowfall amounts include; 2 inches at Highmore, 3 inches at Pierre and 9NE Reliance, 5 inches at Mobridge, Presho, Roscoe, 10SE Stephan, and Ree Heights, 6 inches at Tulare, 7 inches 12W Tulare and 5E 3S Faulkton, 8 inches 11E 2S Hosmer and at Doland, 9 inches at Mellette, Aberdeen, and Redfield, and 10 inches at Eureka and Britton, and 12 inches at Wilmot, Rosholt, and Ortonville, Minnesota. Fifteen inches occurred at Wheaton, Clinton, and Graceville. The extreme wind chills along with some blowing snow continued across central and north central South Dakota into the early evening of the 18th.

January 17, 2012: Below are some very rare lake effect waterspouts. Chris Westcott took these pictures in the vicinity of Lower Brule. The waterspouts form from the instability created when the air associated with the relatively warm open waters of the Missouri River interacts with the frigid air located just above the surface. These types of waterspouts have a very short lifespan and dissipate just as quickly as they form. Chris saw six of them at one time.

1490: On the night of January 17 through the 18th, a "certain fine rain, which froze whilst it fell, and make icicles upon trees" occurred in Florence, Italy. "There was such a quantity of it, that the weight bowed the trees down to the ground and broke the branches." The above is from "A Florentine Diary from 1450 to 1516" by Landucci, Luca. Click [HERE](#) to read the book.

1837: The green flash was apparently first documented by Captain Back of the H. M. S. Terror while in the Arctic during its expedition of 1836-1837. He wrote: "In the morning however, at a quarter before ten o'clock while standing on an ice hummock about 17 feet high, and looking toward the east, I had observed the upper limb of the sun, as it filled a triangular cleft on the ridge of the headland, of the most brilliant emerald color, a phenomenon which I had not witnessed before in these regions."

1817 - A luminous snowstorm occurred in Vermont and New Hampshire. Saint Elmo's fire appeared as static discharges on roof peaks, fence posts, and the hats and fingers of people. Thunderstorms prevailed over central New England. (David Ludlum)

1893 - The mercury dipped to 17 degrees below zero at Millsboro, DE, to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1972 - A single storm unloaded 77.5 inches of snow at Summit, MT, to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1982 - Strong chinook winds caused severe wind damage in Boulder, CO. Wind gusts to 118 mph was recorded on the roof of the Environmental Research Laboratories (ERL), and a wind gust to 137 mph was measured atop the roof of the NCAR building (in the southwest part of the city, 600 feet above ground level). The high winds uprooted trees and damage roofs. (Storm Data)

1987 - A winter storm spread snow from the Southern Rockies into the Middle Mississippi Valley and southwestern sections of the Great Lakes Region, and freezing rain across Texas and Oklahoma. Snowfall totals ranged up to 16 inches at Tulia TX, with 12 inches at Wellington KS. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A Pacific storm battered the southern coast of California. Winds gusting to 65 mph uprooted trees in San Diego. Los Angeles reported an all-time record low barometric pressure reading of 29.25 inches. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Strong chinook winds along the eastern slopes of the Rockies gusted to 90 mph near Rollinsville CO, and reached 94 mph near Big Timber MT. Heavy snow blanketed parts of the Upper Mississippi Valley, with eight inches reported in Douglas County WI. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 10 of 63

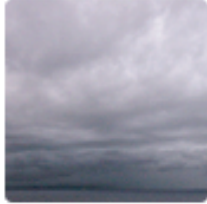
Today

Tonight

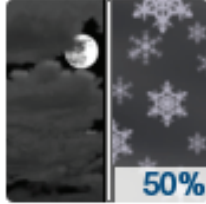
Friday

Friday  
Night

Saturday



Scattered  
Flurries



Mostly Cloudy  
then Chance  
Snow



Snow Likely  
and Patchy  
Blowing Snow  
then Chance  
Snow



Mostly Cloudy



Cold

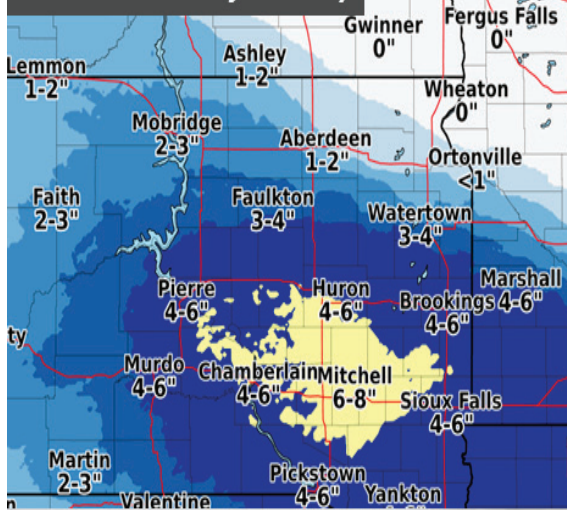
## Snowy Friday AM Commute

- ✓ Take it slow when traveling in snow Friday!
- ✓ Snow begins Friday morning and exits early evening
- ✓ Wind gusts of 20-30 mph leads to some blowing snow
- ✓ Still some uncertainty with sharp cut-off on north side

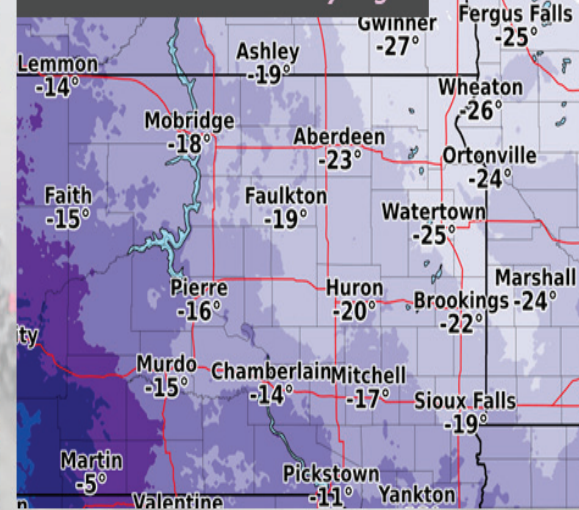
## Bitterly Cold Friday Night

- ✓ Limit time outdoors!
- ✓ Highs Friday between 0 and 10 F, lows Friday night between 5 and 15 F below zero
- ✓ Any breeze will make it feel much worse (below)

## Storm Total Snowfall Friday



## Coldest Wind Chills Friday Night



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 1/17/2019 3:58 AM Central

www.weather.gov/abr, Facebook, Twitter

Published on: 01/17/2019 at 4:07AM

After areas of morning fog and snow flurries Thursday, a system is forecast to work across the area on Friday. Plan ahead for longer than normal travel times due to deteriorating road conditions particularly Friday morning and afternoon. Very cold air is expected to build in Friday night, and should last into Sunday morning.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 11 of 63

## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 10 °F at 4:17 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: -5 °F at 8:25 AM**

**High Gust: 12 mph at 5:19 AM**

**Precip:**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 48° in 1947**

**Record Low: -32° in 1997**

**Average High: 22°F**

**Average Low: 1°F**

**Average Precip in Jan.: 0.27**

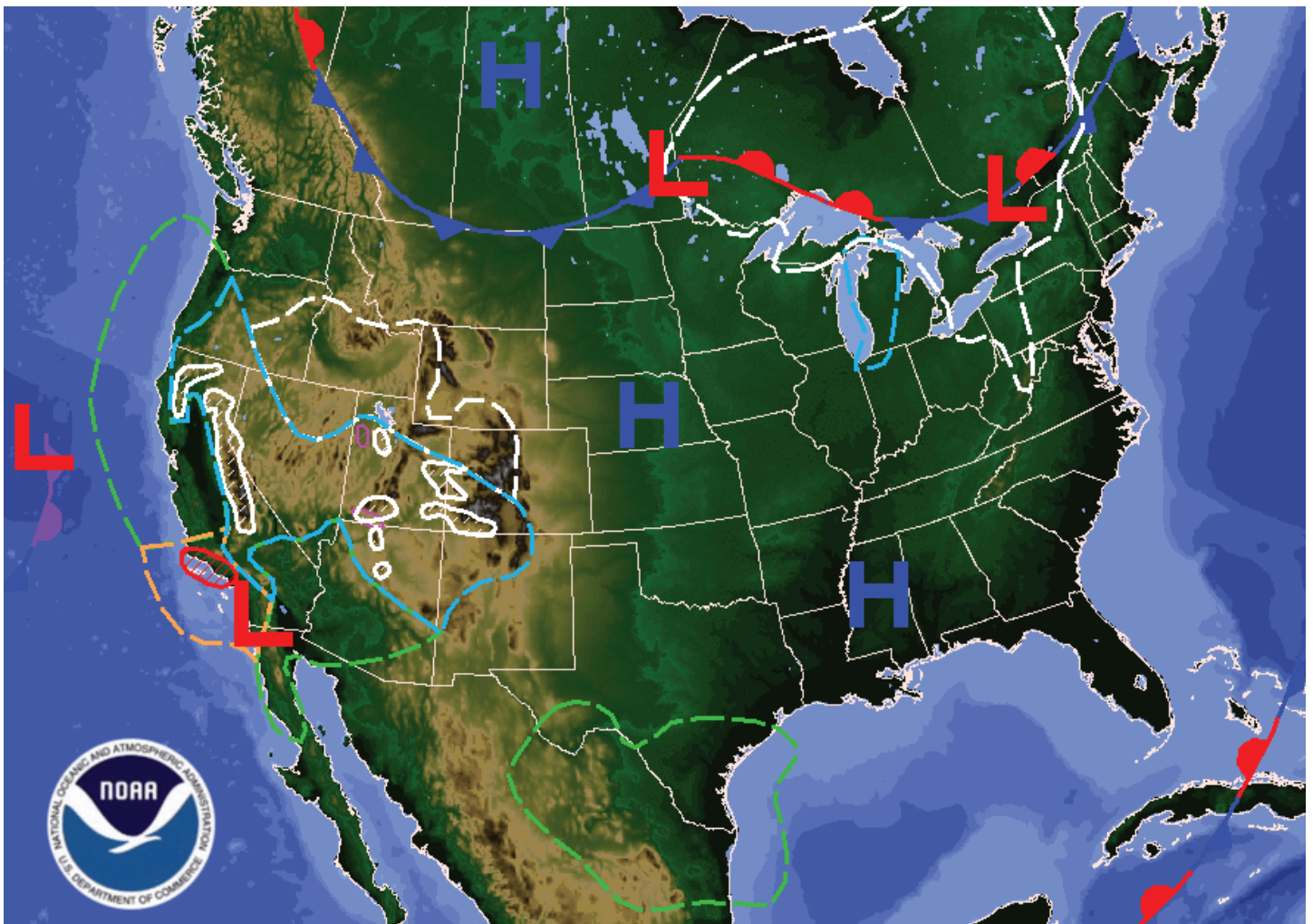
**Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00**

**Average Precip to date: 0.27**

**Precip Year to Date: 0.00**

**Sunset Tonight: 5:19 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:08 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Jan 15, 2019, issued 4:56 AM EST  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 12 of 63



## WHO OWNS ALL THIS LAND ANYHOW?

A tourist from New York stopped at a filling station to purchase gas after he visited the Grand Canyon. As he was walking inside to purchase a soft drink, he noticed a farmer sitting near the door, slowly rocking back and forth observing the visitors.

Wow, said the tourist, that Grand Canyon is the most wonderful thing Ive ever seen. Its so big it leaves me breathless. What do you think of it, sir? he asked.

Itd be a horrible place to lose a cow, he said slowly.

We live among Gods great gifts every day. Sadly, we rarely pause to admire them, or even stop to thank Him. We are surrounded by the marvel of Gods handiwork, yet are not aware of it. Not David. He was continually in awe of God and His creation. On one occasion, overwhelmed at the sight before him, he exclaimed, The earth is the Lords and everything in it; the world and all who dwell in it.

Looking at the way Davids thought unfolds, he is calling our attention to the fact that whatever we think we own or possess or have at our disposal, is not ours - it is Gods, and He has entrusted us to be His managers of everything. Everything!

Wherever we look and whatever we see is Gods. We may have a deed to a home or a title to a car or a large portfolio of stocks or an unreasonable amount of cash in a bank. But, we have no control over any of our possessions. With the tick of a clock or the beat of a heart, everything could be gone. The world and its inhabitants are Gods.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to realize that everything we think we own is Yours. Its on loan to us to honor You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lords, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 03/17/2019 Groton American Legion Spring Fundraiser
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 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)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main
- 11/9/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course 2019 Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

## News from the Associated Press

### 2020 Democrats face a choice: Fight Trump or ignore him?

By ELANA SCHOR and THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

SIoux CITY, Iowa (AP) — When Sen. Elizabeth Warren took the stage earlier this month at this city's ornate Orpheum Theatre, Tricia Currans-Sheehan posed a pointed question to the expected presidential contender.

"Why did you undergo the DNA testing and give Donald Trump more fodder to be a bully?" the Iowa college professor asked, referring to a genetic analysis the Massachusetts Democrat released last fall to rebut President Donald Trump's repeated jabs about her Native American ancestry.

Warren had a simple response: "I can't stop Donald Trump from doing what he's going to do." After another woman in the crowd retorted, "Yes, you can," Warren gently reiterated that "I can't stop him from hurling racial insults. I don't have the power to do that."

The scene demonstrates the challenge Warren, who has launched a presidential exploratory committee, and dozens of other White House hopefuls will face as the Democratic primary gets underway. They must decide how — and whether — to respond to Trump's pugnacious and insensitive attacks on his political opponents. If they punch back too hard, they could be accused of playing Trump's game. If they ignore him entirely, they risk appearing unprepared to take on a president who knows few boundaries.

Warren was tested again late Sunday when Trump seized on one of her social media videos to issue a tweet that made light of two massacres of Native Americans. South Dakota's two Republican senators distanced themselves from Trump's comment, which drew condemnation from Native American officials. But Warren herself didn't immediately engage.

In an interview this week, Warren called the tweet "disgusting" for mocking "one of the darkest moments in American history," the deadly assault on hundreds of Native American women and children at Wounded Knee, South Dakota. Yet she also hinted at a bigger reason for not responding right away.

"He needs to focus on getting the government open, on doing his job," she said. "He hopes that he can draw attention elsewhere, but it's not working."

Others considering 2020 campaigns also indicate that, whenever possible, they plan to ignore Trump's personal needling and focus on issues.

"I don't want to waste my time on negativity" when voters "want to hear positive," Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey said in an interview in which he also commended Warren, his likely rival for the Democratic nomination.

"What's more important is what Sen. Warren is talking about, and she's putting great ideas out there," Booker said. "Why let anybody distract from the compelling things she's saying and how she's presenting herself?"

But Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, another potential 2020 candidate, suggested Democrats face a tricky challenge.

"You have to stand your ground" in response to Trump, she said in an interview, but also take care about "how you do it, because he wants you to go down in the rabbit hole. He wants to define the agenda every single day."

While "everyone makes their own decision" on replying to a Trump taunt, she added, "I think it is very important to put it in its place and, while you respond, you do not spend weeks talking about him. Because that is exactly what he wants."

Other possible Democratic candidates haven't hesitated to tangle with Trump. Sen. Sherrod Brown recalled that when Trump slammed him over the closure of a General Motors plant in his home state, he poked the president for seeking "an Ohio Democrat to blame" while the GOP held power in the state.

Asked how he would respond if Trump got more personal, Brown didn't shrink. The president "talks like an idiot," Brown said. "And I don't think that serves anybody well to answer every time he says something

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 15 of 63

stupid, or something that's a lie." Democrats, he added, should "talk about the issues that matter to the public."

Former Vice President Joe Biden, who is mulling another presidential campaign, said last March that he would have "beat the hell out of" Trump if they were in high school together, citing Trump's now-infamous 2005 comments about assaulting women with impunity.

Inside the White House, Trump's Sunday tweets mocking Warren were widely joked about by staff weary from the government shutdown, according to two aides, and the president repeatedly mocked Warren's video in private conversations with aides and outside advisers. White House officials and Trump allies said the president is already an active participant in the Democratic race.

The aides spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal White House dynamics.

Attention from Trump can drive up fundraising and elevate a candidate above a crowded field. But responding to attacks also distracts from a candidate's message, as Trump's rivals in the 2016 GOP primary learned as he bedeviled them with name-calling. Trump goaded Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida into making a thinly veiled insult of his manhood that quickly backfired, and weeks later sucked Texas Sen. Ted Cruz into a brutal back-and-forth about an insult he leveled at Cruz's wife.

Beyond Warren, Trump has hurled insults at other Democrats, labeling Sen. Bernie Sanders as "crazy." Trump once asked a crowd to choose between two demeaning names for Biden and deployed innuendo when saying Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York "would do anything for campaign contributions."

In 2016, Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton was the subject of a near-daily barrage of personal attacks from Trump. Her team decided she would ignore personal insults and criticisms of her husband and of the Clinton Foundation, according to her 2016 communications director Jennifer Palmieri.

However, Clinton publicly defended parents of a Muslim U.S. Army captain killed in Iraq and former Miss Universe Alicia Machado after Trump criticized them. Those instances were aimed at standing up for others, Palmieri said, while a candidate who responds to a personal taunt risks appearing small and distracted from the more important issues facing the nation.

"It comes across as very self-absorbed. Then the campaign ends up in this tit-for-tat with Donald Trump, and not about the voters," Palmieri said.

Responding to an attack on someone else in "defense of inclusivity or some larger truth" is a good idea, Palmieri said, but "don't do it in defense of yourself. Then you're sinking to Trump's level."

Warren's release of the DNA test remains a concern for some voters as she hits the trail. Tricia Currans-Sheehan, the Iowa teacher who asked Warren about it in Sioux City, drew a contrast between what she described as Warren playing "into Trump's hand" and the "poise" that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi displayed in another showdown with the president in December.

Retired Sioux City teacher Colleen Sernett-Shadle said after Warren's event ended that "I worry" the Democratic candidate might "give in" to Trump on other attacks.

Other Iowa activists shared the call for discretion.

"We're wrong if we're going to go out and be as visceral as Trump is," said Nancy Bobo, a Des Moines Democrat and early 2008 backer of former President Barack Obama. "It's going to come down to soft skills to pull off a win. By that, I mean style, someone who can show real strength to be a counter to all the divisiveness."

---

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 16 of 63

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash  
11-13-14-18-20  
(eleven, thirteen, fourteen, eighteen, twenty)  
Estimated jackpot: \$38,000

Lotto America  
03-21-42-45-51, Star Ball: 5, ASB: 3  
(three, twenty-one, forty-two, forty-five, fifty-one; Star Ball: five; ASB: three)  
Estimated jackpot: \$13.77 million

Mega Millions  
Estimated jackpot: \$68 million

Powerball  
14-29-31-56-61, Powerball: 1, Power Play: 2  
(fourteen, twenty-nine, thirty-one, fifty-six, sixty-one; Powerball: one; Power Play: two)  
Estimated jackpot: \$112 million

## Daum's 34 points, 21 rebounds lead SDSU past North Dakota

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — Mike Daum scored 34 points and grabbed a career-high 21 rebounds and South Dakota State beat North Dakota 78-74 on Wednesday night to win its fourth straight.

Daum posted the nation's fourth 30-20 game this season and recorded his sixth 30-point game of the season for the defending Summit League champions.

David Jenkins Jr. added 20 points and Skyler Flatten had 10 for the Jackrabbits (15-6, 5-1), who led 41-31 at halftime.

Daum's jumper capped a 13-2 run for a 73-65 Jackrabbits' lead with 4:26 left. His free throw with 46 seconds left put the Jackrabbits up 77-72, Cortez Seales' layup pulled North Dakota within three points, Daum made 1 of 2 free throws and Seales' 3 at the buzzer missed.

Marlon Stewart scored 19 points with five 3-pointers for North Dakota (8-11, 2-4), which hadn't played SDSU since 2013. Seales scored 18 and Filip Rebraca added 15.

## Shopko closing stores in several South Dakota communities

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Wisconsin-based retail chain Shopko Stores is closing stores in several South Dakota communities.

The company has filed for bankruptcy protection, citing excessive debt and ongoing competitive pressure. It says it will close 38 more stores nationwide, after last month announcing plans to close about 40 of its more than 300 stores across the country.

In South Dakota, the two Shopko stores in Sioux Falls are being shuttered, and Shopko Hometown stores will close in Redfield, Wagner, Webster, Dell Rapids and Custer. All will be shut down by mid-April.

## South Dakota transgender discrimination lawsuit is dropped

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A federal lawsuit accusing the South Dakota state health plan of discriminating against transgender employees has been dismissed following the death of the plaintiff.

Terri Bruce had sued the South Dakota State Employee Health Plan in 2017, the Argus Leader reported



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 17 of 63

. The suit contended that a provision prohibiting medical service for gender transformations breached the U.S. Constitution and the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Bruce was a transgender man who worked for the state's archaeological research center. A motion filed this week requesting dismissal of the suit stated Bruce had taken his own life.

"Terri was a gifted archaeologist, a passionate activist, and a warm and caring friend," the motion said. "He was also one of over 1.4 million American adults who identify as transgender. In moving to dismiss this suit, Terri's family and counsel would like to raise awareness of the high rate of suicide among transgender individuals as well as the obstacles transgender citizens must constantly overcome to feel safe and respected within their communities."

The motion also said transgender individuals, including Bruce, face discrimination at an early age that can persist for a lifetime. It cites National Center for Transgender Equality data that notes 41 percent of transgender people report having attempted suicide, which is 25 percent higher than the general population.

Bruce helped lead opposition to a proposed bill in the Legislature in 2016 that would have mandated transgender K-12 students in the state to use the bathrooms of the gender they were assigned at birth. The bill passed the Legislature but was vetoed by then-Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

Bruce was scheduled to receive a mastectomy to treat gender dysphoria later that year, but the state health plan denied the procedure, even though it would have been available to other employees to treat their medically necessary conditions.

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

## **SD Senate thanks Thune, Rounds for supporting Kavanaugh**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota senators have approved a resolution praising Republican U.S. Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds for voting to confirm Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

The chamber voted 22-13 Wednesday for the resolution, which also wishes Kavanaugh a "long and satisfying tenure on the highest court" in the nation.

Republican Sen. Jim Bolin, the sponsor, says Kavanaugh is "eminently qualified" to serve on the court.

Kavanaugh was sworn in after an acrimonious confirmation process that involved a professor testifying that Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her decades ago when both were teenagers. Kavanaugh denied the claim.

Resolutions express the state Legislature's opinions.

Republican Sen. Deb Soholt opposed the measure because of the "underlying premise" of how the hearings went, saying that both Kavanaugh and professor Christine Blasey Ford became politicized and victimized through the process.

## **FBI looking for teen in connection with Eagle Butte death**

EAGLE BUTTE, S.D. (AP) — FBI officials say they are searching for a 16-year-old boy in connection with the death of a 24-year-old Eagle Butte man.

Authorities say a warrant was issued for the teen's arrest following the Sunday death of Marcus Antonio. The boy is believed to be on or near the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation.

A \$5,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest of the teen.

No further details have been released.

## **Lawmakers to weigh asking voters to extend legislative terms**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota lawmakers are set to debate a measure introduced Wednesday that would ask voters to double legislators' current two-year terms in office.

State senators and representatives would be able to serve two consecutive four-year terms under the proposed constitutional amendment. House Majority Leader Lee Qualm, a co-sponsor, said the change would strengthen the Legislature.

"When you have two-year terms, you run constantly," Qualm said. "The first year is a lot of figuring out

who your allies are, who you can work with, how you do things. The second year, you get some things done. Then you start all over again.”

But Republican Sen. Jim Bolin said he likely favors keeping the current system. Bolin said with a citizen Legislature it’s good that voters can either “renew the contract or put somebody else in place” every two years.

Democratic leaders in the GOP-controlled Legislature have said they would consider the measure.

“It depends on the day whether I want to be here four years,” Senate Minority Leader Troy Heinert said with a laugh last week. “I think that’s something to look at.”

The proposed amendment would maintain current term limits that restrict lawmakers to serving eight consecutive years in a chamber. The measure would go on the November 2020 ballot; if approved by voters, the changes would take effect in January 2023.

A similar proposal was easily defeated in a House committee during the 2018 legislative session. Opponents argued at the time that the current two-year cycle keeps lawmakers accountable.

## **FBI investigates fatal officer-involved shooting**

WHITE LAKE, S.D. (AP) — The FBI says it’s investigating a fatal officer-involved shooting at a rest stop in southern South Dakota.

FBI spokesman Kevin Smith says a federal officer shot and killed a person at the eastbound Interstate 90 rest stop in Aurora County Sunday about 8 p.m.

Smith says the shooting near White Lake has no local ties to South Dakota. The person who was shot has not been identified. Smith declined to release additional details about the circumstances surrounding the shooting.

## **1 person killed, 1 injured in Sioux Falls crash**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says one person has died in a head-on interstate crash in Sioux Falls.

The patrol says a second person was transported to a Sioux Falls hospital. The collision between two cars happened on Interstate 229 Tuesday about 4 p.m. The crash tied up afternoon commuter traffic.

## **FBI: Man wanted to attack White House with antitank rocket**

**By KATE BRUMBACK, Associated Press**

ATLANTA (AP) — A Georgia man who traded his car for an antitank rocket and explosives in a plot to storm the White House is under arrest, authorities said.

Hasher Jallal Taheb, 21, of Cumming, was arrested in an FBI sting operation Wednesday and is charged with attempting to damage or destroy a building owned by the United States using fire or an explosive, U.S. Attorney Byung J. “BJay” Pak said.

It wasn’t immediately clear whether Taheb had an attorney who could comment on the allegations.

The FBI set up the sting after a local law enforcement agency said in March that it got a tip from someone who said Taheb had become radicalized, changed his name and planned to travel abroad, according to an FBI agent’s affidavit filed in court.

Taheb told the undercover agent he had never shot a gun but could learn easily and also said he had watched some videos of how grenades explode, authorities said.

The affidavit says Taheb told a confidential FBI source in October that he planned to travel abroad for “hijra,” which the agent wrote refers to traveling to territory controlled by the Islamic State. Because he didn’t have a passport, he couldn’t travel abroad and told the FBI source that he wanted to carry out an attack in the U.S. against the White House and the Statue of Liberty.

He met with the undercover agent and the FBI source multiple times last month and was also in frequent contact using an encrypted messaging application, the affidavit says.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 19 of 63

During one meeting with the agent and the source, Taheb "advised that if they were to go to another country, they would be one of many, but if they stayed in the United States, they could do more damage," the affidavit says. Taheb "explained that jihad was an obligation, that he wanted to do as much damage as possible, and that he expected to be a 'martyr,' meaning he expected to die during the attack."

At another meeting, he showed the undercover agent a hand-drawn diagram of the ground floor of the West Wing of the White House and detailed a plan for attack, the affidavit says. He asked the undercover agent to obtain the weapons and explosives needed to carry out the attack, and they discussed selling or exchanging their cars to pay for them.

Taheb told the undercover agent they needed a "base" where they could regroup and where he could record a video to motivate people: "He stated he would be the narrator, clips of oppressed Muslims would be shown, and American and Israeli flags would be burned in the background."

Last week, Taheb told the undercover agent he wanted to pick up weapons this week and drive directly to Washington to carry out the attack, investigators said.

Taheb said they would approach the White House from the back road, causing a distraction for police and then would proceed into the White House, using an antitank weapon to blow open a door and then take down as many people and do as much damage as possible, the affidavit says.

Taheb met with the FBI source and undercover agent on Wednesday in a parking lot in Buford to exchange their cars for semi-automatic assault rifles, three explosive devices with remote detonators and an anti-tank rocket, the affidavit says.

A second FBI source met them and inspected the vehicles, and a second FBI undercover agent arrived in a tractor trailer with weapons and explosives that had been rendered inert by the FBI. The undercover agent and Taheb talked about the guns, how to arm and detonate the explosives and how to use the antitank rocket, the affidavit says.

Taheb and the undercover agent and FBI source whom he believed to be part of his group turned over their car keys to the second confidential source and then loaded the inert explosives and guns into a rental vehicle, the affidavit says. Then, after they got into the car and closed the doors, agents arrested Taheb.

## **GOP dismisses suggestion that State of Union be postponed**

**By CATHERINE LUCEY, JILL COLVIN and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A grand Washington ritual became a potential casualty of the partial government shutdown as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi asked President Donald Trump to postpone his Jan. 29 State of the Union speech. She cited concerns about whether the hobbled government can provide adequate security, but Republicans cast her move as a ploy to deny Trump the stage.

In a letter to Trump, Pelosi said that with both the Secret Service and the Homeland Security Department entangled in the shutdown, the president should speak to Congress another time or he should deliver the address in writing.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen denied anyone's safety is compromised, saying Wednesday that both agencies "are fully prepared to support and secure the State of the Union."

Trump did not immediately respond to the request, and the White House, thrown off guard by the move, didn't immediately offer any official response. But GOP allies accused Pelosi of playing politics, with Republican Rep. Steve Scalise tweeting that Democrats are "only interested in obstructing @realDonaldTrump, not governing."

Pelosi, who issued the customary invitation to Trump weeks ago, hit the president in a vulnerable place, as he delights in taking his message to the public and has been preparing for the address for weeks.

The uncertainty surrounding the speech also underscored the unraveling of ceremonial norms and niceties in Trump's Washington, with the shutdown in its fourth week, the White House and Democrats in a stalemate and the impasse draining the finances of hundreds of thousands of federal employees.

Pelosi left unclear what would happen if Trump insisted on coming despite the welcome mat being pulled away. It takes a joint resolution of the House and Congress to extend the official invitation and set the stage.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 20 of 63

"We'll have to have a security evaluation, but that would mean diverting resources," she told reporters when asked how she would respond if Trump still intended to come. "I don't know how that could happen."

Pressure on Trump intensified on Wednesday, the 26th day of the shutdown, as lawmakers from both parties scrambled for solutions. At the White House, Trump met a bipartisan group of lawmakers, as well as a group of Republican senators, but progress appeared elusive.

The shutdown, already the longest ever, entered its 27th day Thursday. The previous longest was 21 days in 1995-96, when Bill Clinton was president.

While Trump's own advisers said the shutdown was proving a greater drag on the economy than expected, Trump showed no signs of backing off a fight that he views as vital for his core supporters.

On Wednesday, Trump signed legislation into law affirming that the roughly 800,000 federal workers who have been going without pay will ultimately be compensated for their lost wages. That was the practice in the past.

As he weighs a response to Pelosi, Trump could not go forward with a State of the Union address in Congress without her blessing. Donald Ritchie, former historian of the Senate, said that anytime a president comes to speak, it must be at the request of Congress. Trump could opt to deliver a speech somewhere else, like the Oval Office, but it would not have the same ritualistic heft.

Democratic leaders did not ask the Secret Service if the agency would be able to secure the State of the Union event before sending the letter, according to a senior Homeland Security official, who was not authorized to speak publicly. Pelosi's office said Congress is already familiar with the percentage of Secret Service and Homeland Security employees who have been furloughed and working without pay.

The Secret Service starts preparing for events like these months in advance.

Lawmakers struggled to find a way out of the shutdown Wednesday. Trump is demanding \$5.7 billion to build a wall along the Mexican border that he says is needed on humanitarian and security grounds. But Pelosi is refusing money for the wall she views as ineffective and immoral, and Democrats say they will discuss border security once the government has reopened.

Some expressed little optimism.

Sen. Lindsay Graham, a South Carolina Republican who has been working on bipartisan strategies, declared glumly: "I am running out of ideas."

Trump met a bipartisan group of lawmakers Wednesday that included seven Democrats. Two people who attended the White House meeting agreed it was "productive," but could not say to what extent Trump was listening or moved by the conversation.

The people, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the event candidly, said it seemed at some points as if people were talking past each other. Lawmakers talked about the shutdown's effect on their constituents and advocated for "border security." Trump and others on-and-off used the term "wall." It was not clear if progress had been made, by those accounts.

Meanwhile a group of Republican senators headed to the White House later Wednesday.

Many Republicans were unwilling to sign on to a letter led by Graham and Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., to reopen the government for three weeks while talks continue.

"Does that help the president or does that hurt the president?" asked Sen. Mike Rounds, R-S.D., among those going to the White House.

He has not signed the letter.

"If the president saw it as a way to be conciliatory, if he thought it would help, then perhaps it's a good idea," he said. "If it's just seen as a weakening of his position, then he probably wouldn't do it."

While Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said she has signed, others said GOP support was lacking.

"They're a little short on the R side," said Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., another leader of the effort.

The House and Senate announced they are canceling next week's planned recess if the shutdown continues, which seemed likely. Some Republicans expressed concerns over the impact of the shutdown and who was getting blamed.

Said Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wisc.: "Right now, are you seeing any pressure on Democrats? I think Repub-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 21 of 63

icans are getting the lion's share of the pressure."

He added: "The president accepted the blame so people are happy to give it to him."

For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. government shutdown: <https://apnews.com/GovernmentShutdown>

Associated Press writers Chris Rugaber, Darlene Superville, Matthew Daly, Jonathan Lemire, Alan Fram, Colleen Long, Andrew Taylor, Laurie Kellman, Elana Schor and Ken Sweet contributed to this report.

## May battles to keep Brexit on track after no-confidence win

By JILL LAWLESS and GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May was consulting opposition parties and other lawmakers Thursday in a battle to put Brexit back on track after surviving a no-confidence vote, though there was little immediate sign of a breakthrough from talks branded a "stunt" by the main opposition leader.

European Union countries were stepping up preparations for a disorderly British exit on March 29 after the U.K. Parliament rejected May's Brexit withdrawal deal with the bloc.

Lawmakers threw out the deal Tuesday, in a crushing defeat for May, who suffered the worst parliamentary defeat in modern British history.

The drubbing was followed by a no-confidence vote in the government, but May's minority Conservative government survived it on Wednesday night with backing from its Northern Irish ally, the Democratic Unionist Party.

May said she would hold talks "in a constructive spirit" with leaders of opposition parties and other lawmakers in a bid to find a way forward for Britain's EU exit.

The government confirmed that May will meet a Monday deadline to publish a Plan B, and that lawmakers will have a full day to debate it — and, crucially, amend it — on Jan. 29.

There was little sign of a breakthrough in uniting Parliament's feuding Brexit factions, whose conflicting demands range from a postponement of Britain's departure date to a new referendum on whether to leave the EU or remain.

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the main opposition Labour Party, said he wouldn't meet with May until she took a no-deal Brexit "off the table."

"To get a deal that can command a majority in Parliament, Theresa May has to ditch the red lines and get serious about proposals for the future," Corbyn said during a speech to supporters in the English seaside town of Hastings.

"Last night's offer of talks with party leaders turned out to be simply a stunt, not the serious attempt to engage with the new reality that's needed," he said.

Green Party lawmaker Caroline Lucas, who met with May on Thursday morning, said the prime minister was "in a fantasy world" if she thought the deal could be transformed by Monday.

"Parliament is gridlocked," she said.

May so far has showed little inclination to make major changes to her deal or lift her insistence that Brexit means leaving the EU's single market and customs union. Many lawmakers think a softer departure that retained single market or customs union membership is the only plan capable of winning a majority in Parliament. They fear the alternative is an abrupt "no-deal" withdrawal from the bloc, which businesses and economists fear would cause turmoil.

Former Prime Minister Tony Blair, a longtime Labour Party leader, told the BBC on Thursday that it would be "sensible" for Corbyn to meet with May to better define the type of Brexit that Britain wants. He warned that a "no-deal" Brexit would do substantial harm to Britain's economy.

As Britain flounders, the 27 other EU countries have stood firm, saying they won't renegotiate the withdrawal agreement and insisting the British government and its lawmakers to decide what they want to do.

Some British lawmakers want May to call for an extension of negotiations with the EU and postpone the March 29 deadline to leave the bloc, while others are lobbying for a second Brexit referendum.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 22 of 63

French Prime Minister Emmanuel Macron was holding a special government meeting Thursday on planning to cope with a "no-deal" Brexit.

The French parliament adopted a law Wednesday allowing emergency measures after March 30 in the event Britain leaves without a deal.

Such measures could aim to reduce problems in cross-border trade and transport, notably through the Eurotunnel beneath the English Channel, and allow British workers and retirees based in France temporary permission to stay until a longer-term deal is worked out.

Throughout the Brexit negotiations, EU leaders accused Britain of trying to "cherry pick" benefits of membership in the bloc, seeking to retain access to the EU's single market while ending the free movement of European citizens into Britain and breaching other EU guiding principles.

EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier, who said Wednesday that he was more concerned than ever that Britain could crash out of the EU without an agreement, said the red lines set out by Britain's negotiators had "shut doors."

Barnier said Thursday that "getting an agreement is in everybody's interest" and that "something has to change" to secure a divorce deal.

"If (the red lines) change, we'll change," Barnier said after meeting Portuguese officials in Lisbon.

Frank Griffiths in London, Angela Charlton in Paris, and Barry Hatton, in Lisbon, Portugal, contributed to this report.

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

### 1. MAY BATTLES TO KEEP BREXIT ON TRACK

European Union countries are also debating how to move forward now that the U.K. Parliament rejected the prime minister's deal with the bloc and with the March 29 deadline looming.

### 2. WHO BLINKS FIRST MATTERS IN WALL FIGHT

Border wall aside, the shutdown dispute over whether to negotiate before or after the government re-opens is also about leverage now and later.

### 3. SPACE WARS CLOSER TO REALITY

The Trump administration will roll out a new strategy for a more aggressive space-based missile defense system to protect against existing threats and advanced weapons being developed by Russia and China.

### 4. 'SHE'S DONE NOTHING BUT JOURNALISM'

Iran keeps up its criticism of the FBI's apparent arrest of an American anchorwoman from Iran's state-run English-language TV channel.

### 5. WHERE REBELLION IS ON THE RISE

Another Saudi woman turns to social media for protection from her father just days after Canada granted refuge to a teenager who fled the kingdom to escape her family.

### 6. WHAT 2020 DEMOCRATS FACE

Democrats weighing presidential runs will have to decide how — and whether — to respond to Trump's pugnacious and insensitive attacks on his political opponents.

### 7. TALKS RESUME IN LA TEACHERS' STRIKE

Educators and officials in the nation's second-largest school district return to the bargaining table, hoping to end a dispute that has been costly and divisive.

### 8. SHAH LEFT MIXED LEGACY

Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi modernized Iran with oil money, but seized all power; his "Hamlet" in-decision in crisis proved to be his downfall.

### 9. LIFE IN LIMBO

Tens of thousands of embryos left over from pregnancy attempts are stuck in limbo in fertility clinics across the United States.

## 10. NBC SPORTS ICON DEPARTS

Bob Costas, who stepped down as prime-time Olympics host two years ago, leaves the network's sports division altogether.

## **New US strategy foresees sensors in space to track missiles**

**By DEB RIECHMANN and LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration will roll out a new strategy for a more aggressive space-based missile defense system to protect against existing threats from North Korea and Iran and counter advanced weapon systems being developed by Russia and China.

Details about the administration's Missile Defense Review — the first compiled since 2010 — are expected to be released during President Donald Trump's visit Thursday to the Pentagon with top members of his administration.

The new review concludes that in order to adequately protect America, the Pentagon must expand defense technologies in space and use those systems to more quickly detect, track and ultimately defeat incoming missiles.

Recognizing the potential concerns surrounding any perceived weaponization of space, the strategy pushes for studies. No testing is mandated, and no final decisions have been made.

Specifically, the U.S. is looking at putting a layer of sensors in space to more quickly detect enemy missiles when they are launched, according to a senior administration official, who briefed reporters Wednesday. The U.S. sees space as a critical area for advanced, next-generation capabilities to stay ahead of the threats, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose details of the review before it was released.

The administration also plans to study the idea of basing interceptors in space, so the U.S. can strike incoming enemy missiles during the first minutes of flight when the booster engines are still burning.

Congress, which ordered this review, already has directed the Pentagon to push harder on this "boost-phase" approach, but officials want to study the feasibility of the idea and explore ways it could be done.

The new strategy is aimed at better defending the U.S. against potential adversaries, such as Russia and China, who have been developing and fielding a much more expansive range of advanced offensive missiles that could threaten America and its allies. The threat is not only coming from traditional cruise and ballistic missiles, but also from hypersonic weapons.

For example, Russian President Vladimir Putin unveiled new strategic weapons he claims can't be intercepted. One is a hypersonic glide vehicle, which could fly 20 times faster than the speed of sound and make sharp maneuvers to avoid being detected by missile defense systems.

"Developments in hypersonic propulsion will revolutionize warfare by providing the ability to strike targets more quickly, at greater distances, and with greater firepower," Lt. Gen. Robert Ashley, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, told Congress last year. "China is also developing increasingly sophisticated ballistic missile warheads and hypersonic glide vehicles in an attempt to counter ballistic missile defense systems."

Current U.S. missile defense weapons are based on land and aboard ships. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence have both emphasized space-based capabilities as the next step of missile defense.

Senior administration officials earlier signaled their interest in developing and deploying more effective means of detecting and tracking missiles with a constellation of satellites in space that can, for example, use advanced sensors to follow the full path of a hostile missile so that an anti-missile weapon can be directed into its flight path.

Any expansion of the scope and cost of missile defenses would compete with other defense priorities, including the billions of extra dollars the Trump administration has committed to spending on a new generation of nuclear weapons. An expansion also would have important implications for American diplomacy,

given long-standing Russian hostility to even the most rudimentary U.S. missile defenses and China's worry that longer-range U.S. missile defenses in Asia could undermine Chinese national security.

Asked about the implications for Trump's efforts to improve relations with Russia and strike better trade relations with China, the administration official said that the U.S. defense capabilities are purely defensive and that the U.S. has been very upfront with Moscow and Beijing about its missile defense posture.

The release of the strategy was postponed last year for unexplained reasons, though it came as Trump was trying to persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons.

While the U.S. continues to pursue peace with North Korea, Pyongyang has made threats of nuclear missile attacks against the U.S. and its allies in the past and has worked to improve its ballistic missile technology. It is still considered a serious threat to America. Iran, meanwhile, has continued to develop more sophisticated ballistic missiles, increasing their numbers and their capabilities.

---

Associated Press writer Robert Burns in Washington contributed to this report.

## **American anchor for Iranian TV is arrested on visit to US**

**By JANET McCONNAUGHEY, Associated Press**

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A prominent American anchorwoman on Iranian state television has been arrested by the FBI during a visit to the U.S., the broadcaster reported Wednesday, and her son said she was being held in a prison, apparently as a material witness.

Marzieh Hashemi, who worked for the network's English-language service, was detained in St. Louis, where she had filmed a Black Lives Matter documentary after visiting relatives in the New Orleans area. She was then taken to Washington, according to her elder son, Hossein Hashemi.

The FBI said in an email that it had no comment on the arrest of the woman who was born Melanie Franklin in New Orleans and has worked for Iran's state television network for 25 years.

Hossein Hashemi said his mother lives in Tehran and comes back to this country about once a year to see her family, usually scheduling documentary work somewhere in the U.S. as well.

"We still have no idea what's going on," said Hashemi, a research fellow at the University of Colorado who was interviewed by phone from Washington. He also said he and his siblings had been subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury.

The incident comes as Iran faces increasing criticism of its own arrests of dual citizens and other people with Western ties. Those cases have previously been used as bargaining chips in negotiations with world powers.

Federal law allows judges to order witnesses to be arrested and detained if the government can prove their testimony has extraordinary value for a criminal case and that they would be a flight risk and unlikely to respond to a subpoena. The statute generally requires those witnesses to be promptly released once they are deposed.

Marzieh Hashemi, an American citizen, had not been contacted by the FBI before she was detained and would "absolutely" have been willing to cooperate with the agency, her son said.

Asked whether his mother had been involved in any criminal activity or knew anyone who might be implicated in a crime, Hashemi said, "We don't have any information along those lines."

Hashemi said his mother was arrested as she was about to board a flight from St. Louis to Denver. A spokesman for St. Louis Lambert International Airport declined to comment and referred questions to the FBI.

The constitutionality of the material witness law has "never been meaningfully tested," said Ricardo J. Bascuas, a professor at the University of Miami School of Law. "The government only relies on it when they need a reason to arrest somebody but they don't have one."

No matter the reason for Marzieh Hashemi's detention, she should have been granted a court appearance by now, Bascuas said.

She apparently was unable to call her daughter until Tuesday night. The family is trying to hire an at-



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 25 of 63

torney, but it has been difficult because she has not been charged with a crime, her son said.

Iran's state broadcaster held a news conference and launched a hashtag campaign for Hashemi, using the same techniques families with loved ones held in the Islamic Republic use to highlight their cases.

"We will not spare any legal action" to help her, said Paiman Jebeli, deputy chief of Iran's state IRIB broadcaster. Iran's Press TV aired footage of her anchoring news programs and discussing the war in Syria, set to dramatic music.

There were no references to any case against Hashemi in U.S. federal courts, nor in Missouri.

Hashemi describes herself online as having studied journalism at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. She converted to Islam in 1982 at age 22 after meeting Iranian activist students in Denver.

She married a man she met while in journalism school. They had two sons and a daughter. Her husband is dead, said Hashemi's brother, Milton Leroy Franklin of the New Orleans suburb of Metairie.

Last week, Iran confirmed it is holding U.S. Navy veteran Michael R. White at a prison, making him the first American known to be detained under President Donald Trump's administration.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi told state TV that Hashemi's arrest indicates the "apartheid and racist policy" of the Trump administration.

"We hope that the innocent person will be released without any condition," Ghasemi said.

At least four other American citizens are being held in Iran, including Iranian-American Siamak Namazi and his 82-year-old father, Baquer, both serving 10-year sentences on espionage charges. Iranian-American art dealer Karan Vafadari and his Iranian wife, Afarin Neyssari, received 27-year and 16-year prison sentences, respectively. Chinese-American graduate student Xiyue Wang was sentenced to 10 year in prison.

Also in an Iranian prison is Nizar Zakka, a permanent U.S. resident from Lebanon who advocated for internet freedom and has done work for the U.S. government. He was sentenced to 10 years on espionage-related charges.

Former FBI agent Robert Levinson, who vanished in Iran in 2007 while on an unauthorized CIA mission, remains missing as well. Iran says that Levinson is not in the country and that it has no further information about him. His family holds Tehran responsible for his disappearance.

---

Associated Press writers Michael Balsamo in Washington, Nasser Karimi in Tehran, Jim Salter in St. Louis, Heather Hollingsworth in Kansas City and Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

## LA teachers, district resume negotiations amid strike

By **CHRISTOPHER WEBER, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Teachers and officials in the nation's second-largest school district return to the bargaining table on Thursday, hoping to end a strike that has been costly and divisive.

The office of Mayor Eric Garcetti announced that talks would resume at noon at City Hall, with the office "facilitating" negotiations. The announcement didn't indicate whether any new contract offers would be on the table.

Meanwhile, the teachers' union planned to continue its picketing for a fourth day.

Both sides had portrayed themselves as ready and willing to meet again for the first time since talks broke off last week, sending tens of thousands of teachers onto the street.

On Wednesday, United Teachers Los Angeles President Alex Caputo-Pearl said the union had engaged Garcetti to help in the dispute, although he lacks authority over the Los Angeles Unified School District.

"I remain available 24/7, anywhere, any time. Whatever it takes, we'll do it," Superintendent Austin Beutner said on the district's Twitter account.

Clashes over pay, class sizes and support-staff levels led to the first strike in 30 years and prompted the district to staff classrooms with substitute teachers and administrators. District officials have said teacher demands could bankrupt the school system with 640,000 students.

Parents and children have joined the protests despite heavy rain that drenched the city all week.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 26 of 63

The first day of the walkout Monday saw attendance plunge to about 144,000 students. That number grew to 159,000 on Tuesday, then fell to 132,000 on Wednesday.

Because state funding is dependent on attendance, the student absences cost the district about \$69 million over three days, the district said. At the same time, it doesn't have to spend about \$10 million a day on teacher pay.

However, all 1,240 K-12 schools in the district were open — a departure from successful strikes in other states that emboldened the LA union to act.

Students who miss classes during the strike will be marked absent, but each school's principal will decide whether they face consequences, the district said.

Some parents who sent their kids to school wondered how much learning was happening as students were gathered into large groups to be supervised by fewer adults.

The union rejected the district's latest offer to hire nearly 1,200 teachers, counselors, nurses and librarians and reduce class sizes by two students. It also included a previously proposed 6-percent raise over the first two years of a three-year contract. The union wants a 6.5 percent hike at the start of a two-year contract.

Beutner has urged the teachers to join him in pushing for more funding from the state, which provides 90 percent of the district's money.

LA Unified says teachers' demands run up against an expected half-billion-dollar deficit this budget year and billions obligated for pension payments and health coverage for retired teachers.

The union argues that the district is hoarding reserves of \$1.8 billion. It represents more than 30,000 teachers who earn between \$44,000 and \$86,000 a year, depending on education and experience.

Follow Weber at <https://twitter.com/WeberCM>

## After Americans killed, Trump's Syria plan prompts questions

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR** and **BASSEM MROUE**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A suicide bombing claimed by Islamic State militants killed at least 16 people, including two U.S. service members and two American civilians, in northern Syria on Wednesday, just a month after President Donald Trump declared that IS had been defeated and he was pulling out U.S. forces.

The attack in the strategic northeastern town of Manbij highlighted the threat posed by the Islamic State group despite Trump's claims. It could also complicate what had already become a messy withdrawal plan, with the president's senior advisers disagreeing with the decision and then offering an evolving timetable for the removal of the approximately 2,000 U.S. troops.

The attack, which also wounded three U.S. troops, was the deadliest assault on U.S. troops in Syria since American forces went into the country in 2015.

The dead included a number of fighters with the Syrian Democratic Forces, who have fought alongside the Americans against the Islamic State group, according to officials and the U.K.-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

According to a U.S. official, one of the U.S. civilians killed was an intelligence specialist working for the Defense Intelligence Agency. The other was an interpreter, who was a contractor.

The attack prompted new complaints about the withdrawal and underscored Pentagon assertions that IS is still a threat and capable of deadly attacks.

In a Dec. 19 tweet announcing the withdrawal, Trump said, "We have defeated ISIS in Syria, my only reason for being there during the Trump Presidency." He said the troops would begin coming home "now." That plan triggered immediate pushback from military leaders, including the resignation of the defense secretary.

Over the past month, however, Trump and others have appeared to adjust the timeline, and U.S. officials have suggested it will likely take several months to safely withdraw American forces from Syria.

Not long after the attack Wednesday, Vice President Mike Pence repeated claims of the Islamic State

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 27 of 63

group's defeat. Speaking at the State Department, Pence said the "caliphate has crumbled" and the militant network "has been defeated." Later in the day he released a statement condemning the attack but affirming the withdrawal plan.

"As we begin to bring our troops home, the American people can be assured, for the sake of our soldiers, their families, and our nation, we will never allow the remnants of ISIS to re-establish their evil and murderous caliphate - not now, not ever," he said.

Others, however, immediately pointed to the attack as a reason to reverse or adjust the withdrawal plan.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Trump backer and prominent voice on foreign affairs on Capitol Hill, said during a committee hearing Wednesday he is concerned that Trump's withdrawal announcement had emboldened Islamic State militants and created dangerous uncertainty for American allies.

"I know people are frustrated, but we're never going to be safe here unless we are willing to help people over there who will stand up against this radical ideology," he said.

Rep. Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich., said the attack demonstrates the lethal capability of IS and "the fact that it happened in Manbij, probably the single most complicated area of Syria, demonstrates that the president clearly doesn't understand the complexity of the problem."

Manbij is the main town on the westernmost edge of Syrian territory held by the U.S.-backed Syrian Kurds, running along the border with Turkey. Mixed Kurdish-Arab Syrian forces liberated Manbij from IS in 2016 with help from the U.S.-led coalition.

But Kurdish control of the town infuriated Turkey, which views the main U.S. Kurdish ally, the YPG militia, as "terrorists" linked to Kurdish insurgents on its own soil.

The town has been at the center of tensions in northern Syria, with the militaries of two NATO members, the U.S. and Turkey, on opposing sides. The two sides began joint patrols around Manbij in November as part of an agreement aimed at easing tensions.

Slotkin, a former senior Pentagon adviser on Syria and other international issues, said it's time for Trump to amend or change his withdrawal order to "something more consistent with the threat" in Syria.

Others suggested the attack could trigger change.

"Certainly the Islamic State follows the news closely, and observing the recent controversy over a potential withdrawal would incentivize them to try for a spectacular attack to sway both public and presidential opinion," said Jim Stravidis, a retired Navy admiral who served as top NATO commander.

Trump, meanwhile, reinforced his withdrawal decision during a meeting with about a half-dozen GOP senators late Wednesday at the White House.

Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who was at the meeting, told reporters on a conference call that the president remained "steadfast" in his decision not to stay in Syria - or Afghanistan - "forever." But the senator did not disclose the latest thinking on withdrawal timeline.

Paul, who has been one of the few voices in the GOP encouraging the president's noninterventionist streak, said Trump told the group, "We're not going to continue the way we've done it."

Video of Wednesday's attack released by local activists and news agencies showed a restaurant that suffered extensive damage and a street covered with debris and blood. Several cars were also damaged. Another video showed a helicopter flying over the area.

A security camera showed a busy street, and then a ball of fire engulfing people and others running for cover as the blast went off.

The names of the American victims are being withheld until their families can be notified.

---

Associated Press writer Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

## Who blinks first will matter in Trump, Democrats' wall fight

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Of all the issues at stake as President Donald Trump and Democrats wrangle over his prized border wall, the latest snag is whether bargaining over the proposal should come before

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 28 of 63

or after shuttered government agencies reopen.

It sounds like one of those perplexing snits that frustrates Americans and prompts them to blame both parties for Washington's dysfunction. But it's actually a consequential dispute about who'll have leverage, now and later, as the partial shutdown enters its 27th day Thursday, setting a dubious record for duration.

If Trump blinks first and temporarily halts the shutdown so negotiators can seek agreement, the White House and some Republicans worry there'll be no incentive pushing Democrats to cut a deal. With 800,000 federal employees back at work and getting paid, why would Democrats agree to provide billions in taxpayer money for a keystone of Trump's presidential campaign that they hate and that he promised repeatedly Mexico would finance?

Yet Democrats fear that if they negotiate while the shutdown persists, it would encourage Trump to use such brinkmanship in the future. He'd think the pressure tactic had worked, and he'd have plenty of opportunities to do the same in the near future, they say.

Later this year, Congress and Trump will have to renew the government's borrowing authority or face the first federal default, which many believe would batter the economy. By autumn, lawmakers will also need to approve a fresh round of spending bills for next year, providing opportunities for Trump to threaten a new shutdown for whatever issue he deems worth highlighting as his 2020 re-election campaign revs up.

The Democrats' No. 2 Senate leader, Dick Durbin of Illinois, likened the situation to a family whose ornery uncle lives upstairs and threatens to turn off the electricity every time they talk about building an addition.

"You say to yourself, 'Am I going to encourage him to shut off the electricity every time there's a family discussion over an issue?'" Durbin said. "You've got to tell the uncle upstairs, 'That's unacceptable.'"

That same desire to maintain leverage is what's helped keep many Republicans on Trump's side.

Underscoring that, Sen. Mike Rounds, R-S.D., said Republicans were divided over a proposal by Sens. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Chris Coons, D-Del., for a three-week respite from the shutdown while negotiators seek agreement on wall money. Trump has previously spurned the idea.

To strike a deal temporarily reopening government, the commitment from Democrats "would have to be pretty strong to get something done" on the wall, Rounds said. Otherwise, he added about Trump, "If it's just seen as a weakening of his position, then he probably wouldn't do it."

Graham, who is close to Trump, has been among the most outspoken Republican advocates of temporarily halting the shutdown.

"If you open the government back for a defined period of time, you've lost nothing if you can't reach a deal," Graham said in an interview. "I haven't had one Democrat come up to me and say, 'Let's do a deal with the government shut down.' They're all saying, 'There's something we can do, but we just can't do it now. Why? Because if you do it now, they'll shut down the government next year for something else.' I share that sentiment."

Trump is demanding \$5.7 billion to build more than 200 miles of his proposed Southwest border wall, and has refused to sign spending bills reopening government lacking that money. Democrats say they won't give him any wall funds but have been willing to provide \$1.3 billion for other types of border security, like technology and some physical barriers.

Polls this month show more Americans blaming Trump than Democrats for the shutdown, a comfort to Democrats and a concern for a growing number of Senate Republicans including some seeking re-election in 2020 from swing states like Colorado and Maine.

But majorities of Republicans polled agree with Trump that there's an immigration crisis at the Mexican border and blame Democrats for the shutdown. That means GOP senators abandon Trump at their own peril.

All this helps explain why Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has refused to force a solution to the standoff.

McConnell is known for brokering bipartisan agreements in the past. But ever since Trump walked away from a pre-Christmas deal to avert the shutdown that both parties thought the White House backed, McConnell has said it's up to Trump and congressional Democrats to craft a compromise.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 29 of 63

McConnell has ruled out sending legislation reopening the government to Trump for a certain veto. Some have mentioned that tactic as a way of letting vulnerable GOP senators demonstrate they want to end the shutdown, but many Republicans have no desire to defy Trump and risk retribution from the president's loyal legion of voters.

"The number of people ready to end the shutdown is a pretty good-sized number," said Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., a member of his party's Senate leadership. "But the number of people willing to take actions that they know the president doesn't agree with and won't be successful is a much smaller number, if that number exists at all."

## The shutdown today: Donors look to ease pain of shutdown

By The Associated Press

What's up with the partial government shutdown on Day 27

### WHAT'S NEW

The shutdown is bringing an outpouring of generosity to TSA agents and other federal employees who are working without pay.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called on President Donald Trump to delay his State of the Union address, scheduled for Jan. 29. Pelosi cited security concerns, noting that both the Secret Service and the Department of Homeland Security are entangled in the shutdown.

Now it's serious: Craft beer makers are putting new releases on hold and stopping shipments across state lines as the shutdown halts operations at the federal agency that regulates alcohol production and distribution.

The president has signed a bill to give some 800,000 federal workers back pay whenever the government reopens.

### QUOTES OF THE DAY

"It is now plainly evident that the shutdown is affecting air travel, and when that happens, damage to the overall U.S. economy will shortly follow." — Jonathan Grella, a spokesman for the U.S. Travel Association, a trade group.

"Conversation is progress and listening is progress." — Rep. Dean Phillips, D-Minn., after a bipartisan group of legislators met with Trump at the White House.

### WHAT'S COMING NEXT?

The economic blow from the partial government shutdown is being felt not only by federal workers but also by businesspeople, households and travelers across the country. And while the hit to the overall economy so far remains slight, economists foresee real damage if the shutdown drags into February or beyond.

### WHAT REMAINS CLOSED

Nine of the 15 Cabinet-level departments have not been funded, including Agriculture, Homeland Security, State, Transportation, Interior and Justice. Some iconic National Park facilities are shuttered as are the Smithsonian museums and the National Zoo in Washington. Nearly everyone at NASA is being told to stay home.

### WHO IS AT WORK BUT NOT GETTING PAID

An estimated 460,000 employees are working without pay, including at the FBI, TSA and other federal law enforcement offices. Also, about 340,000 workers have been furloughed. Some federal contractors have also discontinued their services, leaving thousands of employees temporarily without work and without a paycheck.

---

For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. government shutdown: <https://apnews.com/GovernmentShutdown>

## Michigan State President Engler says he'll resign next week

By COREY WILLIAMS and DAVID EGGERT, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The former governor brought in to help Michigan State University recover from the Larry Nassar sexual abuse scandal resigned Wednesday as the school's interim president amid backlash over his comments about some of the ex-sports doctor's victims.

John Engler, who had resisted pressure to step down over previous remarks, announced his plans in an 11-page letter to Dianne Byrum, chairwoman of Michigan State's Board of Trustees. It makes no mention of recent criticism of his comments and instead lists what he considers to be his accomplishments in his one year of service, saying the university is a "dramatically better, stronger institution."

"It has been an honor to serve my beloved university," he wrote.

Engler said he was in Texas attending a burial service for his late father-in-law. His resignation, which he said he was making at the trustees' request, is effective Jan. 23.

With his sudden reversal, Engler joins a long list of people — including his predecessor as president — who have been fired, forced out of their jobs or charged with crimes amid fallout from the school's handling of the once-renowned sports doctor stretching back decades.

The final straw for the university's board came last week when Engler told The Detroit News that Nassar's victims had been in the "spotlight" and are "still enjoying that moment at times, you know, the awards and recognition."

Nassar is now serving decades-long prison sentences for sexually assaulting patients and possessing child pornography.

The Associated Press left messages Wednesday seeking comment from Engler, who was hired last February following the resignation of president Lou Anna Simon over the Nassar scandal.

Brian Mosallam told the AP that the board had enough votes to force Engler out at a special meeting scheduled Thursday at the school in East Lansing.

Byrum stopped short of confirming that she asked Engler to resign but told the AP he had "a decision to make" because the board is poised to name a new interim leader at Thursday's meeting. Both Byrum and Mosallam are Democrats, and Engler is a former Republican governor.

Mosallam, a long-time Engler critic, said on Twitter that "JOHN ENGLER'S REIGN OF TERROR IS OVER." His tweet followed a post by Byrum announcing Thursday's meeting.

After Engler was hired by the board, Michigan State agreed to a \$500 million settlement with 332 women and girls who said they were sexually assaulted by Nassar. Of that, \$75 million will cover future claims.

In April, Engler told another university official in emails that Rachael Denhollander, the first woman to go public with her accusations about Nassar, was probably getting a "kickback" from her attorney.

Denhollander told the AP Wednesday that her hope is that the board "is signaling at least the beginning of a true change in direction and tone. And in order to do that, they have to deal with the person they put in place."

She said who Engler was and how he operated "was no secret in Michigan." The former board — five members remain and three are gone — picked Engler "for a reason," she said, and it "needs to take responsibility for what they did."

Her biggest concern with Engler's tenure has been what he has "communicated about abuse," Denhollander said. "What he has communicated is that survivors who speak up will be attacked and blamed and shamed, that those who push for change are going to be accused of enjoying the spotlight, that they will be lied about."

The elected board has five Democrats, two Republicans and an appointee who was named last month by then-Gov. Rick Snyder. The board's makeup became more Democratic in the November election. Engler, a Michigan State alum, served as governor from 1991 through 2002.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, also an MSU graduate, said in a statement: "The MSU Board of Trustees now

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 31 of 63

has an opportunity to build a new foundation that will provide this university with a clean slate and a brighter future. The new president should be someone who will begin the healing process and restore trust between survivors, students, alumni and the administration.”

The board is due to announce a permanent president in June.

The university fired Nassar in 2016, two years after he was the subject of a sexual assault investigation. He also worked with the U.S. Olympic gymnastics team.

Hundreds of women and girls, most of them gymnasts, accused Nassar of molesting them when they sought treatment during his time working for Michigan State and USA Gymnastics.

A special prosecutor in December accused Michigan State of stonewalling his investigation into the school's handling of the scandal. Bill Forsyth released a report that said the school fought the release of certain relevant documents and released others that were heavily redacted or irrelevant. It says such actions hampered the investigation.

“Their biggest concern was the reputation of the university,” Forsyth said at a news conference.

Eggert reported from Lansing, Mich.

For more stories on Larry Nassar and the fallout from his years of sexual abuse of young women and girls: <https://www.apnews.com/LarryNassar>

## Outpouring of generosity for TSA workers, others without pay

By KEVIN MCGILL, Associated Press

The partial government shutdown is a double-whammy for Cara and Philip Mangone, a married couple from Philadelphia. Both are agents with the Transportation Safety Administration, both working full time at the Philadelphia airport. Neither knows when they might again start drawing their paychecks.

Part-time jobs are out of the question — they work opposite shifts timed to make sure one of them is always home with their kids, ages 2 and 5. So donations of food and diapers have been a real help as savings are being stretched thin.

“Every penny that we don't have to spend is helpful,” Cara Mangone said Wednesday as she picked up donated goods being distributed at the airport by fellow members of the American Federation of Government Employees.

The shutdown has brought an outpouring of generosity to TSA agents and other federal employees who are working without pay. Food, financial help, haircuts and toiletries are among the donated goods and services. TSA screeners start at about \$24,000 a year, and most make between \$26,000 and \$35,000, less than many other government employees, although some earn more because of seniority, overtime or level of management responsibility.

On Wednesday, donations of diapers, juice, garbage bags, canned soup and boxes of Ramen noodles were being unloaded onto luggage carts at the valet drop-off curb at Orlando International Airport, to be distributed to TSA workers there the next day.

“I just wanted to support the federal workers who are furloughed because of the inaction of our government leaders,” said Brian Couch, wearing a Kansas City Chiefs ball cap as he dropped off his donation.

The airport in Pittsburgh provided a free lunch to TSA workers on what should have been their payday last Friday. “Our Operation Thank You free lunch program initially was only Fridays but because we're hearing from several food vendors who want to donate, it's possible it will be increased to more days,” airport spokesman Bob Kerlik said in an email.

At Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, spokeswoman Elise Durham said some concession operators there were also donating free lunches to TSA workers and the airport was providing complimentary parking for those workers who need it.

Some travelers wanted to get in on the act, but TSA rules don't allow that.

“There are people trying to donate gift cards to us at the checkpoints,” Cara Mangone said. “We can't

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 32 of 63

accept it.”

Businesses large and small are trying to help.

The Ruby Slipper, a New Orleans-based restaurant chain with several locations in the city and on the Gulf Coast, said on its Facebook page that it has served some 3,000 free meals since offering help to unpaid federal employees more than two weeks ago. At The Top Knot Beauty Company in the New Orleans suburb of Metairie, owner Jennifer Delage has been offering free haircuts to federal employees. She said other businesses have followed suit with free or discounted services.

“That was the main goal,” Delage said. “To inspire others to pay it forward.”

Such sentiments are evident all over the country — and beyond.

## A LIFELINE FOR THE COASTGUARD

Unlike other military services, the U.S. Coast Guard, part of the Department of Homeland Security, isn't funded during the shutdown. In a letter posted on social media, the guard's commandant, Adm. Karl Schultz, said USAA, a company that provides banking and investment services to current and former military members and their families, made a \$15 million donation to support those in need, to be distributed with assistance from the American Red Cross.

In another gesture, Roger Williams University invited active-duty Coast Guard members in Rhode Island and Massachusetts and their families to its Bristol, Rhode Island, campus for a free dinner Tuesday night. About 75 people showed up.

## PIZZAS ACROSS THE BORDER

Canadian air traffic controllers have been taking up donations to have pizzas delivered to their American counterparts at locations around the U.S.

Pizzas have been bought for controllers at 84 U.S. facilities. “We've stopped tracking the number of pizzas,” said Tania Calverley, director of communications for the Canadian Air Traffic Controllers Association. “We're certainly well over 400.”

## FREE RIDES

The Kansas City Area Transportation Authority has announced that all federal employees will be able to ride public transit for free by showing their government IDs.

“We want to ... assist those who are hurting by taking a little weight off of their shoulders during this time,” Robbie Makinen, CEO and President of the authority, said in a news release about the program, which began Tuesday.

## BRIDGE LOANS

Some financial institutions are offering low-interest, or even no-interest loans, to unpaid workers.

Webster Bank in Connecticut said it would offer no-interest loans to any federal workers who are working and not being paid during the shutdown. In announcing the assistance program on Tuesday, Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont said he hopes other banks will offer similar programs. The loans are to be repaid after the workers receive back pay.

In addition to its donation to help Coast Guard personnel, USAA has announced low-interest loan offers to active Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Corps and Public Health Service Corps personnel whose pay is disrupted.

McGill reported from New Orleans. Associated Press reporters John Raoux in Orlando, Jennifer McDermott in Bristol, Rhode Island, and David Koenig in Dallas contributed to this report.

## Trump administration to roll out new missile defense plan

By **DEB RIECHMANN** and **LOLITA C. BALDOR**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration will roll out a new strategy Thursday for a more aggressive space-based missile defense system to protect against existing threats from North Korea and Iran and counter advanced weapon systems being developed by Russia and China.

Details about the administration's Missile Defense Review — the first compiled since 2010 — are expected



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 33 of 63

to be released during President Donald Trump's visit to the Pentagon with top members of his administration.

The new review concludes that in order to adequately protect America, the Pentagon must expand defense technologies in space and use those systems to more quickly detect, track and ultimately defeat incoming missiles.

Recognizing the potential concerns surrounding any perceived weaponization of space, the strategy pushes for studies. No testing is mandated, and no final decisions have been made.

Specifically, the U.S. is looking at putting a layer of sensors in space to more quickly detect enemy missiles when they are launched, according to a senior administration official, who briefed reporters Wednesday. The U.S. sees space as a critical area for advanced, next-generation capabilities to stay ahead of the threats, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose details of the review before it was released.

The administration also plans to study the idea of basing interceptors in space, so the U.S. can strike incoming enemy missiles during the first minutes of flight when the booster engines are still burning.

Congress, which ordered this review, already has directed the Pentagon to push harder on this "boost-phase" approach, but officials want to study the feasibility of the idea and explore ways it could be done.

The new strategy is aimed at better defending the U.S. against potential adversaries, such as Russia and China, who have been developing and fielding a much more expansive range of advanced offensive missiles that could threaten America and its allies. The threat is not only coming from traditional cruise and ballistic missiles, but also from hypersonic weapons.

For example, Russian President Vladimir Putin unveiled new strategic weapons he claims can't be intercepted. One is a hypersonic glide vehicle, which could fly 20 times faster than the speed of sound and make sharp maneuvers to avoid being detected by missile defense systems.

"Developments in hypersonic propulsion will revolutionize warfare by providing the ability to strike targets more quickly, at greater distances, and with greater firepower," Lt. Gen. Robert Ashley, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, told Congress last year. "China is also developing increasingly sophisticated ballistic missile warheads and hypersonic glide vehicles in an attempt to counter ballistic missile defense systems."

Current U.S. missile defense weapons are based on land and aboard ships. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence have both emphasized space-based capabilities as the next step of missile defense.

Senior administration officials earlier signaled their interest in developing and deploying more effective means of detecting and tracking missiles with a constellation of satellites in space that can, for example, use advanced sensors to follow the full path of a hostile missile so that an anti-missile weapon can be directed into its flight path.

Any expansion of the scope and cost of missile defenses would compete with other defense priorities, including the billions of extra dollars the Trump administration has committed to spending on a new generation of nuclear weapons. An expansion also would have important implications for American diplomacy, given long-standing Russian hostility to even the most rudimentary U.S. missile defenses and China's worry that longer-range U.S. missile defenses in Asia could undermine Chinese national security.

Asked about the implications for Trump's efforts to improve relations with Russia and strike better trade relations with China, the administration official said that the U.S. defense capabilities are purely defensive and that the U.S. has been very upfront with Moscow and Beijing about its missile defense posture.

The release of the strategy was postponed last year for unexplained reasons, though it came as Trump was trying to persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons.

While the U.S. continues to pursue peace with North Korea, Pyongyang has made threats of nuclear missile attacks against the U.S. and its allies in the past and has worked to improve its ballistic missile technology. It is still considered a serious threat to America. Iran, meanwhile, has continued to develop more sophisticated ballistic missiles, increasing their numbers and their capabilities.

---

Associated Press writer Robert Burns in Washington contributed to this report.

## John Bogle, founder of Vanguard, dies at 89

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. (AP) — John C. Bogle, who simplified investing for the masses by launching the first index mutual fund and founded Vanguard Group, died Wednesday, the company said. He was 89.

Bogle did not invent the index fund, but he expanded access to no-frills, low-cost investing in 1976 when Vanguard introduced the first index fund for individual investors, rather than institutional clients.

The emergence of funds that passively tracked market indexes, like the Standard & Poor's 500, enabled investors to avoid the higher fees charged by professional fund managers who frequently fail to beat the market. More often than not, the higher operating expenses that fund managers pass on to their shareholders cancel out any edge they may achieve through expert stock-picking.

Bogle and Vanguard shook up the industry further in 1977. The company ended its reliance on outside brokers and instead began directly marketing its funds to investors without charging upfront fees known as sales loads.

Bogle served as Vanguard's chairman and CEO from its 1974 founding until 1996.

He stepped down as senior chairman in 2000, but remained a critic of the fund industry and Wall Street, writing books, delivering speeches and running the Bogle Financial Markets Research Center.

The advent of index funds accelerated a long-term decline in fund fees and fostered greater competition in the industry. Investors paid 40 percent less in fees for each dollar invested in stock mutual funds during 2017 than they did at the start of the millennium, for example. But Bogle continued to maintain that many funds were overcharging investors, and once called the industry "the poster-boy for one of the most baneful chapters in the modern history of capitalism."

Bogle also believed that the corporate structure of most fund companies poses an inherent conflict of interest, because a public fund company could put the interests of investors in its stock ahead of those owning shares of its mutual funds. Vanguard has a unique corporate structure in which its mutual funds and fund shareholders are the corporation's "owners." Profits are plowed back into the company's operations, and used to reduce fees.

"A lot of Wall Street is devoted to charging a lot for nothing," billionaire investor Warren Buffett told CNBC. "He charged nothing to accomplish a huge amount."

Vanguard, based in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, manages \$5 trillion globally. It helped usher in a new era of investing, and index funds have increasingly become the default choice for investors. In 2017, investors plugged \$691.6 billion into index funds while pulling \$7 billion out of actively managed funds, according to Morningstar.

Vanguard offers both index and managed funds, but remains best-known for its index offerings. Vanguard's original index fund, now known as the Vanguard 500 Index, is no longer the company's biggest, but remains among the company's lowest-cost funds.

Bogle spent the first part of his career at Wellington Management Co., a mutual fund company, then based in Philadelphia. He rose through the ranks and, in his mid-30s, was tapped to run Wellington.

He engineered a merger with a boutique firm that was making huge sums, but was ousted after the stock market tanked in the early 1970s, wiping out millions in Wellington's assets. He said he learned an important lesson in how little money managers really know about predicting the market.

Bogle suffered several heart attacks and underwent a heart transplant in 1996, the year he stepped down as CEO. He reached the mandatory retirement age of 70 for Vanguard directors in 1999 and left as senior chairman the next year.

Vanguard did not provide a cause of death. Philly.com is reporting he died of cancer, citing Bogle's family. "Jack Bogle had unwavering passion for America, our capital markets, and most of all our Main Street investors," said Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Jay Clayton.

John Clifton Bogle was born in May 1929 in Montclair, New Jersey, to a well-off family; his grandfather founded a brick company and was co-founder of the American Can Co. in which his father worked.

Bogle attended Manasquan High School in Manasquan, N.J., for a time, then got a scholarship to the

prestigious all-boys Blair Academy in Blairstown, New Jersey. It was at Blair that Bogle discovered his knack for math. He graduated from Blair in 1947 and was voted most likely to succeed.

Bogle graduated from Princeton with a degree in economics in 1951. His thesis was on the mutual fund industry, which was then still in its infancy.

Bogle is survived by his wife, Eve, six children, 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

## Death toll in Nairobi attack climbs to 21, plus 5 attackers

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA, Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — The death toll from an extremist attack on a luxury hotel and shopping complex in Nairobi climbed to 21, plus the five militants killed, police said Wednesday in the aftermath of the brazen overnight siege by al-Shabab gunmen. Two people accused of facilitating the attack were arrested.

The number of those killed at the DusitD2 complex rose with the discovery of six more bodies at the scene and the death of a wounded police officer, said Joseph Boinnet, inspector-general of Kenyan police. Twenty-eight people were hurt and taken to the hospital, he said.

In a televised address to the nation earlier in the day, President Uhuru Kenyatta announced that the all-night operation by security forces to retake the complex was over and that all of the extremists had been killed.

"We will seek out every person that was involved in the funding, planning and execution of this heinous act," he vowed.

In an attack that demonstrated al-Shabab's continued ability to strike Kenya's capital despite setbacks on the battlefield, extremists stormed the place with guns and explosives. Security camera footage released to local media showed a suicide bomber blowing himself up in a grassy area in the complex, the flash visible along with smoke billowing from the spot where he had been standing.

Of the civilian victims, 16 were Kenyan, one was British, one was American and three were of African descent but their nationalities were not yet identified, police said.

Al-Shabab, which is based in neighboring Somalia and allied with al-Qaida, claimed responsibility. The Islamic extremist group also carried out the 2013 attack at Nairobi's nearby Westgate Mall that killed 67 people, and an assault on Kenya's Garissa University in 2015 that claimed 147 lives, mostly students.

While U.S. airstrikes and African Union forces in Somalia have degraded the group's ability to operate, it is still capable of carrying out spectacular acts of violence in retaliation for the Kenyan military's campaign against it.

The bloodshed in Kenya's capital appeared designed to inflict maximum damage to the country's image of stability and its tourism industry, an important source of revenue.

The government said late Tuesday that buildings were secure. However, gunfire continued into Wednesday morning, and dozens of trapped people were rescued overnight. Several loud booms were heard Wednesday as teams sought to clear the complex of booby traps and other explosives.

Kenyatta's announcement that the security operation was complete came about 20 hours after the first reports of the attack.

The Kenyan Red Cross said about 50 people were unaccounted for. But many of those were believed not to have been in the complex during the attack.

Ken Njoroje, CEO of a company in the DusitD2 complex that offers mobile banking services, said he was unable to locate several employees. "It's very difficult for the families because the passage of time only makes the problem bigger," he said.

The American killed in the attack was identified as Jason Spindler, co-founder and managing director of San Francisco-based I-DEV International. Spindler's father, Joseph, said his son worked with international companies to form business partnerships in Kenya that would boost local economies.

The Houston-raised Spindler had a brush with tragedy on 9/11: He was employed by a financial firm at the World Trade Center at the time of the 2001 terrorist attack but was running late that morning and was emerging from the subway when the first tower fell, according to his father. He became covered in

dust and debris as he tried to help others, the elder Spindler said.

In the Nairobi attack, a man who gave only his first name, Davis, described how he had escaped with colleagues by fleeing down a fire escape.

"It's a traumatic experience. It shakes you," he said. Still, Davis said he was impressed by the "inner strength" and compassion of people who helped each other in the midst of danger.

His own thoughts, he said, were: "Get people out and get out yourself. That's it."

Follow Africa news at [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Africa](https://twitter.com/AP_Africa)

## Government shutdown may upend State of the Union speech

By CATHERINE LUCEY, JILL COLVIN and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A grand Washington ritual became a potential casualty of the partial government shutdown Wednesday as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi asked President Donald Trump to postpone his Jan. 29 State of the Union speech. She cited concerns about whether the hobbled government can provide adequate security, but Republicans cast her move as a ploy to deny Trump the stage.

In a letter to Trump, Pelosi said that with both the Secret Service and the Homeland Security Department entangled in the shutdown, the president should speak to Congress another time or he should deliver the address in writing. Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen denied anyone's safety is compromised, saying both agencies "are fully prepared to support and secure the State of the Union."

Trump did not immediately respond to the request and the White House, thrown off guard by the move, had yet to offer any official response hours later. But GOP allies accused Pelosi of playing politics, with Republican Rep. Steve Scalise tweeting that Democrats are "only interested in obstructing @realDonaldTrump, not governing."

Pelosi, who issued the customary invitation to Trump weeks ago, hit the president in a vulnerable place, as he delights in taking his message to the public and has been preparing for the address for weeks.

The uncertainty surrounding the speech also underscored the unraveling of ceremonial norms and niceties in Trump's Washington, with the shutdown in its fourth week, the White House and Democrats in a stalemate and the impasse draining the finances of hundreds of thousands of federal employees.

Pelosi left unclear what would happen if Trump insisted on coming despite the welcome mat being pulled away. It takes a joint resolution of the House and Congress to extend the official invitation and set the stage.

"We'll have to have a security evaluation, but that would mean diverting resources," she told reporters when asked how she would respond if Trump still intended to come. "I don't know how that could happen."

Pressure on Trump intensified on the 26th day of the shutdown, as lawmakers from both parties scrambled for solutions. At the White House, Trump met a bipartisan group of lawmakers, as well as a group of Republican senators, but progress appeared elusive.

While his own advisers said the shutdown was proving a greater drag on the economy than expected, Trump showed no signs of backing off a fight that he views as vital for his core supporters.

On Wednesday, Trump signed legislation into law affirming that the roughly 800,000 federal workers who have been going without pay will ultimately be compensated for their lost wages. That was the practice in the past.

As he weighs a response to Pelosi, Trump could not go forward with a State of the Union address in Congress without her blessing. Donald Ritchie, former historian of the Senate, said that anytime a president comes to speak, it must be at the request of Congress. Trump could opt to deliver a speech somewhere else, like the Oval Office, but it would not have the same ritualistic heft.

Democratic leaders did not ask the Secret Service if the agency would be able to secure the State of the Union event before sending the letter, according to a senior Homeland Security official, who was not authorized to speak publicly. Pelosi's office said Congress is already familiar with the percentage of Secret Service and Homeland Security employees who have been furloughed and working without pay.

The Secret Service starts preparing for events like these months in advance.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 37 of 63

Lawmakers struggled to find a way out of the shutdown Wednesday. Trump is demanding \$5.7 billion to build a wall along the Mexican border that he says is needed on humanitarian and security grounds. But Pelosi is refusing money for the wall she views as ineffective and immoral and Democrats say they will discuss border security once the government has reopened.

Some expressed little optimism.

Sen. Lindsay Graham, a South Carolina Republican who has been working on bipartisan strategies, declared glumly: "I am running out of ideas."

Trump met a bipartisan group of lawmakers Wednesday that included seven Democrats. Two people who attended the White House meeting agreed it was "productive," but could not say to what extent Trump was listening or moved by the conversation.

The people, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the event candidly, said it seemed at some points as if people were talking past each other. Lawmakers talked about the shutdown's effect on their constituents and advocated for "border security." Trump and others on-and-off used the term "wall." It was not clear if progress had been made, by those accounts.

Meanwhile a group of Republican senators headed to the White House later Wednesday.

Many Republicans were unwilling to sign on to a letter led by Graham and Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., to re-open the government for three weeks while talks continue.

"Does that help the president or does that hurt the president?" asked Sen. Mike Rounds, R-S.D., among those going to the White House. He has not signed the letter. "If the president saw it as a way to be conciliatory, if he thought it would help, then perhaps it's a good idea," he said. "If it's just seen as a weakening of his position, then he probably wouldn't do it."

While Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said she has signed, others said GOP support was lacking. "They're a little short on the R side," said Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., another leader of the effort.

The House and Senate announced they are canceling next week's planned recess if shutdown continues, which seemed likely. Some Republicans expressed concerns over the impact of the shutdown and who was getting blamed.

Said Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wisc.: "Right now, are you seeing any pressure on Democrats? I think Republicans are getting the lion's share of the pressure."

He added: "The president accepted the blame so people are happy to give it to him."

For AP's complete coverage of the U.S. government shutdown: <https://apnews.com/GovernmentShutdown>

Associated Press writers Chris Rugaber, Darlene Superville, Matthew Daly, Jonathan Lemire, Alan Fram, Colleen Long, Andrew Taylor, Laurie Kellman, Elana Schor and Ken Sweet contributed to this report

## Robert Durst defense: Evidence could be 'game over' for heir

By BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — New York real estate heir Robert Durst is charged with one count of murder, but will have to defend himself in three killings at trial later this year in California.

Los Angeles prosecutors won a victory Tuesday in persuading a judge to allow jurors to hear that Durst killed a man in Galveston, Texas, in 2001, dismembered his body and tossed it out to sea.

Durst was acquitted of murder after testifying he shot Morris Black in self-defense, but prosecutors argued that Black's death and the killing of Susan Berman in Los Angeles in 2000 were both part of an effort to cover up the slaying of Durst's wife years earlier.

"That man beat a murder in Galveston," Deputy District Attorney John Lewin said. "He's not going to get away a second time."

Durst, 75, faces trial Sept. 3 in Los Angeles Superior Court in Berman's death. He has pleaded not guilty.

Prosecutors contend Durst, who is reportedly worth \$100 million, killed his first wife, Kathleen Durst, in New York in 1982 and disposed of her body. She was reported missing and has never been found.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 38 of 63

Durst has denied any involvement in the disappearance of his wife, who is presumed dead. But he allegedly told Berman, his best friend, about what he did and she helped him cover up the crime for years, according to testimony at previous hearings.

New York authorities reopened the case in 2000 and planned to talk to Berman, but Durst got to her first, prosecutors said. He ambushed Berman in her home near Beverly Hills and shot her in the back of the head, prosecutors said.

Durst, who inherited a fortune from his family's New York City real estate empire, went into hiding in Galveston disguised as a mute woman living in a low-rent apartment.

He befriended Black, his neighbor, who eventually figured out his true identity. Prosecutors claim Durst killed Black to prevent him from revealing his whereabouts.

Durst provided a different story, testifying that Black confronted him with a gun one day and he accidentally shot the older man during a struggle for the pistol. Durst testified that he panicked and dismembered the body and tossed it in garbage bags in Galveston Bay.

Durst's lawyers argued that it was unfair to present evidence of Black's killing during the Berman case because he had been cleared by a jury and should not be on trial for the same crime.

"The second the Morris Black acquittal comes before this jury it's game over," said defense lawyer Chip Lewis.

Judge Mark Windham said he would allow the evidence because the "events seem to be intertwined" and it would be up to jurors to decide if the two killings were part of an effort to dodge New York detectives.

"These crimes happened — both of them — during the flight, during the hiding, at the time he believes he's going to be prosecuted," Windham said. "He leaves town, and two people are killed."

It will be up to the judge to instruct jurors on what they're allowed to consider about Black's killing and the suspected slaying of Kathie Durst in weighing evidence in the Berman case.

Peter Johnson, a defense lawyer and law school lecturer at University of California, Los Angeles, said that evidence of two other deaths would make for a difficult defense.

"If you're looking at once accused of murder, second time accused of murder and now it's the third time accused of murder, that's not within the normal juror's experience," Johnson said. "I think that does have a significant prejudicial impact on the defendant in this case."

Durst was arrested in New Orleans in March 2015, just hours before the airing of the final episode of HBO's "The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst."

The documentary examined the disappearance of his wife, and the killings of Berman and Black.

The HBO series created a sensation after Durst was heard during the finale muttering to himself on a live microphone: "You're caught! What the hell did I do? Killed them all, of course."

It's not clear yet whether jurors will hear that recording, though it's now likely they will hear testimony linking Durst to three deaths.

## Battles expected in many states over abortion-related bills

By DAVID CRARY, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — On each side of the abortion debate, legislators and activists emboldened by recent political developments plan to push aggressively in many states this year for bills high on their wish lists: either seeking to impose near-total bans on abortion or guaranteeing women's access to the procedure.

For abortion opponents, many of whom will rally Friday at the annual March for Life in Washington, there's a surge of optimism that sweeping abortion bans might have a chance of prevailing in the reconfigured U.S. Supreme Court that includes Donald Trump's appointees Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. Legislators in at least five states — Ohio, Kentucky, Missouri, Florida and South Carolina — are expected to consider bills that would ban abortion after a fetal heartbeat is detected, possibly just six weeks into a pregnancy.

Conversely, results of the midterm elections buoyed supporters of abortion rights in several states, including New York, Rhode Island, Maryland, Massachusetts and New Mexico. Abortion-rights groups there are now hopeful that lawmakers will pass bills aimed at protecting access to abortion even if the Supreme

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 39 of 63

Court eventually reversed or weakened the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that established a nationwide right to abortion. Tuesday will mark the 46th anniversary of that ruling.

"With big electoral victories in state legislatures and governorships, many states are now primed to provide the last line of defense for a woman's ability to control her body, life and future," said Andrea Miller, president of the National Institute for Reproductive Health.

Here are some of the notable bills likely to be considered:

## PROTECTING ABORTION ACCESS

**NEW YORK:** For years, Republicans who controlled the New York Senate blocked efforts to codify abortion rights in state law as a bulwark against any undermining of Roe v. Wade. However, Democrats, who have long controlled the legislature's lower chamber, took control of the Senate in the midterms, and are expected to swiftly enact the long-sought protections. Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo, easily re-elected to a third term, says the legislation is among his top priorities.

In a recent speech, Cuomo said Trump's Supreme Court nominees "don't even pretend to be objective jurists. They've already announced their intention to impose their morality on the nation and roll back Roe v. Wade."

**RHODE ISLAND:** Although abortion is readily available in Rhode Island, the state has never removed some decades-old laws that sought to restrict abortion rights. A bill to scrap those old laws, and reinforce the right to abortion in case Roe is reversed, has been reintroduced in the 2019 session after failing the past two years. A co-sponsor, Sen. Gayle Goldin, says chances are better this year because the midterms increased the number of abortion-rights supporters in the legislature.

**MARYLAND:** Democratic House Speaker Michael Busch says lawmakers will take up a constitutional amendment to protect abortion rights in Maryland, in case protections are overturned or weakened by the Supreme Court or federal government. Maryland passed legislation in 1991 to protect such rights, but supporters of the proposed amendment say it would be a stronger guard against any future legislative efforts to restrict abortion. If the measure wins legislative approval in the Democrat-controlled legislature, it would go before voters in a future election.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Last year, the state repealed a 19th century law that banned abortions but had not been enforced. Lawmakers took a next step earlier this month, introducing a bill that would ensure the right to an abortion and for physicians to perform them. The Legislature is controlled by Democrats, and the governor is a Republican who supports abortion rights.

**MAINE:** A new Democratic governor who supports abortion rights, Janet Mills, has succeeded anti-abortion Republican Paul LePage. Mills would likely sign a recently introduced bill that would require Maine to fund some abortions that are not covered under Medicaid. Democrats control both chambers of the legislature.

**NEW MEXICO:** Democratic legislators — who control both chambers — are backing a bill that would remove New Mexico's criminal ban on abortion. A 1969 statute made it a felony for an abortion provider to terminate a pregnancy, with exceptions for rape, birth defects and serious threats to a women's health — though the law has been unenforceable since the Roe decision.

Newly inaugurated Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham — who succeeded Republican Susana Martinez — favors overturning the dormant abortion ban.

## RESTRICTING ABORTION ACCESS

**OHIO:** During eight years in office, GOP Gov. John Kasich signed more than 20 anti-abortion bills, but twice vetoed the most draconian measure to reach his desk — the so-called "heartbeat bill" that would ban abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected. But Kasich has now been succeeded by fellow Republican Mike DeWine, who suggests he will sign a heartbeat bill. And the proposal has finally won the endorsement of Ohio Right to Life, which previously considered it too contentious but now believes it has a chance of prevailing in court.

"With the additions of Justices Gorsuch and Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court, we believe this is the

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 40 of 63

most pro-life court we have seen in generations," said Ohio Right to Life board chairman Marshal Pitchford. "Now is the time to pursue this approach."

KENTUCKY, MISSOURI, SOUTH CAROLINA, FLORIDA: Lawmakers in these states, where Republicans control the legislature and governor's office, also have drafted heartbeat bills for consideration this year.

The South Carolina and Florida measures would require testing for a detectable fetal heartbeat prior to an abortion; anyone performing an abortion after a heartbeat was detected would be guilty of a felony. A similar measure has been filed in Missouri; its potential punishments include fines and suspension or withdrawal of medical licenses.

Kentucky already is entangled in three abortion-related court cases, but Senate Majority Leader Damon Thayer said he would be pleased if the heartbeat bill triggered additional litigation.

"I would be proud if it's Kentucky that takes it all the way up to the Supreme Court and we challenge *Roe v. Wade*," Thayer told reporters. "That would be absolutely the pinnacle of my career in the legislature."

ARKANSAS: Like Kentucky, some of Arkansas' previously approved anti-abortion laws remain caught up in legal fights. But two new measures were filed ahead of the 2019 session: One would toughen requirements for reporting abortion-related complications to state health officials; the other would prohibit doctors from performing an abortion if they know the woman seeks it solely because the fetus is diagnosed with Down syndrome.

Indiana, Louisiana and Ohio previously enacted bans on Down syndrome abortions which have been blocked in federal court. Indiana is asking the Supreme Court to review its case. North Dakota enacted a similar ban in 2013 that has not been challenged; the state's sole abortion clinic says the issue hasn't arisen under its policy of not performing abortions after 16 weeks into a pregnancy.

OKLAHOMA: A Republican state senator, Joseph Silk, has filed a bill that would include abortion in the state's definition of felony homicide, potentially punishable by life in prison. Its chances of advancing are uncertain, but Oklahoma lawmakers did approve a bill two years ago that would have outlawed abortion and imposed prison sentences of up to three years on anyone performing the procedure.

That bill was vetoed by then-Gov. Mary Fallin. She has been succeeded by fellow Republican Kevin Stitt, who declined comment on Silk's bill after it was filed.

---

Associated Press writers Steve LeBlanc in Boston, Morgan Lee in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus, Ohio, contributed to this report.

## May wins no-confidence vote, but still is beset by Brexit

By JILL LAWLESS and DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Theresa May survived a no-confidence vote in Parliament on Wednesday to remain in office — but saw more of her power ebb away as she battled to keep Brexit on track after lawmakers demolished her European Union divorce deal.

May won a narrow victory, 325 votes to 306 votes, on an opposition motion seeking to topple her government and trigger a general election.

Now it's back to Brexit, where May is caught between the rock of her own negotiating red lines and the hard place of a Parliament that wants to force a radical change of course.

After defeating the no-confidence motion, May said she would hold talks "in a constructive spirit" with leaders of opposition parties and other lawmakers in a bid to find a way forward for Britain's EU exit.

She appeared outside her 10 Downing St. residence after meeting the leaders of several smaller parties. The prime minister named the parties in a statement in which she called on opposition politicians in Parliament to "put self-interest aside" and find a consensus on Britain's path out of the EU.

Legislators ripped up May's Brexit blueprint Tuesday by rejecting the divorce agreement she has negotiated with the EU over the last two years. That it would lose was widely expected, but the scale of the rout — 432 votes to 202, the biggest defeat government defeat in British parliamentary history — was devastating for May's leadership and her Brexit deal.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 41 of 63

Opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn responded with the no-confidence motion, and urged the government to "do the right thing and resign."

May, who leads a fractious government, a divided Parliament and a gridlocked Brexit process, said she was staying put. May said an election "would deepen division when we need unity, it would bring chaos when we need certainty, and it would bring delay when we need to move forward."

The government survived Wednesday's vote with support from May's Conservative Party and its Northern Irish ally, the Democratic Unionist Party. Many pro-Brexit Conservatives who voted against May's deal, backed her in the no-confidence vote to avoid an election that could bring a left-wing Labour government to power.

Had the government lost, Britain would have faced a snap election within weeks, just before the country is due to leave the European Union on March 29.

Political analyst Anand Menon, from the research group U.K. in a Changing Europe, said May had a remarkable ability to soldier on.

"The thing about Theresa May is that nothing seems to faze her," he said. "She just keeps on going."

May's determination — or, as her foes see it, her inflexibility — might not be an asset in a situation calling for a change of course. The prime minister has until Monday to come up with a new Brexit plan.

Despite May's pledge to seek a broad consensus, there was no sign of an immediate breakthrough. Opposition leaders brought her a laundry list of sometimes conflicting demands.

Labour's Corbyn said he would not meet with May until she ruled out a no-deal Brexit. Scottish National Party leader Nicola Sturgeon said she needed to keep the option of a second Brexit referendum on the table.

More meetings were planned for Thursday. May said she was disappointed Corbyn had not met her yet but added "our door remains open."

May insisted that any new Brexit plan must "deliver on the referendum result," which she has long interpreted to mean ending the free movement of workers to Britain from the EU and leaving the EU's single market and customs union.

Many lawmakers think a softer departure that retained single market or customs union membership is the only plan capable of winning a majority in Parliament. They fear the alternative is an abrupt "no-deal" withdrawal from the bloc, which businesses and economists fear would cause turmoil.

Labour lawmaker Ben Bradshaw accused May of being "in a total state of denial" about how radically her Brexit plan needed to change.

Faced with the deadlock, lawmakers from all parties are trying to wrest control of the Brexit process so that Parliament can direct planning for Britain's departure.

But with no clear majority in Parliament for any single alternative, there's a growing chance that Britain may seek to postpone its departure date while politicians work on a new plan — or even hand the decision back to voters in a new referendum on Britain's EU membership.

European leaders are now preparing for the worst, although German Chancellor Angela Merkel said there was still time for further talks. She told reporters in Berlin that "we are now waiting to see what the British prime minister proposes."

But her measured remarks contrasted with the blunt message from French President Emmanuel Macron, who told Britons to "figure it out yourselves." He said Britain needed to get realistic about what was possible.

"Good luck to the representatives of the nation who have to implement something that doesn't exist," Macron said.

EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said the bloc was stepping up preparations for a disorderly "no-deal" Brexit after Parliament's actions left Europe "fearing more than ever that there is a risk" of a cliff-edge departure.

Economists warn that an abrupt break with the EU could batter the British economy and bring chaos at borders, ports and airports. Business groups have expressed alarm at the prospect of a no-deal exit.

France's parliament on Wednesday adopted a law allowing for emergency measures, including extra

customs officers, to deal with a “no-deal” Brexit.

Investors appeared to shrug off both the rejection of May’s deal and welcomed the survival of her government. The pound was up against the dollar early Wednesday and rose further after the no-confidence vote to \$1.2880.

May’s deal was doomed by deep opposition from both sides of the divide over the U.K.’s place in Europe. Pro-Brexit lawmakers say the deal will leave Britain bound indefinitely to EU rules, while pro-EU politicians favor an even closer economic relationship with the bloc.

The most contentious section was an insurance policy known as the “backstop” designed to prevent the reintroduction of border controls between the U.K.’s Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, an EU member state. Assurances from EU leaders that the backstop is intended as a temporary measure of last resort failed to win over many British lawmakers.

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said it was now up to opponents of the backstop “to come up with an alternative solution to honor their commitment to avoiding a hard border.”

Varadkar said if May’s government was willing to shift some of its “red lines” in negotiations — such as leaving the customs union and EU single market — then the position of EU negotiators would also change.

“The onus is on Westminster” to come up with solutions, Varadkar said

Raf Casert in Strasbourg, France, Frank Jordans in Berlin, Sylvie Corbet in Paris and Pan Pylas in London, contributed.

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

## Sears survives a near-death experience, but for how long?

By ANNE D’INNOCENZIO, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sears will live on — at least for now.

Its chairman and biggest shareholder, Eddie Lampert, won tentative approval for a \$5 billion plan to keep the ailing, 132-year-old department-store chain in business, fending off demands from creditors that it throw in the towel, according to a person familiar with the negotiations. The person was not authorized to discuss the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity Wednesday.

Lampert, the hedge fund owner who steered Sears into Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in October, is aiming to keep open roughly 400 stores and preserve tens of thousands of jobs.

But how long Sears can survive under the 56-year-old billionaire, who has tried and failed to turn it around many times before, remains an open question.

The company that was once the Amazon of its day, selling everything from girdles to snow tires, still faces cutthroat competition from the likes of Amazon, Target and Walmart. Its stores are looking drab and old. And Lampert has yet to spell out how he plans to change the company’s fortunes.

“While there’s no doubt that a shrunken Sears will be more viable than the larger entity, which struggled to turn a profit, we remain extremely pessimistic about the chain’s future,” said Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData Retail.

“In our view, Sears exits this process with almost as many problems as it had when it entered bankruptcy protection. In essence, its hand has not changed, and the cards it holds are not winning ones.”

Sears’ corporate parent, which also owns Kmart, had 687 stores and 68,000 employees at the time of its bankruptcy filing. At its peak in 2012, its stores numbered 4,000.

The company was hammered during the recession and outmatched in its aftermath by shifting consumer trends and strong rivals. It hasn’t had a profitable year since 2010 and has suffered 11 straight years of declining sales.

At a bankruptcy auction held this week in New York, Lampert won the OK from a subcommittee of the Sears board for a rescue plan financed through an affiliate of his hedge fund ESL.

Many of Sears’ unsecured creditors, who rank at the bottom of the list to be paid and include merchan-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 43 of 63

dise suppliers and landlords, had pressed for liquidation, contending the business was worth more dead than alive. They also questioned the propriety of certain deals Lampert has done while at Sears.

Lampert's rescue plan still needs approval from a bankruptcy judge in White Plains, New York. A hearing is set for Feb. 1. Creditors will have the opportunity to object before then. The specific terms of the bid haven't been made public.

Lampert personally owns 31 percent of the Sears' outstanding stock, and his hedge fund has an 18.5 percent stake, according to FactSet.

Lampert, who stepped down as CEO in October after being in that role since 2013, pledged years ago to return Sears to greatness, but that never happened. He has been criticized for not investing in the stores.

Under Lampert, Sears has survived in part by spinning off stores and selling well-known brands like Craftsman tools, and he has also lent some of his own money, though critics say his real aim was benefiting his hedge fund.

If his bid to save Sears gets final approval, he will need to reinvent the business. That means revitalizing the stores and focusing on the major appliances and tools that were once Sears' proudest products, industry analysts say.

Sears will also need to convince shoppers like Sanjay Singh they should come back.

Singh was recently shopping with his wife at the Newport Centre Mall in Jersey City, New Jersey, and stopped by a Sears to look for a swimsuit for his 11-year-old daughter. He said he usually shops at places like Macy's and J.C. Penney because they have a better assortment of merchandise and the quality is also better.

"Sears is usually my last option," he said.

Follow Anne D'Innocenzio: <http://twitter.com/ADInnocenzio>

## **ORRR-DUHHH: Britain Parliament speaker seeks to calm debate**

**By GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press**

LONDON (AP) — The speaker of the House of Commons is usually taken for granted, except for those rare moments when Britain is having a legislative meltdown and Parliament gets center stage.

And for the Brexit crisis, you might say that the current speaker, John Bercow, is made to ORRR-DUHHH.

As a rambunctious Parliament is grappling with the contentious issue, Bercow is trying to stay above the fray. With his stentorian voice, assertive ways and unapologetic manners, he's playing a major role shaping the debate over Britain's troubled withdrawal from the European Union.

But along the way, he has ruffled some feathers in the government of Prime Minister Theresa May. He's even been compared to the devil by a tabloid newspaper.

The 55-year-old Bercow, who has been speaker since 2009, determines which amendments will be voted on, who will be called upon to speak, and deciding when to use his commanding voice to demand "order."

Or as he sometimes pronounces it, "ORRR-DUHHH! ORRR-DUHHH!"

Some in the government feel he's opposed to Brexit, and it doesn't help that his wife's car is festooned with an anti-Brexit sticker. Others feel he's simply determined to preserve Parliament's power and put the government in its place.

After he was called "Speaker of the Devil" in a front-page headline this week, Bercow refused to apologize for challenging the government.

"My job is not to be a cheerleader for the executive branch," he said. "My job is to stand up for the rights of the House of Commons."

The speaker is supposed to be impartial and is required to step down from the political party he or she belonged to when elected. The speaker's primary role is to maintain order, something Bercow does with a certain amount of style.

"The House must calm itself. Zen. Restraint. Patience," he has said when things threaten to get out of hand. Bercow at times presides over Britain's august legislators as if they were a bunch of unruly kids

who won't eat their broccoli.

Earlier this year, a former employer accused him of bullying, but Bercow denied the charge.

## Democrats hit Trump EPA nominee on coal lobbying, rollbacks

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's nominee to lead the Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday called climate change "a huge issue" but not the "greatest crisis" and drew fire from Democrats at his confirmation hearing over the regulatory rollbacks he's made in six months as the agency's acting administrator.

Republicans on the GOP-majority Senate Environment and Public Works Committee mostly had praise for Andrew Wheeler, who has served as the agency's acting head since Scott Pruitt's resignation in July amid ethics scandals. The committee chairman, Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., called Wheeler "very well-qualified" to take the job.

But Democrats pressed Wheeler about his work as a lobbyist helping an influential coal magnate meet with Trump administration officials before his nomination to the EPA and his moves on deregulation and on what they said was his inattention to the growing dangers of climate change.

"You seem to be consistently doing things that undermine the health and safety of this nation," Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., told Wheeler.

Markey asked him why he was pulling back on regulations that proponents say protect human health and the environment.

"I believe we are moving forward" on protections, Wheeler responded.

Wheeler cited changes he had initiated to roll back future mileage standards for cars and autos and to ease Obama-era clampdowns on dirtier-burning coal-fired power plants.

He said EPA staff, whom he did not identify, had concluded that those rollbacks would ultimately lead to health gains. Environmental groups and formal assessments from the EPA and other agencies have contested that, saying the changes would increase pollution and increase harm to people and the climate.

Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., said the rollbacks in car mileage standards and toxic mercury emissions under Wheeler were examples of unsafe deregulation and went beyond what industries themselves wanted.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., noted Wheeler had failed to mention climate change in his initial remarks to lawmakers.

"Do you agree that climate change is a global crisis?" Sanders asked, shouting at times.

"I would not call it the greatest crisis," Wheeler said. "I would call it a huge issue that has to be addressed globally."

Wheeler told lawmakers that he had yet to read a massive government climate change report released late last year that emphasized man-made climate change was already underway.

Wheeler said he had received one staff briefing so far on the climate change report. The work of the EPA and other government agencies, the report stresses the massive economic toll expected from increasingly severe wildfires, hurricanes and other extreme weather under climate change.

Wheeler said the news media had seized upon "worst-case scenarios" of the climate report.

"You are a former coal industry lobbyist that is sitting here," Markey responded. "That's the worst-case scenario, what you are proposing here" for easing Obama-era rules meant to clamp down on climate-changing fossil fuel emissions.

Sen. Joni Ernst of Iowa and other Republican lawmakers, by contrast, praised Wheeler for a move to remove federal protections for millions of miles of wetlands and waterways and other proposals. Republican lawmakers said the protections had burdened farmers and others.

The grandson of a coal miner, Wheeler worked for the EPA in the 1990s and later as a longtime Republican Senate staffer.

Democrats pressed Wheeler about his lobbying before joining the EPA, saying his work for coal companies should disqualify him from leading an agency that regulates coal.

Wheeler's lobbying clients included coal magnate Bob Murray, who pushed hard on the Trump administration after the 2016 elections to grant a series of breaks for the sagging domestic coal industry.

Wheeler accompanied Murray to a March 2017 meeting to pitch Murray's list of desired rule rollbacks and other breaks for coal to Energy Secretary Rick Perry.

Wheeler told senators that his main work for Murray had been on health benefits and pensions.

"I did not work on the plan. I do not have a copy of it. I saw it briefly," Wheeler said, referring to Murray's wish list.

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., displayed a blown-up version of a photo taken of the meeting with Perry, showing Wheeler at Murray's side.

A second photo showed Murray's rollback plan in Wheeler's hands.

Murray had sought some of the coal breaks that the EPA under Wheeler has since acted on. That included Wheeler signing a rule easing federal regulation of toxic coal ash, redoing an Obama rule that pushed electricity providers to move away from dirtier-burning coal plants and targeting an Obama rule limiting emissions of toxic mercury from coal plants.

A watchdog group, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, filed an ethics complaint Tuesday with the EPA's Office of the Inspector General alleging that Wheeler's oversight of those and other rollback proposals at EPA may have violated his government ethics pledge to abstain from regulatory decisions affecting his former lobbying client for at least two years.

EPA spokesman John Konkus called the accusation "baseless" and "wrong" and said Wheeler works with EPA ethics officials and follows their guidance.

## **Kidnap suspect's lawyers: Confession problematic for defense**

**By TODD RICHMOND, Associated Press**

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Defense attorneys for the man accused of kidnapping a Wisconsin teenager and killing her parents acknowledged Wednesday that they're starting the case at a disadvantage after their client gave detectives a detailed confession and said they're not sure he can get a fair trial in the state.

According to a criminal complaint, 21-year-old Jake Patterson outlined in detail for detectives how he gunned down 13-year-old Jayme Closs' parents Oct. 15 in their home near Barron and abducted the girl. Jayme escaped last week from the remote cabin where Patterson had been hiding her. Patterson was arrested minutes later, and he was charged Monday with two counts of homicide and kidnapping.

Charlie Glynn and Richard Jones, Patterson's public defenders, told The Associated Press that they face an uphill struggle. Glynn acknowledged that the complaint contains "a very thorough confession."

"Yes, it looks like you start out behind the eight ball a little bit," Glynn said.

Jones said the defense team will evaluate Patterson's statements to determine whether they were given voluntarily and if they're true. He cautioned that prosecutors have amassed 30 banker's boxes full of evidence, but that the defense likely won't receive any of it, let alone review it, until after Patterson's Feb. 6 preliminary hearing.

Terry Sullivan, a Chicago attorney who prosecuted the John Wayne Gacy killings, said he wouldn't have included so many details in the Patterson complaint.

"I'm befuddled as to why they would release this amount of their evidence," Sullivan said. "It doesn't take a lot to hold a defendant, especially on a case like this. This guy certainly doesn't deserve any sympathy but, under our laws and our constitution, he at least deserves a fair trial. How do you get one if all the jurors have read this?"

Jones said he doubts Patterson can get a fair trial in Barron County or maybe anywhere in Wisconsin, given the publicity surrounding the case.

"(Barron) is a small community," Jones said. "So many different people have had not only an interest in the case, but an actual involvement in the case, being part of the search, those things, being part of fundraisers. They've had physical, tangible involvement in the case. The question becomes, 'Can you lay that involvement, that emotion aside and render a verdict based on this case?' In that county, I think that

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 46 of 63

could be extremely difficult.”

Barron, which lies about 90 miles (145 kilometers) northeast of Minneapolis, is home to about 3,400 people. Investigators took more than 3,500 tips during the three-month search for Jayme. Some 2,000 people participated in a ground search for her on Oct. 23.

The defense attorneys said they had an extensive conversation with Patterson in jail, but they declined to reveal anything that was said. They described his demeanor as “appropriate” for a 21-year-old facing such serious charges but didn’t elaborate.

They said they understand everyone wants to know Patterson’s motivation, and that it will become clear later as the legal proceedings continue, Jones said.

The attorneys declined to comment on Patterson’s mental health.

Patterson’s father, Patrick Patterson, visited the Barron County Justice Center on Tuesday, saying he wanted to pass a note to the Closs’ family, CNN reported . On the verge of tears, Patrick Patterson declined an interview but said: “All I care about right now is Jayme’s family.”

Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald told the AP he had no knowledge of a note from the Patterson family.

Glynn and Jones described Patrick Patterson as a genuinely kind man who feels terrible. They said he didn’t know what was going on, even though his son told detectives Jayme was trapped beneath his bed during several visits from his father.

Jayme’s grandfather, Robert Naiberg, said Wednesday that he appreciates the father’s sympathy.

“You can’t blame the parents,” Naiberg told the AP. “A guy becomes 21 years old, and sometimes it’s not how he was raised or anything.”

Naiberg said his granddaughter continues to recover. He said she will permanently live with her aunt and wants to return to school eventually.

“She doesn’t want to talk to anybody ... (but her aunt is) bringing her out of her shell slowly,” Naiberg said of Jayme.

---

Associated Press writers Amy Forliti and Doug Glass in Minneapolis and Jeff Baenan in Barron, Wisconsin, contributed to this report.

---

For The Latest: <https://bit.ly/2RMh9jN>

---

For more stories on Jayme’s abduction and her parents’ deaths: <https://apnews.com/JaymeCloss>

---

Follow Todd Richmond on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/trichmond1>

Follow Amy Forliti on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AmyForliti>

## 2 US service members, 2 US civilians killed in Syria blast

By **BASSEM MROUE**, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Two U.S. service members and two American civilians were among those killed in an explosion while conducting a patrol in Syria on Wednesday, the U.S. military said, an attack that came less than a month after U.S. President Donald Trump announced his intention to withdraw troops from the war-torn country.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the morning attack, which local groups said killed 16 people in the U.S.-patrolled town of Manbij.

The claim calls into question Trump’s claim that IS has been defeated in Syria — his stated reason for pulling 2,000 American troops out of the country.

“We have defeated ISIS in Syria, my only reason for being there during the Trump Presidency,” Trump tweeted in December in announcing his intention to bring back U.S. troops “NOW.”

Vice President Mike Pence repeated the claim Wednesday, saying the Islamic State “caliphate has crum-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 47 of 63

bled" and the militant network "has been defeated." His comments in a speech at the State Department came shortly after the U.S. military announced that American soldiers were among those killed in Manbij.

U.S. Central Command said one of the civilians was employed by the Defense Department and the other was a contractor. The names of the American victims were being withheld until their families could be notified.

Video released by local activists and news agencies showed a restaurant that suffered extensive damage and a street covered with debris and blood. Several cars were also damaged. Another video showed a helicopter flying over the area.

A security camera showed a busy street, and then a ball of fire engulfing people and others running for cover as the blast went off.

Trump's shifting timetable for pulling U.S. troops out of Syria, a country he described as "sand and death," has left allies and other players in the region confused and jockeying for influence over a withdrawal strategy that appeared to be a work in progress.

Critics have said a pullout was premature, that IS was still not defeated and a withdrawal could lead to a power vacuum that would fuel even more violence. It also led to the resignation of Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis.

Since then, U.S. officials and Trump himself have suggested the withdrawal would be slower than initially believed. White House national security adviser John Bolton said two conditions would have to be met, including the protection of America's local Kurdish allies in northern Syria, and the total defeat of IS.

Last week, the U.S. military began pulling out equipment from the northeast into neighboring Iraq. No troops are known to have withdrawn yet.

Manbij is highly strategic: It is the main town on the westernmost edge of Syrian territory held by the U.S.-backed Syrian Kurds, running along the border with Turkey. Mixed Kurdish-Arab Syrian forces liberated Manbij from the rule of the Islamic State group in 2016 with help from the U.S.-led coalition. But Kurdish control of the town infuriated Turkey, which views the main U.S. Kurdish ally, the YPG militia, as "terrorists" linked to Kurdish insurgents on its own soil.

The town has been at the center of tensions in northern Syria, with the militaries of two NATO members, the U.S. and Turkey, on opposing sides.

The two sides began joint patrols around Manbij in November as part of an agreement for easing tensions between the two allies.

The crowded terrain has become more combustible as Turkey threatens to attack Kurdish-run towns further east. The presence of the Americans is a main obstacle preventing them from doing so.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 16 people were killed including nine civilians and others were wounded in Wednesday's blast. It added that at least five U.S.-backed Syrian fighters were also among the dead.

The U.S. military released a statement on Twitter that said: "U.S. service members were killed during an explosion while conducting a routine patrol in Syria today. We are still gathering information and will share additional details at a later time."

The Kurdish Hawar news agency, based in northern Syria, and the Observatory, which monitors the war through activists on the ground, reported U.S. troops were among the casualties.

Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency, citing unnamed local sources, said a number of U.S. soldiers were injured in the blast and that the U.S. military evacuated soldiers by helicopter.

Attacks targeting members of the U.S.-led coalition in Syria have been rare.

In March last year, a roadside bomb killed two coalition personnel, an American and a Briton, and wounded five in Manbij.

---

Associated Press writer Deb Riechmann in Washington contributed to this report.

## The best Rx for teens addicted to vaping? No one knows

By MATTHEW PERRONE, AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's top health authorities agree: Teen vaping is an epidemic that now affects some 3.6 million underage users of Juul and other e-cigarettes. But no one seems to know the best way to help teenagers who may be addicted to nicotine.

E-cigarettes are now the top high-risk substance used by teenagers, according to the latest U.S. figures, which show that Juul and similar products have quickly outpaced cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana and other substances that have been tracked over more than four decades.

The handheld devices heat a liquid solution that usually contains nicotine into an inhalable vapor. Federal law prohibits sales to those under 18, though many high schoolers report getting them from older students or online.

In recent months, government officials have rolled out a series of proposals aimed at keeping the products away from youngsters, including tightening sales in convenience stores and online. In November, vaping giant Juul voluntarily shut down its Facebook and Instagram accounts and pulled several flavors out of retail stores.

But there's been little discussion of how to treat nicotine addiction in children as young as 11 years old. While some adolescents should be able to quit unaided, experts say many will be hampered by withdrawal symptoms, including anxiety, irritability, difficulty concentrating and loss of appetite.

Physicians who treat young people now face a series of dilemmas: The anti-smoking therapies on the market — such as nicotine patches and gums — are not approved for children, due to lack of testing or ineffective results. And young people view the habit as far less risky, which poses another hurdle to quitting.

The harshness of cigarette smoke often limits how much teenagers inhale, sometimes discouraging them from picking up the habit altogether. That deterrent doesn't exist with e-cigarette vapor, which is typically much smoother, according to experts.

Kicking any addiction requires discipline, patience and a willingness to follow a treatment plan — something that doesn't come easily to many young people, experts said.

"Teenagers have their own ideas of what might work for them, and they're going to do what they do," said Susanne Tanski, a tobacco prevention expert with the American Academy of Pediatrics. "But we desperately need studies to figure out what's going to work with this population."

Since debuting in the U.S. in 2007, e-cigarettes and other vaping devices have grown into a \$6.6 billion business. Driving the recent surge in underage use are small, easy-to-conceal devices like Juul, which vaporizes a high-nicotine solution sold in flavors such as creme, mango and cucumber. Despite industry worries of a crackdown on flavors, the FDA has taken no steps to ban the array of candy and fruit varieties that companies use to differentiate their offerings.

E-cigarettes have become a scourge in U.S. schools, with students often vaping in the bathroom or between classes. One in five high schoolers reported vaping in the last month, according to 2018 federal survey figures.

Juul and other brands are pitched to adult smokers as a way to quit smoking, but there's been little research on that claim or their long-term health effects, particularly in young people. Nicotine can affect learning, memory and attention in the teenage brain, but there's virtually no research on how e-cigarette vapor affects lungs, which do not fully mature until the 20s.

"It's frightening for me as a pediatrician because I really feel like there's this uncontrolled experiment happening with our young people," Tanski said. "They don't perceive the harm, and we can't show them what it's going to be."

Tanski and other experts will meet this Friday at the Food and Drug Administration to discuss the potential role for pharmaceutical therapies and non-prescription medications such as nicotine gums and patches.

Regulators acknowledge they are starting from square one: The FDA "is not aware of any research examining either drug or behavioral interventions" to help e-cigarette users quit, the agency noted in its announcement.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 49 of 63

The FDA will also hear from researchers, vaping executives, parents and teenagers.

"We want to make sure our voices are heard and that — most importantly — our kids' voices are heard," said Meredith Berkman, who plans to speak at the meeting with her 10th-grade son.

Berkman said she first realized her son and his friends were "Juuling" last year when she heard them repeatedly opening and closing his bedroom window. With two other New York City mothers, she formed the group Parents Against Vaping E-cigarettes, which is asking the FDA to ban all e-cigarette flavors.

"Unless the flavors are off the market, kids are going to continue to be seduced by these highly addictive nicotine-delivery systems like Juul," Berkman said.

Quitting smoking is notoriously difficult, even for adults with access to various aids and programs. More than 55 percent of adult smokers try to quit each year, yet only about 7 percent succeed, according to government figures.

Nicotine gums, patches and lozenges are available over-the-counter for those 18 and older, and are occasionally prescribed "off-label" for younger patients. They provide low levels of nicotine to help control cravings. Prescription drugs include Zyban, an antidepressant, and Chantix, which blocks the effects of nicotine on the brain. But neither has shown positive results in teenagers, and both carry worrisome side effects, including suicidal thinking for Zyban and nausea and abnormal dreams for Chantix.

That leaves counseling as the go-to option for teenagers trying to quit cigarettes.

In November, Colorado dropped the minimum eligibility age for its quit-smoking hotline from 15 to 12, in response to the explosion in vaping among students as low as 6th grade. The state's underage vaping rate is the highest in the U.S., with 1 in 4 high school students reportedly using the products, according to federal data. The state's over-the-phone and online programs provide free coaching to help users create a quit plan, manage cravings and avoid relapse.

But even counseling has shown only "limited evidence" in helping teenagers, according to an exhaustive review of the medical literature published in 2017.

Still, addiction specialists see growing demand for such programs, particularly group sessions that often have the most promising results.

Addiction psychiatrist Jonathan Avery says he gets four to five calls a week from pediatricians referring patients or asking about treatment options. One of the biggest problems is an education gap — many doctors haven't heard of Juul and don't even recognize the vaping devices brought in by parents.

On the other side, teenagers are often "suspicious" when he informs them that they are inhaling a highly addictive substance, said Avery, of New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

About two-thirds of U.S. teenagers do not realize that Juul contains nicotine, according to a recent survey by the Truth Initiative, an anti-smoking advocacy group.

The U.S. Surgeon General, Jerome Adams, hammered that point home in a rare public advisory last month. He said even his 14-year-old son believed that e-cigarette vapor was essentially harmless.

"Youth like my son have no clue what's in these products most of the time," he said.

---

Follow Matthew Perrone at @AP\_FDAWriter

---

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

---

This version corrects the name of the group, Parents Against Vaping E-cigarettes.

## Europeans unravel massive tennis match-fixing ring

By JOHN LEICESTER, AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — The crooked tennis players knew him as "Maestro." To European investigators, the Armenian based in Belgium is emerging as the suspected ringleader of an organized gambling syndicate suspected of fixing hundreds of matches and paying off more than 100 players from around Europe.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 50 of 63

As Roger Federer and other stars at the top of tennis compete in the Australian Open, players far lower down the sport's food chain are being questioned this week by police in France on suspicion of fixing matches for Grigor Sargsyan, 28-year-old known as the Maestro, investigators said. Sargsyan is being held in a Belgian jail.

The picture emerging from months of digging by police working across Europe is of a massive match-fixing scheme, organized via encrypted messaging, involving dozens of low-ranked players in small tournaments with little prize money. Police say Sargsyan employed mules, people hired for a few euros (dollars) to place bets for the syndicate that were small enough to slip under the radar of gambling watchdogs.

Sources close to the investigation, all speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss details publicly, said four French players were in police custody on Wednesday and at least one of them told investigators that he fixed around two dozen matches for Sargsyan.

They named the players as Jules Okala, 21; Mick Lescure, 25; Yannick Thivant, 31; and Jerome Inzerillo, 28. None operated in the highest spheres of tennis. The career-best singles ranking of any of them was 354, reached by Inzerillo in 2012. The arrests of Okala and Lescure were first reported Wednesday by French sports newspaper L'Equipe.

A dozen or more other French players are expected to be questioned in coming weeks. An investigator said France was one of the countries "hardest hit" by the syndicate, which targeted lower-level pro tournaments. Okala and Lescure were detained before they were to play in a modest tournament in Bressuire, western France, this week that offers a total of \$15,000 in prize money.

Investigators have also questioned players in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Slovakia, and Bulgaria and are looking to question others, including both players and managers, in the United States, Chile and Egypt.

In all, more than 100 players are suspected of having worked with the syndicate, fixing matches, sets or games in exchange for payments of 500 to 3,000 euros (\$570 to \$3,400).

"The impression we're getting is that it is very commonplace," one official told The Associated Press. Another said several hundred matches are thought to have been fixed.

Investigators fear that players used by the syndicate could suck others into the scheme and could go on to infect bigger tournaments if they climb higher in the rankings.

"In time, they could be managers of other new players or trainers so we have to get them out of the system, or they could corrupt others in a few years," one official told The Associated Press.

Sargsyan was swept up in a wave of arrests in Belgium last June and faces organized crime, match fixing, money laundering and forgery charges. A suspected banker for the syndicate also faces money laundering and organized crime charges, while four others are being investigated for illegal gambling and finding mules, who are thought to have been paid for placing modest bets for the syndicate on matches that it fixed.

Because the bets were small, the risk of detection was "almost zero," but the profits could still be considerable if many bets were placed, one official said.

Still unclear is whether the Belgium-based syndicate was linked to another match-fixing and gambling operation, also involving Armenians, unraveled in Spain. Spanish police last week announced that 28 professional tennis players, including one who participated in last year's U.S. Open, were linked to that ring, taking bribes to fix results that the group bet on using fake identities.

## From travel to IPOs, how shutdown is upsetting US economy

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Delta Air Lines can't get eight new aircraft in the air. Roughly a million government employees and contractors aren't being paid. Some Americans who are trying to start small businesses face delays in obtaining the required tax identification number from the IRS.

As the partial government shutdown moves through its fourth week with no end in sight, the economic blow is being felt not only by federal workers but also by business people, households and travelers across

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 51 of 63

the country. And while the hit to the overall economy so far remains slight, economists foresee real damage if the shutdown drags into February or beyond.

"Even if the shutdown is over by the end of the month, the hit to growth will be material," Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said in a research note.

Shepherdson projects that after growing for nearly 10 years, the economy might even contract in this year's first quarter if the shutdown lasts through March. Other forecasts are less dire. Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, thinks that if the shutdown extends that long, the economy would slow by 0.5 percentage point but would remain on solid footing.

On Tuesday, Kevin Hassett, a top economist in the White House, acknowledged that the shutdown was weighing on the economy more than he had previously estimated. Hassett, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, said the White House now calculates that annual growth is slowing by about 0.1 percentage point a week.

With the shutdown in its fourth week, that calculation would suggest that the economy has lost nearly a half-percentage point of annual growth so far, though some of that loss occurred at the end of last year and some in the first quarter of this year. Hassett said the economy should enjoy a boost whenever the government reopens.

Previous White House estimates of the impact didn't fully take into account the effects on people who work for private companies that contract with the government to provide services, Hassett said.

The shutdown is rippling through the economy in ways that are not always visible, making it hard to fully assess its consequences. Complicating the task is that much of the economic data the government normally provides — from retail sales to home construction to the nation's gross domestic product — has been suspended because the agencies that compile it remain closed.

With national parks shut down and some travelers suffering through long security lines and in some cases partial airport closures, for example, many Americans are having to decide whether to cancel travel and vacation plans.

"It is now plainly evident that the shutdown is affecting air travel, and when that happens, damage to the overall U.S. economy will shortly follow," said Jonathan Grella, a spokesman for the U.S. Travel Association, a trade group.

Some companies are pointing to specific problems: Delta said Tuesday that the shutdown is costing it \$25 million a month in government travel. Its CEO, Edward Bastian, said that with the Federal Aviation Administration partially closed, Delta will also likely delay the start date of eight new aircraft.

The Securities and Exchange Commission, which oversees public stock offerings, is mostly closed because of the shutdown. As a result, some companies that had been planning initial public offerings in coming months, including Uber and Lyft, are likely facing delays. Marianne Lake, chief financial officer for JPMorgan Chase, said the bank could lose out on fees from IPOs and merger and acquisition deals that would be delayed if other shuttered agencies can't approve them.

For small companies, too, the effects are increasingly being felt. Edward Farrer, an executive at Principal Manufacturing Corp., a manufacturer in Broadview, Illinois, said that when the shutdown took effect, his company had nearly won approval for a request to the Commerce Department to import specialty steel from Europe free of U.S. tariffs. Commerce is among the now-closed government departments.

"We think we'd got it to the goal line and were waiting for an approval, but everything is at an impasse because of the shutdown," Farrer said.

Principal Manufacturing uses mainly American-made steel in the parts it sells to automakers and other industrial companies. But it imports some steel from Europe that is used to make a component for auto underbodies. Last spring, it asked the Trump administration to exclude that steel from the 25 percent tariffs the White House imposed on steel imports. Commerce was considering the request as part of a process the administration had established for companies that say they can't obtain the steel they import from elsewhere.

For now, Farrer says Principal is paying the tariffs, which typically cost the company tens of thousands

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 52 of 63

of dollars a month. It wants to keep doing the work, so it is eating the cost, Farrer said. "But we can't do it forever."

Neil Bradley, chief policy officer at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber has heard from members that have been unable to obtain an employer identification number from the IRS. That number is needed to open bank accounts and file tax returns.

Eric Smith, an IRS spokesman, said most U.S.-based businesses can obtain the numbers online, but paper applications aren't being processed.

The most hard-hit by the shutdown, of course, are government workers themselves, who missed their first paychecks Friday, and contractors that work closely with the government. Many have had to cut back on purchases, lowering overall consumer spending.

Among them is Pearl Fraley of Greenville, North Carolina, a consumer safety inspector for the food safety inspection service. Fraley, 53, helps ensure the safety of the nation's food supply by monitoring slaughter processing plants. It's a job she's held for over 15 years.

Fraley's job is deemed essential, so she's had to go to work even though she isn't being paid. She and her co-workers were told in an email that if they work 40 hours, they aren't eligible for unemployment benefits under North Carolina rules — even though they're receiving no pay.

Fraley said she feels like "an indentured servant" and said her stress level is "over the top."

"I can't pay my rent," she said. "I can't pay my car payment or insurance. I have money for gas to go to work and for food."

For now, her 25-year-old daughter is contributing some of the money she earns from working at McDonald's.

Zandi said the shutdown could inflict longer-term damage on the government — and ultimately on the economy — in ways that might not be obvious. He noted, for example, that some demoralized federal employees, particularly those with vital skills in such areas as cybersecurity, might quit for jobs in the private sector. Federal agencies may also have a harder time recruiting young workers.

"Government workers have options," Zandi said, particularly with unemployment low and many employers desperate to fill jobs. "This could be quite debilitating to the government."

Hassett said Tuesday that the Council of Economic Advisers itself may lose a potential new hire because of the shutdown.

A "young staffer who we hired for the first job out of grad school ... just informed us that they might have to turn down the job and move back home because they can't start ... and they can't be paid," Hassett said.

---

Associated Press Writer Michelle R. Smith contributed to this report from Providence, Rhode Island. AP Writers Damian Troise contributed from New York and Marcy Gordon from Washington.

## Federal workers take on odd jobs to make ends meet

By MICHELLE R. SMITH, Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — When her paychecks dried up because of the partial government shutdown, Cheryl Inzunza Blum sought out a side job that has become a popular option in the current economy: She rented out a room on Airbnb.

Other government workers are driving for Uber, relying on word-of-mouth and social networks to find handyman work and looking for traditional temp gigs to help pay the bills during the longest shutdown in U.S. history.

The hundreds of thousands of out-of-work government employees have more options than in past shutdowns given the rise of the so-called "gig economy" that has made an entire workforce out of people doing home vacation rentals and driving for companies like Uber, Lyft and Postmates.

It's even happening among White House staff. Kevin Hassett, the chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, told reporters on a conference call Tuesday that "a long-time dedicated employee"

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 53 of 63

trying to make ends meet without a paycheck was driving for Uber to make ends meet.

Blum decided to capitalize on the busy winter travel season in Arizona to help make ends meet after she stopped getting paid for her government contract work as a lawyer in immigration court in Tucson. She says she has no choice but to continue to work unpaid because she has clients who are depending on her, some of whom are detained or have court hearings.

But she also has bills: her Arizona state bar dues, malpractice insurance and a more than \$500 phone bill for the past two months because she uses her phone so heavily for work. Blum bills the government for her work, but the office that pays her hasn't processed any paychecks to her since before the shutdown began. So she's been tapping every source she can to keep herself afloat — even her high school- and college-aged children — and is even thinking about driving for Uber and Lyft as well.

"So after working in court all day I'm going to go home and get the room super clean because they're arriving this evening," she said of her Airbnb renters.

"I have a young man who's visiting town to do some biking, and he's going to come tomorrow and stay a week," she added. "I'm thrilled because that means immediate money. Once they check in, the next day there's some money in my account."

The shutdown is occurring against the backdrop of a strong economy that has millions of open jobs, along with ample opportunities to pick up Uber and Lyft shifts.

The Labor Department reported that employers posted 6.9 million jobs in November, the latest figures available. That's not far from the record high of 7.3 million reached in August.

Roughly 8,700 Uber driver positions are advertised nationwide on the SnagAJob website, while Lyft advertises about 3,000.

But the gig economy doesn't pay all that well — something the furloughed government workers are finding out.

Pay for such workers has declined over the past two years, and they are earning a growing share of their income elsewhere, a recent study found. Most Americans who earn income through online platforms do so for only a few months each year, according to the study by the JPMorgan Chase Institute.

Chris George, 48, of Hemet, California, is furloughed from his job as a forestry technician supervisor for the U.S. Department of Agriculture forest service. He's been driving for Lyft but has only been averaging about \$10 for every hour he drives. Paying for gas then eats into whatever money he has made.

He just got word that he'll be getting \$450 in weekly unemployment benefits, but hadn't received any money as of Monday. In the meantime, he's taking handyman or other odd jobs wherever he can.

"I've just been doing side jobs when they come along," he said Monday. "I had two last week, and I don't know what this week's going to bring."

George Jankowski is among those hunting around for cash. He's getting a \$100 weekly unemployment check, but that's barely enough to pay for food and gas, he said.

On Monday, he made \$30 helping a friend move out of a third-floor apartment in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Jankowski is furloughed from a USDA call center and does not expect to get back pay because his job is part-time and hourly.

Jankowski, an Air Force veteran, calls the situation "grueling."

"It's embarrassing to ask for money to pay bills or ask to borrow money to, you know, eat," he said.

Some employers were looking at the shutdown as a way to recruit, at least temporarily.

Missy Koefod of the Atlanta-based cocktail-mixer manufacturer 18.21 Bitters said the company needs temporary help in the kitchen, retail store and getting ready for a trade show, and decided to put out the word to furloughed federal workers on social media that they were hiring.

"I can't imagine not getting paid for a couple of weeks," Koefod said.

American Labor Services, a staffing agency that employs 500 people a week in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, sent out an appeal to furloughed federal workers on Monday, asking them to get in touch for clerical or light-industrial work.

"Some might not realize that they could get something temporary, it could last for a short period," said

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 54 of 63

Ben Kaplan, the company's president and CEO.

Israel Diaz sought out an Uber job and applied to be a security guard after he was furloughed from his Treasury Department job in Kansas City. He said federal work has become increasingly demoralizing and that he and many of his co-workers are considering quitting.

"In the old days, you work for the federal government, you get benefits, great," said Diaz, a Republican and Marine Corps veteran. "Now, it's not even worth it."

Associated Press writers Mead Gruver in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Chris Rugaber in Washington contributed to this report.

## Colorism reveals many shades of prejudice in Hollywood

By TERRY TANG, Associated Press

The breakthrough representation of minorities in Hollywood blockbusters has ignited a frequently overlooked discussion about whether prejudice isn't just about the color of a person's skin, but the shade.

"Colorism," the idea that light-skinned minorities are given more privilege than their darker-skinned peers, is a centuries-old concept that many insiders say remains pervasive in the entertainment industry. The instant reckoning of social media has brought prominence to the issue and on Tuesday the ABC sitcom "black-ish," known for not shying from heavier topics, confronted it.

In the episode "Black Like Us," parents Dre and Bow (played by Anthony Anderson and Tracee Ellis Ross) are appalled when they see that daughter Diane (Marsai Martin) appears darker in her poorly lit classroom photo. Their outrage sparks a tense conversation within the family.

"We felt that this was the year to just put it on our shoulders and see what we can do and hope at the very least we can get people to talk about it openly," said co-showrunner Kenny Smith.

Executive producer Peter Saji wrote the episode. A light-skinned, mixed-race man, Saji drew from his own experiences as well as research.

"There is a light-skinned privilege that I never really wanted to admit I felt or experienced. I sort of grew up 'Oh, we're all black. We all experience the same struggle,'" he said.

More often when movies and television shows ignite conversations about colorism, it's unintentional.

In 2016, a furor erupted over a trailer showing actress Zoe Saldana portraying singer and activist Nina Simone. Saldana's skin was darkened and she wore a prosthetic nose.

When images from "Ralph Breaks the Internet" came out last year, it appeared Princess Tiana, Disney's first black princess, had a lighter complexion and sharper features. Anika Noni Rose, who voices Tiana, met with animators and spoke about how important it was that dark-skinned girls see themselves represented. The studio also consulted the civil rights group Color of Change.

"They had to spend some real money to actually fix this. They recognized the problem, they listened and they worked to change it," said Color of Change executive director Rashad Robinson.

The issue isn't unique to black people. In India's Bollywood film industry, the starring roles tend to go to lighter-skinned actors, many of whom endorse products promoting fairer skin.

The movie "Crazy Rich Asians" left some Asian-Americans disappointed by a lack of brown or dark-skinned actors.

Meanwhile, "Roma" director Alfonso Cuarón received praise for casting Yalitza Aparicio in the lead role of an indigenous maid. The character is more at the forefront than her lighter-skinned Mexican employer.

For African-Americans, bias toward lighter-skinned people dates back to slavery. Skin complexion sometimes determined what type of jobs slaves were assigned or if, post-slavery, they were worthy of receiving an education. In later decades, universities, fraternities and other institutions were known for using the "brown paper bag" test: Those with skin lighter than the bag were in.

"It's part of white supremacy, or holding up whiteness over other backgrounds," Robinson said. "It has deep implications, historical implications in the black community from beauty standards to professional opportunities to how families have treated one another."

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 55 of 63

The problem also exists within the music industry. Mathew Knowles, who managed daughters Beyonce and Solange and Destiny's Child, said it's no accident that most of the recent top-selling black artists are lighter-skinned like Mariah Carey and Rihanna. He said Beyonce often got opportunities that darker-skinned artists probably wouldn't.

"There's another 400 that are of a darker complexion ... that didn't get a chance at Top 40 radio," Knowles said. "They got pigeonholed that they were black and in the 'black division,' and they got pigeonholed in just R&B, black radio stations."

Knowles, himself darker skinned, said his own mother instilled in him that darker skinned women were less desirable. It's a perception that he thinks is starting to shift.

"We have to have social courage to speak up about this stuff and stop being quiet about it," Knowles said. "The only way we change is to be uncomfortable and truthful about our feelings and beliefs."

That is a strategy that "black-ish" co-showrunner Smith also agrees with.

"With anything it's always best to have a truthful conversation," Smith said.

Online: <https://abc.go.com/shows/blackish>

Follow Terry Tang on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/ttangAP](http://www.twitter.com/ttangAP)

## Prosecutor: Drug maker pushed OxyContin despite danger signs

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and GEOFF MULVIHILL, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A member of the family that owns OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma told people at the prescription opioid painkiller's launch party in the 1990s that it would be "followed by a blizzard of prescriptions that will bury the competition," according to court documents filed Tuesday.

The details were made public in a case brought by Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey that accuses Purdue Pharma, its executives and members of the Sackler family of deceiving patients and doctors about the risks of opioids and pushing prescribers to keep patients on the drug longer. The documents provide information about former Purdue Pharma President Richard Sackler's role in overseeing sales of OxyContin that hasn't been public before.

The drug and the closely held Connecticut company that sells it are at the center of a lawsuit in Massachusetts and hundreds of others across the country in which government entities are trying to find the drug industry responsible for an opioid crisis that killed 72,000 Americans in 2017. The Massachusetts litigation is separate from some 1,500 federal lawsuits filed by governments being overseen by a judge in Cleveland.

But the company documents at the heart of the Massachusetts allegations are also part of the evidence exchanged in those cases. While the Massachusetts filing describes their contents, the documents themselves have not been made public, at the company's request.

According to the filing, Richard Sackler, then senior vice president responsible for sales, told the audience at the launch party to imagine a series of natural disasters: an earthquake, volcanic eruption, hurricane and blizzard.

"The launch of OxyContin Tablets will be followed by a blizzard of prescriptions that will bury the competition. The prescription blizzard will be so deep, dense, and white," he said, according to the documents.

"Over the next twenty years, the Sacklers made Richard's boast come true," lawyers in the attorney general's office wrote. "They created a manmade disaster. Their blizzard of dangerous prescriptions buried children and parents and grandparents across Massachusetts, and the burials continue," they wrote.

The complaint says the Sackler family, which includes major donors to museums including the Smithsonian Institution, New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Tate Modern in London, was long aware its drug was dangerous and addictive but pushed more sales anyway.

A memo among family members in 2008 warned of a "dangerous concentration of risk" for the family, the complaint says. Years earlier, Richard Sackler wrote in an email that the company would have to "hammer

on the abusers in every way possible," describing them as "the culprits and the problem."

Joanne Peterson, who runs a Massachusetts-based support network for the family members of people addicted to drugs, said Sackler's comments show a "blatant disregard for human life."

"He certainly hammered them six feet under," Peterson said. "I've been to more funerals than I can count in the last 15 years."

Purdue Pharma accused the attorney general's office of cherry-picking from millions of emails and documents to create "biased and inaccurate characterizations" of the company and its executives. The company said in a statement said it will "aggressively defend against these misleading allegations."

The company also stresses that its drug is approved by federal regulators and prescribed by doctors; that it accounts for a small portion of opioids sold in the U.S.; and that illicit drugs including heroin and street fentanyl are causing most overdose deaths.

"In a rush to vilify a single manufacturer whose medicines represent less than two percent of opioid pain prescriptions rather than doing the hard work of trying to solve a complex public health crisis, the complaint distorts critical facts and cynically conflates prescription opioid medications with illegal heroin and fentanyl," Purdue Pharma said.

Messages seeking comment were left with a spokeswoman for the Sackler family.

Massachusetts is the first state to personally name the company's executives in a complaint. It names 16 current and former executives and board members, including CEO Craig Landau, Richard Sackler and other members of the Sackler family.

A suit filed by the New York County of Suffolk also names members of the family. A lawyer who filed that suit, Paul Hanly, said he expects the family to be named in further suits.

Last year, Purdue halted efforts to market OxyContin to doctors.

Mulvihill reported from New Jersey. Follow Alanna Durkin Richer at <http://www.twitter.com/aedurkinricher> and Geoff Mulvihill at <http://www.twitter.com/geoffmulvihill>

## **Barr seeks to assure senators he won't be a Trump loyalist**

**By ERIC TUCKER and MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vowing "I will not be bullied," President Donald Trump's nominee for attorney general asserted independence from the White House, saying he believed that Russia had tried to interfere in the 2016 presidential election, that the special counsel investigation shadowing Trump is not a witch hunt and that his predecessor was right to recuse himself from the probe.

The comments by William Barr at his Senate confirmation hearing Tuesday pointedly departed from Trump's own views and underscored Barr's efforts to reassure Democrats that he will not be a loyalist to a president who has appeared to demand it from law enforcement. He also repeatedly sought to assuage concerns that he might disturb or upend special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation as it reaches its final stages.

Some Democrats are concerned about that very possibility, citing a memo Barr wrote to the Justice Department before his nomination in which he criticized Mueller's investigation for the way it was presumably looking into whether Trump had obstructed justice.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, told Barr the memo showed "a determined effort, I thought, to undermine Bob Mueller." The nominee told senators he was merely trying to advise Justice Department officials against "stretching the statute beyond what was intended" to conclude the president had obstructed justice.

Though Barr said an attorney general should work in concert with an administration's policy goals, he broke from some Trump talking points, including the mantra that the Russia probe is a witch hunt, and said he frowned on "Lock Her Up" calls for Hillary Clinton. Trump has equivocated on Russian meddling in the 2016 election and assailed and pushed out his first attorney general, Jeff Sessions, for recusing because of his work with the Trump campaign.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 57 of 63

Barr stated without hesitation that it was in the public interest for Mueller to finish his investigation into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with the Kremlin to sway the presidential election. He said he would resist any order by Trump to fire Mueller without cause and called it "unimaginable" that Mueller would do anything to require his termination.

"I believe the Russians interfered or attempted to interfere with the election, and I think we have to get to the bottom of it," Barr said during the nine-hour hearing.

He said that, at 68 years old and partially retired, he felt emboldened to "do the right thing and not really care about the consequences." If a president directs an attorney general to do something illegal, he said, an attorney general must resign.

"I will not be bullied into doing anything that I think is wrong by anybody, whether it be editorial boards or Congress or the president," Barr said.

Consumed by the partial government shutdown, Trump remained out of sight at the White House but also kept an eye on the news coverage of the hearing and told aides he was pleased with how Barr was handling himself, said two White House officials and a Republican close to the White House who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss internal conversations.

On other topics, Barr echoed in part Trump's hardline immigration stance and said the Justice Department would not go after marijuana companies in states where the drug is legal. He also would not rule out jailing reporters for doing their jobs, saying he could envision circumstances where a journalist could be held in contempt "as a last resort."

Barr's hearing continues Wednesday with a lineup of character witnesses, including former Attorney General Michael Mukasey.

Barr's confirmation is likely, given that Republicans control the Senate. Even some Democrats have been looking to move on from acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker, who declined to remove himself the Russia probe and has faced scrutiny over his private dealings.

But he nonetheless faced skeptical questions from Democrats over whether he could oversee without bias or interference the remainder of Mueller's probe.

Feinstein said the nominee's past rhetoric in support of expansive presidential powers "raises a number of serious questions about your views on executive authority and whether the president is, in fact, above the law." Barr, responding with a more moderate view, said he believed a president who ordered an attorney general to halt an investigation would be committing an "abuse of power" if not necessarily a crime.

Barr said under questioning from Sen. Chris Coons, a Delaware Democrat, that he wouldn't interfere with a Mueller request to subpoena Trump for his testimony "if there was a factual basis." But he also said he saw no reason to change Justice Department legal opinions that have held that a sitting president cannot be indicted.

Barr called Mueller a friend of 30 years and said "it is vitally important" that Mueller be allowed to complete his investigation.

"I don't believe Mr. Mueller would be involved in a witch hunt," he said when asked by the panel's Republican chairman, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina.

The special counsel is required to report his findings confidentially to the Justice Department. Barr said he then expected to produce his own report to Congress and said it was his goal to release as much information as possible to the public, though he stopped short of a direct pledge. He also noted the Justice Department does not typically disclose information about people it decides not to prosecute.

He disclosed having discussed Mueller with Trump during a meeting in 2017 when Barr declined to join his legal team. He said he and his wife had been "sort of looking forward to a bit of respite and I didn't want to stick my head into that meat grinder."

Trump wanted to know what Mueller, who worked for Barr when he led the Justice Department between 1991 and 1993, was like.

"He was interested in that, wanted to know what I thought about Mueller's integrity and so forth and so on," Barr said. "I said Bob is a straight shooter and should be dealt with as such."

He also defended his decision to send an unsolicited memo to the Justice Department in which he criti-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 58 of 63

cized as "fatally misconceived" the theory of obstruction that Mueller appeared to be pursuing with regard to Trump, including investigation into his president's firing of former FBI director James Comey.

He said he raised his concerns at a lunch with the deputy attorney general, Rod Rosenstein, who appointed Mueller. Rosenstein didn't respond and was "sphinxlike," Barr recalled. He followed up with the memo in June. Barr sent the document to White House lawyers and discussed it with Trump's personal attorneys and a lawyer representing Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, among others.

Barr said the memo was narrowly focused on a single theory of obstruction that media reports suggested Mueller might be considering.

He said he would consult with ethics officials on whether he would need to recuse because of the memo but the decision would be ultimately his.

---

Associated Press writers Chad Day, Jonathan Lemire and Colleen Long contributed to this report.

---

Read Barr's prepared testimony: <http://apne.ws/x87UoUn>

## AP WAS THERE: Shah leaves Iran as 1979 revolution looms

By The Associated Press

EDITOR'S NOTE: On Jan. 16, 1979, Iran's powerful Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi abandoned his Peacock Throne and left his nation, never to return home, setting the stage for the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution a month later.

His departure and the ensuing chaos blindsided the United States, which for decades relied on Iran and its absolute ruler as Washington's closest Mideast ally. Washington sold billions of dollars in weaponry to the shah, whom America empowered in a CIA-backed 1953 coup, and stationed sensitive spying stations in northern Iran to monitor the Soviet Union.

The shah's departure, initially described as a "vacation," came as he was fatally stricken with cancer. His arrival in America after months abroad would spark the U.S. Embassy takeover and hostage crisis, stoking the animosity that persists between Tehran and Washington to this day.

Now, 40 years later, The Associated Press is making its stories about the shah's departure from Iran available, along with historic photos from that climactic day. The stories have been edited for typographical errors, but maintain the AP style of the day, such as using "Moslem" as opposed to Muslim.

---

### IRAN CHEERS DEPARTURE

By ROBERT H. REID

Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, a weeping king driven from his kingdom, flew his royal jet out of Iran Tuesday on a journey from which he may never return.

His departure set off an explosion of joy by millions of his people. If his triumphant foes have their way, the shah's flight means the end of monarchy in a land ruled by kings for 2,500 years.

Jubilant Iranians poured into Tehran's streets, singing and dancing, cheering each other in celebration of victory in the bloody year-long popular struggle against the man who has ruled their nation since 1941.

"The shah is gone forever!" they chanted.

Motorists honked horns and flashed headlights. People waved portraits of Ayatollah Khomeini, the bearded Moslem leader who marshaled a broad political and religious movement that forced the shah from the country.

But not all Iranians rejoiced. Diplomatic sources said pro-shah soldiers fired at demonstrators in northern Tehran and there had been some injuries. The reported violence pointed up the divisiveness that remains in Iran and may foreshadow continued bloodshed.

The 59-year-old monarch took the controls himself and piloted his "Shah's Falcon" Boeing 727 jetliner into the bright skies over Tehran and on to Aswan, Egypt, where he was welcomed by President Anwar Sadat.

He is expected to stay there for a few days before flying on to the United States for what is officially

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 59 of 63

described as an "extended vacation." Reportedly he will meet in Aswan with former President Gerald R. Ford, who had long been scheduled to meet with Sadat there.

President Carter said in an interview aired Tuesday night by NBC News that he thinks the Soviet Union, Iran's neighbor to the north, wants stability in Iran.

The broadcast was taped Saturday, before the shah's departure. Carter said a change in government in Iran "doesn't mean Iran will no longer exist."

There was no official Soviet comment from Moscow. A dispatch filed from New York by Tass, the Soviet news agency, mostly quoted Western press reports, but also said the monarch left "like a fugitive, without a pompous sendoff and without an honorary escort."

At Tehran's airport, two royal guard officers fell tearfully to their knees to try and kiss the shah's feet as he neared the plane ramp, an eyewitness reported. He told them to stand, and the officers then lifted a copy of the Koran, the Moslem holy book, over their heads as a canopy under which the royal couple mounted the ramp, the shah in a dark suit and winter coat, the Empress Farah in fur hat and collar.

The monarch - "Shah of Shahs," "Center of the Universe, Shadow of the Almighty" - left behind shattered dreams of glory for his Pahlavi dynasty and a volatile political situation.

## THE SHAH IS GONE

By The Associated Press

Jubilant Iranians danced in the streets of Tehran Tuesday, chanting "The shah is gone" as word spread swiftly through the capital that the monarch had left the country.

Their joy spread to other parts of the Arab world and to Paris, where the shah's arch foe, Ayatollah Khomeini, greeted the news with the Moslem expression, "God is great."

Statues of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi were pulled to the ground in Tehran, and some Iranians cut his portrait out of banknotes.

Horns honked, bakers gave away free cakes and cookies, and Iranians dumped candy into passing cars. They sprinkled each other with rosewater as they heard that the shah had slipped out of the country and flown to Egypt.

Throughout Iran, cheering demonstrators held aloft portraits of Khomeini, the self-exiled Shiite Moslem leader who directed the religious opposition to the shah. He has vowed to establish an Islamic republic in Iran, where more than 90 percent of the population is Moslem, as is the shah.

The shah, under withering religious and political pressure, left unannounced early Tuesday for Egypt and is expected to go to the United States. He said his departure was for medical treatment, but there is wide speculation he will not return.

When the shah arrived in Aswan in southern Egypt he was greeted by small crowds along the route he traveled with President Anwar Sadat.

In Tehran, the joy was mixed with bitterness toward the man who had held virtually absolute rule.

"We hope the next national government will be able to bring the shah back and put him on trial," said Hamid Shahbazi, a student.

"We'll be happy when the shah is dead," said a girl who gave her name as Nistanish.

Other Iranians expressed hope their country could return to normalcy after a year of anti-shah strikes and rioting that took at least 1,500 lives.

"First of all I hope the oil workers go back to so I will be able to buy some fuel oil for my central heating," said Alsofah Niasi, a housewife.

In Damascus, Syria, where 270 members of the Palestinian National Council were meeting to discuss their goal of an independent Palestinian state, the news of the shah's departure provided a distraction.

"Everyone is happy," said Mahmoud Labady, a spokesman for the Palestinian Liberation Organization. "We see the victory in Iran as a victory for the PLO too. It shows a trend in the Middle East against American interests and influence."

There was no official comment from Moscow, but the Soviet news agency Tass, quoting "eyewitnesses," said the monarch left "like a fugitive without a pompous send off and without an honorary escort."

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 60 of 63

In Paris, scores of Iranian exiles turn the knobs on shortwave radios, looking for Iranian broadcasts. They had heard the news on French radio, but many said they wouldn't believe it until they heard it from home.

The 78-year-old Khomeini, who has lived in a modest villa in a Paris suburb since Oct. 6, made an appearance Tuesday afternoon and was swallowed up in a swirl of admirers as he crossed the street to the operations house where he prepared messages to be beamed at Iran.

## Takeaways: AG nominee assures, frustrates Mueller defenders

By CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General nominee William Barr made one thing clear during his Senate confirmation hearing : He may want the job, but he doesn't need it.

The 68-year-old Barr, who has already served once before as attorney general, said Tuesday he's in a position in life where he "can do the right thing and not really care about the consequences."

That's how he reinforced the point that he is willing to stand up to President Donald Trump if he were to improperly interfere in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation. That also allowed him to dodge Democratic senators and avoid making hard commitments about releasing Mueller's final report or recusing from overseeing the probe because of his past comments.

Some takeaways from his appearance before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

### HE APPEARS BOUND FOR CONFIRMATION

Republicans are united behind him and Democrats don't have the votes to block him.

Barr said the right things for defenders of the president looking to rein in a Justice Department they see as politically tainted by the handling of Democrat Hillary Clinton's email investigation and the Russia probe involving Trump's campaign.

But he also reassured moderate Republicans and Democrats that he would allow the Russia investigation to proceed and stand up to a mercurial and norm-breaking president.

Sen. John Thune, the No. 2 Senate Republican, even floated the idea of voting to confirm Barr next week.

### HE ASSURED MUELLER DEFENDERS ...

Barr gave Mueller fans things to like.

He said he would not carry out any order to fire Mueller without cause. He said it would be an "abuse of power" and breach of a president's constitutional oath for Trump to intervene in an investigation he "has a stake in." He didn't doubt the finding of U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia attempted to sway the 2016 election.

And he rejected Trump's casting the probe as a "witch hunt," saying "it is vitally important" that Mueller be allowed to finish his work.

### ... AND HE FRUSTRATED THEM

But Barr wouldn't make some of the ironclad promises Democrats wanted.

He said he believes Congress and the American public should be told the result of Mueller's probe, but he stopped short of committing to release the special counsel's report in full.

He similarly hedged on the question of recusal. Barr told senators that he would seek the advice of career ethics officials at the Justice Department, but he wouldn't commit to following whatever decision they recommended. He said he alone would make the decision in "good faith based on the laws and the facts."

Barr said his position was different than that of former Trump Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who recused himself from overseeing the Russia probe because he had served on Trump's campaign.

Pressed about whether his previous criticisms of the Russia investigation, he sought to downplay the importance of a memo he authored— and distributed to the Justice Department and White House lawyers. Barr said the memo was intended to be narrowly focused on one of Mueller's reported interpretations of obstruction and shouldn't be read that he has prejudged the investigation.

### HE TURNED DOWN REPPING TRUMP

Not only did Barr send that memo counseling Trump's lawyers on the Mueller probe, he disclosed Tuesday that the president spoke with him about joining his legal team.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 61 of 63

In June 2017, Barr said he was approached by David Friedman, U.S. ambassador to Israel, about joining Trump's legal team. Barr said he resisted the idea, saying he had other commitments and didn't want to stick his "head into that meat grinder."

Nonetheless, he agreed to meet with Trump at the White House where he said he turned down Trump's offer. He said he personally told Trump he couldn't represent him.

Barr said he didn't hear from Trump again until he was being considered for attorney general.

## HE'S CLOSE WITH MUELLER

Barr and "Bob" have been friends for nearly 30 years, he told senators. Their wives are close. And under questioning from senators, Barr routinely praised his friend.

He said Mueller wouldn't be involved in a "witch hunt," a reference to Trump's favored moniker for the Russia probe. And he said he made that clear to Trump personally in the White House, telling Trump that "Bob is a straight shooter and should be dealt with as such."

The Barrs and Muellers are good friends, he told the president, "and would be good friends when this is all over."

## HE WON'T RULE OUT JAILING REPORTERS

Barr didn't do much to assure defenders of the free press in light of daily presidential attacks on journalists who scrutinize his actions and those of his administration.

Under questioning from Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., whose father is a journalist, Barr said he couldn't rule out jailing reporters for doing their jobs and even raised the prospect of doing so based on the content of their news reports.

Barr said there are certain situations where a reporter could be held in contempt "as a last resort." He also said he could envision a case for incarceration that would involve news organizations "putting out stuff that is hurting the country."

In 2017, former Attorney General Jeff Sessions said he couldn't make a "blanket commitment" not to jail reporters in response to a similar question from Klobuchar.

AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

## Asian shares track Wall Street gains on robust US earnings

By ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian shares were mostly higher Thursday after strong earnings reports lifted indexes on Wall Street. But a report that the U.S. was investigating China's Huawei for allegedly stealing trade secrets from American companies limited gains.

KEEPING SCORE: Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.4 percent to 27,000.43 and Australia's S&P ASX 200 rose 0.3 percent to 5,850.30. The Shanghai Composite index surged 0.5 percent to 2,582.19. Japan's Nikkei 225 index edged 0.1 percent lower to 20,417.97 while South Korea's Kospi added 0.2 percent to 2,111.06. Shares rose in Taiwan, Thailand and Indonesia but fell in Singapore.

WALL STREET: Strong earnings reports by financial and investment companies like Goldman Sachs spurred gains Wednesday. But worries about U.S.-China relations put a drag on sentiment. The broad S&P 500 index rose 0.2 percent to 2,616.10, after rising as much as 0.6 percent during the day. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was 0.6 percent higher at 24,207.16 and the Nasdaq composite gained 0.2 percent to 7,034.69. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks climbed 0.7 percent to 1,454.70.

US-CHINA TENSIONS: A Wall Street Journal report, citing people familiar with the matter, said federal prosecutors were investigating China's Huawei Technologies Ltd. for allegedly stealing trade secrets from American companies including T-Mobile. The report said the investigation resulted from several civil lawsuits against Huawei and an indictment could be issued soon. This revived worries over relations between the two countries as officials struggle to find a compromise ahead of the Mar. 1 end of a moratorium on raising tariffs against each other's exports. Negotiators from both countries recently held trade talks in Beijing and more high level negotiations are in the works.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 62 of 63

**ANALYST'S TAKE:** Suggestions that the U.S. is investigating Huawei "raise questions about whether trade optimism is premature and crucially, whether more fundamental and strategic tensions between the U.S. and China induce a longer-term, slow-burn drag," Vishnu Varathan of Mizuho Bank said in an interview.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark U.S. crude oil fell 33 cents to \$51.98 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 20 cents to settle at \$52.31 per barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude, the international standard, dropped 31 cents to \$61.01. It added 68 cents to \$61.32 a barrel in London.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar eased to 109.05 yen from 109.13 yen late Wednesday. The euro edged down to \$1.1385 from \$1.1394, while the British pound retreated to \$1.2869 from \$1.2885.

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

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 17, the 17th day of 2019. There are 348 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Jan. 17, 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivered his farewell address in which he warned against "the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex."

On this date:

In 1806, Thomas Jefferson's daughter, Martha, gave birth to James Madison Randolph, the first child born in the White House.

In 1893, Hawaii's monarchy was overthrown as a group of businessmen and sugar planters forced Queen Lili'uokalani (lee-LEE'-oo-oh-kah-LAH'-nee) to abdicate. The 19th president of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes, died in Fremont, Ohio, at age 70.

In 1917, Denmark ceded the Virgin Islands to the United States for \$25 million.

In 1929, the cartoon character Popeye the Sailor made his debut in the "Thimble Theatre" comic strip.

In 1945, Soviet and Polish forces liberated Warsaw during World War II; Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, credited with saving tens of thousands of Jews, disappeared in Hungary while in Soviet custody.

In 1977, convicted murderer Gary Gilmore, 36, was shot by a firing squad at Utah State Prison in the first U.S. execution in a decade.

In 1984, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Sony Corp. of America v. Universal City Studios, Inc.*, ruled 5-4 that the use of home video cassette recorders to tape television programs for private viewing did not violate federal copyright laws.

In 1994, the 6.7 magnitude Northridge earthquake struck Southern California, killing at least 60 people, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In 1995, more than 6,000 people were killed when an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 devastated the city of Kobe (koh-bay), Japan.

In 1996, Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman and nine followers were handed long prison sentences for plotting to blow up New York-area landmarks.

In 1998, the Drudge Report said Newsweek magazine had killed a story about an affair between President Bill Clinton and an unidentified White House intern, the same day Clinton gave a deposition in Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit against him in which he denied having had a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

In 2001, faced with an electricity crisis, California used rolling blackouts to cut off power to hundreds of thousands of people; Gov. Gray Davis signed an emergency order authorizing the state to buy power.

Ten years ago: Israel declared a unilateral cease-fire in its 22-day Gaza offensive. President-elect Barack Obama arrived in the nation's capital after a daylong rail trip that began in Philadelphia, retracing the path

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 192 ~ 63 of 63

Abraham Lincoln took in 1861. Salvage crews hoisted a downed US Airways jetliner from the Hudson River, two days after a dramatic water landing, survived by everyone on board.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama ordered new limits on the way intelligence officials accessed phone records from hundreds of millions of Americans; the president also signed a \$1.1 trillion spending bill to fund the federal government through the end of September 2014. Acting Surgeon General Boris Lushniak marked the 50th anniversary of the Surgeon General's report on smoking and health by saying one in 13 children could see their lives shortened by smoking unless the nation took more aggressive action to end the tobacco epidemic. A Vatican document obtained by The Associated Press showed that in his last two years as pope, Benedict XVI defrocked nearly 400 priests for raping and molesting children.

One year ago: Snow, ice and record-breaking cold closed runways, highways, schools and government offices across the South; at least 15 people died. A broad rally propelled the Dow Jones industrial average to close above 26,000 points for the first time. The rival Koreas agreed to form their first unified Olympic team and have their athletes parade together for the first time in 11 years during the opening ceremony of the upcoming Winter Olympics in South Korea.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Betty White is 97. Former FCC chairman Newton N. Minow is 93. Actor James Earl Jones is 88. Talk show host Maury Povich is 80. Pop singer Chris Montez is 77. Rhythm-and-blues singer William Hart (The Delfonics) is 74. Actress Joanna David is 72. Actress Jane Elliot is 72. Rock musician Mick Taylor is 71. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sheila Hutchinson (The Emotions) is 66. Singer Steve Earle is 64. Singer Paul Young is 63. Actor-comedian Steve Harvey is 62. Singer Susanna Hoffs (The Bangles) is 60. Movie director-screenwriter Brian Helgeland is 58. Actor-comedian Jim Carrey is 57. Actor Denis O'Hare is 57. Former first lady Michelle Obama is 55. Actor Joshua Malina is 53. Singer Shabba Ranks is 53. Rock musician Jon Wysocki is 51. Actor Naveen Andrews is 50. Electronic music DJ Tiesto is 50. Rapper Kid Rock is 48. Actor Freddy Rodriguez is 44. Actor-writer Leigh Whannel is 42. Actress-singer Zooey Deschanel is 39. Dancer Maksim Chmerkovskiy (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 39. Singer Ray J is 38. Actor Diogo Morgado is 38. Country singer Amanda Wilkinson is 37. NBA player Dwyane Wade is 37. Actor Ryan Gage is 36. DJ-singer Calvin Harris is 35. Folk-rock musician Jeremiah Fraites is 33. Actor Jonathan Keltz is 31. Actress Kelly Marie Tran (Film: "Star Wars: The Last Jedi") is 30. Actress Kathrine (cq) Herzer is 22.

Thought for Today: "If there is one basic element in our Constitution, it is civilian control of the military."  
— President Harry S. Truman (1884-1972).