

# Groton Daily Independent

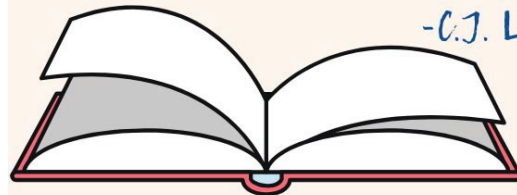
Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 1 of 49

- 1- Robotics Greenhouse Raffle Ad
- 2- Regents Approve Tuition & Fee Rates for 2019-20
- 2- Truss Pros is Hiring
- 3- Keith joins Harr Motors
- 3- Winners announced for Science Fair at NSU
- 4- New Master's Degree in Special Education
- 4- Groton Lions Easter Egg Hunt Ad
- 4- City Sump Pump Ad
- 5- Groton City-Wide Rummage Info ad
- 5- Groton Care & Rehab ad
- 5- Kindergarten Roundup ad
- 5- Community Events
- 6- Chronic Wasting Disease Draft Action Plan Developed
- 6- Rural Route Road Trip Ad
- 7- Today in Weather History
- 8- Weather Pages
- 10- Daily Devotional
- 11- 2019 Groton Events
- 12- News from the Associated Press

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul.

"Friends should  
be like books,  
few, but  
hand-selected."

-C.J. Langenhoven



**Click on Ad to sign up!**

**OPEN:** Re-  
cycling Trailer in  
Groton

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



## Greenhouse Raffle

Prizes are:

Greenhouse (12'x7.5', 2 shelves, 2 outlets, light)  
Hunting Blind (Hexigon with 6 shooting windows)

Free delivery within 20 miles

2 Dairy Queen \$50 Gift Cards

Need not be present to win. \$10 Donation

Drawing to be held April 15th

Contact any Robotics member for a ticket or  
call Jim Lane at 605/397-7013.

## Regents Approve Tuition & Fee Rates for 2019-20

SPEARFISH, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents this week approved tuition and mandatory fees for the upcoming academic year. The impact to students in the public university system is an average cost increase of \$300.27 per year, or 3.4 percent.

“Tuition setting is always a balancing act, and this adjustment to tuition and mandatory fees attempts to keep cost to our students as low as possible,” said Regents President Kevin V. Schieffer.

There are a number of fixed costs that impact tuition and fee rates, including salary policy and benefits. This year, the legislature adopted a 2.5 percent salary policy for all employees, while the employer-paid health care benefit cost increased by \$1,601 for each employee. The state covers less than half of this salary and benefit package for employees in the public university system, so tuition, fees, and student charges must be raised internally to cover the remainder of that obligation.

Additionally, South Dakota State University requested and was granted a \$2.70 per credit hour tuition increase for all on-campus credits to support student activities.

Inflation also impacts the costs incurred by the university system. However, to hold student cost increases to a minimum this year, no inflationary increase on universities’ operating expenses was included in the FY20 tuition and fee rates.

On average, an in-state undergraduate student taking 30 credit hours next year will pay \$9,250.82 for tuition and mandatory fees. These new rates are effective for the 2019-20 academic year that begins this summer.

# NOW HIRING!

## Truss Pros

10954 424th Avenue | Britton, SD 57430

**Looking for assemblers - both shifts**

**\* New Starting Wage - \$15/hr day shift and  
\$16/hr night shift  
Overtime Available**

### BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Comprehensive Health, Dental & Vision insurance
- Life Insurance
- Short-term Disability and Long-term Disability
- 401k
- Holiday Pay
- Vacation Pay
- Paid Sick Leave
- Referral Bonuses

To apply visit [www.uslbm.com/careers](http://www.uslbm.com/careers) or call Diane at 605-448-2929.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 3 of 49

## Winners announced for Science Fair at NSU

ABERDEEN, S.D. – Results have been announced for the Northern South Dakota Science and Mathematics Fair, held March 28 at Northern State University.

Individual Grand Winners were Abe Wieland of Central High School and Taren Tschetter of Doland School. Team Grand Winner was Northwestern Area - Haiden Grandpre and Teryn Sparling.

The two individual winners and the team winners get an all-expense paid trip to the International Science Fair being held in Phoenix, Ariz., May 12-17. They take their projects and are eligible for hundreds of prizes.

A student observer was also named: Hailey Boekelheide from Northwestern Area. Boekelheide gets to go along on the trip, though not with her project and all expenses are her own.

### Science Bowl Winners

Results were also announced for the junior and senior high science bowls, held in conjunction with the science fair:

Junior High Division: six teams participated

First place: Groton - team members: Stella Meier, Travis Townsend, Ethan Clark, Emily Clark

Second place: Northwestern - team members: Jessica Boekelheide, Nicholas Troske, Ethan Boekelheide, Nathan Melius.

Third place: Frederick - team members: Kierah Nickelson, Nolan Jensen, Stephen Achen.

Senior High Division: nine teams participated

First place: Aberdeen Central - team members: Abe Wieland, Nathan Ottenbacher, Connor Ullrich, Lauren Rhodes.

Second place: Northwestern - team members: Danny Orr, Jarret Haven, Christine Stoltenberg, Hailey Boekelheide.

Third place: Doland - team members: Taren Tschetter, Emily Foiles, Dirby Bawek, Jamie Delgado.



 **HARR**  
Motors

**4255 6th Ave**

**Hi, my name is Bary Keith, a Groton resident. I have just recently joined the Harr Motors sales team. I'm excited to start helping people get into the right vehicle for them. Right now, any vehicle purchased from me, until the end of April, will receive an Autostart at no charge. Give me a call (605-216-6952) or (605-725-8624) or stop out and see me at Harr Motors today!!!**

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 4 of 49

## New Master's Degree in Special Education First of its Kind for SD University System

SPEARFISH, S.D. – To address a critical need for special education teachers across this state and region, the South Dakota Board of Regents this week approved offering a new online master's degree in K-12 special education from Black Hills State University.

The master of arts in teaching degree is a new degree for BHSU and the public university system. It differs from other graduate education degrees in that it focuses predominately on the practice of teaching. The degree, to be offered through online delivery, is designed for candidates who already hold bachelor degrees and want to pursue careers in the K-12 special education field.

BHSU officials report that, over the past three years, 60 percent of South Dakota school districts have struggled to fill their special education teaching positions. The new degree offering, to be available starting this summer, builds on an undergraduate B.S. degree in K-12 special education already offered at BHSU.

The university expects to graduate 10 students a year from the master's degree program after it is fully implemented.



### Groton Lions Club

Saturday,  
April 13,  
2019  
10 a.m.  
Sharp



Groton City Park  
(Weather Permitting)

Your local Lions Club members have filled and will be hiding nearly 1,200 Easter eggs for the annual event. Children from ages infant to 10 are welcome.

The Groton City Park will be divided into 3 age groups (Under 4, 4-6 and 7-10) for the Egg Hunt. We ask that all parents/children meet at the picnic shelter to begin.

## Groton City Notice

Sump Pumps must  
be discharged  
**OUTSIDE!**

Failure to comply will result in fines.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 5 of 49

## Community Events

**Sunday, April 7, 2019**

Pops Concert at Groton Area High School  
2:00 PM and 7:00 PM

## Silver Skates Annual Meeting

Does your child enjoy ice skating?  
Do you like to see community traditions continue?  
Do you have creative or organizational talents waiting to be shared with others?

Please join us for the Carnival of Silver Skates annual meeting on Wednesday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the warming house.

## Groton City-Wide RUMMAGE

Sponsored by  
the Groton  
Lions Club



# SALE

**Saturday, May 4, 2019**  
**8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

All listings are due by 5 p.m. on April 24 to City Hall or email your listing to [city.april@nvc.net](mailto:city.april@nvc.net). \$15 per listing.

Listings will be available on Groton, SD Lions Club Facebook Page and [www.city.grotonsd.gov](http://www.city.grotonsd.gov)

## Hiring High Schoolers!

If you are 16 or older and need a summer job, the Groton Rehabilitation Center has the job for you!

During the summer, you can work inside and get some experience for a CNA career in the future!

We are an equal employment opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law.



1106 N 2nd Street ~ Groton, SD ~ 605-397-2365

## 2019 Groton Area Elementary Kindergarten Roundup (Screening) for children turning 5 on/or before Sept. 1, 2019

**Friday, April 12**

Parents of children who will be turning 5 on or before September 1, 2019, in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to set up a screening time or to confirm their screening time.

\*Students currently attending Junior Kindergarten will not be screened at this time.

Packets will be sent home this week with a scheduled time and additional paperwork that will need to be completed.

Kindergarten Roundup will take place at the Groton Area Elementary School. Please check in at the office.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 6 of 49

## Chronic Wasting Disease Draft Action Plan Developed Seeking Public Comments through May 5, 2019

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) has developed a draft action plan to address Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in deer and elk herds across the state.

"Chronic Wasting Disease, or CWD, is a fatal brain disease found in deer, elk and moose herds," said Chad Switzer, GFP wildlife program administrator. "The disease has been confirmed within free-ranging deer and elk in Custer, Fall River, Lawrence and Pennington counties. The draft action plan includes best management practices and suggestions for modified or new regulations to help slow the spread. We want to hear from resident and nonresident hunters, wildlife watchers, our neighbors and other outdoor enthusiasts about what their concerns are and how we can continue to improve the draft action plan."

GFP is focused on three main management objectives related to CWD: determine presence and absence in high surveillance areas, reduce the spread from known endemic areas, and provide information to help understand, support and participate in CWD management practices.

Individuals can comment on the CWD Draft Action Plan through May 5, 2019.

Submit comments via email to [CWDActionPlan@state.sd.us](mailto:CWDActionPlan@state.sd.us) or mail them to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, S.D. 57501. Comments must include full name and city of residence. To request a printed copy of the draft plan, call 605.773.3387.

Upon completion of the public comment period, an updated plan will be presented to the GFP Commission on June 6 in Pierre.

For more information, contact [Chad.Switzer@state.sd.us](mailto:Chad.Switzer@state.sd.us).

Shop the  
**Rural Route Road Trip**

April 6th 9am-6pm  
April 7th 12-6pm

*Shop over 20 businesses who specialize in handmade and vintage goods! Pick up a Rural Route Road Trip ticket at any location, collect punches at each business to be entered to win a door prize. For more information check out this event on Facebook.*

<p><b>Groton</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Front Porch 605 - 1506 W. Aspen Ave.</li></ul> <p><b>Turton</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dusty Décor 57 - 40336 161st St.</li></ul> <p><b>Doland</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Just Beecuz Floral &amp; Gifts - 205 Dakota St. W.</li><li>• Out of the House - 205 Dakota St. W.</li></ul> <p><b>Redfield</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spink Co. Mercantile - 6 E. 7th</li><li>• Stuck on Scrapbooking - 632 Main St.</li><li>• Hardie Homespun - Main St. Mini Plaza</li></ul> <p><b>Tulare</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prairie Pickers - 37485 183rd St.</li></ul> <p><b>Chelsea</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• JB's Country Store - 36836 155th St.</li></ul> <p><b>Aberdeen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Junque Shack - 422 S. Illinois St. - Suite 3</li></ul>	<p><b>Ipswich</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Love Repurposed - 3585- 133rd St.</li><li>• Styles by Sylte - 921 Prairie View Ave.</li></ul> <p><b>Faulkton</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oil Up Buttercup - 710 Main St.</li><li>• Quilter's Corner - 148 8th Ave. S.</li><li>• The Lazy Way Café - 117 8th Ave. S.</li><li>• 212 Flea Market - 708 Main St.</li><li>• The Shops - 600 Main St. - Unit 4<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 163rd St. Design</li><li>• R Duo Designs</li><li>• By The Creek Boutique</li><li>• The Steel Barn</li><li>• Tiny House Boutique</li><li>• Stepping Stone Embroidery</li><li>• Designs by Deliah</li></ul></li></ul>
--	---

SD-638867-1

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 7 of 49

## Today in Weather History

April 4, 1961: High winds of 40-60mph, with 80-90mph gusts, affected Central and Western South Dakota. The most extensive property damage occurred in the Pierre area. The roof was blown off, and one wall damaged at a new motel. One trailer home was blown over, numerous windows and large signboards were destroyed, and roofs sustained damages in Pierre. Total loss estimated \$10,000.

1804: A group of tornadoes slashed a 120-mile path across seven counties in Georgia and one county in South Carolina killing 11 people near Augusta, GA. The tornado's path through heavy timber was still visible some 71 years later as noted in an Army Signal Corps survey.

1923: An estimated F4 tornado killed 15 people and injured 150 at Alexandria and Pineville, LA. 142 homes and businesses in Pineville were destroyed.

1966: One of the strongest tornadoes in Florida's history moved in from the Gulf of Mexico and ripped through Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, and Osceola County. Damage was very severe in the towns of Gibsonia and Galloway in Polk County. 11 people were killed, and 350 were injured. The tornado was classified as F4.

1977: A Southern Airways DC-9 jet crashed near New Hope, Georgia, after being struck by large hail. The hail and associated heavy precipitation caused the engines to flame out. Seventy-two people (including nine on the ground) died.

1977: A massive F5 tornado moved across northern Birmingham, Alabama, killing 22 people and injuring 130. The tornado cut a 15-mile path from just northwest of Birmingham to the town of Tarrant. 167 homes were destroyed, primarily in the Smithfield Estates subdivision. Daniel Payne College sustained substantial damage. At one point, the tornado was three-quarters of a mile wide. The tornado crossed busy I-65, tossing cars and trucks like they were toys. Other tornadoes killed one other person in Alabama and one person in Georgia that day.

1804 - A large tornado crossed six Georgia counties killing at least eleven persons near Augusta. (David Ludlum)

1933 - Pigeon River Bridge, MN, reported 28 inches of snow, which established the state 24 hour snowfall record. (4th-5th) (The Weather Channel)

1973 - Sandia Crest, NM, reported a snow depth of 95 inches, a record for the state of New Mexico. (The Weather Channel)

1983 - Colorado was in the midst of a three day winter storm. Buckhorn Mountain, located west of Fort Collins, received 64 inches of snow. (Storm Data)

1987 - Rains of five to eight inches drenched eastern New York State, and ten persons were killed in a bridge collapse over Schoharie Creek. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)






1988 - Sunny and warm weather prevailed across the nation. Fort Smith AR reported a record high of 90 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)


1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Lower Mississippi Valley to the Southern Appalachians. The thunderstorms spawned seventeen tornadoes, including one which caused two million dollars damage at Baldwin AL. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 90 mph at Bremen GA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


1990 - A deep low pressure system in northern New York State brought heavy snow to parts of western and central New York during the day. The snowfall total of 5.8 inches at Buffalo was a record for the date, and 9.5 inches was reported at Rochester. Snowfall totals ranged up to 11 inches at Warsaw. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 8 of 49


Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
				
Chance Rain/Snow then Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Chance Showers	Slight Chance Showers
<b>High: 45 °F</b>	<b>Low: 35 °F</b>	<b>High: 58 °F</b>	<b>Low: 40 °F</b>	<b>High: 63 °F</b>

NWS ABERDEEN

APRIL 4, 2019




**Today**  
45-58°

Light morning **Rain or Snow** over E SD and W MN.




**Friday**  
55-69°



**Saturday**  
60-71°


**Rain Showers.**  
A few rumbles of **Thunder** in the afternoon and evening.



**Sunday**  
58-65°

**Rain Showers** continuing over E SD and W MN through the morning.

*Warmup Continues*



Temperatures  
**10-15° above normal**  
Friday and Saturday afternoon

Published on: 04/04/2019 at 5:13AM

The warmup continues into Saturday! Temperatures will likely be 10 to 15 degrees above normal Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon. An area of low pressure shifting across the area will bring rain showers Saturday morning into Sunday morning. A rumble of thunder will be possible Saturday afternoon and evening.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 9 of 49

## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 44 °F at 6:37 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 28 °F at 6:03 AM**

**High Gust: 16 mph at 2:29 PM**

**Precip:**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 90° in 1921**

**Record Low: -6° in 2018**

**Average High: 51°F**

**Average Low: 27°F**

**Average Precip in April.: 0.13**

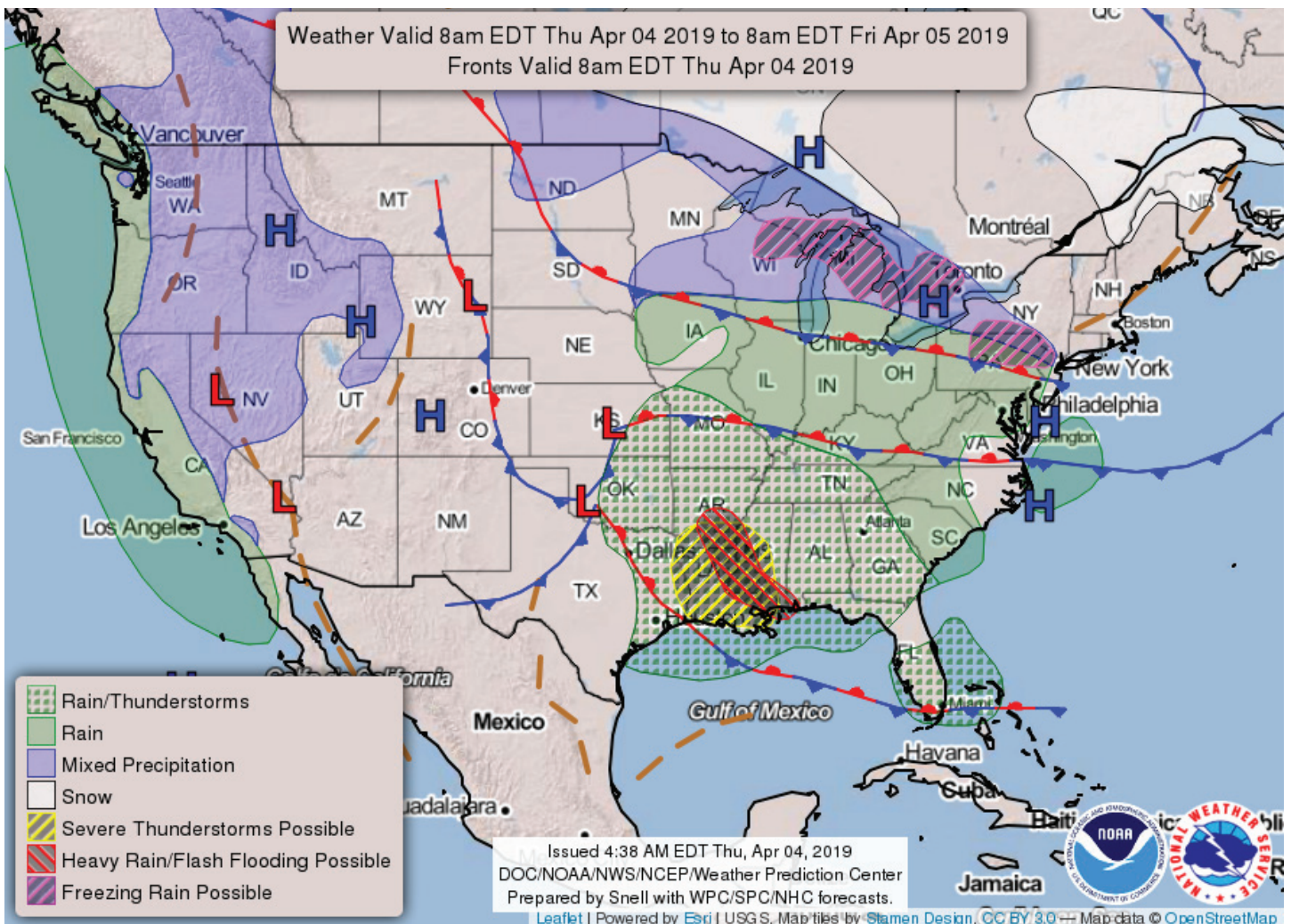
**Precip to date in April.: 0.87**

**Average Precip to date: 2.31**

**Precip Year to Date: 3.06**

**Sunset Tonight: 8:06 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:07 a.m.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 10 of 49



## WHY LIVE A LIFE OF INTEGRITY?

Why is a question that most of us try to avoid. It usually makes us focus on what we are doing, demands careful thinking, choice responses, and clear reasoning. It makes us refine our thoughts to give us the assurance that what we are doing or thinking is right.

Solomon makes a profound statement when he says, Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.

It is normal to want to feel secure as we go about life. Secure implies that we are able to face life as it comes, knowing that God is present in our lives and will provide whatever we need. Being secure eliminates fear and the anxiety that accompany it. And, if we want that feeling of security that only comes from God, Solomon says that we must walk in integrity or live without compromise or corruption.

For some, that sounds impossible. We think about our past attempts to honor God in all things. We want to be an example to others as Jesus was: a witness of Gods grace, a helper to those in need, a friend to the lonely, and an encourager to the sick and suffering. But we allow things to get in our way and we fall short of who God wants us to be and who we, in fact, want to be. And, therein lies the secret: its all about what we desire.

If our innermost desire is to bring all of our life into harmony with Gods Word, His will, and His ways, and if we consciously submit our lives to Him and live for Him, He will give us His security. We have nothing to fear if our deepest desire is to know Him and make Him known.

Prayer: Father, the world makes many promises it cannot keep. But we have Your Word that never fails. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 10:9 Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 11 of 49

## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 03/17/2019 Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program (Memorial Day)
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Thursday Mid-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
- 06/22-23/2019 Groton Junior Legion Tournament
- 06/29/2019 Groton U10/U12 Round Robin Tournament
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest/Car Show (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/18/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Tournament
- 07/21/2019 Granary Ice Cream Social & Family Music Fest
- 08/02/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Wine on Nine
- 08/09-11/2019 State Junior Legion Tournament in Groton
- 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
- 09/08/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 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 (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday, Labor Day-Memorial Day, 6:30pm at the Legion Post #39

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 4/4/2020 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 5/2/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 12 of 49

## News from the Associated Press

### **5 children removed, mother accused of possessing meth**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say five children, including a 2-week-old baby, have been removed from a Sioux Falls home and their mother has been arrested after methamphetamine was found at their apartment.

Police say the 38-year-old woman is facing charges of abuse or cruelty to a minor and drug possession. Officials say they went to the home Tuesday for a welfare check after one of the older children didn't show up at school. Besides the baby, the children are ages 14, 11, 8 and 4 years old.

Police say the children were turned over to the Department of Social Services.

### **SD Lottery**

**By The Associated Press**

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

Dakota Cash

03-06-07-10-25

(three, six, seven, ten, twenty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$227,000

Lotto America

08-19-28-35-41, Star Ball: 8, ASB: 2

(eight, nineteen, twenty-eight, thirty-five, forty-one; Star Ball: eight; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$17.32 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$104 million

Powerball

16-19-25-32-49, Powerball: 18, Power Play: 2

(sixteen, nineteen, twenty-five, thirty-two, forty-nine; Powerball: eighteen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$54 million

### **3 Midwest states demand more power over river after floods**

**By MARGERY A. BECK Associated Press**

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa (AP) — Three Midwestern Republican governors of states ravaged by recent flooding on Wednesday demanded more authority over management of the Missouri River system.

Following a meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts and Missouri Gov. Mike Parson were critical of the federal body that manages the river, saying it should prioritize flood control over other goals, such as protecting fish and wildlife habitat.

"One thing is clear: Something needs to change," said Parson, who pointed to increasing damage from flooding over the last decade with no solutions in sight.

The governors said they plan to work together for that change, even if it means petitioning Congress to give states more authority in river management.

Ricketts complained that even when funding for reinforcement of levees is approved, it's often years before the work is actually done. In some cases, flooding repeats before the work even starts. "That permitting process has got to be faster," he said.

Reynolds said the governors would be presenting a united front to the federal government in demanding more authority.

"We can't continue to do things like build a temporary levee that would protect a community, and after the Corps deems the flood incident over, require them to tear it down," she said

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 13 of 49

Asked whether the Corps indicated it would or could cede some river management decisions to the states, Parson replied, "Well, they listened."

Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly, a Democrat, also was scheduled to attend but had transportation problems and did not make it.

The Corps has said it works to balance all its priorities and that much of the flooding was well out of its control. The agency said that much of the water that created the flooding came from record rains and melting snow that flowed over frozen ground and directly into the river downstream of its dams, all while massive amounts of water filled Missouri River reservoirs and had to be released.

On Wednesday, the Corps released numbers showing record March runoff in the upper Missouri River Basin above Sioux City, Iowa, of 11 million acre feet — nearly 4 million acre feet more than the previous record of 7.3 million set in 1952. The average March upper basin runoff is 2.9 million acre feet, the Corps said.

Officials have estimated that the flooding caused nearly \$1.4 billion in damage in Nebraska and more than \$1.6 billion in Iowa. That includes an estimated \$1 billion of damage to farms in both states, where flooding destroyed stored crops, tore up land and equipment and killed livestock. Thousands of homes and businesses have been damaged or destroyed in Nebraska alone. The damage total is expected to grow as more assessments are made.

Kansas and Missouri officials are still waiting on damage estimates, although Kansas officials say that state saw flood damage limited to about 31,000 acres of mostly farmland and some stored grain. In Missouri, the surging river caused dozens of levee breaches that inundated about 168,000 acres in Missouri's two hardest-hit counties of Holt and Atchison.

Officials have said the March floods could be just the beginning of a rough spring, as hefty snowpack in the northern Plains adds to already swollen rivers and streams. That includes the Mississippi River, which started falling Wednesday in St. Louis as the crest moves downstream.

St. Louis closed its floodgates in advance of Tuesday's crest. Although the flooding there isn't classified as major, it closed some roads, including stretches of Missouri 94 and 67.

Downstream, the flood fight continues. The Corps said it handed out more than 100,000 sandbags to communities in its St. Louis district, including Clarksville, parts of Jefferson County and Ste. Genevieve.

## Man dead after van leaves road, winds up in James River

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say one person is dead after a van left a road and wound up in the James River near Mitchell.

The Highway Patrol says authorities discovered the van Wednesday morning. The body of a 28-year-old man was found along the river's west shore about a quarter of a mile away. Authorities have been searching for more possible occupants.

The patrol says the van was eastbound about 2 miles east of Mitchell when the vehicle entered the ditch, went through a barbed wire fence and into the river. The time and date of the crash remain under investigation.

— This story has been corrected to show that the van was discovered Wednesday morning, not Tuesday.

## Inanovate Inc. Secures \$3.1M Investment to Support Breast Cancer Detection Technology

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. and RALEIGH, N.C., April 3, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- Inanovate, Inc., a life science company specializing in the development of blood tests for cancer and autoimmune diseases, has secured an initial closing of \$3.1million on a Series C financing round.

The investment, led by South Dakota Equity Partners, Mr. T. Denny Sanford, and Sanford Frontiers, a corporate affiliate of Sanford Health, will help speed the development of Inanovate's breast cancer blood

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 14 of 49

test, which aims to identify false positives from screening mammograms and reduce costly, stressful, and unnecessary follow-up imaging.

The test is part of a larger plan from Inanovate, which also includes a second test that aims to monitor the progress of breast cancer patients through therapy and beyond, and identify a recurrence event in its earliest stage, when it may be more effectively treated and cured.

"We are excited to have secured investment that will allow our company to implement our development plan through the next 18 months," Inanovate CEO David Ure said. "We're pleased to have partnered with investors who share our vision for improving cancer diagnosis and treatment through technology innovation. Our partners bring both expertise and passion to our investment team as we align to the needs and goals of one of the leading hospital networks in the country."

The most recent investment builds on a strong year for Inanovate, which included a \$2 million Phase 2 SBIR grant from the National Cancer Institute, along with a licensing and collaboration agreement with Sanford Health that provides access to intellectual property relating to a set of breast cancer biomarkers, in addition to patient recruitment and sample access for Inanovate's trials.

"Improving breast cancer care is an important goal of ours," said Kim Patrick, chief business development officer for Sanford Health. "This protein-screening technology aims to improve the diagnosis of breast cancer and its recurrence."

The Inanovate blood tests work by detecting antibodies in a patient's blood that have been associated with breast cancer. Because the antibodies circulate in the blood, a simple blood draw can be evaluated to discover if the disease might be present. To analyze this blood draw, Inanovate uses their patented biomarker analysis platform: The BioID-800. The machine is compact, fully automated, fits on a bench top and uses disposable test cartridges.

"This is a highly sensitive but low-cost instrument that can recognize the presence of multiple different biomarkers from a small sample of blood in one low cost easy to use test," Ure said.

"This approach to blood analysis can be extended to conditions other than breast cancer, including diagnostic, prognostic and monitoring needs for other cancer types, as well as for a variety of auto-immune diseases."

South Dakota Equity Partners has been following Inanovate since 2016 as it secured investments and started diagnostic trials, said CEO Blaine Crissman, who also will join the company's board of directors.

"The diagnostic trials they've conducted are very promising," Crissman said. "We are very optimistic and excited about the future impact of this device. David is developing a really strong management team, and the involvement of Sanford Research is significant. Inanovate's technology integrated with research through Sanford Health can bring this to patients seamlessly."

A second closing of the Series C investment round is anticipated for the second quarter of 2019.

"We congratulate Inanovate on this most recent investment and anticipate continued significant developments for this promising startup," said Joni Johnson, executive director of South Dakota Biotech. "It's exciting to see the relationship forming between our strong health care and medical research community and our biotech entrepreneurs, strengthened by our increased access to venture capital."

Contact:

David Ure

Inanovate, Inc.

Email: [dure@inanovate.com](mailto:dure@inanovate.com)

Related Files

[Inanovate\\_Press\\_Release\\_3\\_25\\_19\\_Party Info.pdf](#)

Related Links

<http://www.inanovate.com>

View original content: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/inanovate-inc-secures-3-1m-investment-to-support-breast-cancer-detection-technology-300824350.html>

SOURCE Inanovate, Inc.

## Serious crime in South Dakota decreased in 2018

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A new report shows that serious crime in South Dakota declined last year.

The report released Tuesday by Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg defines serious crimes as those against person, property or society. There were 51,488 of those offenses reported last year, compared to 53,182 in 2017. That's a 3.2 percent decrease.

Murders decreased by 40 percent, from 20 homicides in 2017 to 12 last year. There was a 5 percent increase in forcible rape, from 467 two years ago to 490 in 2018.

Drug crimes have increased by 49 percent over the last six years, including the less than 1 percent decrease in 2018, when there were 8,205 arrests.

The report shows a total of 2,365 burglaries, which is a more than 5 percent decrease from last year.

## South Dakota veterinary program aims to fill rural shortage

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota State University is creating a new veterinary program with the University of Minnesota to address a shortage of rural care in the region.

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem approved the partnership Friday, allowing the schools to begin the process of accreditation and building a curriculum, said John Killefer, SDSU's dean of agriculture.

Killefer told the Argus Leader that SDSU plans to end its current veterinary program with Iowa State University in August 2021.

Under the new program, 20 students will complete their first two years of courses at SDSU and the remaining two years at the University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine in St. Paul, he said.

The partnership aims to fill a care shortage in rural areas, according to Killefer. Less than 2% of practicing veterinarians go into rural care, and schools don't have enough students graduating with the desire to enter rural practices, he said.

Many students leave veterinarian programs with large debts and often pursue small animal care because it can be more lucrative than working in South Dakota's growing livestock industry, according to Killefer.

"Our program is designed to reduce that debt load by \$100,000 per student by the time they get done," Killefer said. "And part of that is because students from South Dakota do not have a vet school in state."

SDSU's existing program can only send six of its most qualified students to Iowa State University's veterinarian school, where they pay Iowa's in-state tuition rate. The new partnership will be able to send a greater number of students to Minnesota, which has a more affordable in-state tuition rate, Killefer said.

Trevor Ames, dean of the University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine, said Minnesota's "western neighbors feel the shortage of veterinary care even more acutely."

"This is a good partnership for our schools," Ames said.

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

## Nissan's Ghosn arrested again in financial misconduct case

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Tokyo prosecutors arrested Nissan's former chairman Carlos Ghosn on Thursday for a fourth time, on fresh allegations that cut short his brief time outside detention.

Early in the morning, Ghosn was taken from his apartment in Tokyo to the prosecutors' office and then sent to the Tokyo Detention Center, the same facility where he spent more than three months following his arrest in November. He had been released on bail just a month earlier.

It's unclear how long Ghosn may be detained under the latest arrest, which involves what prosecutors said was a new alleged crime.

"My arrest this morning is outrageous and arbitrary," Ghosn said in a statement issued Thursday. "It is part of another attempt by some individuals at Nissan to silence me by misleading the prosecutors. Why

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 16 of 49

arrest me except to try to break me? I will not be broken. I am innocent of the groundless charges and accusations against me.”

The prosecutors defended the move, saying the latest allegations are a new case requiring precautions to prevent Ghosn from destroying evidence. They allege \$5 million in funds sent by a Nissan subsidiary to an overseas dealership were diverted to a company controlled by Ghosn.

“We now have a totally different case, and we are only doing what we think is right,” Shin Kukimoto, deputy chief prosecutor at the Tokyo District Prosecutor’s Office, told reporters.

“As a result of our investigation, we have a new case in which he must be detained, and we have appropriately obtained an arrest warrant from the court,” he said.

Ghosn, 65, was first arrested on Nov. 19 on charges of under-reporting his compensation. He was rearrested twice in December, including on breach of trust charges. The multiple arrests prolong detentions without trial and are an oft-criticized prosecution tactic in Japan’s criminal justice system.

The allegations in the most recent arrest cover three money transfers from 2015 through last year, according to the prosecutors.

Kukimoto said the new allegation of breach of trust is different from an earlier charge made in January. The companies where the money was transferred to, the motives, and the alleged scheme are all different, he said. He refused to identify the three companies allegedly involved but said one company was in effect owned by Ghosn.

Unlike an earlier case, in which Ghosn caused damage to Nissan to benefit himself and a business partner, this time it was merely “for his own personal benefit,” Kukimoto said.

French prosecutors also are investigating Ghosn’s financial activities at Nissan’s French alliance partner Renault SA, where he was chairman and CEO until his arrest. Ghosn is one of France’s most famous executives, and each development in his legal saga is closely watched by the French government, a key Renault shareholder.

A statement from the prosecutors’ did not mention Oman, but the allegation appears related to an investigation by Renault into payments to a major dealership in the Middle Eastern country, some of which are suspected of having been channeled for Ghosn’s personal use.

Ghosn’s lawyer Junichiro Hironaka denounced the arrest, saying his client’s stringent conditions for release on bail after three months — already relatively quick by Japanese standards — had already precluded prosecutors’ objections to his release by preventing him from tampering with evidence or fleeing the country.

“This goes against what is defined by law. This should never be allowed,” Hironaka told the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Japan. “I feel this is hostage justice.”

Hironaka angrily accused the prosecutors of maneuvering to pressure Ghosn and said the renewed detention will hurt his legal team’s preparations for defending him.

Prosecutors likely wanted to prevent Ghosn from speaking at a news conference he had planned for April 11, Hironaka said. He said Ghosn has prepared a video statement to be shared soon if he is unable to leave detention in time for the news conference.

Ghosn’s family expressed concern, describing his detention as a “solitary confinement as part of an attempt to force a confession.”

Ghosn has said the compensation he allegedly under-reported was never decided on or was to be paid in the future. He contends Nissan never suffered losses for his personal investments and says allegedly dubious payments for legitimate services.

In his statement Thursday, Ghosn said he was confident that he will be found innocent.

“I am determined that the truth will come out. I am confident that if tried fairly, I will be vindicated,” he said.

Hironaka said officials seized the cell phone and passport of Ghosn’s wife Carole, who was with him in the Tokyo apartment where he was staying. Prosecutors would not comment when asked.

Ghosn was an auto industry star, having transformed Nissan over two decades from near bankruptcy into one of the largest automaking alliances in the world.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 17 of 49

Nissan, a co-defendant on the charges of under-reporting compensation, declined comment on the criminal proceedings.

However, company spokesman Nicholas Maxfield said in a statement that "Nissan's internal investigation has uncovered substantial evidence of blatantly unethical conduct."

The maker of the March subcompact, Leaf electric car and Infiniti luxury models will hold a shareholders' meeting next week to oust Ghosn from its board.

The maximum penalty upon conviction on charges of under-reporting compensation and breach of trust is 15 years in prison. It is unclear when Ghosn's trial may begin. Preparations for trials in Japan routinely take months.

Yuri Kageyama is on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

On Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/yurikageyama/?hl=en>

## **Preliminary report: Ethiopia crew followed Boeing procedures**

**By ELIAS MESERET Associated Press**

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — The crew of the Ethiopian Airlines jet that crashed six minutes after takeoff last month performed all procedures recommended by Boeing when the plane started to nose dive but could not save it, according to findings from a preliminary report released Thursday by Ethiopia's government.

The report, based on flight data and cockpit voice recorders on the Boeing 737 Max 8, was not released in full. Boeing declined to comment pending its review of the report.

The Max 8 has been under scrutiny since a Lion Air flight crashed off the coast of Indonesia under similar circumstances in October.

Investigators are looking into the role of a flight-control system known by its acronym, MCAS, which under some circumstances can automatically lower the plane's nose to prevent an aerodynamic stall. The Max has been grounded worldwide pending a software fix that Boeing is rolling out, which still needs to be approved by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and other regulators.

The Ethiopian Airlines jet crashed just after taking off from Addis Ababa on March 10, killing all 157 on board.

Ethiopian investigators did not specifically mention the MCAS, but recommended that Boeing review "the aircraft flight control system related to the flight controllability." They also recommended that aviation officials verify that issues have been adequately addressed before allowing the planes to fly again.

Boeing is the focus of investigations by the U.S. Justice Department, the Transportation Department's inspector general, and congressional committees. Investigations are also looking at the role of the Federal Aviation Administration in the U.S., which certified the Max in 2017, declined to ground it after the first deadly crash in October. The agency was also reluctant to ground the planes after the Ethiopian Airlines crash and was among the last agencies to do so.

The FAA, which must certify the 737 Max is safe before it can go back into the air, said in a statement that the investigation is still in its early stages.

"As we learn more about the accident and findings become available, we will take appropriate action," the agency said.

The statement did not say if the FAA would review the Max's flight control system as recommended by Ethiopian investigators, and FAA spokesman Greg Martin would not comment beyond the statement. Boeing is working on improvements to the MCAS software that would make it less aggressive in pointing the nose down and easier for pilots to disable. The FAA has said it will review the software before allowing the Max to fly again.

The agency said Monday that it anticipates Boeing's final software improvements for 737 Max airliners "in the coming weeks."

But it wasn't clear whether the Ethiopians are seeking just that or a broader update in the Max's flight

controls.

What also isn't clear is whether the Ethiopian pilots followed Boeing's recommendations to the letter in dealing with the system repeatedly pointing the nose down.

The pilots initially followed Boeing's emergency steps by disconnecting the MCAS system, but for an unknown reason, they turned the system back on, an official familiar with the crash investigation told The Associated Press on Wednesday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because at the time, Ethiopian investigators had not released their preliminary report. Boeing's procedures instruct pilots to leave the MCAS system disconnected and continue flying manually for the rest of the flight.

Ethiopian investigators did not address that issue at its press conference, saying only that the pilots had done what they were supposed to.

"The crew performed all the procedures repeatedly provided by the manufacturer but was not able to control the aircraft," said Minister of Transport Dagmawit Moges.

However, Moges told The New York Times after the press conference that the pilots turned MCAS on and off, but she couldn't say how many times. That will be addressed in the final report, she said.

In a statement Thursday, Ethiopian Airlines said its pilots followed Boeing instructions. "Despite their hard work and full compliance with the emergency procedures, it was very unfortunate that they could not recover the airplane from the persistence of nose diving," the airline said.

David Hasse, an aviation analyst and editor of industry publication *airliners.de* in Berlin, says it is significant that the report found that the pilots followed the proper procedures, because that links the case more closely to the Lion Air crash.

"What is special about this case is that two crashes seem to have a very, very similar reason. This is something that is very rare in aviation. The question is whether the Boeing 737 Max should have been grounded after the Lion Air crash and before the Ethiopian Airlines crash," said Hasse.

He noted that crash reports are not meant to assign legal blame and that it is too soon to know what the legal implications might be for Boeing, but it clearly raises the pressure on the company.

"If pilots sit there and follow the rules that have been given to them by the manufacturer, then they should be able to rely on the fact that they are correct," Hasse said.

---

Associated Press Writers Carlo Piovano and Tom Krisher contributed to this report.

## Arrest revives security concerns at Trump's Florida estate

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, COLLEEN LONG and TERRY SPENCER Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — As palm trees swayed in the ocean breeze, Yujing Zhang approached Secret Service agents in the Mar-a-Lago parking lot.

She said she was going to the swimming pool at the Palm Beach presidential estate and presented agents with two Chinese passports in her name. That raised suspicions with her screeners, but a call to the front desk at Mar-a-Lago revealed a club member with a similar last name and with that, and a possible language barrier, reception waved her through.

Not long after, Zhang was arrested carrying four cellphones, a laptop computer, an external hard drive and a thumb drive containing computer malware in an incident that is shining a spotlight on the unique difficulty of fortifying the oceanside Florida estate of President Donald Trump — who was staying at the club that weekend but golfing elsewhere at the time.

Zhang's arrest has revived concerns about security — particularly cyber security — at a presidential refuge that mixes social functions, world diplomacy and extraordinary access to the president. Hundreds of members frequent Mar-a-Lago and the president's other private clubs, which function as working resorts even when Trump himself visits, creating a series of challenges that test the Secret Service.

Federal officials were looking into whether Zhang was part of a larger effort to gain access to the president and do potential harm, and were combing through her devices and treating the case as a "credible threat," according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to speak about the ongoing probe and discussed the

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 19 of 49

matter on condition of anonymity.

Democratic lawmakers were inquiring about a possible connection to Li Yang, the Republican donor and spa owner who promised Chinese business leaders that her consulting firm could get them access to the president at Mar-a-Lago.

Democrats on Wednesday called for an investigation into security at Mar-a-Lago, and whether classified information stored there is at risk from hostile foreign governments. House Oversight Committee Chairman Elijah Cummings, D-Md., said he would get a briefing Thursday from the Secret Service.

"We want to make sure that the Secret Service is being the very best that they can be, and we want to find out more about exactly what kind of security they had down there in Florida," Cummings said. "I think it's very, very, very, very important that the president be protected. And I feel very strongly about that."

Trump on Wednesday dismissed the incident, saying it was "just a fluke situation."

"We have very good control," he told reporters.

With the Atlantic Ocean to the east and Florida's Intracoastal Waterway to the west, Mar-a-Lago sits on the Palm Beach barrier island, a 128-room, 62,500-square foot symbol of opulence and power. Long a Trump favorite since he purchased it from the foundation of the late socialite Marjorie Merriweather Post in 1985, the president travels to the estate every few weekends during its winter high season, abandoning Washington's chill for Florida sunshine.

"For the president, I think Mar-a-Lago is not so much a club, but his Xanadu," said Chris Ruddy, publisher of Newsmax and a longtime club member and Trump friend. "My feeling is he also sees it as place of destiny and fate because Mrs. Post wanted it as the winter White House."

While there, Trump has been known to crash weddings, pop in on charity events and, one time, order air strikes.

He has not been shy about conducting government business there. It was while hosting Chinese President Xi Jinping that Trump, over a chocolate cake dessert, authorized a missile launch at Syrian airfields after a chemical attack. On another occasion, he and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sat on an outdoor patio, as guests dined nearby, and reviewed options for responding to a North Korean ballistic test.

Such interactions could make Mar-a-Lago a tempting target, particularly for cyberattacks.

"Mar-a-Lago has not been sufficiently well-defended against not just physical attacks, but against counterintelligence exploits, including digital attacks," said David Kris, an authority on foreign intelligence at Culper Partners consulting company in Seattle.

Federal agencies spent about \$3.4 million per Trump visit, much of it on security, according to an analysis done by the U.S. Government Accountability Office of four 2017 trips. The Secret Service doesn't decide who is invited or welcome at the resort; that responsibility belongs to the club. Agents do screen guests outside the perimeter before they're screened again inside.

The agency said in a statement that, with the exception of certain facilities that are protected permanently, like the White House, "the practice used at Mar-a-Lago is no different than that long used at any other site temporarily visited by the president."

But Mar-a-Lago is different from other presidential retreats.

Unlike Ronald Reagan's and George W. Bush's ranches or George H.W. Bush's seaside vacation home in Maine, Mar-a-Lago is open to members who pay \$14,000 annual dues after a \$100,000 or \$200,000 initiation fee. They expect access to the facility and want to host their equally affluent guests — and they are used to getting their way.

Nabil Erian, a former Marine and government counterintelligence officer, said guarding Mar-a-Lago is a "nightmare."

"If this venue was uniquely for the president, it is easier to manage the perimeter," said Erian, an executive at the security firm CTC International Group in West Palm Beach. Because Mar-a-Lago is a club and not just a home, "Frankly, it increases the risk of something like this happening."

Last Saturday, Zhang changed her story at the indoor reception desk, saying she was there a little early to take photos, but had come to attend a "United Nations Friendship Event" between China and the U.S., which didn't exist.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 20 of 49

Zhang also told agents she was at the club because her Chinese friend "Charles" told her to travel from Shanghai, China, to Palm Beach, saying that if she attended the event she could speak with a member of the Republican president's family about Chinese and American foreign economic relations, according to the complaint.

A man named Charles Lee ran the United Nations Chinese Friendship Association, and was photographed at least twice with Yang, the spa owner whose website advertised access to Trump.

Yang's attorney said she did not know Zhang, and merely attended two of the same events as Lee. But the Miami Herald reported that Lee recruited people for Yang's events. The criminal complaint made no mention of a possible connection.

Zhang was charged with making false statements to federal agents and illegally entering a restricted area. She remains in custody pending a hearing next week. Her public defender, Robert Adler, declined to comment.

But general club access doesn't mean access to Trump or his guests. When Trump is at Mar-a-Lago, more screening and security measures are required.

"I really think it's overblown. There is a lot of security, and the staff is wonderful," said Toni Holt Kramer, a nine-year member of the club and founder of the group The Trumpettes. "Mr. Trump wants us all to feel right at home there."

Lemire reported from New York while Long reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Michael Balsamo, Mary Clare Jalonick and Deb Riechmann in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire> , Long at <http://twitter.com/@ctlong1> and Spencer at <http://twitter.com/@terrysten> .

## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

### 1. CREW OF DOOMED ETHIOPIA JET FOLLOWED PROCEDURES

Data from the recorders of the Boeing 737 Max 8 found that the crew of the Ethiopian Airlines jetliner could not control the plane after it started to nose dive.

### 2. FORMER NISSAN CHAIR ARRESTED AGAIN

Carlos Ghosn is apprehended for a fourth time by Tokyo prosecutors investigating him for alleged financial misconduct while leading the Japanese automaker.

### 3. MOSQUE MASSACRE SUSPECT FACING 89 CHARGES

Brenton Harrison Tarrant, the Australian accused of carrying out the New Zealand mosque attacks, will face 50 murder charges and 39 attempted murder charges.

### 4. WHAT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ON DEMOCRATS' RADAR

None of the Democrats running for the White House in 2020 has made specific pitches on transforming the nation's criminal justice system.

### 5. EXPERTS WARN OF CYBER THREATS AHEAD OF ISRAEL'S ELECTION

Israel is vulnerable to the kind of foreign hacks and cyber campaigns that have disrupted the political process in other countries.

### 6. CHINA'S CONSTRUCTION BINGE SPREADS TO THE AMERICAS

Beijing's expansion in Latin America to build ports and other trade-related facilities is stirring anxiety in Washington.

### 7. WHO MIGHT BE COURTING THE SAME DEMOGRAPHIC

Democratic presidential primary candidates Bernie Sanders and Beto O'Rourke both strike a chord with the same part of the electorate: young voters.

## 8. 'YABBA-DABBA-DON'T'

The posh San Francisco suburb of Hillsborough is saying no to a life-size Flintstones house and characters dotting the yard.

## 9. DISNEY PRESENTS UNITED FRONT WITH FOX AT CINEMACON

"Avatar," "Deadpool," "Toy Story" and "The Avengers" all made their way into the same montage, demonstrating that all the brands are now under one umbrella.

## 10. NCAA PRESIDENT SPEAKS OUT ON STUDENT-ATHLETES

Mark Emmert tells the AP that a judge's recent ruling in a federal antitrust lawsuit reinforces that college athletes should be treated as students, not employees.

## O'Rourke, Sanders vie for same young voters in 2020 campaign

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — In the growing Democratic presidential field, they seem like a study in opposites. One's 77, a democratic socialist from the U.S.-Canada border state of Vermont, who exudes a curmudgeonly grumpiness and bursts with detailed policy proposals. The other's a boyish 46-year-old native of the U.S.-Mexico border city of El Paso, Texas, who livestreams his skateboarding prowess and offers hopeful but vague paeans to tolerance and cooperation.

Bernie Sanders and Beto O'Rourke may represent different poles among the dozen-plus Democrats vying for the White House, but they have key commonalities that now inject special tension into their rivalry as they ramp up their campaigns.

Both lead the pack in fundraising and have built substantial campaign treasuries on thousands of small donors nationwide rather than using the more traditional model of a small core of major financial backers.

They also strike chords with the same part of the electorate. In their last races, each rose on a strong appeal to young voters.

Now, though, it's not clear both can exploit their strengths while going head-to-head.

Already, they find themselves recruiting some of the same campaign talent, with a few veterans of Sanders' 2016 presidential bid having signed on this time with O'Rourke.

While other candidates in the 2020 race have natural connections to other parts of the Democratic voting base, Sanders, a U.S. senator, and O'Rourke, a former congressman, could find themselves in more of a zero-sum contest for the same turf. Both will be in Iowa this weekend campaigning for the upper hand.

"If Bernie begins to surge, the Beto people will largely go there. The opposite's true, too," said Jim Hightower a former Texas agriculture commissioner who was a top state Sanders supporter in 2016 but also among the first to counsel O'Rourke on his near-upset in November of Sen. Ted Cruz.

This week, Sanders announced that he raised \$18.2 million in 41 days of campaigning through March 31. O'Rourke countered that he'd collected \$9.4 million in an 18-day period, or \$520,000-plus daily.

Matt Bennett, co-founder of the Third Way, a centrist Washington think tank, said Sanders finds himself more hemmed in than when he ran a surprisingly tight race in 2016 against Hillary Clinton.

"He has plenty of competition in the authenticity category now," including from Sen. Kamala Harris of California and Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, who also have attracted strong online fundraising.

Still, Bennett said, O'Rourke may prove the stiffest test to Sanders given that his donor base is so similar — a key metric for campaign strength so early in the electoral cycle.

"What you're going to see is there is not a clean ideological explanation for where people end up," Bennett said. "It's going to be who speaks to me, who inspires me with their rhetoric, with their persona, with their passion."

Other major candidates in the Democratic presidential field — which includes two African Americans, a half dozen women, a Latino and a gay candidate — have obvious inroads with key ethnic, racial and demographic groups that lean Democratic.

But Sanders and O'Rourke have shown they can consistently draw throngs of young voters to their rallies. Sanders' crusty passion — and willingness to fight for policy ideas that seemed far-fetched, even if it

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 22 of 49

wreaked havoc on both parties — appealed to 2016 voters who were sometimes less than a third his age.

O'Rourke, who was still in high school when Sanders entered Congress in 1991, has whipped up enthusiasm by preaching optimistic bipartisanship to meet challenges like climate change.

Texas' 2018 midterms — which included O'Rourke's Senate race — drew nearly 1.1 million voters between ages 18 and 29, or 235% more than the state's midterms in 2014, in no small part due to his campaign.

As the nation's population gets older, young voters are seen as increasingly important to Democratic candidates.

"The Democratic Party's age profile is really defying the aging pattern of the country overall," said Alec Tyson of the Pew Research Center, which specializes in election analysis. "They're about as young as they were 10 years ago, which is remarkable because the country's not."

Pew data indicates that millennial voters born between 1981 and 1996 have had a Democratic tilt since reaching adulthood.

In the early weeks of his campaign, O'Rourke has prioritized visiting colleges. He's impressed some previous Sanders supporters with the 30-year gap between them.

"I think it's really important to get people excited, and I think that's what Beto does, and I'm not sure Bernie does anymore," said Meaghan O'Connor, 21, a Sanders voter in 2016 who attended an O'Rourke campus rally at Penn State University last month.

Both Sanders and O'Rourke have worked to reach other demographic groups. Sanders has recalled his days as a civil rights activist at the University of Chicago, and O'Rourke has made three visits since 2017 to historically black Texas Southern University in Houston.

Despite having overlapping strengths, O'Rourke and Sanders are different politically.

O'Rourke is more establishment-minded, promising to work with Republicans and appeal to past Donald Trump supporters. His message that relies more on optimism than specifics reminds some of Barack Obama's 2008 pitch.

Sanders specializes in specificity, best illustrated by his "Medicare for All" health care plan, calls for \$15 hourly minimum wage and proposals to shrink large investment banks.

"Blindly following Beto for his personality is a bad thing," said Travis Clark, a 23-year-old University of Texas student who saw O'Rourke at a recent Austin rally but remains undecided. "You have to vote for the candidate for the right reasons, not just because you like them."

---

Associated Press writers Marc Levy in State College, Pa., and Clarice Silber in Austin, Texas, contributed to this report.

## China's construction binge spreads to Americas, rattles US

By **JUAN ZAMORANO, KATHIA MARTINEZ and JOE McDONALD** Associated Press

PANAMA CITY (AP) — China's expansion in Latin America of its Belt and Road initiative to build ports and other trade-related facilities is stirring alarm in Washington over Beijing's ambitions in a region that American leaders since the 19th century have seen as off-limits to other powers.

China is hardly a newcomer to the region, but now it's focusing on countries in Central America such as Panama. It's a country of just 4 million people but its canal linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans makes it one of the world's busiest trade arteries and strategically important both to Washington and Beijing.

As American officials express alarm at Beijing's ambitions in the U.S.-dominated Western Hemisphere, China has launched a charm offensive, wooing Panamanian politicians, professionals and journalists.

The Chinese ambassador, a Spanish-speaking Latin American veteran, has been talking up the benefits of Belt and Road on TV and Twitter. Beijing has flown professionals and journalists on junkets to China. It seems to be paying off.

"We see a big opportunity to connect Asia and America to Panama," Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela said during a visit to Hong Kong this week. He is due to attend a "Belt and Road" forum in Beijing with other foreign leaders this month, according to the Chinese government.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 23 of 49

Chinese President Xi Jinping's signature foreign initiative, Belt and Road is building railways, ports, power plants and other projects in dozens of countries around the globe. But the U.S., Japan, Russia, India and other governments fret that Beijing is gaining economic and strategic influence at their expense.

"A strong U.S. reaction, whether it is obvious in public or not, is coming," said Matt Ferchen, an expert on China-Latin America relations at the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center in Beijing.

Panama's leaders see China as a source of trade and investment but want to avoid conflict with Washington. Varela has said Panama's relationship with China "will not affect relations with our strategic partner."

Belt and Road is building on multibillion dollar deals for loans and investments in oil and mining in South America that Beijing made beginning in the 1990s.

Venezuela has received \$62 billion in Chinese loans. Brazil owes \$42 billion and Argentina \$18 billion. Ecuador has borrowed \$17 billion.

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has said he is considering joining Belt and Road. That would give it a foothold in a country bordering the U.S.

In the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago agreed last May to take part. In September, a state-owned Chinese company was awarded a contract to build a dry dock.

American officials say governments should be wary.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited in October and met with Varela, whose term runs through July. Afterward, Pompeo told reporters Panama "should keep its eyes wide open" concerning Chinese investments.

"We are all concerned about China and by the way that China is entering those countries," Pompeo said at the Group of 20 meeting of major economies in Argentina in December. Such projects are not always driven by "good intentions," he said.

In a coup for Beijing, Panama switched diplomatic recognition in June 2017 to China from Taiwan, the self-ruled island the communist mainland claims as its own territory. That cut Taiwan's biggest political tie to Latin America.

President Donald Trump's "America first" policies are not helping the U.S. cause in the region, said businessman Roberto Eisenmann, founder of Panama's most influential newspaper, La Prensa.

Trump has yet to name a replacement for U.S. Ambassador John Feeley, who announced his retirement in January 2018.

"They are leaving a vacuum of leadership that obviously the Chinese are trying to fill," said Eisenmann.

Two months after Pompeo stopped by, Varela welcomed Xi on an official visit and proclaimed his support for Belt and Road. Varela told Xi that Panama wants to "play a front-line role" in helping to build a more interconnected world.

The next day, Varela joined a ceremony where a consortium including two Chinese companies was awarded a contract to build a fourth bridge across the Panama Canal, whose ports of entry at its Atlantic and Pacific ends are operated by a Hong Kong consortium.

China, the canal's second-largest user after the United States, has "considerable strategic interest" in Panama, said Margaret Myers, director of Asia and Latin America for the Inter-American Dialogue, a think tank in Washington.

"There are concerns about the possible effects on U.S. firms, on regional stability and, above all, on U.S. influence in the region," she said.

Launched in 2012, Belt and Road now encompasses most Chinese commercial initiatives abroad.

Most projects involve Chinese loans at commercial interest rates, adding to concerns Beijing is building a China-centered trade and political structure that might leave poor countries with too much debt.

Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia and some other countries have canceled or renegotiated projects due to costs or complaints they would do too little for local economies.

China has dismissed such concerns .

Steve Tsang, director of the China Institute at London's School of Oriental and African Studies, said Beijing is trying to reshape how the initiative is perceived. But there's no indication it is addressing problems

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 24 of 49

that led to complaints that Sri Lanka, Kenya and other countries ended up with too much debt.

"I don't think they have learned the important lessons," said Tsang. "What they have learned are the superficial ones."

China's ambassador, Wei Qiang, has been laying groundwork for deeper involvement in Panama.

In March 2018, he met with members of the opposition Revolutionary Democratic Party, whose candidate for this May's presidential election, Laurentino Cortizo, is leading in polls.

Cortizo said he plans to meet with Wei to "look at the future of this relationship."

Wei has invited Eisenmann, the newspaper founder, to his official residence to discuss Panama's "plans for the 'Silk Road'."

China has proposed building a high-speed rail line from Panama City to the town of David near its western border with Costa Rica.

So far, projects awarded to Chinese contractors — the canal bridge, a cruise ship dock and a convention center — have been paid for by the Panamanian government. The country has yet to receive Chinese loans.

McDonald reported from Beijing.

## Justice reform activists want more ideas from Dem candidates

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Democrats seeking the White House have issued proposals on overhauling education, agriculture, technology and immigration. But none of the candidates has made specific pitches on how he or she would transform the nation's criminal justice system.

Although the Democratic candidates have talked broadly about systemic racism — with several backing some form of reparations to the descendants of slaves — none has gone deep on mass incarceration or police reform.

It's an omission that has frustrated some activists who hoped such issues would receive greater attention in a Democratic primary that includes two black candidates and is dominated by an overall push to the left on many social fronts. Some are worried it's an early sign that candidates won't pay enough attention to voters of color.

"This is not a marginal issue," said the Rev. Al Sharpton, who is hosting several White House hopefuls this week at his annual social justice convention in New York. "Are they going to keep consent decrees? Are they going to deal with mass commutations? They're going to have to deal with these questions."

Sharpton pressed some Democratic presidential contenders on the issue Wednesday during the first day of his National Action Network conference. Under questioning from Sharpton, former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke said he would reverse an order from President Donald Trump's Justice Department that restricted the federal government's ability to use court-enforced consent decrees when state and local law enforcement agencies are accused of abuse. Those agreements, popular during President Barack Obama's administration, generally provide a road map for changes in law enforcement practices.

"There must be accountability for enforcement of the law, there must be accountability for use of force, and federal funds to local police departments and sheriff's departments must be tied to accountability," O'Rourke said.

Other candidates including Sen. Kamala Harris of California, Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey, Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg will appear at the conference in the coming days and could face similar questions.

Such venues present an opportunity for voters to hold candidates accountable on issues specific to the black community. Sharpton's conference is the year's first such gathering of civil rights leaders and activists featuring so many of the 2020 Democratic presidential hopefuls.

It comes at an awkward moment for Democrats as Trump, who has little support among black voters, has sought to portray himself as an advocate for criminal justice. He's touted signing legislation last year aimed at addressing racially disparate federal prison sentences for crack cocaine offenses.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 25 of 49

Although they have avoided some specifics, multiple candidates have taken steps to address systemic racism.

In the Senate, Booker has reintroduced legislation to decriminalize marijuana, and he was a co-sponsor of the First Step Act targeting crack sentencing. Before running for president, Harris proposed bipartisan federal legislation to end cash bail. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts called for criminal justice reform in her announcement speech in February but didn't offer details on what that would look like.

Speaking at Sharpton's conference on Wednesday, former San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro spoke powerfully of the need for reparations. O'Rourke said he would support legislation that would create a commission to study the issue.

"Criminal justice reform is not a second-tier issue for African Americans," said Democratic pollster Cornell Belcher. "Particularly for younger African Americans, it is competing against, if not trumping, some rather conventional issues for the attention and concern of these voters. It is a very good issue to home in on, and it makes all the sense in the world for them to talk about it."

Criminal justice reform was thrust into national politics in 2014 with the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement, which highlighted the killings of black people by police and exposed patterns of bias in departments across the country. Under Trump, the Justice Department has generally taken a different stance on such issues, calling for less oversight and more praise of local law enforcement. In the years since, calls for reform have ushered in new local leadership, from district attorneys to mayors in cities like Chicago, St. Louis, Philadelphia and Cleveland.

The 2020 Democratic primary offers a fresh opportunity and bigger stage to wrestle with criminal justice, particularly with the entry of Harris, whose credentials as a former prosecutor are part of her narrative and criticism, or the potential entry of former Vice President Joe Biden, who may have to reckon with his role as the Senate Judiciary chairman who presided over the passage of the 1994 crime bill.

It will likely not be the last time the candidates meet under such circumstances, with the National Urban League conference in Indianapolis and the NAACP convention happening in Detroit, both set for July. Black Lives Matter is also considering hosting a Democratic town hall during the primary.

But, Sharpton points out, his conference is the first and only convening ahead of the first Democratic debate in June in Miami, and he said he wants criminal justice reform on stage there.

Brittany Packnett, who is active in the Black Lives Matter movement, echoed that hope. With so many Democrats seeking to gain a leg up in the primary, she said it's important that criminal justice "doesn't completely fall off the agenda."

---

Whack is The Associated Press' national writer on race and ethnicity. Follow her work on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/emaravelous>.

## Emmert: Court ruling reinforces NCAA athletes not employees

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — NCAA President Mark Emmert says a judge's recent ruling in a federal antitrust lawsuit again reinforced that college athletes should be treated as students not employees.

Emmert spoke to The Associated Press on Wednesday at U.S. Bank Stadium, the site of the men's basketball Final Four, making his first public comments since last month's decision in the so-called Alston.

Judge Claudia Wilken ruled the NCAA did violate antitrust laws and cannot prohibit schools from providing more benefits to athletes as long as they are tethered to education.

"There were also components of that ruling that reinforced what a number of judges and administrative court proceedings have reinforced and that is that college sports is about student-athletes playing student-athletes not employees playing employees," Emmert said. "And the fact that, once again, another federal decision has come down reinforcing the fundamentals of what college sport is about, we're very pleased with that. And the way that she wrote what could and could not be prohibited by the NCAA is not in any way fundamentally inconsistent with what we've been doing for about a decade now."

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 26 of 49

In recent years, NCAA member schools have passed legislation permitting an increase in the value of an athletic scholarship by as much as several thousand dollars to include the federal cost of attendance. Also, schools are now allowed to provide athletes with unlimited meals and guaranteed four-year scholarships.

The plaintiffs argued in the Alston case that implementation of cost-of-attendance stipends and other rewards to players for participation such as bowl gifts and championship rings prove paying athletes even more would not hurt college sports.

Plaintiffs in the Alston case had sought to have all NCAA rules capping compensation struck down. They wanted conferences to set standards for compensation in the hope of creating a market in which schools compete for talent at the highest levels of football and men's and women's basketball.

Even though Wilken's ruling fell well short of that, plaintiffs' attorneys have celebrated it. They called it another step toward unraveling the NCAA's definition of amateurism, which they consider unjust and arbitrary. In 2014, Wilken ruled against the NCAA in an antitrust lawsuit brought by former UCLA basketball star Ed O'Bannon. He claimed the NCAA and conferences inappropriately used the names, images and likenesses of college athletes without compensation.

Much like the Alston case, the NCAA came away from O'Bannon with its model of amateurism basically intact.

And as it did in O'Bannon, the NCAA is appealing Wilken's latest ruling to the Ninth Circuit Court.

"We don't like the notion that we're in violation of antitrust laws," Emmert said.

Emmert added the association does not believe the courts should decide what qualifies as a benefit tethered to education.

"We just find that an unworkable proposal that anytime you want to have a discussion over whether or not something is or isn't tethered education we have to go back to a judge and have that debate and discussion. That just seems inherently inappropriate and not an appropriate role for the judiciary, but one that does fit the role of the NCAA," Emmert said.

Wilken cited things such as computers, scientific equipment and musical instrument as benefits tethered to education. Emmert said it is already within NCAA rules for schools to provide the "vast majority" of the items to college athletes.

"We provide around \$100 million a year to schools to support student-athletes through student-support fund programs for precisely that purpose," he said.

Wilken also cited post-graduate scholarships as benefits that should be permissible.

As with the introduction of any new benefit, there is concern among NCAA membership for potential corruption.

"You know we have schools competing now on who can do the best gold-plated locker room? You know, who can do the best recreational facilities?" Emmert said. "Having them compete over who can provide the best educational experience ... is an inherently good thing, not a bad thing from my point of view."

---

Follow Ralph D. Russo at <https://twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP> and listen at <https://podcastone.com/AP-Top-25-College-Football-Podcast>

---

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

## Mosque massacre suspect to face 89 charges in court Friday

By NICK PERRY Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — The man accused of carrying out the Christchurch mosque attacks will face 50 murder charges and 39 attempted murder charges when he makes his second court appearance, New Zealand police said Thursday.

Police had earlier filed a single, representative murder charge against 28-year-old Australian Brenton Harrison Tarrant. He is due to appear via video link during a brief hearing on Friday, and won't be required to enter a plea.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 27 of 49

Fifty people died in the March 15 attacks on two mosques and another 50 were injured.

Police said in a brief statement that they were considering filing more charges against Tarrant but couldn't comment further as the case was before the court.

Tarrant's first appearance was on the day after the attacks in the Christchurch District Court. His case has now been moved to the High Court due to the seriousness of the charges. Tarrant has reportedly been moved to a high-security prison in Auckland, which is why he'll appear via video link.

During the scheduled court hearing, media photographs won't be allowed and reporting on the proceedings will be severely restricted under New Zealand law. The intent of the law is to avoid the possibility the reporting and images would taint the views of potential jurors before they hear evidence in court.

Judge Cameron Mander said in a note that the brief hearing will mainly be about the accused gunman's legal representation.

Tarrant earlier dismissed lawyer Richard Peters, who was assigned to represent him during his district court appearance. Peters said Tarrant told him that he wants to represent himself. Many worry that Tarrant will try to use his trial as a soapbox to push his white supremacist views.

The judge said he had received applications from 25 media organizations to take film, photographs or audio recordings of Friday's hearing but had denied all of them. He said reporters could remain throughout and take notes, although would be restricted in what they could report.

He said media could still use pixelated images of Tarrant which the district court judge had allowed. The pixelation obscured his face.

Retired law professor Bill Hodge said the idea behind obscuring his image was that the prosecution might need a witness to be sure he saw the gunman at the mosque rather than recognizing him from media stories.

Hodge said New Zealand and Australia were trying to preserve the ancient common-law approach to a fair trial, but that it seemed quaint in an era where people could easily find more information or images on the internet.

New Zealand's Department of Corrections said in an email they wouldn't answer questions such as where Tarrant was being held due to operational security reasons. They said that despite some restrictions, he was being managed in accordance with New Zealand and international laws regarding the treatment of prisoners.

"At this time, he has no access to television, radio or newspapers and no approved visitors," the department said.

## Texas bans clergy from executions after Supreme Court ruling

By JAKE BLEIBERG Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Texas prisons will no longer allow clergy in the death chamber after the U.S. Supreme Court blocked the scheduled execution of a man who argued his religious freedom would be violated if his Buddhist spiritual adviser couldn't accompany him.

Effective immediately, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice will only permit prison security staff into the execution chamber, a spokesman said Wednesday. The policy change comes in response to the high court's ruling staying the execution of Patrick Murphy, a member of the "Texas 7" gang of escaped prisoners.

Texas previously allowed state-employed clergy to accompany inmates into the room where they'd be executed, but its prison staff included only Christian and Muslim clerics.

In light of this policy, the Supreme Court ruled Thursday that Texas couldn't move forward with Murphy's punishment unless his Buddhist adviser or another Buddhist reverend of the state's choosing accompanied him.

One of Murphy's lawyers, David Dow, said the policy change does not address their full legal argument and mistakes the main thrust of the court's decision.

"Their arbitrary and, at least for now, hostile response to all religion reveals a real need for close judicial

oversight of the execution protocol," Dow said

Murphy's attorneys told the high court that executing him without his spiritual adviser in the room would violate the First Amendment right to freedom of religion. The 57-year-old — who was among a group of inmates who escaped from a Texas prison in 2000 and then committed numerous robberies, including one where a police officer was fatally shot — became a Buddhist while in prison nearly a decade ago.

In his concurring opinion, the court's newest justice, Brett Kavanaugh, wrote that Texas had two options going forward: allow all inmates to have a religious adviser of their religion in the execution room, or allow religious advisers only in the viewing room, not the execution room.

"The government may not discriminate against religion generally or against particular religious denominations," Kavanaugh wrote.

Kristin Houlé, executive director of the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, called the new policy "cruel and unusual," and urged the department to reconsider.

Prison chaplains will still be able to observe executions from a witness room and meet with inmates on death row beforehand, said Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Jeremy Desel. He declined to elaborate on the reasoning behind the policy change.

The change brings Texas in line with most other death penalty states, which do not allow clergy into the execution chamber, according to Robert Dunham, a lawyer and executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center. But it is also likely to open new legal fights for America's busiest execution state, he said.

The policy change could be challenged as generally discriminating against religion and as retroactively targeting Murphy despite having a general formulation, Dunham said. If these arguments are presented to the high court, a ruling could have implications for how executions are conducted around the country, he said.

The Supreme Court's decision in Murphy's case followed a similar appeal in February, when the court ruled Alabama could execute a Muslim inmate without his Islamic spiritual adviser present in the execution chamber. The court decision that allowed Dominique Ray to be executed attracted public criticism, and Dunham said the ruling staying Murphy's execution might have been an effort by the justices to avoid further blowback.

"When you look at the court's order, they were hoping that Texas would give them a way out by accommodating Patrick Murphy's request," he said. "Texas has chosen not to do that, so it's likely that the ball will be back in the proverbial judicial court."

## Legal marijuana workers blast citizenship denials over work

By KATHLEEN FOODY Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — U.S. immigration authorities blocked two immigrants' applications for citizenship because of their work in Colorado's marijuana industry, their attorneys and Denver officials said, accusing the Trump administration of quietly targeting immigrants seeking jobs in the growing field.

Oswaldo Barrientos said he began working in the marijuana industry in 2014, inspired by the research he had done into medical products after his mother's skin cancer diagnosis. He was brought to the U.S. from El Salvador as an infant and was granted a green card when he was 13.

He assumed the citizenship application process would be simple. The 30-year-old is fluent in English and said he has no criminal history, pays taxes and graduated high school. But during an in-person interview in November, the interviewer became focused on Barrientos' job with a state-licensed company that grows marijuana, he said.

Weeks later, he got a letter from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services denying him because of his job, his lawyers said.

"I was shocked, appalled, sad," Barrientos said. "It was a mixture of emotions. I had no idea I was going to be in this situation."

It was not clear Wednesday if people outside Colorado have been denied for the same reason; Barrientos'

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 29 of 49

attorneys said they are not aware of any reported cases. They suspect people without legal representation may accept a denial quietly, hoping to reapply or give up without approaching a lawyer.

Barrientos' attorneys Aaron Elinoff and Bryce Downer, who specialize in immigration law in Colorado, said a second client in Colorado also was denied citizenship for her work in the marijuana industry. She asked not to be named publicly because of a new job in the medical field, they said.

Deborah Cannon, a spokeswoman for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, said the agency does not comment on individual cases. She defended denials based on involvement with marijuana, saying the agency must follow federal law that prevents its use or sale.

"Despite state law that may allow medical marijuana use, the Supreme Court has held that Congress' authority under the Commerce Clause empowers it to prohibit drug distribution and possession, even if the prohibited activities are not also illegal under state law," she said. "When adjudicating applicants for citizenship, the agency is required to apply federal law. We appreciate the candor of applicants who provide the requisite documentation illustrating legal purchase and possession under state law. However, as a federal agency, we are legally unable to make special considerations in these cases unless or until federal law is changed."

The use and sale of marijuana for adults is broadly permitted in 10 states. More than 30 states allow a variety of marijuana-based products for medical purposes.

Advocates have warned immigrants in Colorado and elsewhere of the damage that state-permitted marijuana use could do to their legal status. A Denver nonprofit that focuses on immigrant and refugee communities paired with the state's largest marijuana trade group for a video campaign in 2017, and the Immigrant Legal Resource Center issued a similar warning in early 2018.

Most immigration attorneys would simply advise someone working in the marijuana industry not to apply for citizenship, even with Barrientos' qualifications, Elinoff said.

"Frankly, these are the people we want to be citizens," Elinoff said. "And the U.S. government is telling them no. We don't know how many people have been denied on the same issue."

Denver Mayor Michael Hancock met with Barrientos and others this week before calling on U.S. Attorney General William Barr to issue formal guidance on the issue.

"Denver understands the need for federal laws and regulations regarding citizenship and immigration, but we are seeing the heartbreaking effects that those federal laws and regulations are having on our residents," Hancock wrote in a letter to Barr. "However, under current federal policy, lawful, permanent residents like the Denver residents I have met with are being denied naturalization and may lose their legal status based on their lawful employment in the cannabis industry."

Barrientos said he plans to appeal the denial of his application. His attorneys are also considering his options in federal court.

In the meantime, he is following their advice not to leave the country and risk being barred from re-entering. He plans to keep his job and calls the government's denial of his application "downright wrong."

"I'm trying to help people," he said. "We want to work hard to live the American dream. That's all I've ever wanted."

---

Kathleen Foody is a member of AP's marijuana beat team. Follow her at [twitter.com/katiefoody](https://twitter.com/katiefoody). Find complete AP marijuana coverage here: [apnews.com/tag/Marijuana](https://apnews.com/tag/Marijuana).

## Yabba dabba don't: California town rejects Flintstones house

By JANIE HAR Associated Press

HILLSBOROUGH, Calif. (AP) — Towering dinosaurs stand among fanciful mushrooms in the sloping backyard. A life-sized Fred Flintstone welcomes visitors near the front door. And by the driveway on the lawn is a giant "Yabba Dabba Do" sign in orange, purple and red.

The latest battle in the war between government rules and property rights is playing out in a posh San Francisco suburb, where a retired publishing mogul has installed an elaborate homage to "The Flintstones"

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 30 of 49

family. The bold, bulbous house is surrounded by Stone Age sculptures inspired by the 1960s cartoon, along with aliens and other oddities.

The controversy has sparked international media coverage and an online petition signed by thousands to preserve the attention-grabbing property, visible from a nearby highway.

The 2,730-square-foot (832-square-meter) house itself is not at stake, but the town of Hillsborough says Florence Fang's multimillion-dollar property is a public nuisance and an eyesore. Officials filed a lawsuit in state court last month to make her remove the unpermitted garden installations. Fang does not live in the house but uses it to entertain.

An attorney for the 84-year-old says snobby officials want to squelch Fang's constitutional right to enjoy her yard, and promises a vigorous fight.

"Mrs. Fang has made people smile, she's giving them joy. What's not to love about Dino, who acts like a dog?" said Angela Alioto, a former San Francisco supervisor. "What is wrong with these people?"

The oddly shaped house, currently painted red and purple, was designed by architect William Nicholson and built in 1976. Fang, a prominent philanthropist who once published the San Francisco Examiner, bought the property in June 2017 for \$2.8 million.

The whimsical front yard has statues of Barney and Betty Rubble, along with Fred and Wilma. A sign reads "No Dino Allowed" and features a purple cartoon dinosaur. Colorful mushroom sculptures dot the front and back. A steep staircase, deemed unsafe by town officials, leads to a garden of giant metal pre-historic animals.

Mark Hudak, an attorney for Hillsborough, says the town prides itself on its rural, woodsy feel, and rules are in place "so neighbors don't have to look at your version of what you would like to have, and you don't have to look at theirs."

The case is simple, he said.

"Whether she is building a project with amusing cartoon characters or Rodin statues or anything else, she still has to go through the process like everyone else," he said.

Government has the right to enforce public safety codes, and to ensure property owners don't impinge on the rights of other property owners, said Tim Iglesias, a property professor at the University of San Francisco School of Law. Private property has been regulated in the United States since colonial times, he noted.

But Iglesias says it's unusual for a homeowner to ignore three work-stop orders issued by the city, as the March 13 complaint states Fang did. She also ignored an administrative order to remove the installations by Dec. 5, 2018, although she paid a \$200 fine.

"This is a situation where a very wealthy, sophisticated homeowner has basically thumbed her nose at the city consistently," he said. "If they let her get away, then all the other wealthy people in Hillsborough can say, 'Hey, I can do whatever I want with my property. Who cares about the planning department?'"

At a media tour of the property this week, Alioto said Fang will respond to the lawsuit with a counterclaim, but she declined to discuss specifics. She said Fang's constitutional rights to free speech and religion were violated. Fang was not made available for an interview.

"They want everything removed. They want the dinosaurs removed," Alioto said. "They wanted her to put a tree in front of the dinosaur, so you couldn't see the dinosaur."

David Levine, who specializes in civil litigation and remedies at the University of California Hastings College of the Law, said property owners flout permit regulations all the time. Usually, they pay a fine and correct any safety issues.

And as for which party might prevail in court?

"You have to figure out: Who's the twit? They're going to rule against the one that's being a twit," he said. "Is the twit the homeowner that ignored all the orders or the twits saying, 'We don't like Wilma and Betty?'"

## Forget kibbles: US sales of fresh pet food are soaring

By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Kibbles for Fido? Nope. These days he's getting diced chicken with sweet potatoes and spinach.

U.S. pet owners are increasingly feeding fresh food to their dogs and cats. Some order pre-proportioned meals of meat and vegetables or frozen raw meat online. Others find them in refrigerators at big retailers like Walmart.

Later this spring, Petco and its partner, California-based JustFoodForDogs, will open a kitchen at its flagship store in New York where it expects to make 2,000 pounds of fresh pet food every day.

Proponents say fresh foods preserve nutrients better than canned or dried ones, mimic ancestral diets and improve pets' health.

"Just as people have become skeptical of highly processed foods for themselves, they're looking critically at their pets' foods as well," said Amy Zalneraitis, part-owner and chief brand officer of We Feed Raw, a 10-year-old raw food meal plan service based in Maine. "They think: How could something with a shelf life of over year be better than real, fresh food?"

But some veterinarians question the trend. They say established pet food companies like 51-year-old Royal Canin are backed by decades of research, while the verdict is still out on fresh food.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says raw pet food has a high risk of bacterial contamination. The agency is also investigating a link between grain-free diets that contain peas, lentils and potatoes and elevated levels of heart disease in dogs.

"There are so many essential nutrients, from all different classes, that need to be considered," said Dr. Lindsey Bullen, a pet nutrition specialist with the Veterinary Specialist Hospital of the Carolinas. "If they are too high or too low, or in an inappropriate proportion, it can cause significant problems for that pet that the client might not see for months or years to come."

Bullen says about 20% of her clients feed their pets fresh food. When they do, she said, she questions them about the recipes they're following to make sure they're providing essential nutrients. Canine and feline supplements can help round out fresh meals.

Pet food trends tail human ones. When gravy was popular in the 1950s, Gravy Train dog food appeared. In the 1980s, Fancy Feast cat food mirrored a growing interest in gourmet food.

This time, younger buyers are fueling the trend, choosing pet foods they consider safer and more natural, says consulting firm Mintel.

U.S. sales of fresh pet food in groceries and pet stores jumped 70% to more than \$546 million between 2015 and 2018, according to Nielsen, a data company. That doesn't include online sales or people making their own fresh pet food. It's still just a fraction of the \$25 billion U.S. pet food market.

Deb Colgan was initially hesitant when she caught her husband feeding raw meat to their two German shepherds seven years ago. But after researching the benefits, they started buying raw meat and bones from the grocery. She works with her vet and adds supplements like vitamin E, salmon oil, probiotics and a joint supplement.

One of her dogs stopped vomiting regularly and gained weight. The other stopped getting ear and urinary tract infections. Those dogs eventually died, but the Colgans have continued the diet with two new dogs.

"It's very much a relief they are so healthy, and we do believe it's because how they eat," said Colgan, of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. "I can't imagine us ever going back to commercial."

Feeding pets raw food is the most expensive option. According to Nielsen data, the average fresh pet food costs \$5.26 per pound, while the average frozen raw pet food is \$6.23 per pound.

Colgan spends \$300 a month on fresh pet food, including three 10-pound rolls of meat per week, vegetables, fruit, fish and freeze-dried dog treats. By comparison, 30 pounds of Freshpet Vital brand turkey, peas carrots and rice, which is sold in refrigerated tubes, costs around \$85. A 31-pound bag of Purina One Smart Blend dry dog food costs \$33.79 on Amazon.com.

NomNomNow, which makes pre-proportioned fresh meals specific to each pet, says its service costs

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 32 of 49

\$2.60 to \$3.80 per meal for a 35-pound dog and \$1.50 to \$2.80 per meal for a 12-pound cat. That's a lot more than a 55-cent can of Friskies, but it's in line with some prescription pet foods.

The San Francisco-based company, which was founded four years ago, says it's making hundreds of thousands of meals per month and delivering them to customers in 48 states.

"The general health consciousness of Americans is transferring to their pets, because we do consider pets as part of our family," said Lynn Hubbard, the general manager of NomNomNow's Nashville, Tennessee, production facility.

Jesse, a pitbull lab mix from Austin, Texas, suffered from diarrhea, vomiting and itchy skin for most of her seven years. Vets tried steroids, which stopped the itching but made her gain weight. Her owner, Lannay Kibodeaux, tried cooking for her and feeding her raw food, but those didn't ease her problems either.

So Kibodeaux turned to NomNomNow, which developed a specialized diet for Jesse and sends her four recipes on a rotating basis. Her health has vastly improved, and she's off steroids, says Kibodeaux. And she likes the food better than the meals Kibodeaux was fixing for her.

"She literally will skip over to the bowl and keep licking the bowl after she's done," said Kibodeaux, a senior administrative assistant at the University of Texas. "It's just the answer to prayers for me."

AP Video Journalists Carrie Antfinger in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin; Allen G. Breed in Cary, North Carolina; and Kristin Hall in Nashville, Tennessee, contributed to this story.

## House Democrats ask IRS to provide Trump's tax returns

By MARCY GORDON AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House committee chairman formally asked the IRS to provide six years of President Donald Trump's personal tax returns and the returns for some of his businesses as Democrats try to shed light on his complex financial dealings and potential conflicts of interest.

The request by Massachusetts Rep. Richard Neal, who heads the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, is the first such demand for a sitting president's tax information in 45 years. The unprecedented move is likely to set off a huge legal battle between Democrats controlling the House and the Trump administration.

Neal made the request Wednesday in a letter to IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig, asking for Trump's personal and business returns for 2013 through 2018. He asked for the documents in seven days, setting an April 10 deadline.

Trump told reporters Wednesday he "would not be inclined" to provide his tax returns to the committee. An IRS spokesman said the agency had no immediate comment on Neal's request.

Democrats insist that obtaining Trump's tax filings falls within their mandate of congressional oversight. Republicans have denounced it as a political witch hunt and invoked privacy concerns.

"We have completed the necessary groundwork for a request of this magnitude, and I am certain we are within our legitimate legislative, legal and oversight rights," Neal said in a statement Wednesday evening.

Rep. Kevin Brady of Texas, the senior Republican on the Ways and Means panel, denounced the move as "an abuse of the tax-writing committees' statutory authority."

"Weaponizing our nation's tax code by targeting political foes sets a dangerous precedent and weakens Americans' privacy rights," Brady wrote in a letter Wednesday to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who oversees the IRS. "As you know, by law all Americans have a fundamental right to the privacy of the personal information found in their tax returns."

The legal battle set to ensue could take years to resolve, possibly stretching beyond the 2020 presidential election.

Trump broke with decades of tradition for presidential candidates by refusing to release his income tax filings during his 2016 campaign. He has said he won't release them because he is being audited, even though IRS officials have said taxpayers under audit are free to release their returns. Trump claimed at a news conference following the November election that the filings are too complex for people to understand.



The IRS has a policy of auditing the tax returns of all sitting presidents and vice presidents, "yet little is known about the effectiveness of this program," Neal said in the statement. "On behalf of the American people, the Ways and Means Committee must determine if that policy is being followed, and if so, whether these audits are conducted fully and appropriately."

Neal continued, "In order to fairly make that determination, we must obtain President Trump's tax returns and review whether the IRS is carrying out its responsibilities."

Neal is one of only three congressional officials authorized under to make a written request to the Treasury secretary for anyone's tax returns. The Internal Revenue Service is part of the Treasury Department. A rarely used 1924 law says the Treasury chief "shall furnish" the requested material to members of the Ways and Means Committee for them to examine behind closed doors.

A spokesman for Mnuchin didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Mnuchin suggested in testimony to Congress last month that he would protect Trump's privacy if the House Democrats requested his tax returns. "We will examine the request and we will follow the law ... and we will protect the president as we would protect any taxpayer" regarding their right to privacy, Mnuchin said.

## 'He hugs everybody': Women divided over defense of Biden

By JOCELYN NOVECK AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It's simply a "human touch." He's a "warm, affectionate person." "He hugs everybody."

In the days since allegations surfaced of uninvited touching on the part of Joe Biden, several women in politics and beyond have been coming to his defense, vouching for his character and saying it was merely his old-fashioned tactile style at issue — nothing intentional, and certainly nothing sexual.

But the nature of the defense, coming frequently but not exclusively from older women, as well as Biden's own assertion that he never felt he was acting inappropriately, raises some uncomfortable questions. Chief among them: If Biden really had no idea what he was doing, is he simply too out of step to be his party's standard-bearer in the #MeToo era?

"There's a bit of 'not getting it' when it comes to the gender story here," said Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics. "To me, there's been a patronizing quality to this, an alpha male asserting himself physically, that I think is problematic for him."

Neither Lucy Flores, the former Nevada politician who described an uncomfortable kiss on the back of her head, nor the other four women who came forward with their own stories before Wednesday have accused the former vice president of sexual harassment. Rather, they've described behavior that made them feel uncomfortable because it invaded their personal space, regardless of Biden's intentions.

On Wednesday night, The Washington Post reported that three additional women had recounted uncomfortable encounters with Biden. One of them, Vail Kohnert-Yount, said she was a White House intern in the spring of 2013 when she met Biden in the West Wing and that, as they chatted, he put his hand on the back of her head and pressed his forehead to hers and called her a "pretty girl."

For Biden, of course, the stakes are huge: He's deciding whether to jump into the crowded field for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination — a field that includes a half-dozen women.

Fighting to change the narrative, he released a video statement Wednesday, promising to be more mindful of physical boundaries. "Politics to me has always been about making connections, but I will be more mindful about respecting personal space in the future," he said. "I get it."

The statement, his second, came as some prominent women and longtime allies came to Biden's defense, none more passionately than former Sen. Jean Carnahan of Missouri. In a series of tweets, she noted Biden's "human touch" and praised the way he consoled her after she lost her husband and son.

"It was his empathy and encouragement ... that gave me strength to meet each day," Carnahan, a Democrat, wrote. "Yes, I sometimes got a shoulder pat or even a head kiss. Joe has a deep desire to share in the lives of others."

Across the aisle, Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine called Biden "just a warm, affectionate person."

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 34 of 49

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, while bluntly counseling him to change his behavior and "pretend you have a cold," said she did not see his behavior as disqualifying him for a presidential run.

Beyond politics, Gloria Steinem also had understanding words for Biden, saying in an email to The Associated Press that "I think women are more than smart enough to know that a) Joe Biden is who he is and hugs everybody, b) this was minor compared to most sexual harassment." But the feminist leader immediately added: "We all need to get to a place where bodies are private property and not to be touched without permission."

Steinem also noted this was a moment for change on the campaign trail: "When was the last time you saw a female candidate hugging every male supporter?" she mused. "Whatever is going on, it's way too gendered! We need to have the same guidelines for everybody."

In his statement, the 76-year-old Biden said he understands the changing "social norms," seeking to ease concerns about whether he is up to adapting to a new era, where what was once considered by some to be charming — a quick compliment on a woman's appearance or a flirtatious hug — is now seen as boundary crossing. Biden's initial comments, insisting that he never knew his behavior was making women uncomfortable, were in themselves troubling to some women.

"I keep hearing, 'Well, he's an older man and it's a generational thing,'" said Walsh at Rutgers. "But one of the issues he's going to be confronting as a candidate is a generational question. This may, in fact, point out the generational difference of how he sees women and the way he behaves himself around women."

Laura Kelber, 61, a Democratic voter and a screenwriter in New York, takes issue with Biden's focus on his own intentions.

Intentions, she said, are not the point. "It's not OK to demean and invade women's space," she said. "It's totally offensive and inappropriate." Kelber said she's proud of younger women for sounding the alert about Biden's physical behavior.

But the debate didn't split neatly on generational lines.

Meghan McCain called Biden "one of the truly decent and compassionate men in all of politics." The 34-year-old daughter of the late Republican Sen. John McCain is a co-host of "The View," where she and Biden shared an emotional moment during her father's illness. Biden, a friend of the Arizona senator's, was praised at the time for switching seats with another host so he could grasp a weeping McCain's hands as he consoled her.

"I feel saddened that people are jumping on this issue just to find dirt," said Rachel Corson, 19. "Someone who is very highly respected in government who might have made a mistake and wasn't clear with his communication ... I find it disheartening that we are looking for something he did wrong."

Complicating the debate was the question of a political double standard, given long-standing accusations of sexual misconduct against President Donald Trump and his famous boast, on tape, about groping women.

Trump was asked Wednesday whether Biden should apologize for the ways he has interacted with women, and he replied, "No, he's going to make his own decisions. He's very capable of making a decision, I assume."

Some feminist advocates have preferred not to comment on the Biden issue because of that perceived double standard, not wanting to criticize either the women expressing discomfort or Biden himself.

Some voters, though, had no problem invoking it. "We have a president who grabs crotches, and now we are damning this man?" said Susan Chandler, a 72-year-old retired assistant principal in New Hampshire.

Corson, the college student, said she thinks there could be a silver lining to the episode; women may feel bolder about speaking up in situations that perhaps don't rise to the level of harassment but need to be aired nonetheless.

"Feeling uncomfortable is never OK," she said. "This may open a window for more people who aren't in the public eye to say, 'Yeah, that happened to me. I felt uncomfortable, and I think it was wrong.'"

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 35 of 49

## 14-year-old says he is Illinois boy who went missing in 2011

By COREY WILLIAMS AND CARYN ROUSSEAU Associated Press

In 2011, 6-year-old Timmothy Pitzen's mother picked him up at school in Illinois, took him to the zoo and a water park, and then killed herself at a hotel, leaving a note in which she said her son was fine but that no one would ever find him.

On Wednesday, a 14-year-old boy came forward to tell authorities he is Timmothy.

The boy claimed he escaped from two kidnappers in the Cincinnati area and then fled across a bridge into Kentucky.

Authorities from Timmothy's hometown of Aurora, Illinois, are now checking out the teenager's story.

"We've probably had thousands of tips of him popping up in different areas," Aurora police Sgt. Bill Rowley said. "We have no idea what we're driving down there for. It could be Pitzen. It could be a hoax."

Timmothy Pitzen's grandmother, Alana Anderson, told WISN-TV Wednesday that authorities have told the family "very little."

"We just know a 14-year-old boy was found and went to the police," Anderson said. "We don't want to get our hopes up and our family's hopes up until we know something. We just don't want to get our hopes up. We've had false reports and false hopes before."

Police in the Cincinnati suburb of Sharonville wrote in a short incident report that the boy said Wednesday morning that he had "just escaped from two kidnappers" he described as white men with body builder-type physiques. They were in a Ford SUV with Wisconsin license plates and had been staying at a Red Roof Inn.

Sharonville police said on the department's Facebook page that the information about the boy's reported escape was received by police in Campbell County, Kentucky.

"The City of Sharonville Police Department, like every other police agency in the greater Cincinnati area, was requested to check their Red Roof Inn hotels regarding this incident," the post read. "To the best of our knowledge, we have no information indicating that the missing juvenile was ever in the City of Sharonville."

The FBI said in a statement Wednesday afternoon that its offices in Cincinnati and in Louisville, Kentucky, were working on a missing child investigation with Aurora police and police departments in Cincinnati and Newport, Kentucky, and the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office in Ohio. The FBI offered no other details.

The body of 43-year-old Amy Fry-Pitzen was found on May 15, 2011. Her wrists were slit. Police believe she killed herself at a hotel in Rockford, Illinois, after taking Timmothy to the zoo and a Wisconsin water park.

A note she left said Timmothy was fine but that no one would ever find him. Police investigating her death said she took steps that suggest she might have dropped her son off with a friend.

At the time, police searched for Timmothy in Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa.

## APNewsBreak: US condemns 'broken' Alabama prison system

By KIM CHANDLER and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Alabama has the nation's deadliest prisons, where violence is "too common, cruel, of an unusual nature, and pervasive" the Department of Justice found Wednesday in a scathing report that said male inmates are housed in unconstitutional conditions.

During a single week in Alabama's prison system, one inmate bled to death after being stabbed repeatedly as two others stood guard at a dormitory's doors. Another stabbed inmate had to be evacuated by helicopter. A prisoner in a dorm reserved for those with good behavior was attacked with a sock filled with metal locks.

The Justice Department said inmates endure an "extraordinarily high rate of violence at the hands of other prisoners," with the number of inmate-on-inmate attacks spiking dramatically in the last five and a half years. The department gave Alabama 49 days to begin to correct the violations or possibly face a federal lawsuit.

"Our investigation found reasonable cause to believe that Alabama fails to provide constitutionally adequate conditions and that prisoners experience serious harm, including deadly harm, as a result," Assis-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 36 of 49

tant Attorney General Eric Dreiband, who leads the department's civil rights division, said in a statement.

The report lays out in unsparing detail a culture of violence across the state's 13 prisons for men, which house roughly 16,000 inmates in dangerously understaffed prisons that are also among the nation's most overcrowded. It chronicles inmate rapes, beatings and fatal stabbings at the hands of fellow prisoners and decries a management system that undercounts homicides and fails to protect prisoners even when warned of a problem.

In February 2018, one prisoner was killed the day after telling prison officials he'd been threatened in a dispute over a cellphone. In another prison that same month, an inmate who'd been repeatedly disciplined for knife possession fatally stabbed another prisoner in a fight.

Rapes happen day and night in all corners of the prisons — dormitories, cells, showers and recreation areas — and are "too often undetected or prevented" by prison staff, according to the report. Investigators reviewed more than 600 reported inmate-on-inmate sexual assaults from late 2016 through April 2018, the report said, and "did not identify a single incident in which a correctional officer or other staff member observed or intervened" to stop it.

The prison system documented 24 prisoner homicides between January 2015 and June 2018, but the Justice Department said that high number was an undercount: It identified three more, and said the state sometimes classifies violent deaths as arising from natural causes.

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey said in a statement that the federal investigation identified some of the same issues the state has been trying to address, including the need to hire additional officers to combat high rates of violence.

"Over the coming months, my Administration will be working closely with DOJ to ensure that our mutual concerns are addressed and that we remain steadfast in our commitment to public safety, making certain that this Alabama problem has an Alabama solution," Ivey said.

The Southern Poverty Law Center shared with The Associated Press photos from someone inside an Alabama prison that showed inmates stabbed and bloody or dead in their cells. In one photo, a knife sticks out of a man's back. Other images show what appears to be the aftermath of fires set by inmates and knives confiscated by officers.

The Justice Department report said the assaults and a homicide during a single week in September 2017 are "a window into a broken system that too often disregards prisoners' safety."

In one incident that week in a unit nicknamed the "Hot Bay" for housing inmates with disciplinary infractions, an inmate bled to death after being stabbed while two prisoners stood guard at the dormitory door. The inmate screamed for help as prisoners banged on the door to try to get the attention of officers.

"One Hot Bay resident told us that he could still hear the prisoner's screams in his sleep," the report stated.

The findings are the latest blow to the state's troubled prison system. The Justice Department in 2015 ordered changes at the state's only prison for women. A federal judge in 2017 ruled that the state has provided "horrendously inadequate" care to mentally ill inmates and ordered changes. The same judge this week is weighing whether to order the state to take immediate action after 15 inmate suicides in 15 months.

"The Justice Department hopes to work with Alabama to resolve the Department's concerns," Dreiband wrote. The letter included dozens of recommendations, among them the immediate hiring of 500 new corrections officer and eventual addition of up to 1,500 more.

This year, the prison system requested legislative funding to hire 500 additional corrections officers.

Ivey said she appreciates the "open lines of communication," and said the state has already been trying to address problems, citing her proposal to build three new large regional prisons for men and the state's work to hire additional officers.

That statement of cooperation is undercut by notations in the letter that showed the state and federal government disagreed on turning over some documents. The department says it still can't determine whether Alabama's prisons are protecting prisoners from excessive force and sexual abuse from staff, because its petition to enforce its subpoena for relevant documents remains pending in court.

This investigation opened in 2016 at the end of the Obama administration, which launched wide-ranging

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 37 of 49

probes of troubled police departments and corrections systems. Some led to agreements to make changes under federal oversight. The Trump administration has been more hands-off, and former Attorney General Jeff Sessions, a longtime Alabama senator, limited the use of such consent decrees before he left office.

"I don't think there is any dispute that the conditions in Alabama prisons are desperate. They are the worst I've seen in 35 years. There is an immediate need for reform," attorney Bryan Stevenson said. His Equal Justice Initiative asked the Justice Department to investigate the men's prisons after the department intervened in Alabama's only prison for women.

Stevenson said state officials have been talking about prison issues for some time, but he said doesn't think they've shown enough urgency in addressing the violence and corruption.

"People are being murdered on a regular basis," Stevenson said.

Alabama also has been trying to address crowding through sentencing reform, but the threat of a federal lawsuit will force the state to address other issues such as sexual assaults said Republican state Sen. Cam Ward, who chairs a legislative prison oversight committee.

"We don't have much of a choice. Something has got to happen," Ward said.

Tucker contributed from Washington.

## UK legislates to avert chaotic Brexit as May seeks new plan

By JILL LAWLESS and RAF CASERT Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Brexit drama went into overtime Wednesday as Prime Minister Theresa May and the country's main opposition sought a compromise deal to prevent an abrupt British departure from the European Union at the end of next week.

In an about-face that left pro-Brexit members of May's Conservative Party howling with outrage, the prime minister sought to forge an agreement with left-wing Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn after failing three times to win Parliament's backing for her Brexit deal.

May also said she would ask the EU for a further delay to Britain's departure date — postponed once already — to avert a chaotic and economically damaging no-deal Brexit on April 12. Skeptical lawmakers, reluctant to take her word for it, approved a hastily crafted law that compels May to ask for an extension to the Brexit deadline if a no-deal departure is looming.

"The country needs a solution, the country deserves a solution, and that's what I'm working to find," May told lawmakers before meeting with Corbyn for about two hours.

Afterward, both the government and Labour called the meeting "constructive" and said their teams would hold more in-depth talks Thursday.

May's office said both sides had shown "flexibility and a commitment to bring the current Brexit uncertainty to a close."

Corbyn, more muted, said "the meeting was useful but inconclusive."

"There hasn't been as much change as I expected," he said.

May's change of direction left her caught between angry Conservatives who accuse her of throwing away Brexit, and Labour opponents mistrustful of her sudden change of heart.

Labour lawmaker Paul Sweeney said May's outreach to his party "shows the desperation that she's in."

Pro-Brexit Conservatives, meanwhile, expressed outrage. Two junior ministers quit, and other lawmakers angrily accused May of putting the socialist Corbyn in the Brexit driver's seat.

Her cross-party talks — after almost three years of seeking to push through her own version of a Brexit divorce deal — came amid EU warnings that a damaging withdrawal without a plan was growing more likely by the day.

After lawmakers three times rejected an agreement struck between the bloc and May late last year, the leaders of the EU's 27 remaining countries postponed the original March 29 Brexit date and gave the U.K. until April 12 to approve the divorce deal or come up with a new one.

So far the House of Commons has failed to find a majority for any alternative plan.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 38 of 49

"A no deal on 12 April at midnight looks more and more likely," European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said Wednesday, adding that would bring disruption for EU citizens and businesses, but much worse economic damage for Britain.

EU Economy Commissioner Pierre Moscovici said a "no-deal" Brexit would mean long lines at borders and paperwork headaches for customs checks on the 11,000 vehicles entering and leaving Britain each day.

Bank of England Governor Mark Carney warned that, even though Britain and the EU both wanted to avoid a no-deal Brexit, it remained the legal default position, and the risk of Britain accidentally crashing out was "alarmingly high."

Carney told Sky News that claims by pro-Brexit politicians that such a situation could be managed were "absolute nonsense."

May's pivot toward Labour points Britain toward a softer Brexit than the one she has championed since British voters decided in June 2016 to leave the EU. Labour wants the U.K. to remain in the EU's customs union — a trading area that sets common tariffs on imports to the bloc while allowing free trade in goods moving between member states.

May has always ruled that out, saying it would limit Britain's ability to forge an independent trade policy.

May's decision to negotiate with Corbyn is risky for both the Conservatives and Labour, and could widen divisions over Brexit that run through both parties.

Labour is formally committed to enacting the voters' decision to leave the EU, but many of the party's lawmakers want a new referendum that could keep Britain in the bloc. They will be angry if the party actively helps bring about the U.K.'s departure.

Meanwhile, May's move infuriated pro-Brexit Conservatives who say Britain must make a clean break with the EU in order to take control of its laws and trade policy.

Former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said Brexit "is becoming soft to the point of disintegration."

Junior Wales Minister Nigel Adams quit his post, criticizing May for seeking a deal with "a Marxist who has never once in his political life put British interests first" — a reference to the left-wing Corbyn.

He was followed by junior Brexit minister Chris Heaton-Harris, who said in his resignation letter that the government "should have honored the result of the 2016 referendum" and left the EU on March 29.

Meanwhile, pro-EU lawmakers were not banking on talks between May and Corbyn succeeding. The House of Commons on Wednesday approved a bill to ensure May can't go back on her promise to seek a delay to Brexit rather than let Britain tumble out of the bloc.

The bill, debated and approved in a single day, compels May to seek to extend the Brexit process beyond April 12 in order to prevent a no-deal departure. In a reflection of how divided lawmakers are over Brexit, it passed by a single vote, 313-312.

The bill still needs approval from the House of Lords, Parliament's unelected upper chamber — likely on Thursday. And it does not force the EU to agree to delay Brexit.

EU leaders, weary of the whole Brexit circus, gave a cautious welcome to May's attempt at rapprochement.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she would work "until the last hour" to secure an orderly Brexit, but stressed that "these solutions have to be reached above all in Britain itself."

Britain's televised political melodrama over Brexit — with its weeks of passionate debates, narrow votes and seemingly endless crises — has left EU leaders exasperated, but also fascinated.

The EU's Brexit coordinator, Guy Verhofstadt, joked that "the sessions in the House of Commons have become more popular than the matches in the Premier League."

"The trouble is that it is always a draw in the House of Commons," he said.

---

Casert reported from Brussels. Associated Press writers Danica Kirka in London and Geir Moulson in Berlin contributed.

---

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

## Bernie Sanders to appear in Fox News town hall meeting

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Fox News Channel says that Sen. Bernie Sanders will appear on a televised town hall on April 15, making him the first Democratic candidate to venture onto Fox for this type of event in the current presidential cycle.

It's an important booking for Fox, after the Democratic National Committee announced last month that it would not hold any of its presidential debates on the network. The committee said it was concerned about whether Fox could hold a fair and neutral event.

Bret Baier and Martha MacCallum will co-anchor the town hall, which will be held in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Scheduled for the day taxes are due, the forum will focus on the economy and jobs, Fox said on Wednesday.

It will air at 6:30 p.m. EDT. That avoids the prime-time hours where opinion shows hosted by Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham reign, and where Fox gets most of its viewers.

The Democratic National Committee says it stands by its decision not to put Democratic presidential hopefuls onstage together for a Fox event. But party leaders say that individual candidates are free to make their own decisions about media appearances. Fox, the network of choice for many fans of President Donald Trump, is routinely the most-watched cable network in the country.

"The DNC believes that we must reach all voters, including (the Fox) audience," said party spokeswoman Xochitl Hinojosa, who is among the handful of aides to party Chairman Tom Perez coordinating 2020 debate plans. "Candidates should do what they need to do in order to engage these voters directly."

Bill Sammon, Fox's senior Vice President and managing editor in Washington, said he believes the same logic should extend to the debates, and he hopes the DNC will reconsider its decision.

Sanders appeared in a Fox town hall during his 2016 primary campaign.

The Democratic socialist elected to the Senate from Vermont as an independent might seem like an ill fit for a Fox audience that regularly hears hosts and guests bash Democrats and "socialism" as fundamental threats. Yet Sanders, perhaps more than any of his primary rivals, might be able to use the network as a bridge to white working-class voters who might respond to his economic populism and broadsides against the establishment.

His decision was met with surprise and dismay among some liberals, many of whom let their opinions profanely be known online.

Carolyn Fiddler, political and communications strategist for the progressive website Daily Kos, called Sanders' decision to do another Fox town hall "unfortunate and dismaying" and said it's certain to upset many Daily Kos followers. The site earlier this year gathered more than 100,000 signatures on a petition that urged Perez not to select Fox News as a debate partner during the 2020 campaign.

"I don't know why he would lend his considerable presence to a network that routinely pushes sexist and racist tropes about progressives and his supporters," Fiddler said.

The liberal watchdogs Media Matters for America, which has urged advertisers to avoid Fox's opinionated shows, said the timing of Sanders' appearance is bad.

"If you want to go on Fox, fine," tweeted Angelo Carusone, Media Matters' president. "But wait until after the ad sales period is over. If you go on Fox between now and May, they will use your appearance to help neutralize all the advertiser blowback."

Fox had no direct response to the critics. But it has stressed the news chops of its journalists like Baier, Chris Wallace and Shepard Smith, and says it is making a point by scheduling the town hall to straddle news hours regularly hosted by Baier and MacCallum. Fox held its first-ever sales presentation to advertisers last month, where news was emphasized over opinion.

Sanders' decision may give cover to other Democrats who worry that courting Fox's large audience could alienate liberal fans.

Baier tweeted in response to Wednesday's news: "Looking forward to it. Others are in the works."

Town halls are attention-getters for cable networks and can draw big audiences. CNN has already held

eight such events for the 2020 nomination fight and has five more scheduled. MSNBC has only held one town hall, with Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, but candidates have appeared for interviews on MSNBC programs.

Political writer Bill Barrow in Washington contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to remove an incorrect reference to Hillary Clinton not appearing at a 2016 Fox town hall. She did appear in a town hall on the network.

## **Study: Safe to transplant hepatitis C-infected hearts, lungs**

**By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Doctors can safely transplant hepatitis C-infected lungs and hearts into people desperate for a new organ, say researchers who may have found a way to protect those patients from getting the risky virus.

The experiment, reported Wednesday, is the latest attempt to put a dent in the nation's long transplant waiting list by using organs that otherwise would be wasted, often ones from victims of the opioid epidemic.

The new twist: Instead of trying to cure hepatitis C after it took hold in transplant recipients, researchers at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital say a faster, cheaper treatment seems to prevent infection in the first place.

"This is about not discarding organs that are medically suitable," said Dr. Ann Woolley, a Brigham infectious disease specialist who co-authored the study in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Transplanting organs that could infect someone with a liver-damaging virus sounds drastic, but the organ shortage has more hospitals giving it a try. More than 113,000 people are on the national waiting list for a transplant; just 36,529 people got one last year. For heart or lung transplants, about 1,000 people a year die waiting.

"I knew that time was getting shorter for me," said Rexford Kelley, 71, of Searsport, Maine. So he sought out the Brigham study in hopes that accepting a lung infected with hepatitis C would mean a speedier transplant. "I'm thankful I got the lung," said the retired state trooper, who now breathes easy enough to get back on the golf course.

Until recently, doctors tended to transplant hepatitis C-infected organs only into patients who already had that virus.

But in 2016, spurred by powerful new drugs that promised to cure hepatitis C, surgeons began experimenting with so-called mismatched transplants — giving infected kidneys to hepatitis-free recipients. If those patients showed signs of infection, they got three months of medicine to beat it back. Last year, small studies at the University of Pennsylvania and Johns Hopkins University showed not only were patients cured of their hepatitis, the new kidney worked fine.

It was time to test more scarce transplants of lungs or hearts. Among the questions: Would hepatitis C make it harder to transplant those more fragile organs? And because the hepatitis medicine costs tens of thousands of dollars, could patients fare as well with a shorter — and cheaper — course of treatment?

In February, Penn researchers reported the standard three-month treatment cured 10 recipients of a hepatitis C-infected heart. One eventually died of organ rejection but the others were faring well.

Brigham researchers took a different approach. Within hours of either a heart or lung transplant, participants started taking medicine for a month in hopes of blocking hepatitis C infection rather than having to treat it.

The study detailed how about half of the 69 transplant recipients so far are faring. Six months after transplant, none showed signs of hepatitis C and their organs were functioning well. One died eight months after transplant from a bacterial infection unrelated to the hepatitis but 15 are doing well a year later.

Woolley said researchers might test even shorter treatment, noting the virus was undetectable at two weeks.

It might work "because maybe the virus hasn't had the chance to establish itself," said Dr. Peter Reese,



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 41 of 49

a Penn kidney specialist who helped pioneer hepatitis C mismatch transplants but wasn't involved in the latest research. But, "if the short course doesn't work, it's incumbent to be up front with patients about what they would do."

Larger and longer studies are key for all hepatitis C-infected transplants, Reese added.

Many hospitals aren't waiting for more evidence. Last year, there were 1,274 hepatitis C-infected transplants in people without the virus compared to several hundred the year before, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing, which oversees the nation's transplant system.

"It's not established that cure rates are 100 percent," cautioned UNOS chief medical officer Dr. David Klassen. "To believe they would be, would be a little naive."

But one Penn heart recipient said patients should know this option could cut their waiting time. Tom Giangliulio Jr., 59, of Waterford Township, New Jersey, was steadily deteriorating after two years awaiting a transplant when doctors asked if he'd be their study's first volunteer. He was transplanted in June 2017.

"My first thought was saving my life," he recalled. "My next thought was, 'I'm the front-runner here. What I'm doing could open up a tremendous number of hearts to other recipients.'"

---

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

## US investigates seizure risk with electronic cigarettes

By **MATTHEW PERRONE** AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. health officials are investigating whether electronic cigarettes may trigger seizures in some people who use the nicotine-vaping devices.

The Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday it has reviewed 35 reports of seizures among e-cigarettes users, mainly in young people. Regulators stressed it's not yet clear whether vaping is responsible. But they said they're concerned and encouraged the public to report information about the issue.

These cases warrant "investigation into whether there is in fact a connection," FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said in a statement. Gottlieb is stepping down on Friday after nearly two years heading the agency.

Cases go back to 2010 and were reported to the FDA or poison control centers around the country. Regulators said they detected an uptick in reports beginning mid-2018. While they represent a tiny fraction of Americans who have used e-cigarettes, many safety issues with foods, supplements and other consumer products can go unrecognized because reporting is voluntary.

Most e-cigarettes heat a flavored nicotine solution into an inhalable vapor. The battery-powered devices have grown into a multibillion dollar industry though there are few standards, including how much nicotine they deliver. Additionally, many refillable e-cigarettes can be used with nicotine formulas of varying strength.

Nicotine poisoning can cause seizures, convulsions, vomiting and brain injury. The FDA has previously warned of potentially fatal nicotine poisoning in infants and children who accidentally swallowed nicotine solutions.

Seizures usually last a few seconds or minutes and rarely cause permanent injury. But they can be a sign of underlying neurological disorders that need medical attention.

Laboratory and animal studies have found a link between nicotine and hyperactivity in the brain. What needs further study is what type of e-cigarette could deliver levels of nicotine capable of causing seizures, said Maciej Goniewicz, a toxicologist at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo, New York.

The FDA said the handful of seizure reports often lack information about the brand of e-cigarette or whether users had a medical condition that might have contributed. In some cases, e-cigarettes were being used with drugs like marijuana and amphetamines. Some seizures were reported after just a few puffs of the device, others after a day of use.

The FDA is asking consumers to report problems to an online site. The agency is seeking details about vaping brands and models and whether users who have experienced problems were also taking medications, supplements or other drugs.

A spokesman for the American Vaping Association called the FDA announcement “incredibly irresponsible,” given the uncertain connection between e-cigarettes and the handful of reports cited.

“It would actually be highly unusual if zero consumers of a product used by millions of adults over the last decade reported suffering a seizure,” spokesman Gregory Conley said in a statement.

It’s not the first time the FDA has flagged a potential health hazard with vaping devices — the agency has warned of rare burns and explosions related to overheating of batteries that power the devices.

The latest concern comes amid a nationwide push to fight underage use of e-cigarettes, which have surged in popularity among high school and middle school students. Last month the FDA outlined new restrictions on retail and online sales of most flavored e-cigarettes. Meanwhile, local and state officials are considering age restrictions, taxes and flavor bans to keep the products away from teenagers.

Follow Matthew Perrone on Twitter: @AP\_FDAswriter

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

## Creeping floodwaters threaten Washington’s cherry blossoms

By ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington’s cherry blossom season has gone well this year, thanks to warm weather that has coincided perfectly with the annual blooming that draws hundreds of thousands of visitors each spring.

But officials are claiming that Washington’s iconic trees are under a looming threat that requires emergency action.

Decades of wear and tear from foot traffic, combined with rising sea levels and a deteriorating sea wall, have created a chronic flooding problem in the Tidal Basin. The 107-acre man-made reservoir borders the Jefferson Memorial and is home to the highest concentration of cherry blossom trees.

“The Tidal Basin is at a pivotal moment,” said Jeff Reinbold, acting superintendent for the National Mall and Memorial Parks division of the National Park Service. “The area was never designed for the kind of use it sees today.”

The National Park Service, along with the Trust for the National Mall and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is undertaking a campaign to save the Tidal Basin. In addition to rebuilding the battered sea wall and addressing the flooding problem, the groups want to improve walkways and update security systems.

Twice a day at high tide, a large stretch of sidewalk next to the Jefferson Memorial is submerged by the rising waters. During the heavy rains that routinely occur in Washington, the floodwaters completely overflow the sea wall in multiple locations and soak the tree roots.

It’s more than just an inconvenience.

Teresa Durkin, senior project director of the Trust for the National Mall, said the higher silt concentration of the floodwaters is shortening the life span of the hundreds of cherry blossom trees that ring the basin.

“The infrastructure is breaking down because of the daily flooding. The trees are being inundated with brackish water,” she said. “People do love these trees and we keep having to replace them.”

Early estimates are that the rehabilitation project would require as much as \$500 million, with organizers seeking a combination of government money and private donations.

The organizations are partnering with American Express, which is funding the creation of the Tidal Basin Ideas Lab and inviting architectural and landscape design firms to submit proposals for replacing the sea wall and refurbishing and modernizing the entire area.

Sean Kennealy, the chief of professional services for the National Mall and Memorial Parks division, said the original 1880s design of the Tidal Basin simply wasn’t equipped to handle the kinds of crowds and traffic the area now receives. That traffic has only increased as more monuments have been added to the

Tidal Basin area over the years: a memorial to Franklin Roosevelt opened in 1997, and the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial was inaugurated in 2011.

Even without the worsening flooding problem, Kennealy said the entire network of sidewalks and pathways needs to be expanded to accommodate the modern visitor numbers.

"People have started making their own paths through the grass because the walkways are either not wide enough or underwater," Kennealy said. "The trees just aren't being protected the way they should be."

For now the Tidal Basin's structural issues remain fairly low key. Janice Contreras, a tourist from Arizona visiting the Tidal Basin on Wednesday, said it didn't really affect her experience. But it's hard not to notice a large stretch of sidewalk seemingly being reclaimed by the advancing waters.

"Does that really happen twice a day," she asked. "It doesn't really bother me, but there's no way that's good for the trees, right?"

## Some ideas for treating a favored newborn like royalty

By **LEANNE ITALIE** Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Your sister, best friend or beloved cousin just had her first baby and you'd like to treat your favored newborn to some luxury. But where to begin?

Where you live and how you shop — online only, swanky department stores or exclusive boutiques — will help determine your options, along with the fast-moving local trends where your little "royal" resides.

The mindset of baby's parents also matters. Do they have traditional taste? Are they modernists? Is laid-back chic, chemical free or New Age more their style?

In celebration of the upcoming birth of the first baby for Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, some gear and gift ideas to get you started:

### PRAM OR STROLLER

What does actual royalty use? Well, in Britain it's usually Silver Cross. Founded in 1877, the company has been bouncing royal babies in their fancy prams since the birth of King George VI. Prince Charles got around in one when he was born and now the three children of Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton, have shared their Silver Cross ride.

The company has lots of options if you can't afford the top of the line, hand-built Silver Cross Surf Aston Martin, for example. It's available at Harrods for about \$4,000, as is the Marie-Chantal Kensington for nearly \$2,000. They convert from carry pram to stroller. Silver Cross is available in stores around the world, including the United States.

Too rich for your blood, or simply not the right vibe? Go for UPPAbaby (one in the Vista collection with a bassinet runs nearly \$1,000) or a fun and funky Bugaboo. The convertible Track collection from Bugaboo sells for up to \$2,000 or so, depending on add-ons.

### ROYAL DUDS

Let's cut to the chase. While thoroughly modern Meghan may choose less traditional looks for her No. 7 in line for the throne, sister-in-law Kate has some favorite British brands for her brood, including No. 3 Prince George and little sis Charlotte.

The bite-size princess is quite the fashion influencer, with some of her smock dresses selling out in just a few hours.

Some of Kate's brands: Amaia (Charlotte's \$184 burgundy coat for her first day of school), Pepa & Co. (George's whale jumper — think sweater — when he was 3) and My 1st Years, because who can forget that adorable monogrammed robe George sported to meet then-President Barack Obama?

Kate's choices aren't always hugely pricey, so don't sweat it.

And for Meghan's royal bundle? Meghan the American. Meghan the Californian. Petit Tresor has all manner of gear, nursery furniture and baby blankets, including monogrammed cashmere blankets with crochet trim for up to \$700. Elegant Child of Beverly Hills has a selection of Charlotte-worthy party dresses in the \$380 to \$480 range.

For the feet? Perhaps the Duchess of Sussex will hop on the Freshly Picked bandwagon and outfit her

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 44 of 49

baby in a pair of \$60 "it" fringe moccasin-style soft shoes. There's a wide range to choose from.

## SILVER SPOONS AND SUCH

There's always that gift option of a keepsake. Take your pick at Tiffany & Co. for silver spoons, cups and baby brushes. Don't miss the company's earthenware banks for \$125. They include elephants, pigs and bunnies.

Queen Elizabeth II, the Duchess of Cambridge and various other royals and celebrities have been spotted at London's high-end Fortnum & Mason department store. Online, you can find the timeless Harmony Barbell Rattle for 140 British pounds. It's hand-tuned. It has 16 tones. It's crafted from German silver with an ample covering of sterling for added strength.

How about you hunt down a rare edition of a children's classic book? Let Abebooks.com drop some knowledge on that. Search the site for the world's most valuable editions.

## THAT CALIFORNIA VIBE

Markle has embraced mindfulness as her pregnancy has progressed. Jerico Mandybur is fresh out with "Neo Tarot: A Fresh Approach to Self-Care, Healing and Empowerment," a beautiful deck of illustrated tarot cards published by Hardie Grant and available on Amazon for \$22.48. Mandybur shows how to use the ancient cards and practices as healing tools first and foremost.

Just how Southern California the Duchess of Sussex will get when it comes to her baby is unknown. The nursery at Frogmore Cottage, on the grounds of Windsor Castle, will reportedly be eco-friendly and gender-neutral in design touches heavy on gray and white.

Will that color scheme take off in baby gifts? Saks Fifth Avenue online sells an Aden (plus) Anais 100 percent cotton baby blanket, the Dream Serengeti, in a gray print with rhinos for nearly \$50.

Stella McCartney isn't a Californian, but she's feeling "cool California vibes" in the latest from her children's collection. That includes an adorable gray baby jumpsuit (for any gender) with a green and blue snake winding through, done in 100% organic cotton for \$80. There's a palm tree print in blue, yellow and green on a gray T-shirt for \$58.

British designer. Check. California cool. Double check.

## Face recognition researcher fights Amazon over biased AI

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Facial recognition technology was already seeping into everyday life — from your photos on Facebook to police scans of mugshots — when Joy Buolamwini noticed a serious glitch: Some of the software couldn't detect dark-skinned faces like hers.

That revelation sparked the Massachusetts Institute of Technology researcher to launch a project that's having an outsize influence on the debate over how artificial intelligence should be deployed in the real world.

Her tests on software created by brand-name tech firms such as Amazon uncovered much higher error rates in classifying the gender of darker-skinned women than for lighter-skinned men.

Along the way, Buolamwini has spurred Microsoft and IBM to improve their systems and irked Amazon, which publicly attacked her research methods. On Wednesday, a group of AI scholars, including a winner of computer science's top prize, launched a spirited defense of her work and called on Amazon to stop selling its facial recognition software to police.

Her work has also caught the attention of political leaders in statehouses and Congress and led some to seek limits on the use of computer vision tools to analyze human faces.

"There needs to be a choice," said Buolamwini, a graduate student and researcher at MIT's Media Lab. "Right now, what's happening is these technologies are being deployed widely without oversight, oftentimes covertly, so that by the time we wake up, it's almost too late."

Buolamwini is hardly alone in expressing caution about the fast-moving adoption of facial recognition by police, government agencies and businesses from stores to apartment complexes. Many other researchers have shown how AI systems, which look for patterns in huge troves of data, will mimic the institutional

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 45 of 49

biases embedded in the data they are learning from. For instance, if AI systems are developed using images of mostly white men, the systems will work best in recognizing white men.

Those disparities can sometimes be a matter of life or death: One recent study of the computer vision systems that enable self-driving cars to "see" the road shows they have a harder time detecting pedestrians with darker skin tones.

What's struck a chord about Boulamwini's work is her method of testing the systems created by well-known companies. She applies such systems to a skin-tone scale used by dermatologists, then names and shames those that show racial and gender bias. Buolamwini, who's also founded a coalition of scholars, activists and others called the Algorithmic Justice League, has blended her scholarly investigations with activism.

"It adds to a growing body of evidence that facial recognition affects different groups differently," said Shankar Narayan, of the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington state, where the group has sought restrictions on the technology. "Joy's work has been part of building that awareness."

Amazon, whose CEO, Jeff Bezos, she emailed directly last summer, has responded by aggressively taking aim at her research methods.

A Buolamwini-led study published just over a year ago found disparities in how facial-analysis systems built by IBM, Microsoft and the Chinese company Face Plus Plus classified people by gender. Darker-skinned women were the most misclassified group, with error rates of up to 34.7%. By contrast, the maximum error rate for lighter-skinned males was less than 1%.

The study called for "urgent attention" to address the bias.

"I responded pretty much right away," said Ruchir Puri, chief scientist of IBM Research, describing an email he received from Buolamwini last year.

Since then, he said, "it's been a very fruitful relationship" that informed IBM's unveiling this year of a new 1 million-image database for better analyzing the diversity of human faces. Previous systems have been overly reliant on what Buolamwini calls "pale male" image repositories.

Microsoft, which had the lowest error rates, declined comment. Messages left with Megvii, which owns Face Plus Plus, weren't immediately returned.

Months after her first study, when Buolamwini worked with University of Toronto researcher Inioluwa Deborah Raji on a follow-up test, all three companies showed major improvements.

But this time they also added Amazon, which has sold the system it calls Rekognition to law enforcement agencies. The results, published in late January, showed Amazon badly misidentifying darker-hued women.

"We were surprised to see that Amazon was where their competitors were a year ago," Buolamwini said.

Amazon dismissed what it called Buolamwini's "erroneous claims" and said the study confused facial analysis with facial recognition, improperly measuring the former with techniques for evaluating the latter.

"The answer to anxieties over new technology is not to run 'tests' inconsistent with how the service is designed to be used, and to amplify the test's false and misleading conclusions through the news media," Matt Wood, general manager of artificial intelligence for Amazon's cloud-computing division, wrote in a January blog post. Amazon declined requests for an interview.

"I didn't know their reaction would be quite so hostile," Buolamwini said recently in an interview at her MIT lab.

Coming to her defense Wednesday was a coalition of researchers, including AI pioneer Yoshua Bengio, recent winner of the Turing Award, considered the tech field's version of the Nobel Prize.

They criticized Amazon's response, especially its distinction between facial recognition and analysis.

"In contrast to Dr. Wood's claims, bias found in one system is cause for concern in the other, particularly in use cases that could severely impact people's lives, such as law enforcement applications," they wrote.

Its few publicly known clients have defended Amazon's system.

Chris Adzima, senior information systems analyst for the Washington County Sheriff's Office in Oregon, said the agency uses Amazon's Rekognition to identify the most likely matches among its collection of roughly 350,000 mug shots. But because a human makes the final decision, "the bias of that computer system is not transferred over into any results or any action taken," Adzima said.

But increasingly, regulators and legislators are having their doubts. A bipartisan bill in Congress seeks limits on facial recognition. Legislatures in Washington and Massachusetts are considering laws of their own.

Buolamwini said a major message of her research is that AI systems need to be carefully reviewed and consistently monitored if they're going to be used on the public. Not just to audit for accuracy, she said, but to ensure face recognition isn't abused to violate privacy or cause other harms.

"We can't just leave it to companies alone to do these kinds of checks," she said.

Associated Press writer Gillian Flaccus contributed to this report from Hillsboro, Oregon.

## Is that soy in your Whopper? Plant-based meat sales rising

By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

From soy-based sliders to ground lentil sausages, plant-based meat substitutes are surging in popularity. And carnivores — not vegans or vegetarians — are among the biggest consumers.

Growing demand for healthier, more sustainable food is one reason people are seeking plant-based meats. That's also the reason behind rising sales of oat milk, cauliflower pizza crust and even coconut oil-based makeup.

"There's a lot of messaging that plants are powerful. It feels like something that gives you a quick fix, something is really good for you," said Melanie Bartelme, a global food analyst with the consulting firm Mintel.

Better technology and marketing wizardry is also fueling sales. Newer startups like Impossible Foods and Beyond Meat — both backed by investments from Microsoft founder Bill Gates — have won over carnivores with plant-based products that look and taste like meat.

"Meat lovers don't love the fact that their meat comes from dead animals. They love it because of the sensory pleasures and the familiarity," said Impossible Foods CEO Pat Brown. "If we can provide the things they value and make it from plants, not only will meat lovers be willing to buy it, but they will prefer to buy it."

Los Angeles-based Beyond Meat is sold alongside regular meat in the grocery store, not shuffled into freezers or natural food aisles like traditional veggie burgers. It's also served at juicy burger chains like Carl's Jr. as well as TGI Friday's.

Impossible Foods, which is based in Silicon Valley, introduced its burgers three years ago at trendy restaurants like New York's Momofuku Nishi. That led to partnerships with more than 5,000 restaurants in the U.S. and Asia, including the White Castle chain.

Earlier this week, Burger King became the first global quick-service restaurant to embrace the Impossible burger. It's testing an Impossible Whopper this spring at 59 restaurants in St. Louis.

Burger King already has a veggie burger on its menu, a MorningStar Farms patty made from carrots, mushroom, oats, and other ingredients. But Chris Finazzo, president of Burger King's North American division, said that primarily appeals to vegans and vegetarians.

Burger King's research indicated that 9% of people buying plant-based meat are vegetarian, but 90% are meat eaters looking for healthier options.

"There's a lot of people who want to eat a burger every day but don't necessarily want to eat meat every day," Finazzo said.

Bartelme notes that only around 7% of the U.S. population is vegan or vegetarian and that hasn't changed significantly in recent years. Instead, she says, many people are becoming "flexitarians," picking and choosing from various diets.

The Impossible Whopper is healthier on some counts but not on others. It's 630 calories, compared to 660 calories for a meat-based Whopper. It's lower in saturated fat, trans fat and cholesterol. But it's higher in sodium and carbohydrates. The burgers have about the same amount of protein.

MorningStar's veggie burger, on the other hand, has 390 calories, less fat and cholesterol, but a similar amount of sodium and carbohydrates as a regular Whopper.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 47 of 49

There are other benefits to meatless burgers. Beyond Meat says it takes 99% less water, 93% less land and 50% less energy to make plant-based burgers. They also emit 90% fewer greenhouse gases.

The North American Meat Institute, a lobbying group for the meat industry, counters that livestock production in the U.S. accounts for just 4% of total greenhouse gas emissions. And U.S. meat consumption was expected to reach a record high in 2018 because of the strong economy.

Still, U.S. sales of plant-based meat are rising faster than sales of regular meat. Nielsen says annual U.S. sales of plant-based meats jumped 42% between March 2016 and March 2019 to a total of \$888 million. Traditional meat sales rose 1% to \$85 billion in that same time frame.

Bartelme doesn't see that trend slowing down. Over last five years, there's been a 25% increase in the number of meat alternative products launched, like pinto bean-based "bacon bits" from Cool Foods.

Going forward, some smaller brands could get gobbled up by larger rivals, she said. She also wonders if there will be consumer backlash against companies that rely on slick chemistry to make their meats. Impossible genetically engineers yeast to make heme, the molecule found in both plants and animals that gives burgers their meaty flavor. Memphis Meats, another California startup, is growing meat from actual animal cells.

"Is that going to turn off someone who is looking for very unprocessed foods? Maybe there will be a resurgence in old-school burgers made of beans and vegetables," Bartelme said.

But Brown says that would be a mistake, because science is everywhere in the food chain.

"Pretty much everything that's in the world's diet is not something that just fell off the tree," Brown said. "The foods we eat are products of nature combined with science, research and ingenuity."

## Asian shares waver following lackluster Wall St session

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Shares were mixed in Asia on Thursday after modest gains overnight on Wall Street. The Shanghai Composite jumped 0.6% to 3,234.41 on reports of possible progress in China-U.S. trade talks.

The U.S. and China opened a ninth round of talks Wednesday, aiming to further narrow differences in an ongoing trade war that has deepened uncertainty for businesses and investors and cast a pall over the outlook for the global economy.

The talks followed meetings last week in Beijing.

Larry Kudlow, a top White House economic adviser, said "good headway" was made in those talks and expressed optimism areas of disagreement could be narrowed further this week.

Markets have swayed for months as the contentious talks drag on. The latest reports say that both sides have resolved most of the key issues, with some pledges from China to end practices viewed by the U.S. as technology theft.

Elsewhere in Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 index shed 0.1% to 21,702.83 while Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.5% to 29,831.25. Australia's S&P ASX 200 sank 0.9% to 6,228.50. The Kospi in South Korea edged 0.1% lower to 2,202.61.

India's Sensex lost 0.2% to 38,814.73 and shares fell in Thailand and Singapore.

U.S. stocks recovered from a late-afternoon bout of selling on Wall Street to give the benchmark S&P 500 its fifth straight gain.

Technology stocks powered much of the last-minute rebound, led by chipmakers. Retailers, homebuilders and hotel operators were among the big gainers. Energy companies, consumer goods makers and industrial stocks took the heaviest losses.

Investors are awaiting the release Friday of the government's monthly tally of hiring by U.S. employers and a new round of corporate earnings reports set to begin coming out next week.

The overall forecast is for a weak round of results, with earnings by S&P 500 companies expected to contract by 4%, according to FactSet.

The S&P 500 index added 0.2% to 2,873.40 and is about 2% shy of its most recent all-time high

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 48 of 49

reached on Sept. 20. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.1% to 26,218.13. The Nasdaq composite, which is heavily weighted with technology stocks, gained 0.6% to 7,895.55. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks picked up 0.5% to 1,560.91.

CURRENCIES: The dollar slipped to 111.43 Japanese yen from 111.48 on Wednesday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1241 from \$1.1233.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 10 cents to \$62.36 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It dropped 0.2% to settle at \$62.46 a barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gave up 5 cents to \$69.26 per barrel.

AP Business writers Alex Veiga and Damian J. Troise contributed to this story.

## Today in History By the Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Thursday, April 4, the 94th day of 2019. There are 271 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 4, 1968, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., 39, was shot and killed while standing on a balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee; his slaying was followed by a wave of rioting (Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Chicago were among cities particularly hard hit.) Suspected gunman James Earl Ray later pleaded guilty to assassinating King, then spent the rest of his life claiming he'd been the victim of a setup.

On this date:

In 1841, President William Henry Harrison succumbed to pneumonia one month after his inaugural, becoming the first U.S. chief executive to die in office.

In 1850, the city of Los Angeles was incorporated.

In 1917, the U.S. Senate voted 82-6 in favor of declaring war against Germany (the House followed suit two days later by a vote of 373-50).

In 1933, the Navy airship USS Akron crashed in severe weather off the New Jersey coast with the loss of 73 lives.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. forces liberated the Nazi concentration camp Ohrdruf in Germany. Hungary was liberated as Soviet forces cleared out remaining German troops.

In 1949, 12 nations, including the United States, signed the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C.

In 1975, more than 130 people, most of them children, were killed when a U.S. Air Force transport plane evacuating Vietnamese orphans crash-landed shortly after takeoff from Saigon. Microsoft was founded by Bill Gates and Paul Allen in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In 1976, the film "All the President's Men," starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman as Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, had its world premiere in Washington, D.C.

In 1983, the space shuttle Challenger roared into orbit on its maiden voyage. (It was destroyed in the disaster of January 1986.)

In 1988, the Arizona Senate convicted Gov. Evan Mecham (MEE'-kuhm) of two charges of official misconduct, and removed him from office; Mecham was the first U.S. governor to be impeached and removed from office in nearly six decades.

In 1991, Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., and six other people, including two children, were killed when a helicopter collided with Heinz's plane over a schoolyard in Merion, Pennsylvania.

In 2008, Beyonce and Jay-Z were married during a private ceremony in New York.

Ten years ago: A gunman killed three Pittsburgh police officers responding to a domestic disturbance call; Richard Poplawski was later convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Police in Washington state found the body of James Harrison, who'd apparently shot to death five of his children, ages 7 to 16, at their mobile home in Graham. NATO leaders appointed Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 268 ~ 49 of 49

(AHN'-derz fohg RAHS'-moo-sihn) the alliance's new secretary-general during a two-day, 60th-anniversary summit in Strasbourg, France.

Five years ago: An Afghan police officer opened fire on two Associated Press journalists inside a security forces base in eastern Afghanistan, killing prize-winning photographer Anja Niedringhaus (AHN'-yuh NEE'-dring-hows) and wounding veteran correspondent Kathy Gannon.

One year ago: Saying the situation had reached "a point of crisis," President Donald Trump signed a proclamation directing the deployment of the National Guard to the U.S.-Mexico border to fight illegal immigration. Facebook revealed that tens of millions more people might have been exposed in a privacy scandal involving Cambridge Analytica, a Trump-affiliated data mining firm. After the United States said it would impose 25 percent duties on \$50 billion of imports from China, Beijing quickly retaliated by listing \$50 billion of products it could hit with its own 25 percent tariffs.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., is 87. Recording executive Clive Davis is 87. Author Kitty Kelley is 77. Actor Craig T. Nelson is 75. Actor Walter Charles is 74. Actress Christine Lahti is 69. Country singer Steve Gatlin (The Gatlin Brothers) is 68. Actress Mary-Margaret Humes is 65. Writer-producer David E. Kelley is 63. Actress Constance Shulman is 61. Actor Phil Morris is 60. Actress Lorraine Toussaint is 59. Actor Hugo Weaving is 59. Rock musician Craig Adams (The Cult) is 57. Talk show host/comic Graham Norton is 56. Actor David Cross is 55. Actor Robert Downey Jr. is 54. Actress Nancy McKeon is 53. Actor Barry Pepper is 49. Country singer Clay Davidson is 48. Rock singer Josh Todd (Buckcherry) is 48. Singer Jill Scott is 47. Rock musician Magnus Sveningsson (The Cardigans) is 47. Magician David Blaine is 46. Singer Kelly Price is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Andre Dalyrimple (Soul For Real) is 45. Country musician Josh McSwain (Parmalee) is 44. Actor James Roday is 43. Actress Natasha Lyonne is 40. Actor Eric Andre is 36. Actress Amanda Righetti is 36. Actress-singer Jamie Lynn Spears is 28. Actress Daniela Bobadilla is 26. Pop singer Austin Mahone (muh-HOHN') is 23.

Thought for Today: "You can kill a man but you can't kill an idea." — Medgar Evers, American civil rights activist (1926-1963).