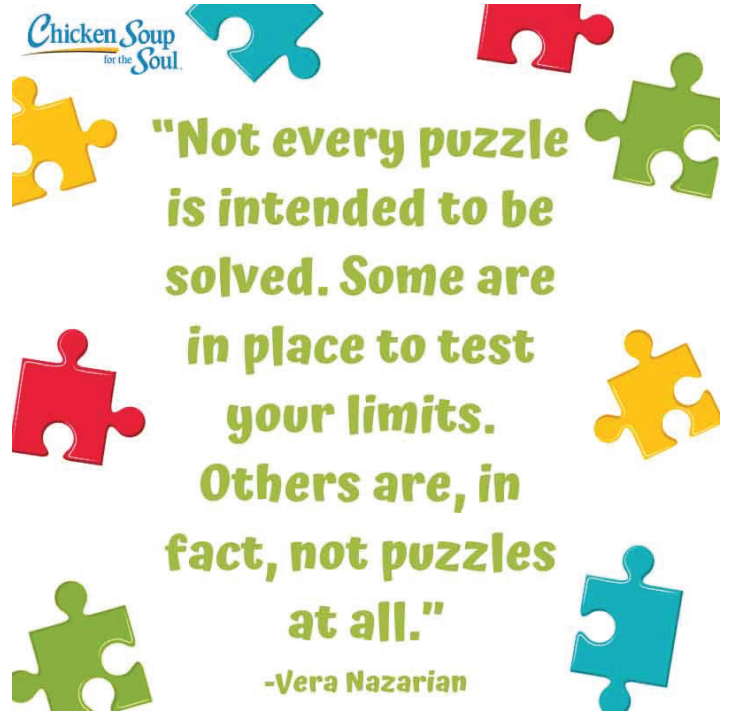


# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 1 of 42

- 1- Groton Care & Rehab Ad
- 2- Harry Implement Ad
- 2- Community Events
- 3- Truss Pros Ad
- 4- Region Track Results
- 5- Colestock places 5th at Sisseton Golf
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 7- Weather Pages
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10- 2019 Groton Events
- 11- News from the Associated Press

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul



**"Not every puzzle is intended to be solved. Some are in place to test your limits. Others are, in fact, not puzzles at all."**

**-Vera Nazarian**

## ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR WANTED

**We are looking for someone with a creative mind and a passion for the elderly. If that is you, here is a great opportunity for YOU!**

➤ Interview and assess all residents prior to the initial Care Plan Conference; document this information in the medical record, develop an individual recreation plan based on the assessment and participate in Interdisciplinary Care Plan meetings

➤ Update assessments and plans as needed and required by state or federal regulations

➤ Develop monthly recreation program calendars that reflect and meet the needs of facility residents

➤ Communicate facility programs to residents, staff, family and volunteers

➤ Manage facility Volunteer Program

➤ Maintain departmental documentation that reflects services provided and resident progress towards goals

➤ In coordination with social services facilitate the residents in the organization and continued development of a Resident's Council

➤ Make job assignments and set priorities

➤ Serve as member of QAA committee

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

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

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 2 of 42

## Cub Cadet

### ALL-AROUND STRENGTH



#### SC 100 HW PUSH WALK-BEHIND MOWER

- 159cc Cub Cadet® performance-tuned OHV engine
- 21" Cub Cadet Signature Cut™
- High rear wheels to maneuver with ease

STARTING AT:  
**\$269\***

#### XT1™ LT42"™ LAWN TRACTOR

- 18 HP\*\* Cub Cadet-certified Kohler® 5400 Series single OHV engine
- 42" heavy-duty mowing deck delivers the Cub Cadet Signature Cut™
- Tuff Torq® automatic hydrostatic transmission

STARTING AT:  
**\$1,699\***

#### RT 65 H REAR-TINE TILLER

- 187cc Cub Cadet® -certified Honda® GC OHV engine
- 13" dual-direction rotating tines
- 18" tilling width
- 16" pneumatic, ag tread wheels

STARTING AT:  
**\$899\***

FOR FULL PRODUCT SPECS **Cub Cadet** VISIT [CUBCADET.COM](http://CUBCADET.COM)

**HARRY IMPLEMENT INC.**  
109 CENTER ST  
FERNEY, SD 57439  
[www.harrysinc.com](http://www.harrysinc.com)  
605-395-6421

## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Friday, May 17, 2019

12:30pm- 3:00pm: Elementary Track and Field Day at Doney Field

### Sunday, May 19, 2019

2:00pm: Graduation at Groton Area High School

### Tuesday, May 21, 2019

2:00pm: DARE Graduation at GHS Gymnasium

7 p.m.: City Council Meeting at the Groton Community Center

### Wednesday, May 22, 2019

End of 4th Quarter - Final Day of School

12:00pm: Golf: Girls Varsity Meet @ Milbank Golf Course

### Thursday, May 23, 2019

Faculty Inservice

10:00am: Golf: Girls Varsity Regions @ Milbank Golf Course

### Friday, May 24, 2019

Faculty Inservice

STATE TRACK MEET @ TEA AREA

### Saturday, May 25, 2019

STATE TRACK MEET @ SIOUX FALLS

\*Product Price - Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes, freight, setup and handling charges may be additional and may vary. Models subject to limited availability. Specifications and programs are subject to change without notice. Images may not reflect dealer inventory and/or specifications. \*\*As rated by Kohler. All power levels are stated in gross horsepower at 3600 RPM per SAE J1940 as rated by engine manufacturer. \*\*See your local Cub Cadet Independent Dealer for warranty details. © 2018 Cub Cadet SPN, LLC, ECOMMERCIAL

# 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.uslbn.com/careers](http://www.uslbn.com/careers) or call Diane at 605-448-2929.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 4 of 42

## Region Track Meet Results

The regional track meet was held Thursday at Redfield. The following have qualified for the state track meet. In addition, the boys took second place in the team points.

400m Dash: 2, Kenzie McInerney

110m Hurdles: Finals: 1, Jonathan Doeden, 14.83

300m Hurdles: 1, Jonathan Doeden, 42.04

200m Dash: 2, Thomas Cranford, 23.93

1600m Run: 2, Isaac Smith, 4:53.19;

3200m Run: 1, Isaac Smith, 10:56.52.

Kenzie McInerney: State Qualified at Sisseton in the Long Jump

### Girls Division

Team Points: 1, Milbank 197.50; 2, Aberdeen Roncalli 195.50; 3, Webster Area 121; 4, Redfield/Doland 84; 5, Groton Area 79; 6, Sisseton 38; 7, Tiospa Zina 1.

100m Hurdles: Prelims: 5, Payton Maine, 17.91; 6, Cassandra Townsend, 18.82; 10, Brooke Vogl, 38.09. Finals: 5, Payton Maine, 18.28; 6, Cassandra Townsend, 18.73.

300m Hurdles: 6, Payton Maine, 54.94; 8, Cassandra Townsend, 58.05.

100M Dash: 11, Emilie Thurston, 15.35; 12, Riley Leicht, 15.73; 13, Trista Keith, 16.03.

200m Dash: 6, Payton Maine, 29.23; 14, Jayla Jones, 31.51; 19, Paloma Fernandez, 36.06.

400m Dash: 2, Kenzie McInerney, 1:04.16; 10, Regan Leicht, 1:15.95.

800m Run: 10, Anna Fjeldheim, 3:02.01; 12, Regan Leicht, 3:06.25.

4x100m Relay: 5, Groton Area (Allyssa Locke, Trista Keith, Emilie Thurston, Riley Leicht), 1:01.39.

4x200m Relay: 4, Groton Area (Payton Maine, Nicole Marzahn, Jayla Jones, Kenzie McInerney), 1:57.82.

4x400m Relay: 5, Groton Area (Allyssa Locke, Cassandra Townsend, Aspen Johnson, Kenzie McInerney), 4:52.46.

4x800m Relay: 5, Groton Area (Regan Leicht, Anna Fjeldheim, Emma Schinkel, Aspen Johnson), 12:26.75.

1600m Sprint Medley: 6, Groton Area (Allyssa Locke, Riley Leicht, Emilie Thurston, Aspen Johnson), 5:27.03.

High Jump: 7, Nicole Marzahn, 4-4.

Long Jump: 6, Nicole Marzahn, 13-9.75; 12, Trista Keith, 11-10.50.

Triple Jump: 9, Nicole Marzahn, 29-1.

Discus: 3, Kaycie Hawkins, 104-01; 4, Taylor Holm, 103-06; 5, Jennie Doeden, 101-06.

Shot Put: 1, Jennie Doeden, 34-0.5; 5, Kaycie Hawkins, 31-00.25; 6, Maddie Bjerke, 29-11.

### Boys Division

Team Points: 1, Milbank 165; 2, Groton Area 127; 3, Redfield/Doland 125; 4, Aberdeen Roncalli 106; 5, Sisseton 105; 6, Webster Area 79; 7, Tiospa Zina 1.

110m Hurdles: Prelims: 1, Jonathan Doeden, 14.88; 7, Paxton Bonn, 18.59. Finals: 1, Jonathan Doeden, 14.83; 4, Paxton Bonn, 17.59.

300m Hurdles: 1, Jonathan Doeden, 42.04.

100m dash: Prelims: 5, Darien Shabazz, 11.1; 8, Andrew Marzahn, 12.36; 14, Wyatt Hearnen, 13.31. Finals: 4, Darien Shabazz, 11.73; 7, Andrew Marzahn, 12.38.

200m Dash: 2, Thomas Cranford, 23.93; 3, Darien Shabazz, 24.12; 14, Wyatt Hearnen, 27.61.

400m Dash: 6, Mitchell Koens, 58.38; 9, Jackson Cogley, 1:00.15; 10, Andrew Marzahn, 1:00.95.

800m Run: 8, Jamie Ruiz de Medina, 2:29.09; 13, Kannon Coats, 2:46.36; 14, Cyruss DeHoet, 2:49.80.

1600m Run: 2, Isaac Smith, 4:53.19; 4, Jacob Lewandowski, 5:28.20.

3200m Run: 1, Isaac Smith, 10:56.52.

4x100m Relay: 4, Groton Area (Darien Shabazz, Kaden Kurtz, Austin Jones, Thomas Cranford), 52.01.

4x200m Relay: 5, Groton Area (Jonathan Doeden, Kaden Kurtz, Austin Jones, Thomas Cranford), 1:36.48.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 5 of 42

4x400m Relay: 3, Groton Area (Jonathan Doeden, Kaden Kurtz, Austin Jones, Thomas Cranford), 3:46.36.  
4x800m Relay: 5, Groton Area (Anthony Schinkel, Jamie Ruiz de Medina, Cyruss DeHoet, Kannon Coats), 10:36.05.

1600m Sprint Medley: 6, Groton Area (Jackson Cogley, Wyatt Hearnen, Jacob Lewandowski, Anthony Schinkel), 4:33.38.

High Jump: 4, Paxton Bonn, 5-4; 8, Jackson Cogley, 5-2.

Long Jump: 6, Darien Shabazz, 18-00.25; 12, Paxton Bonn, 15-06; 13, Mitchell Koens, 15-02.25.

Triple Jump: 8, Austin Jones, 35-11; 9, Jackson Cogley, 35-10.25; 12, Paxton Bonn, 30-01.50.

Discus: 3, Brodyn DeHoet, 123-02; 5, Grady O'Neill, 110-04; 10, Caleb Furney, 107-05.

Shot Put: 3, Cole Larson, 42-06.25; 5, Brodyn DeHoet, 38-07.25; 7, Grady O'Neill, 38-5.

## **Colestock places fifth at Sisseton**

Payton Colestock placed fifth at the Sisseton Invitational golf meet held Thursday. Her score was a 95. Carly Guthmiller shot a 120 and Portia Kettering shot a 138 at the meet.

## Today in Weather History

May 17, 1902: An estimated F3 Tornado moved northeast from 6 miles southwest of Mina to south of Westport, a distance of about 25 miles. A four-year-old girl was killed in one of two farmhouses blown apart in Edmunds County. Three more homes were damaged in Brown County. There were probably two if not three separate tornadoes involved.

May 17, 1937: A complex of tornadoes and downbursts skipped southeast from near Roslyn and Greenville. This storm also caused \$50,000 in damage in downtown Waubay and damaged farm property to about 4 miles west of Gray, Minnesota. About 20 barns were destroyed. Sheep and horses were killed. These events traveled a distance of about 70 miles. The strongest tornado was estimated at F2 strength.

May 17, 1996: An F1 tornado touched down 20 miles southeast of Wilmot or 5 miles northwest of Ortonville, Minnesota at Schmidts Landing on Big Stone Lake. The roof was ripped off of a house, and a garage wall was blown off its foundation. Three RV's were demolished, and a trailer was overturned and destroyed. This tornado moved into Big Stone County and intensified. An F3 tornado crossed Big Stone Lake from Roberts County, South Dakota destroying on a cabin at the Meadowbrook Resort. It also blew the roof off another cabin, and the third cabin was demolished when a tree fell onto it. Several boats on Big Stone Lake were overturned. Approximately 150 buildings sustained damage or were destroyed as the tornado moved northeast across Big Stone County. Southwest of Clinton, a pontoon boat, and a camper were destroyed. East of Clinton, a farm lost all buildings with severe damage to their home. Estimated property damage was listed at \$1.5 million.

A wind gust of 90 mph blew two garage roofs off, destroyed an antenna, blew large trees down, and also a grain dryer was blown down near Dumont, Minnesota.




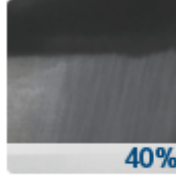

1896: An estimated F5 tornado tracked 100 miles through northeastern Kansas and extreme southeastern Nebraska. Seneca, Oneida, Sabetha, and Reserve, Kansas sustained severe damage. While passing through Reserve, the tornado was 2 miles wide. 25 people were killed, and 200 were injured. The cost was estimated at \$400,000.

1979: A reading of 12 degrees at Mauna Kea Observatory established a record low for the state of Hawaii.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 7 of 42

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
				
30%	100%	50%	40%	40%
Chance T-storms and Breezy	T-storms and Breezy	Chance Showers and Breezy	Chance Showers	Chance Showers
High: 61 °F	Low: 45 °F	High: 50 °F	Low: 41 °F	High: 49 °F

## Severe Weather Threat This PM

### WHAT

Main Threat Will Be Severe Storms With Large Hail.

### WHERE

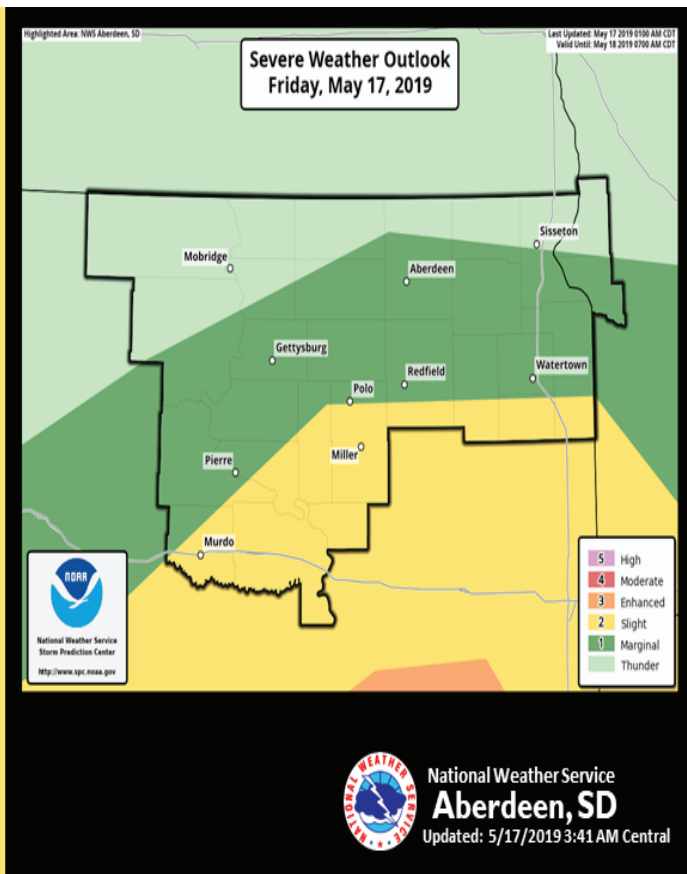
Across South Central/Southeast South Dakota. Storms Weakening As They Move Farther North.

### WHEN

This Evening Through About Midnight.

### ACTION

Monitor the weather and have a plan if severe weather strikes your area.



Published on: 05/17/2019 at 4:54AM

Weak morning showers and storms will move across the area, dissipating and moving north and east during the late morning. We'll see some sunshine after that, however a cold north breeze will persist through the day. Meanwhile down along the South Dakota/Nebraska state line, storms will develop in the afternoon. These, mostly likely severe storms will then lift northeast. As they interact with the cold air across most of South Dakota, there will be some weakening, which is why the threat is mainly limited to large hail this evening. Storms then push to the east and settled conditions will prevail for the rest of the night.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 8 of 42

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

**High Temp: 68 °F at 12:18 AM**

**Low Temp: 51 °F at 10:27 PM**

**Wind: 24 mph at 10:28 AM**

**Day Rain: 0.00 in**

**Record High: 103° in 1934**

**Record Low: 27° in 1925**

**Average High: 69°F**

**Average Low: 45°F**

**Average Precip in May.: 1.64**

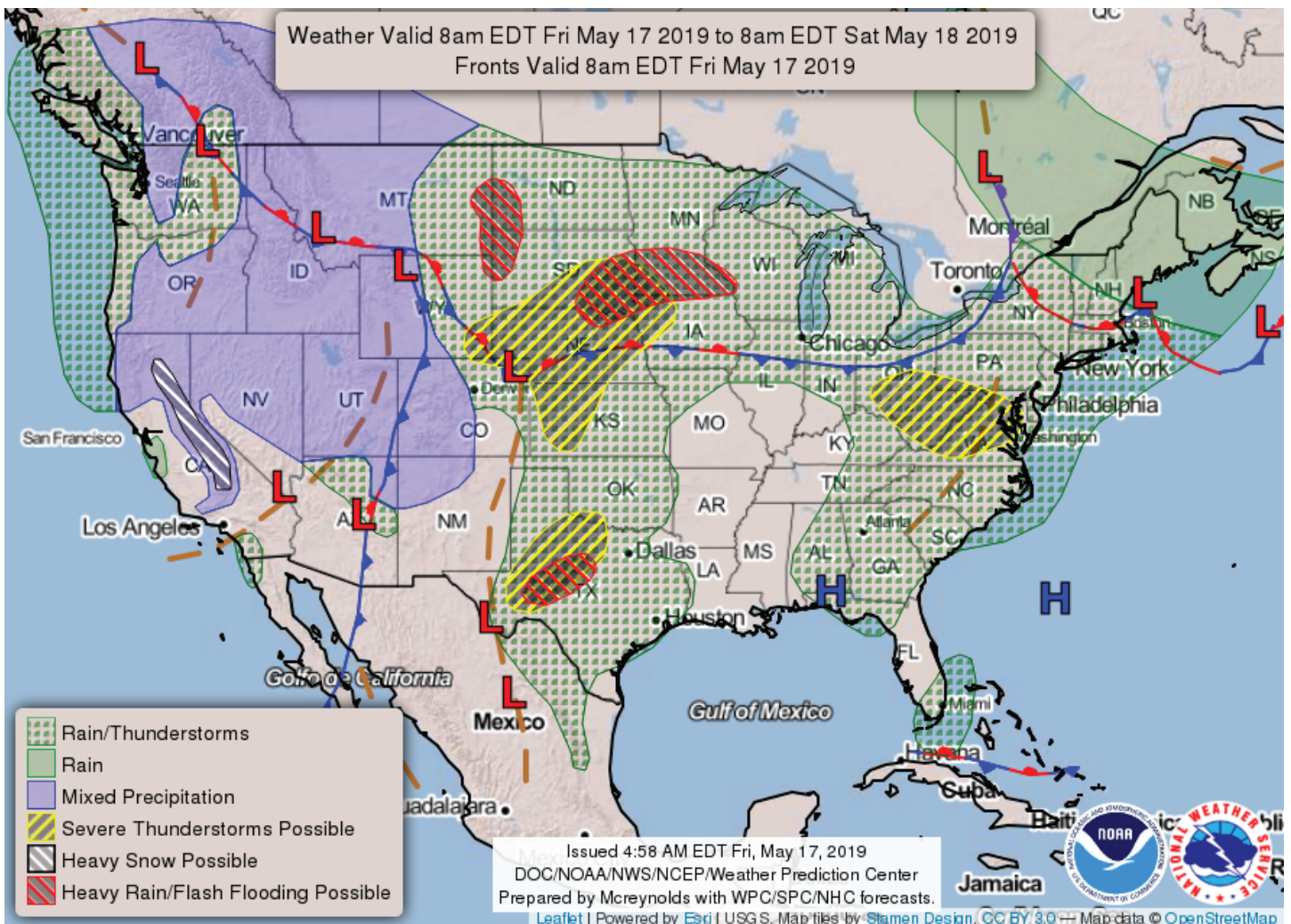
**Precip to date in May.: 0.49**

**Average Precip to date: 5.67**

**Precip Year to Date: 5.18**

**Sunset Tonight: 9:00 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:00 a.m.**





# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 9 of 42



## RIGHT WAY OR DEAD END?

I wish I could buy him for what hes worth and sell him for what he thinks hes worth. We could both retire! said a colleague to me after interviewing a potential employee.

Many people lead presumptuous lives and never get in touch with who they are and what their strengths or weaknesses might be. They refuse to see themselves as others see them, and will not admit the fact that they may have done something wrong or harmful. Its not my fault. It's theirs. They just wouldnt admit what they did.

In the final analysis, we all have the freedom to choose what path we will take - even though, as Solomon warns, ... in the end that path leads to death. We may choose a path, even claim that it was a "path from God and was His will for my life," not admitting that our decision was ours alone, ill-conceived, and even ill advised. I certainly prayed about it!

Seems right is a frightening combination of words. It simply means that I (or someone else) did not know what was right and went off in the wrong direction and it ended in disaster - perhaps death. Seems right is full of presumptions, beginning with sincerity. Although we may be very sincere about most anything we choose to do, sincerity does not lead to fulfilling Gods plan for our lives. Seems right can be surely wrong!

Those who truly want to live the right way will find it in Gods Word. The right way is living a life that agrees with the Word of God, choosing to be obedient to His commands, waiting for His guidance, and putting His will before my wants.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, may we avoid doing what seems right by surrendering our lives and will to You. Help us to do right and live right by following You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 10 of 42

## 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 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)

## News from the Associated Press

### **Fighter jet from South Dakota guard crashes in California**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An F-16 fighter jet that crashed in Southern California was based in Sioux Falls. The pilot ejected and parachuted to safety before the Air National Guard fighter plane hit the warehouse in an industrial area near the March Reserve Air Base in Riverside County Thursday afternoon.

Fire officials say a dozen people on the ground were hosed off for exposure to debris before being taken to hospitals for evaluation and treatment of minor injuries. The crash started a small fire that was quickly doused by the building's sprinklers.

The F-16, which was on a training mission, belonged to the South Dakota Air National Guard in Sioux Falls.

### **Maine governor signs bill to ban Native American mascots**

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — Maine public schools and universities will soon ban the use of mascots and logos depicting Native Americans.

Democratic Gov. Janet Mills' office says the bill she signed Thursday will become effective 90 days after the Legislature adjourns.

Penobscot Nation Ambassador Maulian Dana says the law is "a huge step toward trust and respect" for indigenous people. Democratic Rep. Benjamin Collings said members of tribal communities are people, not mascots.

Mills' office says California, Oregon and Wisconsin have similar restrictions, while South Dakota, New York and Michigan have called for the end of the use of mascots.

Republican opponents have argued that local boards should decide such issues.

The last Maine high school to use such a mascot, Skowhegan Area High School, voted to stop using it this year.

### **South Dakota sues Texas company over 40 abandoned gas wells**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota has turned to the courts to settle an issue with a Texas company and the 40 natural gas wells it left behind after a drilling project fell idle several years ago.

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources sued Houston-based Spyglass Cedar Creek on Monday, the Argus Leader reported.

The lawsuit asks the court to order Spyglass and its partners to bring the Harding County wells into compliance. The state also seeks \$15.5 million in penalties, the same amount regulators levied against the company in March for violations regarding the wells' conditions.

Spyglass did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

It comes after the state's multiple failed attempts to get Spyglass to resume production, plug the wells or request permission to abandon them.

State officials estimate it will cost almost \$900,000 to plug the wells near Buffalo, where Spyglass drilled between 2006 and 2010. The drilling fell idle as the company faced lawsuits, a lender's bankruptcy and declining natural gas prices.

Spyglass didn't respond to the agency's requests to bring the wells into compliance in 2015 and 2016. The company provided a plan to resolve the situation in 2017, but the department found that none of the work had been completed several months later.

Spyglass was unable to post a \$200,000 bond earlier this year to keep its permits. The state's Board of Minerals and Environment revoked the permits, and levied the \$15.5 million in penalties on the company.

Landowners have complained about the wells leaking gas and the unused equipment and other debris left at the sites. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources also found that roads to access existing pipelines were in poor condition.

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

## **Survey: Region's bankers losing confidence in farm economy**

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A monthly survey of rural bankers in parts of 10 Plains and Western states shows they're rapidly losing confidence in the region's farm economy.

The Rural Mainstreet survey for May, released Thursday, shows the survey's overall index dropping from 50 in April to 48.5 this month. Any score above 50 suggests a growing economy, while a score below 50 indicates a shrinking economy.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey, blames trade tensions and tariffs, saying they're contributing to losses suffered by grain farmers — although livestock producers are faring better. Still, Goss says, bankers believe "the negatives far outweighed the positives."

The survey's confidence index, which gauges bankers' expectations for the economy six months out, plummeted from 50 to 38.2 — its lowest level in almost two years.

Bankers from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming were surveyed.

## **Activists' lawyers: Sheriff should defend anti-protest laws**

By BLAKE NICHOLSON Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Attorneys for oil pipeline opponents are fighting a South Dakota sheriff's attempt to be dismissed as a defendant in a lawsuit challenging new state laws that aim to prevent disruptive demonstrations against the Keystone XL pipeline.

Pennington County Sheriff Kevin Thom should remain a defendant in the suit spearheaded by the American Civil Liberties Union because he will be enforcing law that amounts to an unconstitutional infringement on free speech, an attorney for the plaintiffs argued in a Tuesday court filing.

The Republican-backed legislation passed in March allows officials to pursue criminal or civil penalties from demonstrators who engage in "riot boosting," which is defined in part as encouraging violence during a riot.

Supporters of the legislation sought to head off protests of the Keystone XL like those mounted against the Dakota Access oil pipeline in North Dakota in 2016 and 2017. North Dakota spent \$38 million on policing those protests, which resulted in 761 arrests over a six-month span.

The ACLU is suing South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg and Thom in federal court on behalf of activists. An attorney for Thom last month asked that the sheriff be dismissed from the lawsuit, saying he must enforce state laws but isn't responsible for defending them. Attorney Rebeca L. Mann also argued that Pennington County shouldn't have to defend state laws that it doesn't have the power to change.

Plaintiffs' attorney Brendan Johnson countered in Tuesday's court filing that "each time Thom makes a choice about the laws' meaning, as the highest official in the county for that action, he is doing so as a policymaker for Pennington County."

Johnson also argued that Thom must use his own discretion when enforcing the law, making him an "appropriate defendant."

Pennington County is one of eight South Dakota counties along the route of TC Energy's planned Keystone XL pipeline to move Canadian crude through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska, where it would connect with lines to Gulf Coast refineries. The \$8 billion project has the backing of President Donald Trump but is being fought in the courts by opponents.

The ACLU of South Dakota, North Dakota and Wyoming said it named Thom as a defendant in the lawsuit because he's sheriff in the county in which the activists are working. Plaintiffs include the Rapid City-based NDN Collective nonprofit, which advocates for indigenous peoples and climate change awareness.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

## South Dakota police officer accused of shooting stray cats

NORTH SIOUX CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota police officer accused of shooting stray cats is facing criminal charges.

A criminal complaint filed in Union County charges North Sioux City Officer Derek McIntosh with a misdemeanor. Police began investigating McIntosh on May 9 after other officers reported that he had picked up stray cats and shot them in the cemetery instead of taking them to the humane society.

North Sioux City administrator Ted Cherry tells the Argus Leader that McIntosh is no longer employed by the city, but he didn't say whether he resigned or was fired. Cherry says McIntosh has admitted to shooting a cat.

South Dakota law gives police officers leeway in deciding how to deal with rabid or injured animals.

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

## Populist alliances of 'cowboys and Indians' are protecting rural lands

Zoltan Grossman Evergreen State College

(The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.)

Zoltan Grossman, Evergreen State College

(THE CONVERSATION) The sea of red on recent election maps make it look like rural areas are uniformly populated by Republicans. And conventional wisdom suggests that those Americans are largely conservative populists who question many government regulations and do not welcome cultural diversity.

But the growing influence of Native American nations in some rural areas is starting to change that picture. Empowered by their treaty rights, they are beginning to shift the values of their white neighbors toward a populism that cuts across racial and cultural lines to challenge large corporations.

I'm a geographer who studies the relationships between tribes and rural white farmers, ranchers and fishers. In my book "Unlikely Alliances: Native Nations and White Communities Join to Defend Rural Lands," I relate what I learned through dozens of interviews with Native Americans and their non-Native allies who described how the tribes are fusing the power of their sovereignty with the populist grievances of the tribes' historic enemies.

By teaming up to defend the place they all call home, they are protecting their lands and waters for all. Unlikely alliances

Ever since Native Americans began to reassert their treaty rights to harvest fish, water and other natural resources, starting in the 1960s in the Pacific Northwest, a far-right populist backlash from some rural whites has sparked racial conflicts over those resources.

But starting in the late 1970s, some Native nations across the country joined with their rural white neighbors — including people who had been their adversaries in treaty conflicts — to block threats to rural lands and waters, such as mining, pipeline, dam, nuclear waste and military projects.

The alliances joined tribes and rural, mostly white, Americans to confront common enemies. They helped whites in these areas learn more about indigenous cultural traditions, legal powers and ecological values. Tribal members also learned that their neighbors valued the local environment, and wanted to protect it from outside corporations.

In South Dakota and Nebraska, for example, a group called the Cowboy Indian Alliance has, since 2013, brought together Lakota and other tribes with white ranchers and farmers to stop the Keystone XL oil pipeline. The alliance drew from earlier coalitions that stopped uranium and coal projects and a bombing range in the Black Hills of South Dakota.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 14 of 42

Farmers and ranchers in these two deep-red states opposed the use of eminent domain to seize their private property for the pipeline. That land had originally belonged to the tribes.

As they worked together against the pipeline, the tribes influenced some white neighbors to protect sacred burial sites on their property.

"We come from two cultures that clashed over land," Alliance spokeswoman Faith Spotted Eagle observed. "This is a healing for the generations."

Fossil fuel and mining projects

In Washington and Oregon, Native nations are using their treaty rights to stop plans to build coal and oil export terminals. The same largely white fishing groups in that region that used to aggressively protest treaty rights now back the tribes in protecting fisheries from oil and coal shipping, and in restoring fish habitat damaged by development.

The Lummi Nation, near Bellingham, Washington, led the fight that staved off a coal terminal in a sacred burial ground. The Quinault Nation on the Pacific coast led an alliance that helped kill plans to build oil export infrastructure that would have threatened salmon and shellfish.

The mostly white working-class residents of former logging towns in the area, who have strongly opposed timber industry regulations, have worked more easily with local tribes than with urban environmental groups to protect their local economy from fossil fuels.

"The relationships we have with our neighbors arose out of a relationship of much division, strife, and conflict," Quinault President Fawn Sharp told me. Through that, she added, "they've come to know who we are."

In Wisconsin and Michigan, Ojibwe and Menominee tribes are fighting to prevent new mining projects, joined by their rural white neighbors, because those projects threaten fishing streams, wild rice beds and burial sites.

As recently as the early 1990s, many white anglers in northern Wisconsin were violently protesting Ojibwe treaty rights to spear fish, harassing and physically attacking Native Americans after anti-treaty groups led to them to believe that tribal fishing threatened the local tourism economy.

But the tribes presented their treaties as a legal obstacle to the mines that both groups viewed as a threat to the fishery.

The Midwest Treaty Network convinced many anglers to cooperate with tribes and environmental groups to join in the effort to stymie plans to build a copper and zinc mine near Crandon, Wisconsin. They won a protracted fight in 2003. The anglers had realized that if they kept arguing with the tribes over fishing rights, there might not be any fish left.

More recently, the Bad River Tribe on the Wisconsin shore of Lake Superior led an alliance that stopped the Penokees iron mine in 2015, upstream from wild rice beds culturally valuable to the tribe.

And the Menominee Nation and its allies are trying to block the Back Forty zinc and gold mine in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Unity through diversity

One advantage that sovereign tribal nations have in these battles is that they can draw federal agencies and courts into the fray in a way that local and state governments cannot.

Tribes are in the fight for the long haul, because the survival of their cultures is at stake. They can't simply move away from environmental hazards, because they have harvesting rights only within their treaty territory, and their identities and cultures are rooted in a particular place.

Some areas of the most intense treaty conflicts, where the tribes most strongly asserted their rights, developed the earliest and most successful tribal alliances with white farmers, ranchers and fishers.

In these areas, rural populists have begun to see the tribes as more effective guardians of their local economies from large corporations than their state, local or federal governments. Wisconsin fishing guide Wally Cooper had spoken at rallies against Ojibwe treaty rights. He told me he changed his mind "because Native Americans can stop" the Crandon mine that threatened the rivers that he loved.

The success of these unlikely alliances challenges political stereotypes. Some progressives tend to dismiss

rural whites as recalcitrant and unwilling to treat people who are different as equals.

Many conservatives – along with some liberals – presume that highlighting cultural differences through identity politics gets in the way of unifying people who otherwise share economic or environmental goals.

But celebrating differences and unity can be compatible. Native sovereignty can protect land and water for all rural people, and help build an anti-corporate movement that crosses cultural lines. If even cowboys and Indians can find common ground, maybe there is hope for what I call cross-cultural populism.

This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article here: <http://theconversation.com/populist-alliances-of-cowboys-and-indians-are-protecting-rural-lands-114268>.

## Power poles collapse in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Black Hills Energy is investigating what caused two power poles to collapse in Rapid City, knocking out power and causing a small oil spill.

Officials say no one was hurt when the poles crashed near the Time Inn Motel and Time Out Lounge Wednesday afternoon. Police say it's not known what caused the poles to topple. One landed on a Dumpster and the other hit the roof of one of the motel buildings.

About 300 utility customers lost power. The Rapid City Journal says a transformer at the top of one of the poles began leaking oil after hitting the trash bin.

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

## Iran could rally regional proxies in case of war with the US

By ZEINA KARAM Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — In the event of war with the United States, Iran "will not be alone."

That message was delivered by the leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group to a mass rally in Beirut in February marking the 40th anniversary of Iran's Islamic Revolution. "If America launches war on Iran, it will not be alone in the confrontation, because the fate of our region is tied to the Islamic Republic," Hassan Nasrallah said.

From Lebanon and Syria to Iraq, Yemen, and the Gaza Strip, Tehran has significantly expanded its footprint over the past decade, finding and developing powerful allies in conflict-ravaged countries across the Middle East. Hezbollah is one of the most prominent members of the self-styled "axis of resistance," armed groups with tens of thousands of Shiite Muslim fighters beholden to Tehran.

Iran has used such groups in the past to strike its regional foes, and could mobilize them if the latest tensions with the United States lead to an armed conflict — dramatically expanding the battlefield.

Here's a look at Tehran's allies in the Mideast:

### HEZBOLLAH

The militia, whose Arabic name translates into "Party of God," was established by Iran's Revolutionary Guard during Lebanon's civil war in the 1980s. Today it is among the most effective armed groups in the region, extending Iran's influence to Israel's doorstep.

In a paper for the Brookings Institute earlier this year, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Jeffrey Feltman described the group as revolutionary Iran's "most successful export" and Tehran's "multi-purpose tool."

Hezbollah was formed to combat Israel following its invasion of Lebanon in 1982. It waged an 18-year guerrilla war against Israeli forces, eventually forcing them to withdraw from Lebanon in 2000. Six years later, it battled Israel to a bloody stalemate in a monthlong war.

Today, the group has an arsenal of tens of thousands of rockets and missiles that can reach deep into Israel, as well as thousands of highly disciplined and battle-hardened fighters. Hezbollah has fought alongside government forces in Syria for more than six years, gaining even more battlefield experience

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 16 of 42

and expanding its reach.

At home, the group's power exceeds that of the Lebanese armed forces, and along with its allies has more power than ever in the parliament and government.

Despite the rhetoric, Hezbollah says it is not seeking another war with Israel, and it is not likely to join in any regional confrontation — at least not in the early stages — unless provoked. Hezbollah has lost hundreds of fighters in Syria, exacting a heavy toll on the Shiite community from which it draws most of its support.

## THE HOUTHIS

Yemen's Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, swept down from the north and captured the capital, Sanaa, in 2014. A Saudi-led coalition entered the conflict on the side of the government the following year. The war has since killed tens of thousands of people and generated the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Saudi Arabia views the Houthis as an Iranian proxy, and along with Western nations and U.N. experts has accused Tehran of providing arms to the rebels, including the long-range missiles they have fired into Saudi Arabia. Iran supports the rebels but denies arming them.

The Houthis have given up little ground since the coalition entered the war, and have targeted the Saudi capital, Riyadh, with long-range missiles. Earlier this week they claimed a drone attack that shut down a major oil pipeline in Saudi Arabia, which responded with airstrikes on Yemen's rebel-held capital that killed civilians.

## IRAQ MILITIAS

Iran has trained, financed, and equipped Shiite militias in Iraq that battled U.S. forces in the years after the 2003 invasion and remobilized to battle the Islamic State group a decade later.

The groups include Asaib Ahl al-Haq, Kataeb Hezbollah and the Badr Organization, all three led by men with close ties to Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the leader of Iran's elite Quds Force and the architect of Tehran's regional strategy.

The militias fall under the umbrella of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces, a collection of mostly Shiite militias that were incorporated into the country's armed forces in 2016. Together they number more than 140,000 fighters, and while they fall under the authority of Iraq's prime minister, the PMF's top brass are politically aligned with Iran.

U.S. forces and the PMF fought side-by-side against Islamic State militants after Iraq's parliament invited the U.S. back into the country in 2014. But now that the war is largely concluded, some militia leaders are calling on U.S. troops to leave again, threatening to expel them by force if necessary. This week, the U.S. ordered all nonessential government staff to leave Iraq, amid unspecified threats in the region said to be linked to Iran.

## GAZA MILITANTS

Iran has long supported Palestinian militant groups, including Gaza's Hamas rulers and particularly the smaller Islamic Jihad group.

Hamas fell out with Iran after the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings, losing millions of dollars in monthly assistance. The group today is in a severe financial crisis; its employees and public servants in Gaza have not been paid full salaries in years.

Tehran is said to have continued its military support to Hamas' armed wing, but the group appears to get most of its aid from Qatar, making it less likely that it would rally to Tehran's side in a regional conflict. Islamic Jihad, another Sunni militant group, is seen as much closer to Iran but still not as deeply intertwined as Hezbollah or other groups.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad launched hundreds of rockets from Gaza during a bout of fighting with Israel earlier this month. Israel accused Islamic Jihad of triggering the violence, which was the worst since a 2014 war. The movement did not deny the Israeli accusations.

Associated Press writers Philip Issa in Baghdad and Fares Akram in Gaza City, Gaza Strip, contributed to this report.

## 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. WHO IS PLAYING DOWN THREAT OF WAR WITH IRAN

President Donald Trump says he hopes the U.S. is not on a path to war with Iran amid fears his two most hawkish advisers could be angling for such a conflict.

### 2. IRAN'S REGIONAL PROXIES ENSURE IT WILL NEVER FIGHT ALONE

From Lebanon and Syria to Iraq, Yemen, and the Gaza Strip, Tehran has significantly expanded its footprint over the past decade, finding and developing powerful allies across the Middle East.

### 3. FLYNN DESCRIBED EFFORTS TO INTERFERE WITH HIS COOPERATION

Michael Flynn told the special counsel's office people connected to the Trump administration and Congress sought to influence his cooperation with the Russia investigation.

### 4. TAIWAN APPROVES SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Taiwan's legislature voted to legalize same-sex marriage, a first in Asia and a boost for LGBT rights activists.

### 5. TRUMP UNVEILS NEW IMMIGRATION PLAN

Unveiling a new immigration plan, Trump says he wanted to provide a sharp contrast with Democrats aiming to upend decades of family-based immigration policy.

### 6. WHICH STATE HOUSE IS EXPECTED TO PASS ABORTION BAN

Missouri's Republican-led House is expected to pass a sweeping bill to ban abortions at eight weeks of pregnancy.

### 7. PIONEERS WHO BROKE COLOR BARRIER TO RACIALLY INTEGRATE MARINE CORPS

The first African Americans admitted to the Marine Corps after President Roosevelt's executive order banning discrimination, endured indignities — but they also paved the way for others who came after.

### 8. GOP BRACES FOR FIGHT AS ROY MOORE WEIGHS SENATE RE-RUN

Roy Moore of Alabama says he's considering a fresh run for Senate next year, prompting national Republicans to signal they'll try blocking him.

### 9. COURTS WEIGH TRUMP'S PLAN TO TAP PENTAGON FOR BORDER WALL

A federal judge in Oakland, California, will consider arguments in two cases seeking to block the White House from spending Defense and Treasury Department money for wall construction.

### 10. "THE BIG BANG THEORY" ENDS ITS 12-SEASON RUN

"The Big Bang Theory" closed out its run as television's top-rated comedy with an emotional final episode.

## Trump plan would shift immigration focus to 'merit'

By ZEKE MILLER, LISA MASCARO and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unveiling a new immigration plan, President Donald Trump said he wanted to provide a sharp contrast with Democrats, and he did — aiming to upend decades of family-based immigration policy with a new approach that favors younger, "totally brilliant," high-skilled workers he says won't compete for American jobs.

Trump's sweeping immigration plan is more a campaign document than anything else. It's a White House attempt to stretch beyond the "build-the-wall" rhetoric that swept the president to office but may not be enough to deliver him a second term. As Trump heads into reelection season, his campaign sees the plan as a way to help him look more reasonable on a signature issue than he often seems — and to cast Democrats as blocking him.

"Will the Democrats give our Country a badly needed immigration win before the election? Good chance!" Trump said in a tweet Friday.

In a Rose Garden speech attended by Republican lawmakers and members of his Cabinet, Trump insisted



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 18 of 42

Thursday that his administration wants immigrants to come to the United States. "We cherish the open door," he said.

Trump said his new system, with points given for those with advanced degrees, job offers and other attributes, will make it exactly "clear what standards we ask you to achieve."

Nowadays, "we discriminate against genius," he said, using a softer tone than his usual fiery campaign rallies. "We discriminate against brilliance. We won't anymore once we get this passed."

Even before the speech, Democrats, whose votes would be needed for any bill to be approved by the divided Congress, panned the effort and questioned the Republican Party's commitment to families.

"Are they saying family is without merit?" asked House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. "Are they saying most of the people who've come to the United States in the history of our country are without merit because they don't have an engineering degree?"

Pelosi continued: "Certainly we want to attract the best to our country." But she said "merit" is a "con-descending" word that means "merit in the eyes of Donald Trump."

Trump's new plan has been months in the making, a project of his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, who has been meeting privately with business groups, religious leaders and conservatives to find common ground among Republicans on an issue that has long divided the party.

Kushner has long complained that many advocates on the immigration issue are very clear about what they're against, but have much more trouble articulating what they're "for." Kushner set out to create a proposal that Republicans might be able to rally around, his mission to give the president and his party a clear platform heading into the 2020 elections.

Trump didn't mention his son-in-law's work during the address but noted that the proposal wasn't written by politicians. Instead, the president said it had input from law enforcement personnel. It also had echoes of White House senior adviser Stephen Miller, who wants to push down the country's immigration levels and has driven much of the administration's policy.

With a humanitarian crisis at the border — officials said this week that a fourth child, a 2-year-old Guatemalan migrant, died in U.S. custody — Trump promised to halt illegal border crossings with the "most complete and effective border security package ever assembled." He did not mention the child's death.

As part of the plan, officials want to shore up ports of entry to ensure all vehicles and people are screened and to create a self-sustaining fund, paid for with increased fees, to modernize ports of entry.

The plan also calls for building border wall in targeted locations and continues to push for an overhaul to the U.S. asylum system, with the goal of processing fewer applications and more quickly removing people who don't qualify.

In addition, the plan includes a proposal to allow public donations to pay for the president's long-promised border wall.

The plan does not address what to do about the millions of immigrants already living in the country illegally, including hundreds of thousands of young "Dreamers" brought to the U.S. as children — a top priority for Democrats. Nor does it reduce overall rates of immigration, as Miller and many conservative Republicans would like.

Republicans in Congress who were briefed on the plan by Kushner and Miller earlier this week welcomed, but did not fully embrace, the approach. Some of those up for reelection, including Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, objected to its failure to account for the young Dreamers. In Colorado, a Democrat running against GOP Sen. Cory Gardner blasted it as part of Trump's "hateful" immigration agenda that would do nothing but "build Trump's wall and keep families apart."

"It's obviously just a start," said Texas GOP Sen. John Cornyn, who will be among those running for reelection in 2020. "It's a clear statement of what our immigration policy should be. ... We're not eliminating family connections, it's just adding an emphasis on merit."

At its core, the proposal would fundamentally overhaul how the country for decades has approached immigration. The country has long placed a preference on providing green cards to family members of immigrants.

Under the Trump plan, the country would award the same number of green card as it now does, about



1 million annually. But far more would go to exceptional students, professionals and people with high-level and vocational degrees. Factors such as age, English language ability and employment offers would also be considered.

Far fewer green cards would be given to people with relatives already in the U.S. They would be reserved just for immediate family members — Trump mentioned spouses and children — rather than parents and adult siblings. Fifty-seven percent would be awarded on merit as opposed to the current 12%.

While Trump is seeking to put a softer facade on the top issue from his first campaign, he also is making a direct appeal to his supporters. He says his plan means fewer low-skilled immigrants will compete for low-paying American jobs.

“Our plan is pro-American, pro-immigrant and pro-worker,” Trump said, saying it contrasts with what he called Democrats’ support of “chaos.”

Efforts to overhaul the immigration system have gone nowhere for three decades, and prospects for an agreement seem especially bleak as the 2020 elections approach.

Lisa Koop, director of legal services at the National Immigrant Justice Center, called Trump’s plan “a political stunt intended to posture rather than problem-solve.”

Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, which advocates for lower immigration rates, welcomed a “very positive effort” that was “undermined by the embrace of the current very high level of immigration.”

---

Associated Press writers Kevin Freking and Colleen Long in Washington and Nicholas Riccardi in Denver contributed to this report.

---

Follow Colvin, Miller and Mascaro on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj> and <https://twitter.com/zeke-jmiller> and [twitter.com/lisamascaro](https://twitter.com/lisamascaro)

---

This story has been corrected to show Trump unveiled his immigration plan on Thursday, not Tuesday.

## Trump more cautious than his top advisers on Iran

By DEB RIECHMANN and MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump says he hopes the U.S. is not on a path to war with Iran amid fears that his two most hawkish advisers could be angling for such a conflict with the Islamic Republic.

Asked Thursday if the U.S. was going to war with Iran, the president replied, “I hope not” — a day after he repeated a desire for dialogue, tweeting, “I’m sure that Iran will want to talk soon.”

The tone contrasted with a series of moves by the U.S. and Iran that have sharply escalated tensions in the Middle East in recent days. For the past year, national security adviser John Bolton and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo have been the public face of the administration’s “maximum pressure” campaign against Tehran.

On Friday, an official with Iran’s powerful Revolutionary Guard warned that Iranian missiles can “easily reach warships” in the Persian Gulf and elsewhere in the Middle East. The semi-official Fars news agency quoted Mohammad Saleh Jokar as saying that Iran’s missiles have a range of 2,000 kilometers — about 1,250 miles— and can attack any target in the region.

The escalating rhetoric has rattled lawmakers who are demanding more information on the White House’s claims of rising Iranian aggression. Top leaders in Congress received a classified briefing on Iran on Thursday, but many other lawmakers from both parties have criticized the White House for not keeping them informed.

Iran poses a particular challenge for Trump. While he talks tough against foreign adversaries to the delight of his supporters, a military confrontation with Iran could make him appear to be backtracking on a campaign pledge to keep America out of foreign entanglements.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 20 of 42

Lawmakers and allies, however, worry that any erratic or miscalculated response from Trump could send the U.S. careening into conflict.

Trump pulled the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear deal last year and reinstated sanctions on Tehran that are crippling its economy.

Tensions rose dramatically May 5, when Bolton announced that the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group would be rushed from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf ahead of schedule in response to “a number of troubling and escalatory indications and warnings,” without going into details.

Since then, four oil tankers, including two belonging to Saudi Arabia, were targeted in an apparent act of sabotage off the coast of the United Arab Emirates, according to officials in the region, and a Saudi pipeline was attacked by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels from Yemen. The U.S. also ordered non-essential staff out of Iraq and has dispatched additional military assets to the region.

The Senate will receive a classified briefing on Iran on Tuesday, according to Jim Risch of Idaho, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. The House has requested a classified briefing as well.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said briefings are necessary because informing leaders “is no substitute for the full membership of the Congress.” She said a failure to inform lawmakers is “part of a pattern” for the Trump administration “that is not right,” because the power to declare war resides with Congress.

“I hope that the president’s advisers recognize that they have no authorization to go forward in any way” against Iran, Pelosi said.

Trump has dismissed suggestions that any of his advisers, particularly Bolton, are pushing him into a conflict.

“John has strong views on things, but that’s OK. I actually temper John, which is pretty amazing isn’t it?” Trump said recently when asked if he was satisfied with Bolton’s advice. “I have different sides. I mean, I have John Bolton, and I have other people that are a little more dovish than him. And ultimately I make the decision.”

Mark Dubowitz, an advocate of a hardline policy toward Iran and chief executive of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, said, “Trump is smart to let these advisers play the roles they play and it really does help him lay the table for negotiation, but ultimately, it comes back to his ability to oversee a negotiation and do so wisely and judiciously, and that’s an open question.”

Tensions started to spiral last year when Trump pulled out of a deal the U.S. and other world powers signed with Iran during the Obama administration. The deal lifted economic sanctions on Iran in exchange for curbing of its nuclear program.

Trump agreed with critics of the deal that it didn’t address Tehran’s work on ballistic missiles or its support of militant groups around the region. His administration reinstated sanctions that had been lifted under the deal — the Europeans and other signatories are still in it — and has piled on more.

Trita Parsi, an adjunct associate professor at Georgetown University who advised the Obama administration on Iran, thinks the Iranians are trying to exploit Trump and Bolton’s divergence on foreign policy issues.

He cited a recent tweet from Hessamoddin Ashena, an adviser to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, directed squarely at Trump and Bolton, who is easily recognized in public by his white, bushy mustache.

“You wanted a better deal with Iran. Looks like you are going to get a war instead. That’s what happens when you listen to the mustache,” the Iranian adviser said.

---

Associated Press writer Zeke Miller contributed to this report.

## Missouri House expected to pass abortion ban at 8 weeks

By SUMMER BALLENTINE Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Missouri’s Republican-led House is expected to pass a sweeping bill to ban abortions at eight weeks of pregnancy on lawmakers’ final day in session Friday, joining Alabama and several other states that have moved recently to severely restrict the procedure..

If enacted, the ban would be among the most restrictive in the U.S. It would include exceptions for

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 21 of 42

medical emergencies, but not for pregnancies caused by rape or incest. Doctors would face five to 15 years in prison for violating the eight-week cutoff. Women who receive abortions wouldn't be prosecuted.

Republican Gov. Mike Parson is likely to sign the bill.

"Until the day that we no longer have abortions in this country, I will never waver in the fight for life," Parson said during a Wednesday rally with supporters of the legislation.

Planned Parenthood Action Fund President Leana Wen said in a statement that enacting the measure would be "disastrous."

"Missouri Gov. Parson should be ashamed of riding the disgraceful coattails of 25 white men in Alabama who just voted to ban safe, legal abortion," Wen said.

The Missouri legislation comes after Alabama's governor signed a bill Wednesday making performing an abortion a felony in nearly all cases.

Supporters say the Alabama bill is meant to conflict with the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion nationally in hopes of sparking a court case that might prompt the current panel of more conservative justices to revisit abortion rights.

Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio and Georgia also have approved bans on abortion once fetal cardiac activity can be detected, which can occur in about the sixth week of pregnancy. Some of those laws already have been challenged in court, and similar restrictions in North Dakota and Iowa previously were struck down by judges.

Missouri's bill also includes an outright ban on abortions except in cases of medical emergencies. But unlike Alabama's, it would kick in only if Roe v. Wade is overturned.

If courts don't allow Missouri's proposed eight-week ban to take effect, the bill includes a ladder of less-restrictive time limits that would prohibit abortions at 14, 18 or 20 weeks or pregnancy. Republican House Speaker Elijah Haahr has said the goal is for the legislation to withstand court challenges.

A total of 3,903 abortions occurred in Missouri in 2017, the last full year for which the state Department of Health and Senior Services has statistics online. Of those, 1,673 occurred at under nine weeks and 119 occurred at 20 weeks or later in a pregnancy.

Missouri lawmakers have until 6 p.m. Friday to pass bills. Other pending measures include a \$300 million bonding plan to pay for bridge repairs across the state.

---

Associated Press writer David A. Lieb contributed to this report

## 1 year after Santa Fe shooting, Texas shuns tougher gun laws

By JIM VERTUNO Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A year after a high school mass shooting near Houston that remains one of the deadliest in U.S. history, Texas lawmakers are on the brink of going home without passing any new gun restrictions, or even tougher firearm storage laws that Gov. Greg Abbott backed after the tragedy.

A Republican governor pushing even a small restriction on firearms kept at home in gun-friendly Texas was a landmark shift after two decades of loosening weapons regulations. And it put Texas in line with other states exploring ways to prevent not just mass shootings, but thousands of lethal gun incidents involving minors.

But the state's effort was met with a swift and severe rebuke from gun-rights advocates who have all but killed the issue. The anniversary of the shooting at Santa Fe High School is Saturday.

"I saw my friend and co-worker killed," Flo Rice, a Santa Fe substitute teacher who was shot five times that day, told lawmakers. "Had stricter gun laws been in place, maybe the shooter's father would have had his guns locked up, 10 lives would have been spared ... It is too late for Santa Fe, but maybe this bill will save other children's lives."

Her words had little impact. In the final two weeks of the legislative session, Texas lawmakers are instead moving toward arming more school personnel, boosting campus security measures and mental health services for teenagers. Those also were ideas from Abbott, who has gone silent on the issue of gun stor-

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 22 of 42

age safety since first proposing it.

"It's really sad," said Ed Scruggs of Texas Gun Sense. "Here we are coming up on the one year anniversary and they're not doing anything but putting more guns in schools and hardening school sites. And this was something that could have applied directly to a situation like Santa Fe."

Police have alleged the Santa Fe shooter, a student at the school, used his father's shotgun and handgun to kill eight students and two substitute teachers. Thirteen others were wounded.

Within days, Abbott held a series of roundtable discussions on school violence with victims and gun rights and gun control advocates. Ideas that emerged included increasing the penalty for gun owners — from a misdemeanor to a felony — when minors take and use their firearms to harm or kill someone. Texas has no requirement that all firearms be locked up.

The blowback was almost immediate.

Members of the Legislature's "Freedom Caucus" vowed to oppose home gun storage regulations as government overreach on the right to bear arms. Gun rights groups insisted firearms must be kept easily available for self-defense.

"I will fight it forever," Rep. Jonathan Stickland, a Republican, tweeted hours after Abbott first backed tighter gun storage laws. Within a month, opposition to the plan was part of the 2018 state Republican party platform.

The gun storage penalties, and a plan for a statewide public service campaign on safe storage, still had some GOP support when lawmakers convened in January. One of the primary sponsors of the Senate's gun storage bill is Republican Sen. Joan Huffman, a former prosecutor and judge from Houston.

She's also the chairman of the Senate committee where her bill was assigned. The session ends May 27 and Huffman has yet to give her own bill a hearing.

"That's the clearest signal possible" that Republican leadership wants to make sure the bill will die, said Mark Jones, political science professor at Rice University.

Despite their strong majorities in the House and Senate, Republicans want to avoid any votes that could be interpreted as anti-gun in a state with more than 1.3 million handgun license holders, Jones said.

"An overwhelming majority still worry far more about the Republican primary than the general election," Jones said. "They are always worried about being outflanked on the right."

Huffman and Abbott's office did not respond to requests for comment.

The House at least gave the gun storage bill a late-night committee hearing to hear testimony, but didn't take a vote.

Rice, the wounded teacher, was among a handful of witnesses. With the aid of a cane, she limped to the podium to plead with lawmakers to pass the bill. She was immediately followed by Rachel Malone, Texas director of Gun Owners of America, who opposed the measure.

"We should give (gun owners) freedom to protect themselves," Malone said. "Guns are used more often to protect innocent lives than they are used to take it."

The bill for a statewide safe storage campaign fell flat. Representatives of the NRA and the Texas State Rifle Association lobbied against it, arguing that gun rights groups and gun manufacturers have already created similar campaigns that are distributed to gun stores and shooting ranges.

That way, gun owners get "content delivered from a source they trust," NRA lobbyist Tara Mica told lawmakers. A state campaign designed by the Texas state police could easily be corrupted by anti-gun rhetoric, she said.

The ability to stonewall two bills that had the support of Abbott just a year ago proves the muscle of the gun lobby in Texas, said Rep. Joe Moody, a Democrat.

"It shows the stranglehold that unreasonable zealots have over this issue," Moody said. "And that's a sad state of affairs given where we were a year ago in Santa Fe."



## US: Flynn described efforts to interfere with cooperation

By ERIC TUCKER and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former White House national security adviser Michael Flynn told the special counsel's office that people connected to the Trump administration and Congress sought to influence his cooperation with the Russia investigation, and he provided a voicemail recording of one such communication, prosecutors said in a court filing made public Thursday.

Meanwhile, the judge in the case ordered that portions of special counsel Robert Mueller's report that relate to Flynn be unredacted and made public by the end of the month.

Thursday's order from U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan is the first time a judge is known to have directed the Justice Department to make public any portion of the report that the agency had kept secret. It could set up a conflict with Attorney General William Barr, whose team spent weeks blacking out from the report grand jury information, details of ongoing investigations and other sensitive information.

Prosecutors revealed details about Flynn's communications in a court filing aimed at showing the extent of his cooperation with Mueller's investigation into ties between the Trump campaign and Russia. Flynn, a vital witness in the probe, is awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to lying to the FBI about his contacts during the presidential transition period in 2016 with the-then Russian ambassador to the United States.

Prosecutors did not identify the people with whom Flynn was in touch nor did they describe the exact conversations.

But they said Flynn recounted multiple instances in which "he or his attorneys received communications from persons connected to the Administration or Congress that could have affected both his willingness to cooperate and the completeness of that cooperation." Prosecutors say they were unaware of some of those instances, which took place before and after his guilty plea, until Flynn told them about them.

Mueller's report did not reach a conclusion on whether Trump illegally obstructed justice, but he did examine nearly a dozen episodes for potential obstruction, including efforts by the president to discourage cooperation.

The report reveals that after Flynn began cooperating with the government, an unidentified Trump lawyer left a message with Flynn's attorneys reminding them that the president still had warm feelings for Flynn and asking for a "heads-up" if Flynn knew damaging information about the president.

Sullivan ordered prosecutors Thursday to give him a copy of the audio recording they reference in the court filing, and to make public a transcript of that call. He also directed them to file publicly transcripts of any calls with Russian officials such as the ambassador, Sergey Kislyak.

Flynn was supposed to have been sentenced in December, with prosecutors saying he was so cooperative and helpful in their investigation that he was entitled to avoid prison. But after a judge sharply criticized Flynn during his sentencing hearing, Flynn asked for it to be postponed so that he could continue cooperating with prosecutors and reduce the likelihood of being sent to prison.

The document also details how Flynn assisted investigators as they looked into whether the Trump campaign conspired with the Kremlin to sway the outcome of the 2016 election.

Flynn described to investigators statements from senior campaign officials in 2016 about WikiLeaks — which received and published Democratic emails that were hacked by Russian intelligence officers "to which only a select few people were privy," prosecutors said. That includes conversations with senior campaign officials "during which the prospect of reaching out to WikiLeaks was discussed."

A redacted version of Mueller's report released last month said that the evidence did not establish a criminal conspiracy between Russia and the campaign.



## Taiwan approves same-sex marriage in first for Asia

By RALPH JENNINGS Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan's legislature voted Friday to legalize same-sex marriage, a first in Asia and a boost for LGBT rights activists who had championed the cause for two decades.

Lawmakers pressured by LGBT groups as well as by church organizations opposed to the move approved most of a government-sponsored bill that recognizes same-sex marriages and gives couples many of the tax, insurance and child custody benefits available to male-female married couples.

That makes Taiwan the first place in Asia with a comprehensive law both allowing and laying out the terms of same-sex marriage.

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, a supporter of the law, tweeted: "On May 17th, 2019 in Taiwan, LoveWon. We took a big step toward true equality, and made Taiwan a better country."

"It's a breakthrough, I have to say so," said Shiau Hong-chi, professor of gender studies and communications management at Shih-Hsin University in Taiwan.

Thousands of people, including same-sex couples, demonstrated Friday morning in the rainy streets outside parliament before the vote. Many carried rainbow-colored placards reading "The vote cannot fail." About 50 opponents sat under a tent outside parliament and gave speeches favoring marriage between only men and women.

Taiwan's Constitutional Court in May 2017 said the constitution allows same-sex marriages and gave parliament two years to adjust laws accordingly.

The court order mobilized LGBT advocacy groups pushing for fair treatment, as well as opponents among church groups and advocates of traditional Chinese family values that stress the importance of marriage and producing offspring.

Religion, conservative values and political systems that discourage LGBT activism have slowed momentum toward same-sex marriage in many Asian countries from Japan through much of Southeast Asia, although Thailand is exploring the legalization of same-sex civil partnerships.

"This will help spark a debate in Thailand, and hopefully will help Thailand move faster on our own partnership bill," said Wattana Keiangpa of the Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health.

Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director for Human Rights Watch, said Taiwan's action should "sound a clarion call, kicking off a larger movement across Asia to ensure equality for LGBT people and pro-active protection of their rights by governments throughout the region. No more excuses!"

Taiwan's acceptance of gay and lesbian relationships began in the 1990s when leaders in today's ruling Democratic Progressive Party championed the cause to help Taiwan stand out in Asia as an open society.

Although claimed by China as its own territory, Taiwan is a self-governing democracy with a vibrant civil society dedicated to promoting rights for sexual and ethnic minorities, women, the handicapped and others.

Mainland China, ruled by the authoritarian Communist Party, remains much more conservative and officials have repeatedly discouraged even the discussion of legalizing same-sex marriage.

Despite that, news of Taiwan's new law was a major trending topic on social media in China, with more than 100 million views on the Twitter-like microblogging site Weibo.

Opponents in Taiwan raised fears of incest, insurance scams and children confused by having two mothers or two fathers. Both sides of the issue have held colorful street demonstrations and lobbied lawmakers.

"This is going to cause a lot of morality problems," said Lin Shih-min with the Taiwan political action group Stability of Power, which opposed the law. "From the point of view of the children, they have the right to grow up with both a mother and a father."

In November 2018, a majority of Taiwan voters rejected same-sex marriage in an advisory referendum. However, legislators favoring the bill, and voting separately on each item largely along party lines, said it followed the law as well as the spirit of the referendum.

"We need to take responsibility for the referendum last year and we need to take responsibility for people who have suffered from incomplete laws or faced discrimination," ruling party legislator Hsiao Bi-khim said during the three-hour parliament session.

At least 20 same-sex couples are planning a mass marriage registration in Taipei on May 24, a spokes-

man for the advocacy group Marriage Equality Coalition Taiwan said. The newlyweds and hundreds of invitees will hold a mass party a day later on a blocked-off boulevard outside the presidential office, the event organizer said.

The law will give a boost to Jay Lin and his partner, who hope to marry and assume joint custody of their two 2-year-old sons. They plan to register after May 24.

"A lot of gay parents are excited about that already," said Lin, a Taipei-based online streaming service founder.

"I think once more people are married and more families are more comfortable being out in public, that will naturally have a beneficial impact on society and on people's minds," Lin said.

## Roy Moore weighs AL Senate re-run despite GOP opposition

By ALAN FRAM and KIM CHANDLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Conservative lightning rod Roy Moore of Alabama, narrow loser of a turbulent special election for Senate in 2017, is considering a fresh run next year. National Republican leaders are signaling they'll again try preventing their party from nominating the twice-removed state jurist whose campaign was battered by allegations of long-ago sexual harassment of teenagers.

Moore's defeat for the same seat two years ago made him the first Republican in reliably red Alabama to lose a Senate race in a quarter century. National party leaders say a Moore nomination would endanger what they view as a strong shot at defeating Sen. Doug Jones, the Democrat and former federal prosecutor who upset Moore two years ago.

Moore's nomination could also have national repercussions, allowing Democrats to accuse the GOP of ignoring the #MeToo movement and coddling a man accused of sexual misconduct, allegations he's denied. Moore says he expects to announce a decision in mid-June.

"I'm still praying about it and talking to people, my family, my wife and I'm strongly considering it," Moore, 72, told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

In a separate AP interview last week, he said 2020 "could be a touchpoint in our nation, not only for the presidency but for the House and Congress." Moore said he had many reasons for considering another campaign but declined to elaborate.

Republicans control the Senate 53-47 and view defeating Jones as a top priority. Jones, 65, is considered the most endangered Democratic incumbent facing re-election in 2020, a year when several GOP senators are vulnerable and control of the chamber will be at stake.

Alabama's deep conservative leanings were demonstrated anew this week with a new law criminalizing nearly every abortion in the state, which Jones called an "extreme" attack on women. With abortion potentially a driving 2020 issue and President Donald Trump certain to carry Alabama easily in next year's elections, Republicans have little interest in fumbling a chance to recapture Jones' seat.

Establishment Republicans also have no taste for revisiting the chaos that was Moore's 2017 Senate race. His campaign and his refusal to abandon it after the sexual harassment charges emerged a month before Election Day divided the party, with President Donald Trump giving Moore his eleventh-hour endorsement while other leaders remained opposed or distanced themselves from the contest.

Jones defeated Moore by 22,000 votes out of 1.3 million cast.

"The people of Alabama rejected Roy Moore not too long ago," Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind., who leads the National Republican Senatorial Committee, the Senate GOP's campaign arm, told the AP this week. "I with my Republican colleagues always want to be supportive of the most conservative candidate who can actually win a race, and I don't see that anything has changed in the state of Alabama since the last election."

Asked if he would try to head off Moore, Young said, "We'll actively work to make sure that the most conservative, electable Republican is our nominee."

Sending a similar signal was Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who tried unsuccessfully to derail Moore in 2017. Asked whether he'd oppose a renewed run by Moore, McConnell told a reporter, "I think you know the answer to that."

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 26 of 42

Alabama GOP leaders, who resisted pressure from Washington Republicans to hinder Moore's path to the 2017 nomination, are showing no signs of thwarting him this time.

"The voters will make these decisions," state party Chairman Terry Lathan said in an email. She said she didn't know Moore's plans because "he rarely communicates with the Party."

McConnell's and other party leaders' preferred 2017 nominee was GOP Sen. Luther Strange, appointed months earlier to fill a vacancy. They feared that moderate voters would abandon Moore if he was nominated because of his hard-right views against gay marriage and for a larger role of religion in government, plus his use of racially insensitive language.

The Senate Leadership Fund, a super PAC aligned with McConnell, spent \$6.9 million in the primary against Moore and for Strange, according to Federal Election Commission figures. The Republican senatorial committee spent another \$400,000 to help Strange. Moore defeated Strange in a runoff.

McConnell began intervening in GOP primaries earlier this decade after some quirky contenders won nominations but lost winnable general elections.

After winning the nomination, Moore's campaign was further roiled when The Washington Post reported claims by several women that he pursued inappropriate relationships with them when they were teenagers and he was in his 30s. McConnell and others unsuccessfully called for Moore to step aside.

Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nev., who chairs the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, parried a question about whether the sexual misconduct allegations would make Moore a weak candidate in 2020, saying, "You've already answered your own question."

Moore said Washington Republicans' complaints that he couldn't win another election were unfounded since he was elected twice as the state's chief justice. He was removed both times, for publicly displaying the Ten Commandments and telling lower court judges to refuse to marry gay couples.

"Should I qualify I'll run for Senate in the state of Alabama, not Washington, D.C.," said Moore, who's been strongly supported by evangelical voters.

Moore said he's not reached out to Trump or White House officials this time.

"It's not because I'm adverse to President Trump at all," he said. "I support his policies and what he stands for. I'm not running for anybody else, I'm running for the state of Alabama."

A White House spokesperson declined to answer questions. Trump presidential campaign aides didn't immediately respond to emails seeking comment.

Rep. Bradley Byrne, former Auburn University football coach Tommy Tuberville are among those who've already announced bids for the GOP nomination.

Strange filled the vacancy left by Sen. Republican Jeff Sessions, who became Trump's first attorney general.

Chandler reported from Montgomery, Alabama.

## Warriors rally from 15 down at halftime, hold off Blazers

By JANIE McCAULEY AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — These Golden State Warriors have long been able to score in fabulous, jaw-dropping flurries. Down by eight to the Portland Trail Blazers at home with 4½ minutes to go, they needed every last burst, perfect pass, driving layup and dunk.

"Our experience really paid off for us tonight having a bunch of guys who just won't quit," said Draymond Green, who was right smack in the middle of it all.

Stephen Curry scored 37 points, and the Warriors rallied from a 15-point halftime deficit before holding off Portland on the final possession for a 114-111 win Thursday night and a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

Golden State coach Steve Kerr insisted his team stole this game with a sensational final few minutes and another, familiar third-quarter outburst.

Counterpart Terry Stotts of the Trail Blazers considered it a "lost opportunity" on the road.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 27 of 42

CJ McCollum missed a driving jumper with 32 seconds left and Green scored on the other end for the Warriors, giving Portland one final chance with 12.3 seconds to go. Andre Iguodala then blocked a 3-point attempt by Damian Lillard on the left wing.

"They stole it, but they earned it down the stretch," McCollum said.

Seth Curry, Steph's little brother, scored 16 points and put Portland ahead on a 3-pointer with 1:03 left before Kevon Looney's dunk on the other end put Golden State back on top at 112-111. Seth tried to "distract" his brother at the free throw line late, or so the story went from Steph, who called Seth a "pest" on defense.

"This was like the coolest experience I think I've ever had playing against him. You talk about the stage, he was amazing tonight," Stephen Curry said. "For my parents, I know we've talked about it the whole series, these last two games it's probably nerve-wracking as heck for them. It worked out perfectly tonight. He played well and we won."

Stephen Curry shot 11 for 22 and made all 11 of his free throws — three with 2:01 left — to post his third straight 30-point performance while Splash Brother Klay Thompson needed a half to heat up, scoring 13 of his 24 points in the Warriors' 39-point third period. It was reminiscent of those old third-quarter runs that have defined this group.

McCollum scored 22 points for Portland and Lillard overcame a slow start to add 23 points and 10 assists as the Blazers looked far more in sync than in a 116-94 defeat two days earlier.

Game 3 in the best-of-seven series is Saturday night at Portland.

"We did play a much better game at both ends of the floor tonight. We've got to take that into Game 3," Stotts said. "It is a lost opportunity, no question. We had a chance to get one here on the road."

Green made a pretty bounce pass through the paint to a cutting Iguodala for a dunk with 3:06 left to make it 108-105, then Green assisted on a layup by Looney the next possession.

"Draymond's been special all playoffs," Thompson said. "... When he goes, we go. He was tremendous tonight."

Green had 16 points, 10 rebounds, seven assists and five blocked shots playing with foul trouble. His seven straight playoff games with at least 10 rebounds are a career high.

"We've been here before," Green said. "When you're on a run like we're currently in, you've seen everything. Down eight points with what, four minutes to go, or whatever it was, just got to keep going, because we know we can erase eight points."

The Warriors missed Kevin Durant for a third straight game because of a strained right calf and he isn't likely to return at all this round.

Curry scored Golden State's first eight points of the third to get his team back within 69-58 then Thompson hit two straight 3s.

The Blazers had built a 65-50 halftime lead, capitalizing on 10 Warriors turnovers for 18 points.

Then two of the top backcourts in the Western Conference went at it in an entertaining final two quarters. The game was tied at 89 to start the fourth.

The Warriors already got past James Harden and Chris Paul in the last round — now it's McCollum and Lillard standing in the way of a fifth straight trip to the NBA Finals.

Portland showed it made adjustments from Game 1 and brought it on both ends from the opening tip after the Blazers had regularly left Curry wide open on the perimeter off the pick-and-roll and he scored 36 points while matching his postseason high with nine 3-pointers.

"We've got to bring that same energy at home," McCollum said, "understand that this is the first time in 19 years we've been in the conference final."

## LILLARD AT HOME

Lillard isn't ready to ponder this might have been his final game at Oracle Arena, just a short walk from where he grew up in Oakland. The Warriors are moving to new Chase Center in San Francisco next season.

The Blazers want to return to the Bay Area for a Game 5 next week.

"I doubt this will be the last time. We plan on being back here," Lillard said.

## DURANT UPDATE



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 28 of 42

Durant will miss at least Games 3 and 4, scheduled to be re-examined by doctors in another week. That means he wouldn't be expected to return until the NBA Finals if Golden State advances.

Durant was re-evaluated Thursday and is not yet ready for on-court work — a necessary step before the two-time reigning NBA Finals MVP can return to game action.

## TIP-INS

Trail Blazers: Seth Curry stole the ball from big brother Steph in the second quarter. They are the first brothers to ever face each other in a conference final. ... The Blazers are 1-10 all-time against Golden State in the playoffs.

Warriors: The Warriors are 31-4 in the postseason when Curry scores 30 or more points. ... Golden State shot 3 of 13 from deep in the first half and 9 for 29 overall on 3s. ... The Warriors are 15-4 in Game 2 of postseason series dating to the 2015 title run.

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

## Bruins sweep Hurricanes to reach Stanley Cup Final

By JOEDY McCREARY AP Sports Writer

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Boston's top line kept finding ways to score, especially on the power play. With a chance to clinch another series, Tuukka Rask was perfect — again.

Rask posted his seventh career playoff shutout, and the Bruins swept the Carolina Hurricanes out of the Eastern Conference final, winning 4-0 on Thursday night to reach their third Stanley Cup Final in nine years.

"Everyone in the room wanted to be at their best," forward Brad Marchand said, "and everyone was at their best tonight."

Rask made 24 saves in his second straight series-clinching shutout. Patrice Bergeron scored two goals, David Pastrnak had a goal and two assists and Marchand added an empty-netter. Both Bergeron and Pastrnak scored on second-period power plays.

The Bruins won their seventh straight postseason game — their longest playoff winning streak in nearly half a century — to return to the Cup final after winning in 2011 and losing to Chicago two years later.

"It's so difficult to advance in the playoffs, let alone make it to the final," said Rask, the backup to Conn Smythe Trophy winner Tim Thomas in 2011. "We need to really enjoy this but realize we have a lot of work to do."

On its longest postseason win streak since reeling off nine straight in 1972, Boston earned a break before taking on the West winner. San Jose leads its series with St. Louis 2-1 heading into Game 4 Friday night.

The Bruins won this one without captain Zdeno Chara, who was scratched with an unspecified injury and is day to day, ending a run of 98 consecutive playoff games for the hulking 42-year-old veteran that dated to 2011.

Chara joined his teammates on the ice for the post-series handshake line with Carolina, and while coach Bruce Cassidy declined to elaborate on the nature of Chara's injury, he did say he's expected back for the start of the Cup final.

Curtis McElhinney made 19 saves for the Hurricanes, whose first playoff appearance since 2009 ended precisely the same way their previous postseason trip did — by being swept in the East final.

"Listen, the tank's been low for a long time," captain Justin Williams said. "It's been running on adrenaline and sheer will. It's always tough to swallow when the season ends, just abruptly like that. It's like you're cut real quick. And you've got to go home."

Carolina got this far by sweeping the New York Islanders in Round 2. Not that the extra rest time helped the Hurricanes, or anyone else in these playoffs: No team that swept its opponent has won its next series.

After outscoring them 17-5 in four games, Boston no doubt wants to halt that trend — especially with the sport's biggest prize on the line.

Special teams drove this series, with the Bruins scoring seven power-play goals in the four games while the Hurricanes had five during their entire 15-game postseason run. Boston had at least one power-play



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 29 of 42

goal in every game while Carolina failed to score on its last 13 chances with the man advantage.

So it was no surprise that Boston took control with its best-in-the-playoffs power-play unit.

Eighteen seconds into a minor on the Hurricanes for having too many men on the ice, Pastrnak finished off a slick give-and-go with Marchand, getting past Calvin de Haan and slipping the puck into an open net at 4:46 of the second.

"Everything's going OK, then we get into that specialty area where that's obviously a huge advantage for them," coach Rod Brind'Amour said. "And they made us pay."

With Greg McKegg in the box for goaltender interference, the Bruins scored on another give-and-go involving Pastrnak, who set up Bergeron's goal with 1:26 left in the second.

Rask — who blanked Columbus 3-0 in the decisive sixth game of the previous series — didn't even face a shot on goal for roughly the first half of the third, and only seven for the entire period.

"Tuukka's been very consistent," Cassidy said. "Usually, if you're going to get on a roll, your goaltender's going to have to win a game for you somewhere along the way or steal one for you. ... He can't have a bad night."

McElhinney made his second straight start in place of Petr Mrazek, a move made by Brind'Amour to shake things up after the Hurricanes lost the first two games of the series in Boston by a combined 11-4 score.

That this game was scoreless after 20 minutes was a testament to McElhinney, who came up with several early gems — including robbing Marchand from close range with his glove about 7½ minutes in.

NOTES: D John Moore replaced Chara in the defensive pairing with Connor Clifton. ... With fourth-line forward Chris Wagner back in Boston having his injured right arm examined, C Noel Acciari slid into the lineup for the Bruins for the first time in the series. ... Both teams' general managers — Don Waddell of the Hurricanes, and Don Sweeney of the Bruins — were announced as finalists for the league's GM of the year award. ... Carolina LW Jordan Martinook (lower body) missed a second straight game.

UP NEXT

The Bruins have an extended break before the Stanley Cup Final.

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

## **Pregnant Chicago woman slain, baby cut from her womb**

By CARYN ROUSSEAU and DON BABWIN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A Chicago woman who sold baby clothes to a pregnant woman and lured her back to her house with an offer of more clothing has been charged with murder after allegedly strangling the woman with a cord and cutting the infant from her womb, police said Thursday.

Clarisa Figueroa, 46, apparently wanted to raise another child two years after her adult son died of natural causes, investigators said.

"Words cannot express how disgusting and thoroughly disturbing these allegations are," Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson told reporters at a news conference to announce the murder charges against Figueroa and her 24-year-old daughter, Desiree Figueroa. The mother's boyfriend, 40-year-old Piotr Bobak, was charged with concealment of a homicide.

The charges come three weeks after 19-year-old Marlen Ochoa-Lopez disappeared and a day after her body was discovered in a garbage can in the backyard of Figueroa's home on the city's Southwest Side, about 4 miles from her own home.

According to police, the young woman drove from her high school to Figueroa's home in response to an offer of free clothes that Figueroa had posted on Facebook. When she arrived, police said, she was strangled and the baby cut from her body.

A few hours later, Figueroa frantically called 911, claiming that her newborn baby was not breathing. When first responders arrived, the child was blue. They tried to resuscitate the infant and transported the boy to a nearby hospital, where police said he remained in grave condition and was not expected to survive.

Police did not connect the woman's disappearance and the 911 call about the baby until May 7, when

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 30 of 42

friends of Ochoa-Lopez directed detectives to her social media account, which showed she had communicated with Figueroa in a Facebook group for expectant mothers.

At the same time, Clarisa Figueroa had started a GoFundMe campaign for the funeral of what she said was her dying baby, said Sara Walker, a spokeswoman for Ochoa-Lopez's family.

Police then conducted DNA tests, which showed that Ochoa-Lopez and her husband, Yiovanni Lopez, were actually his parents, Walker said.

When police arrived to question Figueroa, her daughter told them that her mother was in the hospital with some kind of leg injury, before adding that she had just delivered a baby, said Brendan Deenihan, deputy chief of detectives.

"She told an extremely odd story," and officers "kind of knew where this is headed," Deenihan said.

Police then searched the neighborhood and found Ochoa-Lopez's car a few blocks away. On Tuesday, they returned with a search warrant, finding cleaning supplies as well as evidence of blood in the hallway and in the bathroom. They later found the body in a trash can behind the house and recovered surveillance video that showed Ochoa-Lopez's vehicle driving through the neighborhood on the day they believed she was killed, authorities said.

Ochoa-Lopez's family had been looking for her since her disappearance on April 23, organizing search parties and holding news conferences as they pushed police for updates in the investigation.

Her father, Arnulfo Ochoa, said relatives were grateful to have found her. Now they want justice. The family was also bracing for the baby's death, while still hoping for a miracle.

"We plead to God that he gives us our child because that is a blessing that my wife left for us," Yiovanni Lopez told reporters through a Spanish interpreter outside the county morgue where his wife's body was taken.

The three suspects were scheduled to appear Friday in bond court.

---

Associated Press videojournalist Noreen Nasir contributed to this report.

## Trump, de Blasio: Both look in mirror and see a president

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — He's deeply unpopular among fellow New Yorkers, often savaged by the city's tabloids and fights with the media that cover him. He also believes he can be elected president in 2020.

That's Donald Trump. And that's Bill de Blasio.

On the day when de Blasio, New York City's Democratic mayor, announced his unlikely candidacy for president, the current occupant of the White House was headed back to his hometown of New York to raise campaign cash.

The men wasted little time trading barbs.

"The Dems are getting another beauty to join their group. Bill de Blasio of NYC, considered the worst mayor in the U.S., will supposedly be making an announcement for president today," Trump tweeted early Thursday. "He is a JOKE, but if you like high taxes & crime, he's your man. NYC HATES HIM!"

De Blasio dished out his own gibes.

"I'm going to keep calling him 'Con Don' because that's what he deserves to be called," de Blasio said after declaring his candidacy. "He's a con man, and we New Yorkers know a con man when we see one."

There are significant limits to any comparison between the two men: They are on opposite ends of the political spectrum and have wildly different family and economic backgrounds. And while Trump is the most polarizing and talked-about politician on the planet, de Blasio suffers from low national name-recognition and is often greeted with shrugs even across the five boroughs he governs.

But they are also deeply intertwined, their political pasts — and perhaps futures — connected to the city they call home.

The president's shadow looms large over New York, buildings that bear his name filling the skyline. On Thursday, he attended a fundraiser on Manhattan's Upper East Side — not far from the mayoral residence,

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 31 of 42

Gracie Mansion.

Trump, who is wildly unpopular in the city, was greeted by a small group of protesters, chanting, "Hey hey, ho ho, Donald Trump has got to go." Trump has largely avoided visiting the city, saying he doesn't want to snarl traffic, as he did during Thursday's evening rush hour.

After arriving in New York, Trump tweeted a video of himself aboard Air Force One predicting that the mayor won't last long in the 2020 race and saying that de Blasio, who was traveling to Iowa on Thursday to campaign, should go home.

"I wish him luck. But really, it'd be better off if you got back to New York City and did your job for the little time you have left," Trump said.

De Blasio quickly responded with his own video, saying, "Hey, Con Don, I saw your video, and man, you looked really low energy." He added, "I really think you better rest up because you're going to need it for the election ahead. We're coming for you."

De Blasio, who was reelected in 2017 to a second term governing the nation's largest city, has spent years defining himself as the anti-Trump.

Earlier this week, de Blasio held a rally outside Trump Tower, threatening its owner with hundreds of thousands of dollars in environmental fines. He feuded on Twitter with the president's two adult sons over his mayoral record. And when announcing his presidential bid on Thursday, he made the case that he was the ideal candidate to take on Trump.

"I know how to challenge this guy," he said.

De Blasio, a liberal former political operative, is far more representative of his hometown's politics than Trump, who received just 18 percent of the city's vote in 2016. But for a mayor who was reelected with 66 percent of the vote only a year and a half ago, de Blasio's presidential candidacy has been met with derision and mockery at home.

Only 21 percent of New York City Democrats wanted de Blasio to run for president, according to one recent poll, while 73 percent did not.

By nearly any measure, and contrary to Trump's morning broadside, New York has continued to prosper under de Blasio's watch: Crime is at a record low, the economy is booming, tourists are coming and his signature plan to institute free prekindergarten is being copied across the nation.

But de Blasio, who has long offered himself as a champion for working-class New Yorkers, has consistently produced eye rolls among the city's chattering class with a number of memorable gaffes. He dropped a groundhog that died soon afterward. Most days he is driven in a city-owned SUV the 12 miles (19 kilometers) to his gym. He ate pizza with a knife and fork. He has feuded with the state's Democratic governor, Andrew Cuomo. And he, to be kind, has struggled with punctuality.

More substantively, the city has grappled on his watch with a crumbling subway system, a rising homeless population and growing income inequality. Few in de Blasio's political circle urged him to launch his campaign, one that many ex-aides feel is fueled by boredom with his current job, a lack of bold ideas in the aftermath of a near police mutiny and frustration that he has been eclipsed by other progressives, like Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders.

Trump, meanwhile, had lived his entire life in New York before becoming president but has only made a handful of return trips since taking office. His visits are greeted with scorn, with New Yorkers angry at the traffic he generates and the "Make America Great Again"-colored stain they believe he has spilled on their deep blue city. Though the president's political base lives in the red states of the Midwest and South, many of his core beliefs, and ability to generate attention, were shaped by his decades contending with New York's real estate market and gossip pages.

And his ties to the city remain: His two adult sons, Don Jr. and Eric, still live there. His business remains based there. And the investigators at the Southern District of New York, still probing the innerworkings of his company and campaign, operate there.

De Blasio, though a 2020 longshot, made clear on Thursday that he'd keep returning Trump's fire, promising: "I'm going to be very aggressive with this guy 'cause that's the only way to deal with him."

Associated Press writers Karen Matthews and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

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

## Officer quits after confronting black man picking up trash

By KATHLEEN FOODY Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A white Colorado police officer who pulled out his gun during a confrontation with a black man picking up trash around his dormitory resigned this week under an agreement that lets him collect \$69,000 in salary despite violating department policies.

Police body camera footage released Thursday provided a full video account of the tense encounter, which had gained national attention based on video shot by someone inside a student dormitory at Naropa University, a liberal arts school associated with Buddhism in the city of Boulder.

City officials said the investigation could not prove that the officer, John Smyly, acted because of Zayd Atkinson's race. Investigators found Smyly violated two department policies: police authority and public trust and conduct, the city attorney said.

"Boulder is essentially saying we're going to pay this officer and let him resign for threatening Zayd's life, for racially profiling Zayd," said Atkinson's attorney, Siddhartha Rathod. "If you or I were to do this, we would be criminally charged. We would immediately lose our jobs."

A phone number for Smyly could not be located Thursday. He did not mention the incident in his resignation letter.

Smyly approached Atkinson on March 1 in front of the condo-style building, where he was using a metal tool with a claw at its base to put trash into a bucket, according to the new footage. Smyly said he noticed Atkinson on the rear patio and wanted to see if he lived or worked there.

Atkinson said he did, and Smyly asked for identification with the address on it. Atkinson provided his school ID, which did not have an address and then offered to let himself into the building as proof.

Smyly asked for Atkinson's date of birth. Atkinson refused, then picked up the bucket and tool and walked away.

"Put that down," Smyly said on the tape. "Stop!"

He then told Atkinson that he was obstructing a police officer, "a jailable offense." Smyly later told Atkinson that he was being detained for trespassing.

Smyly drew his stun gun and followed Atkinson to the back of the building, repeatedly telling him to sit down on the ground and put the "weapon" down, referring to the trash tool. Atkinson repeatedly said he had not done anything wrong.

"Your hand is on your weapon and you're gonna shoot me," Atkinson shouted. "That's what you're gonna do, officer? You're gonna shoot a resident on his property for picking up trash?"

Smyly drew his gun when the two men reached the back of the building, an investigative summary said. On the video, Atkinson responds by shouting: "That's a gun! I'm picking up trash! I'm picking up trash, and you're holding a gun!"

After about eight minutes, more officers arrive and form a loose half circle around Atkinson.

One officer can be seen holding a rifle; the investigative summary says the weapon fires bean bags. One officer drew his handgun when he arrived but reholstered it in less than a minute, while Smyly had his gun out until Atkinson put the trash-grabbing tool down, according to the summary.

The report released with the video said Smyly had no authority to detain Atkinson or probable cause to charge him with any crime and should have left once Atkinson provided his name, address and his reason for being there.

Atkinson, 26, said he believes Smyly should have been fired immediately. He said he has had trouble sleeping and spends time outdoors or with friends to calm him.

"My life right now is kind of restless, unsettled," he said.

City Attorney Tom Carr said firing Smyly would have led to a drawn-out appeal and potentially allowed



him to keep his job.

Under the agreement, Smyly resigned his police role on May 9 but will remain an employee through February without performing any work. He will receive "commensurate pay and benefits" during that period and "a single, lump sum" payment for any accrued and unused vacation time when his employment officially ends Feb. 9.

Carr said the resignation agreement "allowed the city to provide the community information more quickly, and it transitioned Officer Smyly out of a law enforcement career." The city's bargaining agreement with police officers requires an appeal for any disciplinary action and could have allowed Smyly to return to duty, he added.

## Saudis blame Iran for drone attack amid calls for US strikes

By AYA BATRAWY Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Arabia accused Tehran of being behind a drone strike that shut down a key oil pipeline in the kingdom, and a newspaper close to the palace called for Washington to launch "surgical" strikes on Iran, raising the specter of escalating tensions as the U.S. boosts its military presence in the Persian Gulf.

Concerns about possible conflict have flared after the U.S. dispatched warships and bombers to the region to counter an alleged but unspecified threat from Iran. There also have been allegations that four oil tankers were sabotaged Sunday off the coast of the United Arab Emirates, and Iran-aligned rebels in Yemen claimed responsibility for Tuesday's attack on the Saudi pipeline.

Fears have grown out of President Donald Trump's decision last year to withdraw the U.S. from the 2015 nuclear accord between Iran and world powers and impose wide-reaching sanctions — the latest levied as recently as last week — that have crippled Iran's economy. But Trump took a soft tone Thursday, a day after tweeting that he expected Iran to look for talks. Asked if the U.S. might be on a path to war with the Iranians, the president answered, "I hope not."

Saudi Prince Khalid bin Salman, who is King Salman's son and the country's deputy defense minister, tweeted that the drone attack on two Saudi Aramco pumping stations running along the East-West pipeline were "ordered by the regime in Tehran, and carried out by the Houthis" — a reference to the Yemeni rebel group.

A state-aligned Saudi newspaper went further, running an editorial calling for "surgical" U.S. strikes on Iran in retaliation. Iran has been accused by the U.S. and the U.N. of supplying ballistic missile technology and arms to the Houthis, which Tehran denies.

The front-page editorial in the Arab News, published in English, said it's "clear that (U.S.) sanctions are not sending the right message" and that "they must be hit hard," without elaborating on specific targets. It said the Trump administration had already set a precedent with airstrikes in Syria, when the government there was suspected of using chemical weapons.

Ali Shihabi, who runs the Saudi-leaning Arabia Foundation in Washington, said there's a sense that if the Iranians can get away with targeting Saudi oil infrastructure, then "the whole security infrastructure in the Gulf will be called into question and security premiums on oil will rise."

He said it would seem that Riyadh would like to coordinate with Washington how it responds to Iran, but "eventually what may happen is that just Saudi Arabia and the UAE may have to do something."

"Nobody is going to start a war with them (Iran), but I think they should be defanged and, you know, things like their naval capabilities, things like their missile capabilities should be downgraded at least to make their capacity to inflict such dangerous activity more painful, more costly," Shihabi said.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who also is defense minister and controls major levers of power in the Sunni kingdom, has not commented publicly on this week's incidents. In a Saudi TV interview in 2017, he said the kingdom knows it is a main target of Shiite Iran and there is no room for dialogue with Tehran.

A top Emirati diplomat said late Wednesday the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis in Yemen would



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 34 of 42

“retaliate hard” for attacks on civilian targets, without elaborating.

However, Anwar Gargash also said the UAE is “very committed to de-escalation” after the alleged sabotage of the tankers off the country’s coast. He declined to blame Iran directly, although he repeatedly criticized Tehran.

In response to the oil pipeline attack, the coalition said it launched airstrikes on Houthi targets in the rebel-held capital, Sanaa, killing at least six people, including four children. At least 40 other people were wounded, according to Yemen’s Health Ministry.

Residents of Sanaa scrambled to pull wounded people from the rubble of a building hit by the airstrikes. Fawaz Ahmed told The Associated Press he saw three bodies — a man, a woman and a child, all buried together.

The coalition, which includes the UAE, has been at war with the Houthis since 2015, carrying out near-daily airstrikes. The pipeline attack marked one of the rebels’ deepest and most significant drone strikes inside Saudi territory since the conflict began.

Washington already has warned shipping companies that “Iran or its proxies” could be targeting maritime traffic in the Persian Gulf region and said it deployed an aircraft carrier strike group and B-52 bombers there to counter the threat.

Last week, U.S. officials said they had detected signs of Iranian preparations for potential attacks on U.S. forces and interests in the Middle East but did not provide any evidence to back up the claims.

The U.S. State Department has ordered all nonessential government staff to leave its embassy and consulate in Iraq. Germany and the Netherlands both suspended their military assistance programs in the country in the latest sign of tensions.

Iraq is home to powerful pro-Iranian militias, while also hosting more than 5,000 U.S. troops. The U.S. military’s Central Command said its troops were on high alert, without elaborating.

European nations have urged the U.S. and Iran to show restraint. Also, a senior British officer in the U.S.-backed coalition fighting the Islamic State group, Maj. Gen. Chris Ghika, said earlier this week that there had been no increased threat from Iranian-backed forces in Iraq and Syria. His comments exposed international skepticism over the U.S. military buildup.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said during a visit to Tokyo that Iran has the right to respond to the “unacceptable” U.S. sanctions, but has exercised “maximum restraint.”

Speaking about Iran’s nuclear deal with world powers, Zarif was quoted as also saying: “A multilateral deal cannot be treated unilaterally.”

Iran recently said it would resume enriching uranium at higher levels if a new nuclear deal is not reached by July 7. That would potentially bring it closer to being able to develop a nuclear weapon, something Iran insists it has never sought.

---

Associated Press writers Ahmed Al-Haj in Sanaa, Yemen, Jon Gambrell in Dubai and Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo contributed.

## Mediation in Norway aims to resolve Venezuela crisis

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving Venezuela’s crisis accelerated on Thursday as the government and opposition sent envoys to talks in Norway, though the two sides’ mutual mistrust and differences on key issues could prevent any quick solution.

The Norwegian attempt to mediate comes amid tensions that exploded in street violence when the opposition called in vain for a military uprising on April 30.

Details about the closely guarded process, including whether direct talks between envoys from opposing camps were on the agenda, were scarce. Norway, in a foreign ministry statement, confirmed that it had preliminary contacts with Venezuelan envoys and that it was ready to continue supporting efforts for a peaceful solution.

The initiative coincides with other outreach efforts: Opposition leader Juan Guaidó said in Caracas that

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 35 of 42

he planned to meet a delegation from a mostly European group of nations, and Venezuelan television showed Maduro meeting separately with the same delegation from the International Contact Group.

Also, Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland met in Havana with Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez, who tweeted that Cuba was prepared to contribute to dialogue on Venezuela.

The myriad diplomatic efforts reflect a recognition in Venezuela that neither side has been able to prevail in the struggle for power, leaving the country in a state of political paralysis after years of hyperinflation and shortages of food and medicine.

"You don't negotiate because you want to. You negotiate because you have to," said Geoff Ramsey, a Venezuela researcher at the nongovernmental Washington Office on Latin America.

"It's become pretty clear neither has been able to impose their dominant strategy on the other," he said.

Norway has a long, successful history of foreign mediation: The country hosted peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians in September 1993, and the Philippines government and Maoist rebels in 2011. The government also brokered a 2002 cease-fire between Sri Lankan government and Tamil Tiger rebel negotiators. Seven years ago, negotiators from the Colombian government and left-wing FARC rebels held their first direct talks in a decade in Norway.

Guaidó confirmed that envoys were in Norway, but warned that the opposition won't enter into any "false negotiation."

He said any talks must lead to the end of President Nicolás Maduro's government, its replacement by a transitional administration and free and fair elections.

Maduro disputes opposition claims that his reelection last year was illegitimate and says U.S. sanctions imposed on Venezuela to try to oust him should be lifted.

Maduro noted his information minister, Jorge Rodríguez, had carried out "the first part" of an important mission in Europe. He said he expected Rodríguez back in Venezuela by Friday and that more details will be revealed.

Participation in the mediation effort is a reversal for the opposition, which has accused Maduro of using negotiations between 2016 and 2018 to play for time. Maduro, in turn, alleges the opposition tried to seize power by force. U.S. officials have said they are focusing on diplomatic and economic measures to force out Maduro. However, Guaidó said his Washington envoy would meet with the head of the U.S. Southern Command on Monday.

The opposition also says Cuba has propped up Maduro with military and intelligence help. Cuba has denied this. Marcelino Medina, Cuba's First Vice Minister of Foreign Relations, was in Norway on Tuesday and Wednesday as part of what his office called a tour of Scandinavian countries.

Meanwhile, the International Contact Group, comprising eight European nations, the European Union and four Latin American countries, has been working on the Venezuela problem, favoring free and fair elections as soon as possible. The group formed after Guaidó, the head of Venezuela's National Assembly, declared himself interim president in January in a direct challenge to Maduro, who says his government champions the socialist principles of his predecessor, Hugo Chávez.

The opposition, backed by more than 50 nations, says Venezuela's dire economic state is the result of years of corruption and mismanagement. Maduro, whose allies include Russia, blames the country's problems on more recent U.S. pressure.

In Washington, four demonstrators who had been protesting inside the Venezuelan Embassy for weeks were arrested Thursday. The protesters consider Maduro to be Venezuela's leader, but the U.S. recognized Guaidó's envoy as ambassador.

Maduro denounced the arrests and said his government would show respect for international law by reinforcing security around the empty U.S. Embassy in Caracas. The last American diplomats left Venezuela in March.

Also Thursday, Guaidó said the opposition, aided by sympathetic security forces, had freed a former police chief who was under government-imposed house arrest as part of a 30-year prison term linked to an attempted coup in 2002. The government has not commented on the whereabouts of Iván Simonovis, described by activists as one of Venezuela's most prominent political prisoners.

Associated Press journalists Scott Smith in Caracas, Michael Weissenstein in Havana, Mark Lewis in Stavanger, Norway, and Luis Alonso Lugo in Washington, contributed to this report.

## **I.M. Pei, architect who designed Louvre Pyramid, dies at 102**

By KATHY MCCORMACK and DEEPTI HAJELA Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — I.M. Pei (PAY), the versatile, globe-trotting architect who revived the Louvre with a giant glass pyramid and captured the spirit of rebellion at the multi-shaped Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, has died at age 102.

Pei's death was confirmed Thursday by Marc Diamond, a spokesman for the architect's New York firm, Pei Cobb Freed & Partners. One of Pei's sons, Li Chung Pei, told The New York Times his father had died overnight.

Pei's works ranged from the trapezoidal addition to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., to the chiseled towers of the National Center of Atmospheric Research that blend in with the reddish mountains in Boulder, Colorado.

His buildings added elegance to landscapes worldwide with their powerful geometric shapes and grand spaces. Among them are the striking steel and glass Bank of China skyscraper in Hong Kong and the Fragrant Hill Hotel near Beijing.

His work spanned decades, starting in the late 1940s and continuing through the new millennium. Two of his last major projects, the Museum of Islamic Art, located on an artificial island just off the waterfront in Doha, Qatar, and the Macau Science Center, in China, opened in 2008 and 2009.

Pei painstakingly researched each project, studying its use and relating it to the environment. But he also was interested in architecture as art — and the effect he could create.

"At one level my goal is simply to give people pleasure in being in a space and walking around it," he said. "But I also think architecture can reach a level where it influences people to want to do something more with their lives. That is the challenge that I find most interesting."

Pei, who as a schoolboy in Shanghai was inspired by its building boom in the 1930s, immigrated to the United States and studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University. He advanced from his early work of designing office buildings, low-income housing and mixed-used complexes to a worldwide collection of museums, municipal buildings and hotels.

He fell into a modernist style blending elegance and technology, creating crisp, precise buildings.

His big break was in 1964, when he was chosen over many prestigious architects, such as Louis Kahn and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, to design the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library in Boston.

At the time, Jacqueline Kennedy said all the candidates were excellent, "But Pei! He loves things to be beautiful." The two became friends.

A slight, unpretentious man, Pei developed a reputation as a skilled diplomat, persuading clients to spend the money for his grand-scale projects and working with a cast of engineers and developers.

Some of his designs were met with much controversy, such as the 71-foot (22-meter) faceted glass pyramid in the courtyard of the Louvre museum in Paris. French President Francois Mitterrand, who personally selected Pei to oversee the decaying, overcrowded museum's renovation, endured a barrage of criticism when he unveiled the plan in 1984.

Many of the French vehemently opposed such a change to their symbol of their culture, once a medieval fortress and then a national palace. Some resented that Pei, a foreigner, was in charge.

But Mitterrand and his supporters prevailed and the pyramid was finished in 1989. It serves as the Louvre's entrance, and a staircase leads visitors down to a vast, light-drenched lobby featuring ticket windows, shops, restaurants, an auditorium and escalators to other parts of the vast museum.

"All through the centuries, the Louvre has undergone violent change," Pei said. "The time had to be right. I was confident because this was the right time."

Another building designed by Pei's firm — the John Hancock Tower in Boston — had a questionable

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 37 of 42

future in the early 1970s when dozens of windows cracked and popped out, sending glass crashing to the sidewalks, during the time the building was under construction.

A flurry of lawsuits followed among the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co., the glass manufacturer, and Pei's firm. A settlement was reached in 1981.

No challenge seemed to be too great for Pei, including the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, which sits on the shore of Lake Erie in downtown Cleveland, Ohio. Pei, who admitted he was just catching up with the Beatles, researched the roots of rock 'n' roll and came up with an array of contrasting shapes for the museum. He topped it off with a transparent tent-like structure, which was "open — like the music," he said.

In 1988, President Reagan honored him with a National Medal of Arts. He also won the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize, 1983, and the American Institute of Architects Gold Medal, 1979. President George H.W. Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1992.

Pei officially retired in 1990 but continued to work on projects. Two of his sons, Li Chung Pei and Chien Chung Pei, former members of their father's firm, formed Pei Partnership Architects in 1992. Their father's firm, previously I.M. Pei and Partners, was renamed Pei Cobb Freed & Partners.

The museum in Qatar that opened in 2008 was inspired by Islamic architectural history, especially the 9th century mosque of Ahmed ibn Tulun in the Egyptian capital of Cairo. It was established by the tiny, oil-rich nation to compete with rival Persian Gulf countries for international attention and investment.

Ieoh Ming Pei (YEE-oh ming) was born April 26, 1917, in Canton, China, the son of a banker. He later said, "I did not know what architecture really was in China. At that time, there was no difference between an architect, a construction man, or an engineer."

Pei came to the United States in 1935 with plans to study architecture, then return to practice in China. However, World War II and the revolution in China prevented him from coming back.

During the war, Pei worked for the National Defense Research Committee. As an "expert" in Japanese construction, his job was to determine the best way to burn down Japanese towns. "It was awful," he later said.

In 1948, New York City real estate developer William Zeckendorf hired Pei as his director of architecture. During this period, Pei worked on many large urban projects and gained experience in areas of building development, economics and construction.

Some of his early successes included the Mile High Center office building in Denver, the Kips Bay Plaza Apartments in Manhattan, and the Society Hill apartment complex in Philadelphia.

Pei established his own architectural firm in 1955, a year after he became a U.S. citizen. He remained based in New York City. Among the firm's accomplishments are the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

Pei's wife, Eileen, who he married in 1942, died in 2014. A son, Ting Chung, died in 2003. Besides sons Chien Chung Pei and Li Chung Pei, he is survived by a daughter, Liane.

## Eric Talmadge, AP's North Korea bureau chief, dead at 57

By FOSTER KLUG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Eric Talmadge, who as North Korea bureau chief for The Associated Press tenaciously chronicled life and politics in one of the world's least-understood nations, has died. He was 57.

Talmadge died this week in Japan after suffering a heart attack while running.

A decades-long resident of Japan with deep expertise on Asian security and military issues, Talmadge seemed to have found his ideal job when he was appointed in 2013 to lead the AP bureau in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital. From his base in Tokyo, he traveled almost monthly to report on the nuclear-armed country's remarkable evolution under its young leader, Kim Jong Un, who took over after his father died in 2011.

"For years, Eric's sharp work in North Korea has helped shape how the entire world saw a country that many of us knew little about," said Sally Buzbee, AP's executive editor. "He took that responsibility very seriously, and it was never far from his mind."



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 38 of 42

Talmadge was one of only a few international journalists with regular access to North Korea, where the AP established a video news office in 2006 and a text and photo bureau in 2012. With his frequently exclusive on-the-ground view, Talmadge latched onto and reveled in the small, telling details that upended widespread Western stereotypes about North Korea.

There were few journalists more insightful about the North's push to develop atomic weapons capable of striking the United States. But Talmadge also filled the AP wire with stylishly written stories of daily life, often seeded with traces of his bone-dry sense of humor.

He wrote about a beer festival in Pyongyang, where "brews are cheap and carry the ruling family's seal of approval." He wrote about the millions of North Koreans using mobile phones and the popularity of a game called "Boy General," describing it as "a spinoff of a new TV animation series that is both beautifully produced and genuinely fun to watch."

His intelligent, curious eye also regularly seized on the moments that often got lost or ignored in the frenzied coverage of the long-running nuclear standoff between Washington and Pyongyang. "He saw meaning in everything he came across," said Ian Phillips, AP's vice president for international news.

In 2014, Talmadge wrote of a weeklong road trip through North Korea — unprecedented for foreign reporters — that stopped at the forest-covered Kaema Plateau, known as the "Roof of Korea."

He showed readers the "blink-and-you-miss-them villages," the government propaganda slogans that covered posters, murals, banners and stones, and the isolated truck stops where elderly folks sat on weed-covered embankments and smoked hand-rolled cigarettes.

"It's quite possible," he wrote, that "none of them had ever seen an American before."

Talmadge was equally probing when it came to covering politics and nuclear tensions. His muscular observations and analysis about the country were drawn from reporting that faced frequent obstacles from a government that sometimes treated media access and coverage as a peril to the regime. Along the way, he became one of the key public faces of independent journalism in North Korea.

Talmadge was candid about the constraints of reporting in North Korea: No interviewing random people; no photos of checkpoints or military installations; no breaking away from ever-present government minders, "even on the loneliest of lonely highways."

In an example of the clear-eyed wit that often appeared in even his most technical reporting on military hardware, he wrote that the road trip's preapproved route, "to no one's surprise, didn't include nuclear facilities or prison camps."

Ted Anthony, who as AP's Asia-Pacific news director supervised Talmadge from 2014 to 2018 and accompanied him on multiple trips to Pyongyang, said Talmadge once warned him: "Don't ever think you really understand the North. It has more corners than anyplace I've ever been."

"Eric was utterly certain that with enough work and curiosity and stick-to-it-iveness, he could genuinely help the world understand North Korea. And he did," Anthony said. "He wanted to reach people who'd never really thought much about the country, and he would pull out all the stops to show them the North Korea they never knew existed, and make them think critically about it."

Born in Renton, Washington, Talmadge spent much of his life in Japan, where he was a high-school exchange student. Fluent in Japanese, he appeared often on Japanese TV as a commentator on North Korea. He was an avid bowler and meditator, and loved riding his bike and swimming. He was the author of a 2006 book, "Getting Wet: Adventures in the Japanese Bath." He is survived by his wife, Hisako, and two grown children, Sara and Eugene.

Talmadge joined the AP in Tokyo in 1988 after working for the Mainichi Shimbun, one of Japan's national newspapers.

He reported throughout Asia for the AP and was a major contributor to the news agency's award-winning coverage of the deadly earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan in 2011, and the nuclear disaster that happened in its aftermath.

Before becoming Pyongyang bureau chief, he led a team of AP journalists focused on military and security issues in the Asia-Pacific region, while also serving as the news editor for the Tokyo bureau.



# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 39 of 42

But Talmadge seemed especially suited to reporting in North Korea. His Instagram and Twitter accounts were filled with images of cute kids mobbing him in Pyongyang on their way home from school, with shots of the city's pizza delivery services and aerobics classes and, of course, with video of mesmerizing rows of goose-stepping soldiers.

One video tweet from Yokohama, where he made his home, showed sightseeing boats gliding beneath the ephemeral cherry blossoms of early spring: "Because everything isn't about where I have to go for work."

Talmadge's sense of humor shone through even in his internal AP memos on the Pyongyang bureau's operations. A picture of a chain-smoking 19-year-old chimpanzee mentions dryly that the ape smokes about a pack a day: The Pyongyang zoo officials "insist, however, that she doesn't inhale."

Wong Maye-E, who worked alongside Talmadge during the five years she spent as chief photographer for North Korea, remembers sitting in their hotel in Pyongyang during a power outage one night, decompressing after a tough day's reporting, the room's windows thrown open and Steely Dan playing on Talmadge's phone as they watched the blinking lights from the flashlights of people going up and down the stairwells of nearby apartment buildings.

"He was very patient in a place that really tests your patience," Wong said.

Talmadge continually pushed to expand the AP's presence in the North, negotiating with the government for more and longer reporting trips and better access. He prided himself on keeping his stories free of the clichés about North Korea so prevalent in outside media.

"I think there is a tendency abroad to caricature North Korea in ways that aren't constructive, and to resort to dismissiveness or mockery much too easily," Talmadge told The Washington Post in 2015. "During my time there, I have been surprised, and reassured in a way, to see how average North Koreans care about the same things everybody else does — their family, their finances, their health, their friends, how to get by."

And, he said, his immersion in the North made him appreciate even more his life outside the country.

"Every time I come back home, I wake up the first morning thinking, 'I can go anywhere I want today,'" he told the Post. "I could go to the beach, I could go see a movie, I could get on a plane and go to Florida if I wanted. Even if, in the end, I just stay home and eat potato chips on the couch, it's a very liberating feeling. I don't take it for granted anymore."

---

Associated Press writer Ken Moritsugu in Tokyo contributed to this report.

---

To see a selection of Talmadge's photos from North Korea and elsewhere: <https://www.instagram.com/erictalmadge/>

## Expert: Fetal abduction rare yet endures over 30 years

By JEFF KAROUB Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The grisly act is rare, yet it's common enough to have a name: fetal abduction.

The latest case out of Chicago — in which 19-year-old Marlen Ochoa-Lopez was strangled and her baby cut from her womb — has similarities to many of the roughly 30 similar crimes carried out over the last three decades across the U.S., an expert said.

Of the roughly 30 documented fetal abduction cases between 1987 and 2015, most of the mothers were slain and it's typical for them to have been stalked or lured somewhere under false pretenses — including for free supplies, according to Kenna Quinet, an associate criminal justice professor at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. In Ochoa-Lopez's case, police and family members say she was killed after responding to a Facebook offer of free baby clothes. Her infant son is hospitalized in grave condition and is not expected to survive.

Quinet, who co-authored the homicide textbook "The Will to Kill: Making Sense of Senseless Murder," said it's as illogical as it is horrific: She's unaware of any case of "murder by C-section," as she describes it, in which the baby wasn't found and the crime wasn't discovered.

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 40 of 42

"Clearly, you're not getting away with this," she said. "These women are clearly delusional."

Authorities charged a Chicago woman on Thursday with murder for allegedly strangling 19-year-old Marlen Ochoa-Lopez with a cord and cutting an infant from her womb. Clarisa Figueroa, 46, apparently wanted to raise another child two years after her adult son died of natural causes, investigators said.

Figueroa's 24-year-old daughter, Desiree Figueroa, also was charged with murder. Her boyfriend, 40-year-old Piotr Bobak, was charged with concealment of a homicide.

Quinet said it's most often a case of a perpetrator making "an extremely dysfunctional, controlling, psychotic attempt to keep a man in a relationship," or they're suffering from what Quinet calls "motherhood by proxy." That's also the name of a section in her book and a play on Munchausen syndrome by proxy, a form of abuse where the person supposed to care for the individual makes up or causes the condition.

The cases come along an average of once a year, with some gaps. It's even occurred before in Chicago, in 1995. That nearly full-term baby survived, but the mother, Debra Evans, and two of her other children were killed. Three people were convicted.

Quinet's research shows that most babies survive, but far fewer of their mothers do. She found eight women who did, including one who escaped and killed the woman trying to kill her and take the baby.

Quinet said she can't find a definitive case before 1987. She said that correlates to a time in which hospitals boosted their security, significantly decreasing the number of newborns stolen from maternity wards or neo-natal units.

While fetal abduction endures, she said it's important to note that it remains infrequent and shows no sign of increasing.

"If you consider an extremely rare event of the millions of women a year who are pregnant, there would be no way as individual people that we could take this risk to zero," she said. "I think it's as low as we can hope for it to be."

## Asian shares mixed as Huawei sanctions stir trade fears

By ANNABELLE LIANG Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian stocks were mixed on Friday amid worries that U.S. economic sanctions on Huawei would cast a pall on trade negotiations with China.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 0.4% to 28,161.89 while Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 jumped 1.6% to 21,391.53. The Kospi in South Korea added 0.2% to 2,072.27.

The Shanghai Composite lost 1% to 2,926.27 and Australia's S&P ASX 200 advanced 0.7% to 6,374.80. Shares rose in Taiwan but fell in Singapore and Indonesia.

An executive order by the Trump administration, aimed at banning Huawei equipment from U.S. networks, took effect on Thursday. The order also subjects the Chinese telecommunications giant to strict export controls. China has threatened to retaliate. It remains to be seen how the move will affect trade negotiations.

Some investors took cues from Wall Street, which closed higher for the third straight day, led by strong performances from technology companies and banks.

The broad S&P 500 index climbed 0.9% to 2,876.32 on Thursday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.8% to 25,862.68 and the Nasdaq composite rebounded 1% to 7,898.05. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks was 0.6% higher at 1,557.24.

"The street appears to have temporarily given up trying to predict the fluid situation that is U.S.-China trade relations and concentrate on the here and now," Jeffrey Halley of OANDA said in a commentary.

"The march higher will be tentative at best though with sentiment both incredibly cautious and fragile," he added.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude gained 45 cents to \$63.32 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It picked up 85 cents to \$62.87 per barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, the international standard, added 39 cents to \$73.01 per barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar edged up to 109.86 Japanese yen from 109.85 yen late Thursday. The euro

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 41 of 42

strengthened to \$1.1181 from \$1.1178.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Friday, May 17, the 137th day of 2019. There are 228 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 17, 2004, Massachusetts became the first state to allow same-sex marriages.

On this date:

In 1536, Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer declared the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Anne Boleyn invalid after she failed to produce a male heir; Boleyn, already condemned for high treason, was executed two days later.

In 1792, the New York Stock Exchange had its beginnings as a group of brokers met under a tree on Wall Street and signed the Buttonwood Agreement.

In 1946, President Harry S. Truman seized control of the nation's railroads, delaying — but not preventing — a threatened strike by engineers and trainmen.

In 1954, a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court handed down its *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* decision which held that racially segregated public schools were inherently unequal, and therefore unconstitutional.

In 1968, nine men and women, including brothers Daniel and Philip Berrigan, entered the Selective Service office in Catonsville, Maryland, seized several hundred draft files and burned them outside to protest the Vietnam War before being arrested. (The "Catonsville Nine," as they came to be known, received federal prison sentences ranging from 24 to 42 months.)

In 1973, a special committee convened by the U.S. Senate began its televised hearings into the Watergate scandal.

In 1980, rioting that claimed 18 lives erupted in Miami's Liberty City after an all-white jury in Tampa acquitted four former Miami police officers of fatally beating black insurance executive Arthur McDuffie.

In 1987, 37 American sailors were killed when an Iraqi warplane attacked the U.S. Navy frigate *Stark* in the Persian Gulf. (Iraq apologized for the attack, calling it a mistake, and paid more than \$27 million in compensation.)

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed a measure requiring neighborhood notification when sex offenders move in. ("Megan's Law," as it's known, was named for Megan Kanka, a 7-year-old New Jersey girl who was raped and murdered in 1994.)

In 2002, former President Jimmy Carter ended a historic visit to Cuba sharply at odds with the Bush administration over how to deal with Fidel Castro, saying limits on tourism and trade often hurt Americans more than Cubans.

In 2006, the FBI began digging at a Michigan horse farm in search of the remains of former Teamsters leader Jimmy Hoffa; the two-week search yielded no evidence. It was announced that Paul McCartney and his second wife, Heather Mills McCartney, had agreed to separate.

In 2017, the Justice Department appointed former FBI Director Robert Mueller as a special counsel to oversee a federal investigation into potential coordination between Russia and the 2016 Donald Trump campaign. Pvt. Chelsea Manning, the soldier who was sentenced to 35 years in a military prison for giving classified materials to WikiLeaks, walked free after serving seven years behind bars, her sentence having been commuted by President Barack Obama.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama strode head-on into the stormy abortion debate, telling graduates at the University of Notre Dame that both sides had to stop demonizing one another. In Sri Lanka, the Tamil Tigers admitted defeat in their fierce quarter-century war for a separate homeland. Barbara Mandrell, Roy Clark and Charlie McCoy were inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Five years ago: Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper signed a "Right To Try" bill allowing terminally ill patients to obtain experimental drugs without getting federal approval. Thousands of cheering supporters

# Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, May 16, 2019 ~ Vol. 27 - No. 310 ~ 42 of 42

welcomed Narendra Modi, India's next prime minister, on his arrival in New Delhi after leading his party to a staggering victory in national elections. California Chrome won the Preakness to keep alive his bid for horse racing's first Triple Crown since 1978 (California Chrome would finish tied for fourth in the Belmont three weeks later.)

One year ago: With six Democrats joining Republicans in voting to confirm her, Gina Haspel won Senate confirmation to become director of the CIA. The Miss America Organization announced that it would now have women in its three top leadership positions, after an email scandal in which male officials were caught making vulgar and insulting comments about past winners.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Gerety is 79. Singer Taj Mahal is 77. Rock musician Bill Bruford is 70. Singer-musician George Johnson (The Brothers Johnson) is 66. TV personality Kathleen Sullivan is 66. Boxing Hall of Famer Sugar Ray Leonard is 63. Actor-comedian Bob Saget is 63. Sports announcer Jim Nantz is 60. Producer Simon Fuller (TV: "American Idol") is 59. Singer Enya is 58. Actor-comedian Craig Ferguson is 57. Rock singer-musician Page McConnell is 56. Actor David Eigenberg is 55. Singer-musician Trent Reznor (Nine Inch Nails) is 54. Actress Paige Turco is 54. Rhythm-and-blues musician O'Dell (Mint Condition) is 54. Actor Hill Harper is 53. TV personality/interior designer Thom Filicia is 50. Singer Jordan Knight is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Darnell Van Rensalier (Shai) is 49. Actress Sasha Alexander is 46. Rock singer-musician Josh Homme (HAHM'-ee) is 46. Rock singer Andrea Corr (The Corrs) is 45. Actor Sendhil Ramamurthy (SEN'-dul rah-mah-MURTH'-ee) is 45. Actress Rochelle Aytes is 43. Singer Kandi Burruss is 43. Actress Kat Foster is 41. Actress Ayda Field is 40. Actress Ginger Gonzaga is 36. Folk-rock singer/songwriter Passenger is 35. Dancer-choreographer Derek Hough (huhf) is 34. Actor Tahj Mowry is 33. Actress Nikki Reed is 31. Singer Kree Harrison (TV: "American Idol") is 29. Actress Leven Rambin is 29. Actress Samantha Browne-Walters is 28. Actor Justin Martin is 25.

Thought for Today: "Always dream and shoot higher than you know you can do. Don't bother just to be better than your contemporaries or predecessors. Try to be better than yourself." — William Faulkner, American author (1897-1962).

(Above Advance for Use Friday, May 17)

Copyright 2019, The Associated Press. All rights reserved.