

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 1 of 34

- [1- Greg Johnson Construction New Year's Ad](#)
- [2- Coming up on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [3- SD History & Heritage: The Image Maker: Elizabeth Bacon Custer](#)
- [4- Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)
- [5- December 28-29, 2019 - Heavy Snow and Blizzard](#)
- [6- Upcoming Events](#)
- [7- Weather Pages](#)
- [10- Daily Devotional](#)
- [11- 2019 Groton Events](#)
- [12- News from the Associated Press](#)



“GRATITUDE CAN TRANSFORM COMMON DAYS INTO THANKSGIVINGS, TURN ROUTINE JOBS INTO JOY, AND CHANGE ORDINARY OPPORTUNITIES INTO BLESSINGS.”

-WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD

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OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 2 of 34

It's Girls' Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM



Britton-Hecla
Braves VS



Groton Area Tigers

6:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 2, 2020

at Groton

No JV Game

Broadcast Sponsors

Allied Climate Professionals

Blocker Construction

Groton Dairy Queen

Jark Real Estate

John Sieh Agency

Milbrandt Enterprises

Tyson DeHoet Trucking

It's Boys' Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM



Britton-Hecla
Braves VS



Groton Area Tigers

8:00 p.m., Friday, Jan. 3, 2020

at Britton

Broadcast Sponsored by Aberdeen Chrysler Center

The Image Maker: Elizabeth Bacon Custer

"How glad I am for you to speak in public of the General. His heart was in the West, opening the way in that wonderful country."

Elizabeth Bacon Custer was doing what she did best in the close of a letter to Lawrence Fox: praising her late husband, George Armstrong Custer.

The archives of the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre contains photocopies of 10 letters that Elizabeth Bacon Custer, nicknamed "Libbie," wrote between 1927 and 1928 to Fox, who served as director of the South Dakota State Historical Society from 1926 to 1946.

In the first letter, dated Aug. 18, 1927, Libbie thanked Fox for sending her news of the Black Hills (probably newspaper articles about President Calvin Coolidge and his wife, Grace, spending the summer in the Black Hills). Libbie continued her letter by writing that she had been scanning the newspapers every day to find mention of General Custer and the 7th Cavalry.

Libbie had been a widow for 51 years and was living in New York City when she wrote this letter.

In subsequent letters, Libbie wrote that she was grateful that both a park and a town had been named for her husband and thanked Fox for "loyalty to General Custer and his invincible 7th Cavalry." Although Libbie referred to her husband as the general, he was ranked as lieutenant colonel in the Army at the time of his death.

Libbie was born on April 8, 1842, in Monroe, Mich. She was described as beautiful and intelligent, with blue eyes and chestnut brown hair. She married George Armstrong Custer on Feb. 9, 1864. She left behind what was probably a comfortable lifestyle as the daughter of a wealthy and prominent judge and accompanied her husband wherever the Army took them.

The Army took them to Dakota Territory in April 1873. The Custers and the 7th Cavalry had scarcely arrived at the end of the road about a mile from Yankton when a blizzard began. Custer's final post was at Fort Abraham Lincoln near present-day Mandan, N.D. In the summer of 1874, Custer led an expedition into the Black Hills of what is now South Dakota. He was to map the area, locate a suitable site for a future military post, and make note of the natural resources. Gold was discovered during the expedition.

Two years later, Custer and 7th Cavalry troops under his command were killed at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in south-central Montana. Libbie was left a widow at the age of 34.

Fueled by the claims of President Ulysses S. Grant and others that the defeat at the Little Bighorn was Custer's fault, Libbie set out to clear her husband's name. She began writing articles and books and making speeches nationwide defending her husband.

Her book "Books and Saddles" was published in 1885. It includes the story of the Custers' introduction to a Dakota blizzard in Yankton, life on a frontier post and the summer of 1874 when Custer was exploring the Black Hills. "Boots and Saddles" was followed by "Tenting on the Plains" in 1887 and "Following the Guidon" in 1890.

Libbie not only succeeded in making her husband a hero, but made herself one as well. She achieved economic security, recognition as an author and lecturer, and the respect of numerous public figures.

On the 51st anniversary of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, Libbie wrote the Bismarck Tribune, "It is a great privilege to know that so many people still remember the anniversary. I have received 300 letters

SOUTH DAKOTA



HISTORY & HERITAGE



Elizabeth Bacon Custer, the widow of George Armstrong Custer. Her nickname was spelled Libby, but in the book "Boots and Saddles" by Elizabeth Bacon Custer, she refers to herself as "Miss Libbie." (Photo South

Dakota State Historical Society – State Archives)

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 4 of 34

this year. I am so grateful that so many honor the day.”

Libbie died four days short of her 91st birthday on April 4, 1933, in her home in New York City. She was buried next to her general at West Point.

In addition to photocopies of letters from Libbie Custer, a replica of a cavalry guidon believed to have been carried into the Battle of the Little Bighorn is on display in the museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center. The museum has the original, but it is too fragile to be displayed. A guidon is a small flag or pennant carried by a military unit.

In 1928, Libbie sent a hunting rifle that belonged to her late husband to the city of Custer as a gift. This rifle is displayed in the 1881 Courthouse Museum in Custer.

Libbie would be pleased to know that a state park, city and county in South Dakota still bear the “general’s” name.

This moment in South Dakota history is provided by the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising partner of the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. Find us on the web at www.sdhsf.org. Contact us at info@sdhsf.org to submit a story idea.

-30-

Hazardous Weather Outlook

This Hazardous Weather Outlook is for west central Minnesota, central South Dakota, north central South Dakota and northeast South Dakota.

.DAY ONE...Today and tonight.

Light snow is expected to move into the region late tonight across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Accumulations are forecast to be less than an inch.

.DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN...Friday through Wednesday.

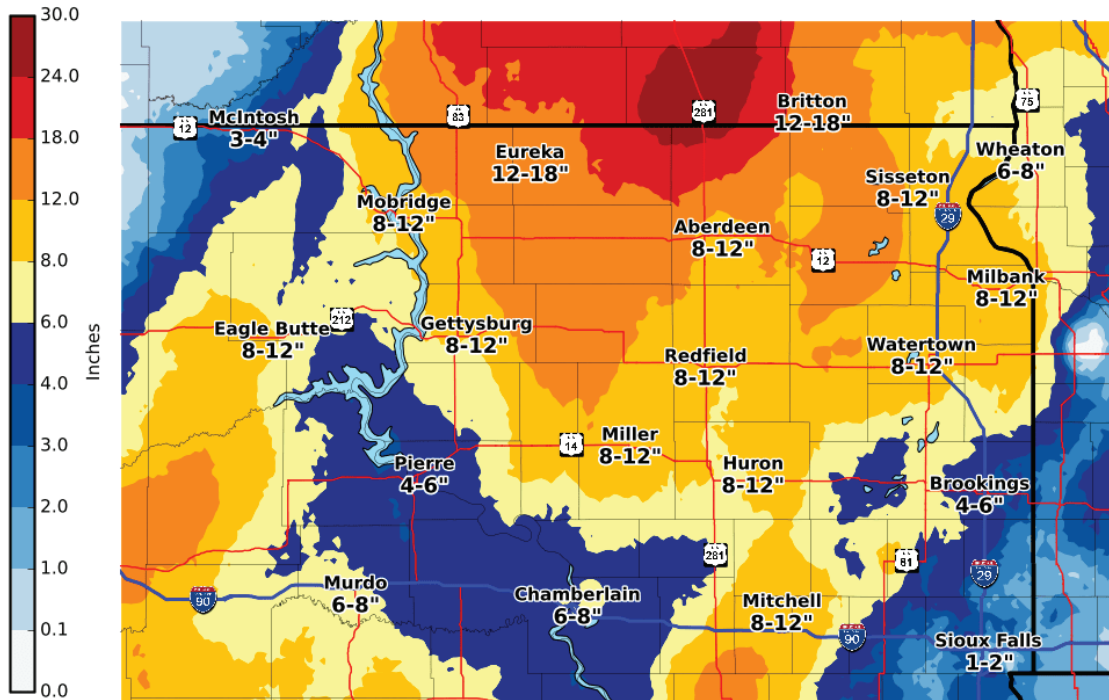
Light snow will continue for eastern portions of the forecast area on Friday. Total snow accumulations through Friday may reach 1 to 2 inches in the Glacial Lakes region eastward into west central Minnesota.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 5 of 34

Accumulated Snowfall

Valid: 12/27/2019 06:00 PM - 12/31/2019 07:00 AM CST



National Weather Service
Aberdeen SD
12/31/2019 11:33 AM CST

Follow Us:   
weather.gov/Aberdeen

Storm total snowfall amounts from late on December 27th through the morning of December 31st, 2019. Amounts based off observations and local storm reports through 10 AM 12/31/2019.

December 28-29, 2019 - Heavy Snow and Blizzard

A strong winter storm created numerous impacts across eastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota on December 28-29, 2019. The heaviest precipitation came in two waves, with the first arriving on during the late evening of December 27th and continuing into December 28th. Behind the first wave of precipitation, there was a period of light snow, drizzle, and freezing drizzle on Saturday for areas of east central South Dakota and west central Minnesota. The second wave of precipitation arrived on the evening of December 28th and continued into December 29th. This second wave of precipitation fell as snow, and when combined with the first wave of snowfall, led to many locations experiencing over 10 inches of snow.

In addition to the snow, strong winds developed on December 29th as an intensifying area of low pressure moved into the southern half of Minnesota. This led to wind gusts up to 62 mph in central South Dakota and blizzard conditions between the Missouri River and the western edge of the Prairie Coteau. The combination of the snow and blowing snow severely impacted road conditions and travel across the region, with "No Travel Advised" designated for many state and county roads and even the closure of I-90 and I-29 in parts of South Dakota.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 6 of 34

Upcoming Events

Thursday, January 2, 2020

No School-Christmas Break

6:30 p.m.: Girls' basketball hosts Britton-Hecla. Varsity game ONLY starting at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, January 3, 2020

Big Question Debate

No School-Christmas Break

5 p.m.: 7th/8th grade wrestling tournament at Milbank

6:30 p.m.: Boys' Basketball at Britton. Junior varsity at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game.

Saturday, January 4, 2020

9:30 a.m.: Wrestling Tournament at Webster

Sunday, January 5, 2020

2:00pm- 6:00pm: Open Gym at GHS Arena

Monday, January 6, 2020

School resumes

6:30 p.m.: Boys' Basketball hosts Webster Area. JV starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game.

Tuesday, January 7, 2020

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

UDFL Student Congress at Groton Area High School

6 p.m.: Wrestling Tri-angular at Oakes, N.D.

6:30 p.m.: Girls' Basketball hosts Aberdeen Roncalli. JV starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game.

(This game has a date change - it was originally scheduled for January 24th.)

Thursday, January 9, 2020

6:00 p.m.: Wrestling at Redfield

Friday, January 10, 2020

Basketball double header hosting Hamlin (Girls junior varsity at 4 p.m., Boys junior varsity at 5 p.m., Girls varsity at 6:30 p.m., Boys varsity to follow)

Saturday, January 11, 2020

12:30 p.m.: Girls' Varsity Basketball Classic at Redfield. Groton Area vs. St. Francis Indian School

Boys at Varsity Classic at the Sanford Pentagon

10 a.m.: Wrestling at Miller Tournament

Sunday, January 12, 2020

2:00pm- 6:00pm: Open Gym at GHS Arena

Monday, January 13, 2020

6 p.m.: Junior high basketball games at Warner. 7th grade at 6 p.m., 8th grade at 7 p.m.

6 p.m.: Junior high wrestling tournament in Groton

7 p.m.: School Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

5:15 p.m.: Combined 7th/8th grade boys basketball game vs. Aberdeen Christian at the Aberdeen Civic Arena

6:30 p.m.: Boys' basketball game at Aberdeen Christian High School. Junior varsity at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game.

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.: MathCounts at Aberdeen Simmons Middle School

Thursday, January 16, 2020

6:30 p.m.: Girls' Basketball hosts Sisseton. JV game at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game.

Friday, January 17, 2020

Silver Bowl Debate at Sioux Falls

No School - Faculty Inservice

6 p.m.: Boys' basketball at Sisseton. JV game at 6 p.m. followed by varsity game.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 7 of 34

Today



Cloudy

High: 32 °F

Tonight



Chance Snow

Low: 21 °F

Friday



Chance Snow
then Mostly
Sunny

High: 28 °F ↓

Friday
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 8 °F

Saturday



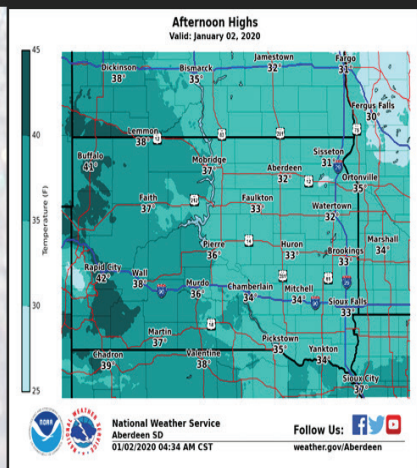
Mostly Sunny

High: 32 °F

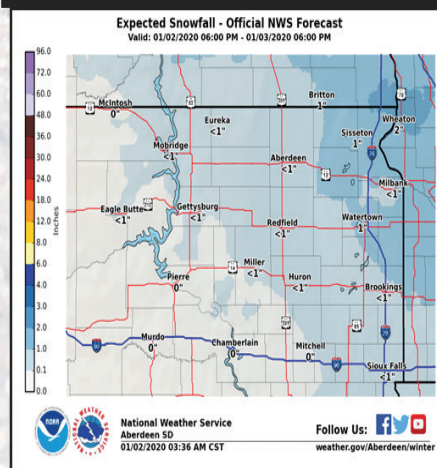
Mild Temps Today, Light Snow Tonight & Friday

- Above normal temperatures in the 30s for most areas.
- Generally around an inch or less of snow late tonight through Friday for eastern areas.

Today's Forecast High Temperatures



Light Snow Tonight Through Friday



Visit www.weather.gov/abr for a detailed forecast for your specific location Updated: 1/2/2020 4:46 AM CT NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Temperatures will rise into the 30s for most areas today, which is above normal for this time of year. An area of low pressure will move southeast across the Dakotas tonight, bringing light snow to eastern portions of the region. Snowfall amounts tonight through Friday will generally range from around an inch or less, although a few areas across the far east could receive up to 2 inches.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 8 of 34

Today in Weather History

January 2, 1999: Heavy snow of 6 to 8 inches fell across part of northeast South Dakota from the late afternoon hours of the 1st to the early morning hours of the 2nd. Strong north winds of 15 to 30 mph combined with temperatures in the single digits generated wind chills from 25 to 40 below and visibilities below 1/4 of a mile at times. Holiday travel along Interstate-29 and Highway 12 was most affected by this winter storm. There were some travel delays and some stranded motorists as a result. Some snowfall amounts included, 6 inches at Kidder, Victor, Sisseton, Webster, Waubay, Wilmot, and 8 inches at Britton and near Peever.

1870: One unofficial source reported the heaviest snowfall ever known in Louisville, Kentucky, piled up to about four feet. That would be more than twice as much as the accepted official record of 22.4 inches set February 4 through 6.

1897: Tornadoes in January? Two tornadoes touched down on this day. The first tornado touched down in the town of Mooringsport, Louisiana, killing five people and injuring 21 others. The second tornado occurred at Benton, Arkansas. Although this tornado was more destructive regards to property damage, it caused one death.

1910 - A great flood in Utah and Nevada washed out 100 miles of railroad between Salt Lake City UT and Los Angeles CA causing seven million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1955: Hurricane Alice passed through the Islands of Saint Martin and Saba in the Caribbean Sea on this day. Alice, which developed on December 30, 1954, is the only known Atlantic hurricane to span two calendar years.

1961 - The coldest temperature of record for the state of Hawaii was established with a reading of 14 degrees atop Haleakela Summit. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A winter storm moving up the Atlantic coast brought heavy snow and high winds to the northeastern U.S. Wind gusts reached 82 mph at Trenton NJ and Southwest Harbor in Maine. Snowfall totals ranged up to two feet at Salem NH and Waterboro ME. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - "Old Man Winter" took a siesta, with snow a scarcity across the nation. For the second day in a row Alamosa CO reported a record low of 31 degrees below zero. (National Weather Summary)

1989 - Strong and gusty winds prevailed along the eastern slopes of the northern and central Rockies. Winds gusted to 71 mph at Colorado Springs CO and Livingston MT. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - The first winter storm of the new year and decade developed in the southwestern U.S., and blanketed the northern mountains of Utah with 12 to 23 inches of snow. Up to 22 inches of snow was reported in the Alta-Snowbird area. The storm brought Las Vegas NV their first measurable precipitation in four and a half months, since the 17th of August. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1994 - High winds buffeted the Northern Front Range of Colorado during the morning hours. Peak wind gusts included 105 mph atop Squaw Mountain near Idaho Springs and 89 mph at Fort Collins. A fast moving "Alberta Clipper" brought up to six inches of snow to Iowa. Up to a foot of snow blanketed the Snowy Range Mountains in southeastern Wyoming. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2008 - The second day of 2008 brought snow to areas of Indiana, Ohio and the Appalachians through the Northeastern United States. Parts of New England received the heaviest amounts, with some areas receiving storm totals of over 15 inches (38 cm) in several areas of central and eastern Maine. (NCDC)

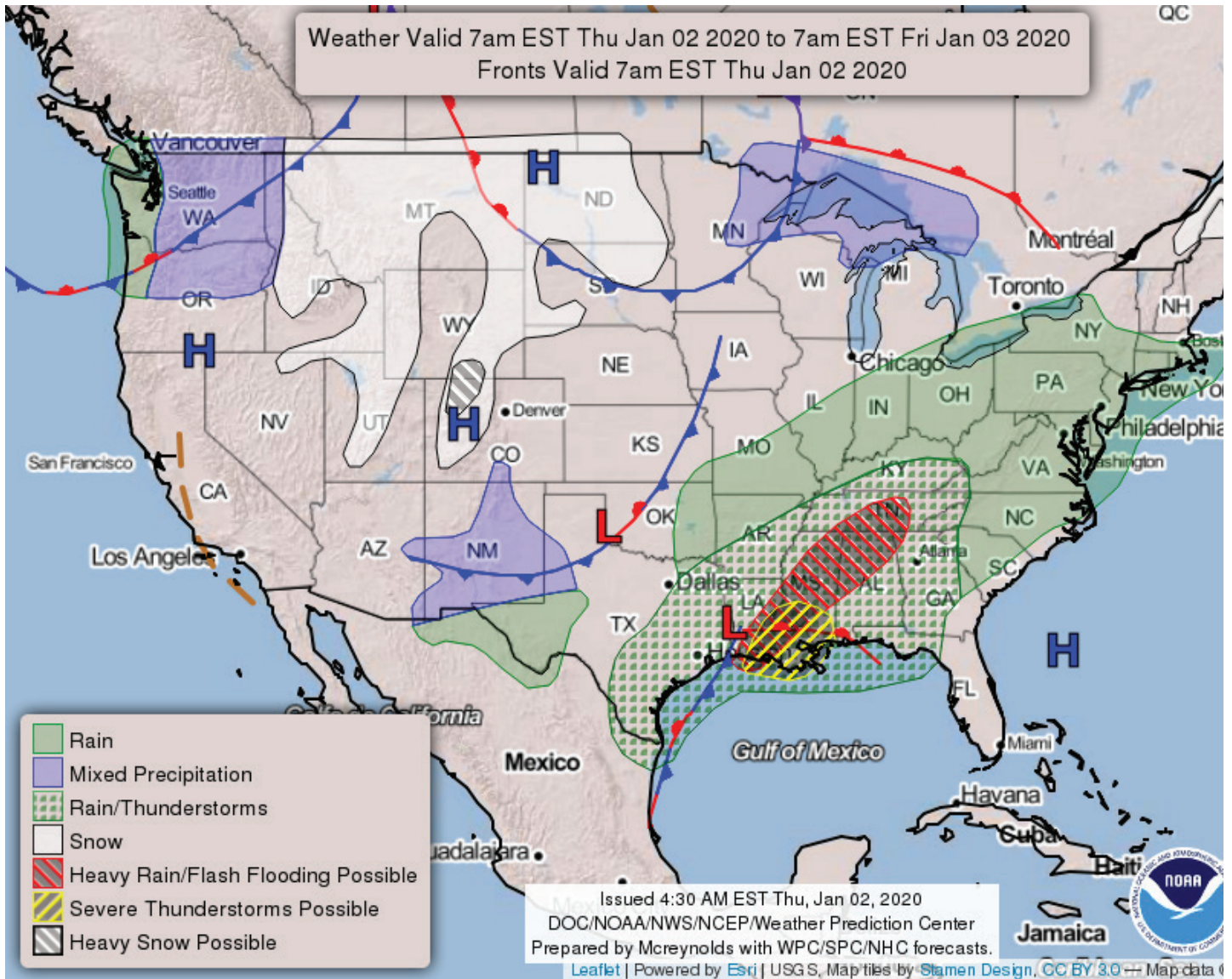
Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 9 of 34

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 32 °F at 10:24 PM
Low Temp: 16 °F at 12:00 AM
Wind: 20 mph at 1:31 PM
Day Precip: 0.00

Record High: 50° in 1963
Record Low: -30° in 2010
Average High: 22°F
Average Low: 2°F
Average Precip in Jan.: 0.02
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.02
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:02 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:14 a.m.



Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 10 of 34



A CRITICISM

Paderewski was a great Polish pianist. But when he first chose to take piano lessons a teacher said to him, "Your hands are too small. You will never be able to master the keyboard."

Caruso was one of the greatest tenors who ever lived. When he went for his first voice lesson in Italy, the teacher said to him, "Your voice is like wind whistling through a window." He refused to give him voice lessons.

Alexander Graham Bell spent years working to develop and perfect his telephone. When he displayed it to a group of people, they said, "You are a fool with a useless toy."

As Christians, we must learn to look at criticism as a "challenge and call to courage" and turn to the Lord as our guide and guard. If we are grateful for the skills and talents God has given us, we will accept every challenge as an opportunity to "become better" as a gift to honor Him for the gifts He has given us. The choice is ours: We can choose to rise to the occasion, meet it and be victorious, or give up in fear because we do not trust in Him to give us victory over our opportunities. The God of our salvation and hope promises us that with His help all things are possible. We must accept, trust, and act in His strength, wisdom and power, not ours!

Prayer: Lord of our lives, whenever we face an obstacle, may we see it as an opportunity to turn to You for grace and guidance. All things are possible through You! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Colossians 1:11 We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 11 of 34

2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/26/2020 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. Sharp (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 04/26/2020 Father/Daughter dance.
- 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
Groton Hosting State B American Legion Baseball Tournament
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/14/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- Bingo: every Wednesday at the Legion Post #39

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 12 of 34

News from the Associated Press

Survey suggests economy growing in 9 Midwest, Plains states

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A new monthly survey of business supply managers suggests the economy is growing slowly in nine Midwest and Plains states as the U.S. trade war with China continues, according to a report released Thursday.

The Mid-America Business Conditions index rebounded to 50.6 in December, compared with 48.6 in November, the report said.

Surveys over the past several months indicate that the regional manufacturing economy is being harmed by the trade war and the global economic slowdown, said Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey.

"This will be a drag on the overall Mid-America economy for the first half of 2020. However, I expect overall regional growth to remain soft but positive for the first half of the year," Goss said.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth. A score below that suggests decline. The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

The weakness in the region's manufacturing and agriculture sectors has spilled over into the broader regional economy. Over the past 12 months, the region has added jobs at an annual pace of 0.7% — less than half the 1.5% rate of the nation's economy.

The regional trade numbers were mixed in December. The index for new export orders rose to a weak 43.5 from November's 39.1. The imports index was unchanged from November's 52.0. Supply managers continue to boost purchasing from abroad in anticipation of higher tariffs in the weeks and months ahead. But 43% of supply managers who responded said tariffs had increased the prices of supplies.

Economic optimism for the next six months, as reflected by the December business confidence index, climbed to 57.6 from November's 52.9. "Potential January passage of the U.S.-Canada-Mexico trade agreement and Phase One of the trade agreement with China boosted the regional business confidence index for the month," Goss said.

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

04-09-14-19-25

(four, nine, fourteen, nineteen, twenty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$20,000

Lotto America

03-26-30-44-48, Star Ball: 9, ASB: 2

(three, twenty-six, thirty, forty-four, forty-eight; Star Ball: nine; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$6.67 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$60 million

Powerball

49-53-57-59-62, Powerball: 26, Power Play: 2

(forty-nine, fifty-three, fifty-seven, fifty-nine, sixty-two; Powerball: twenty-six; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$220 million

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 13 of 34

South Dakota-Purdue Fort Wayne

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP) — Jarred Godfrey scored 22 points, and Brian Patrick added 21 points as Purdue Fort Wayne topped South Dakota 70-59 on Wednesday.

Matt Holba had a career-high 11 rebounds for Purdue Fort Wayne (8-8, 1-0 Summit League). Godfrey shot 8 for 10 from the floor, and Patrick had nine rebounds.

The Mastodons were in trouble after the first half, entering the locker room at the half trailing 35-23. But the hosts mounted a serious rally in the second half to coast to the victory. The Coyotes' 24 second-half points were a season low for the team.

A Marcus DeBerry dunk put the Mastodons ahead 52-43 after going on a 27-6 run.

Tyler Hagedorn had 22 points and nine rebounds for the Coyotes (9-7, 0-2), who have lost four straight games. Stanley Umude added 17 points and three blocks.

Purdue Fort Wayne takes on North Dakota on the road on Sunday. South Dakota plays Denver at home on Sunday.

For more AP college basketball coverage: <https://apnews.com/Collegebasketball> and http://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Elements of this story were generated by Automated Insights, <http://www.automatedinsights.com/ap>, using data from STATS LLC, <https://www.stats.com>

Rapid City woman to replace DiSanto in state Senate

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City woman has been selected to finish the term of Lyndi Santo, a Republican from Box Elder who resigned in November and moved to Montana.

The Rapid City Journal reports Jessica Castleberry was appointed Tuesday by Gov. Kristi Noem to fill the District 35 seat.

Castleberry owns Little Nest Preschools in Rapid City and is an instructor at Black Hills State University's South Dakota Center for Enterprise Opportunity.

DiSanto was the second legislator from the Rapid City area to resign last fall.

In October, Rapid City Republican Alan Solano announced his resignation from the state Senate. Noem appointed Helene Duhamal to replace him and represent District 32.

The elected terms that Castleberry and Duhamal filled end this year.

Anti-Semitism grows in Jewish communities in NYC suburbs

By MARY ESCH and RYAN TARINELLI Associated Press

MONSEY, N.Y. (AP) — For years, ultra-Orthodox Jewish families priced out of increasingly expensive Brooklyn neighborhoods have been turning to the suburbs, where they have taken advantage of open space and cheaper housing to establish modern-day versions of the European shtetls where their ancestors lived for centuries before the Holocaust.

The expansion of Hasidic communities in New York's Hudson Valley, the Catskills and northern New Jersey has led to predictable sparring over new housing development and local political control. It has also led to flare-ups of rhetoric that some say is cloaked anti-Semitism.

Now, a pair of violent attacks on such communities, just weeks apart, worry many that intolerance is boiling over.

On Dec. 10, a man and woman killed a police officer and then stormed into a kosher grocery in Jersey City, fatally shooting three people inside before dying in an hourslong gunfight with police. The slayings happened in a neighborhood where Hasidic families had recently been relocating, amid pushback from some local officials who complained about representatives of the community going door to door, offering to buy homes at Brooklyn prices.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 14 of 34

And on Saturday, a man rushed into a rabbi's home in Monsey, New York, during a Hanukkah celebration, hacking at people with a machete. Five people were wounded, including one who remained hospitalized Tuesday. Federal prosecutors said the man charged in the attack, Grafton Thomas, had handwritten journals containing anti-Semitic comments and a swastika and had researched Hitler's hatred of Jews online.

At a meeting Monday hosted by U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand in Rockland County, where Monsey is, some Jewish leaders blamed inflammatory rhetoric on social media and from local elected officials for the rising threat of anti-Semitic violence.

Days after the killings in Jersey City, a local school board member there, Joan Terrell-Paige, assailed Jews as "brutes" on Facebook, saying she believed the killers were trying to send a message with the slaughter. "Are we brave enough to explore the answer to their message?" she asked.

A widely condemned political ad last summer created by a local Republican group claimed that an Orthodox Jewish county legislator was "plotting a takeover" that threatens "our way of life."

"In the last few years in Rockland County I have seen a rise in hate rhetoric, and I was able to foresee it would end in violence," said Aron Wieder, the legislator targeted in the video ad. "You have seen on social media where the Orthodox community has been called a cancer, leeches, people who don't pay taxes. It has become normal and accepted to say derogatory and hateful things about Jewish people."

Swastikas have been scrawled around the county, and frightened parents are asking law enforcement for more visible security at synagogues and schools, Wieder said.

Bigoted messages have gone unchecked for years, said Rabbi Yisroel Kahan, administrative director of the Oizrim Jewish Council. He pointed to hateful comments on social media and false online rumors that have spilled over into everyday life.

"It has been tolerated for far too long," he said.

Hasidic families began migrating from New York City to suburban communities in the 1970s, hoping to create the sort of cohesive community some recalled from Europe.

Rockland County, 15 miles (24 kilometers) northwest of Manhattan, now has the largest Jewish population per capita of any U.S. county, with 31%, or 90,000 residents, being Jewish. The ultra-Orthodox population is highly visible in small towns like Monsey, where bearded Hasidic men in black overcoats and fedoras converse in Yiddish along the sidewalks and Orthodox women wear modest black skirts and head scarves as they go about their daily errands.

In small towns everywhere, resentment against newcomers and "outsiders" isn't uncommon. Proposals for multi-family housing complexes in sleepy communities of single-family homes often trigger fervent opposition complete with lawn signs and rowdy town board meeting crowds.

Yet the tone of the debates over growth in some areas where Hasidic families have been moving has been more intense.

In East Ramapo, there were legal fights after Hasidic voters, who generally do not send their children to public schools, elected a majority of members of the local school board.

Some towns have enacted zoning changes forbidding new houses of worship.

In the small town of Chester, 60 miles north of New York City in Orange County, New York Attorney General Letitia James recently announced action to fight housing rules that she said were being used to improperly prevent an influx of Hasidic Jews. Local officials have denied anti-Semitism was behind opposition to plans to build over 400 homes in the town of 12,000 residents.

Rockland County Executive Ed Day said the arguments over housing density involve legitimate policy issues and are the biggest challenge when it comes to accommodating the growing Orthodox Jewish community.

The Orthodox community has special needs, he said, like housing for large families and residences within walking distance to a synagogue. That creates "demands that are counter to many of the communities they're residing in," Day said.

Questionable zoning decisions, he said, lead to resentment.

"Now the words start. Now the worst words continue. And this is where you have the problem," Day said. Whether any of that heated rhetoric was a factor in the recent violence is unclear.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 15 of 34

Authorities haven't offered an explanation yet for what they think motivated the Jersey City attackers or Thomas to select their targets.

Thomas' lawyer and family have said he has struggled for years with mental illness and hadn't previously shown any animosity to Jews. He had grown up in New York City but was living with his mother in a small town about a 30 minute drive from Monsey.

Rabbi David Niederman, executive director of the Brooklyn-based United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg, said he is offended by references to tensions over housing and population growth in discussions about the Monsey and the Jersey City attacks.

"If you have tensions, what you do is you sit down at a table; that's how you deal with tensions," Niederman said. "You don't go out and murder people. You don't go out with a butcher knife and almost kill a whole congregation."

Those violent attacks, he said, were motivated by "pure hatred."

Esch reported from Albany and Carolyn Thompson in Buffalo contributed to this report.

Japanese prosecutors raid Nissan ex-chair Ghosn's Tokyo home

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese prosecutors on Thursday raided the Tokyo home of former Nissan Chairman Carlos Ghosn after he skipped bail and fled to Lebanon before his trial on financial misconduct charges.

Tokyo prosecutors and police did not immediately comment. Japanese media showed investigators entering the home, which was Ghosn's third residence in Tokyo since he was first arrested a year ago. Authorities have now searched each one.

Government offices in Japan are closed this week for the New Year's holidays.

It is unclear how Ghosn avoided the tight surveillance he was under in Japan and showed up in Lebanon.

Ghosn said Tuesday in a statement that he left for Lebanon because he thought the Japanese judicial system was unjust, and he wanted to avoid "political persecution."

He said he would talk to reporters next week.

Japan does not have an extradition treaty with Lebanon.

Lebanon has said Ghosn entered the country legally, and there was no reason to take action against him.

The Lebanese minister for presidential affairs, Selim Jreissati, told the An-Nahar newspaper that Ghosn entered legally at the airport with a French passport and Lebanese ID.

Ghosn's lawyers in Japan said they had no knowledge of the escape and they had all his passports. Ghosn has French, Lebanese and Brazilian citizenship.

Japanese public broadcaster NHK TV, without identifying sources, reported Thursday that Ghosn had two French passports.

Earlier Japanese reports said there were no official records in Japan of Ghosn's departure, but a private jet had left from a regional airport to Turkey.

Turkish state-run Anadolu Agency said Thursday that Turkish authorities had detained seven people as part of an investigation into how Ghosn fled to Lebanon via Istanbul.

The private DHA news agency reported that those detained are 4 pilots, a cargo company manager and two airport workers.

The Hurriyet newspaper said the plane carrying Ghosn landed at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport at 05:30 on Dec. 29. Ghosn was not registered upon landing and was smuggled on board another plane that left for Lebanon, the paper reported.

Ghosn, who was charged in Japan with under-reporting his future compensation and breach of trust, has repeatedly asserted his innocence, saying authorities trumped up charges to prevent a possible fuller merger between Nissan Motor Co. and alliance partner Renault SA.

His 1.5 billion yen (\$14 million) bail that Ghosn posted on two separate instances to get out of detention is being revoked.

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

Copter crash kills Taiwan's top military officer, 7 others

By RALPH JENNINGS Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan's top military official was among eight people killed in an air force helicopter crash in mountainous terrain outside Taipei on Thursday, the defense ministry said. Five others survived.

As chief of the general staff, Gen. Shen Yi-ming was responsible for overseeing the self-governing island's defense against China, which threatens to use military force if necessary to annex what it considers part of its territory.

The helicopter was flying from Taipei to the nearby city of Yilan for a New Year's activity when it crashed. The victims included other senior military officials and the two pilots.

The UH-60M Blackhawk with 13 people on board dropped from the radar screen 10 minutes after take-off from Songshan air force base around 7:50 a.m., Taiwan's defense ministry said. It went down in the mountainous, heavily forested Wulai area southeast of the capital.

Shen, 63, had taken over as chief of the general staff in July after serving as commander of Taiwan's air force, which is undergoing a substantial upgrade with the arrival of the most advanced version of the U.S. F-16V fighter.

Alexander Huang, a strategic studies professor at Tamkang University in Taiwan who had known Shen for a decade, said he had stood out as a pilot and an officer.

"He was very calm and very stable and unlike other army guys he was always smiling, so he got a specific leadership style that also made him a popular leader in the entire military," Huang said.

It will likely be months before the cause of the crash is known, but the pilots appeared to have been highly experienced.

"Of course, reasonable people would think in the direction of mechanical failure or maintenance problem, but without proof you can't say anything," Huang said.

A special government committee will look into the cause of the crash, a defense ministry statement said.

Taiwan's military has operated Blackhawk helicopters for decades and completed a sale for another 60 UH-Ms from the U.S. for \$3.1 billion in 2010. The one that crashed was a model dedicated to search and rescue and had been delivered in 2018, according to the ministry.

The loss of Shen and other high-ranking officials will require a rapid reshuffle of positions, but should have minimal effect on Taiwan's Jan. 11 elections for president and lawmakers, said Andrew Yang, a former deputy defense minister who said Shen was highly respected throughout his career.

"I don't think the crash will have a strong impact over the elections but certainly it will affect the armed forces because so many senior officers passed away as a result of this crash," he said.

The ruling Democratic Progressive Party said in a statement on social media that all its public campaign events from now through Saturday would be cancelled.

"The loss of pillars of our country make us feel endless sorrow," the statement read.

The party has been strongly critical of China's attempts to increase economic, military and diplomatic pressure. Incumbent President Tsai Ing-wen appears on track to win a second term over her more pro-China opponent, Han Kuo-yu of the main opposition Nationalists.

Some flee, others restock before Australian wildfires worsen

By TRISTAN LAVALETTE Associated Press

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Thousands of tourists fled Australia's wildfire-ravaged eastern coast Thursday ahead of worsening conditions as the military started to evacuate people trapped on the shore further south.

Cooler weather since Tuesday has aided firefighting and allowed people to replenish supplies. Vehicles formed long lines at gas stations and supermarkets, and traffic was gridlocked as highways reopened. But

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 17 of 34

fire conditions were expected to deteriorate Saturday as high temperatures and strong winds are forecast to return.

"There is every potential that the conditions on Saturday will be as bad or worse than we saw" on Tuesday, New South Wales Rural Fire Service Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers said.

Authorities said 381 homes had been destroyed on the New South Wales southern coast this week and at least eight people have died this week in the state and neighboring Victoria, Australia's two most-populous states, where more than 200 fires are currently burning.

Fires have also been burning in Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania.

The early and devastating start to Australia's summer wildfires has led authorities to rate this season the worst on record. About 5 million hectares (12.35 million acres) of land have burned, at least 17 people have been killed and more than 1,400 homes have been destroyed.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the crisis was likely to last for months.

"It will continue to go on until we can get some decent rain that can deal with some of the fires that have been burning for many, many months," Morrison told reporters on Thursday.

New South Wales authorities on Thursday morning ordered tourists to leave a 250-kilometer (155-mile) zone along the picturesque south coast. State Transport Minister Andrew Constance said it is the "largest mass relocation of people out of the region that we've ever seen."

New South Wales premier Gladys Berejiklian declared a seven-day state of emergency starting Friday, which grants the New South Wales Rural Fire Service commissioner more control and power.

It's the third state of emergency for New South Wales in the past two months, after previously not being implemented since 2013.

"We don't take these decisions lightly but we also want to make sure we're taking every single precaution to be prepared for what could be a horrible day on Saturday," Berejiklian said.

A statewide total fire ban will be in place on Friday and Saturday.

In Victoria, where 83 homes have burned this week, the military was helping thousands of people who fled to the shore as a wildfire threatened their homes Tuesday in the coastal town of Mallacoota. Food, water, fuel and medical expertise were being delivered and about 500 people were going to be evacuated from the town by a naval ship.

"We think around 3,000 tourists and 1,000 locals are there. Not all of those will want to leave, not all can get on the vessel at one time," Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

A contingent of 39 firefighters from the United States and Canada landed in Melbourne on Thursday to help with the catastrophe.

Smoke from the wildfires made the air quality in the national capital, Canberra, the world's worst in a ranking index Thursday and was blowing into New Zealand.

Global markets mostly higher on optimism about US-China deal

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Global shares were mostly higher on optimism about a U.S.-China trade deal as regional markets opened the new year's first day of trading Thursday.

France's CAC 40 rose 0.8% to 6,022.63 in early trading, while Germany's DAX was little changed, inching down less than 0.1% to 13,238.78. Britain's FTSE 100 added 0.8% to 7,604.80.

U.S. shares were set to drift higher with Dow futures gaining 0.4% to 28,634. S&P 500 futures were also up 0.4% at 3,243.80

Australia's S&P ASX 200 gained 0.1% to 6,690.60, while South Korea's Kospi lost 1.0% to 2,175.17. Hong Kong's Hang Seng jumped 1.1% to 28,511.92, while the Shanghai Composite gained 1.2% to 3,085.20. Tokyo was still closed for the New Year's holiday.

Regional market sentiment has been on an upswing after President Donald Trump said an initial trade deal with China would be signed later this month. The "Phase 1" trade deal calls for the U.S. to reduce tariffs and China to buy larger quantities of U.S. farm products.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 18 of 34

Weighing on the optimism was an announcement earlier in the week from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un that his country will soon reveal a new strategic weapon and that North Korea was no longer obligated to maintain a self-imposed suspension on the testing of nuclear weapons and intercontinental ballistic missiles.

But some market observers said Kim's comments were not specific enough to dampen optimism.

"The clear lack of details on both the threat itself and the timing, over and above the evident desensitized state of the market in previous tests, underpins this lack of reaction," Jingyi Pan, market strategist at IG in Singapore, said.

Adding to the optimism was China's central bank announcement Wednesday it will cut the amount of money banks will be required to have on hand from Jan. 6 in an effort to boost the slowing economy.

The People's Bank of China said the reserve requirement ratio for financial institutions would be lowered by 50 basis points, a move that's expected to release about 800 billion yuan (\$114.6 billion) into the economy for lending purposes.

That will boost the economy ahead of the Lunar New Year that falls on Jan. 25. Companies and individuals typically need large amounts of cash on hand during China's most important annual holiday to pay bonuses, clear debts and cover other expenses.

U.S. trading was closed Wednesday for the New Year's holiday and opens Thursday.

On Tuesday, the last day of trading for 2019, the S&P 500 rose 9.49 points, or 0.3%, to 3,230.78. The Dow gained 76.30 points, or 0.3%, to 28,538.44. The Nasdaq climbed 26.61 points, or 0.3%, to 8,972.60.

The Russell 2000 index picked up 4.32 points, or 0.3%, to 1,668.47. The index ended the year with a gain of 23.7%.

Wall Street closed the books on a blockbuster 2019 for stock investors, with the broader market delivering its best returns in six years.

The S&P 500 finished with a gain of 28.9% for the year, or a total return of 31.5%, including dividends. The Nasdaq composite rose 35.3%. For both indexes it was the best annual performance since 2013. Technology stocks helped power those gains by vaulting 48%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 22.3%, led by Apple.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude oil gained 27 cents to \$61.33 a barrel. It lost 62 cents to settle at \$61.06 per barrel on Tuesday. Brent crude, the international standard, rose 36 cents to \$66.36 per barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 108.81 yen from 108.53 yen. It edged down to \$1.1209 from \$1.1231.

Former NBA Commissioner David Stern dies at 77

By **BRIAN MAHONEY AP** Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — David Stern had basketball as a passion and law as a profession, one he figured he could return to if a job at the NBA didn't work out.

He never did.

Instead he went to Europe, Asia and plenty of other places around the world, bringing with him a league that was previously an afterthought in the U.S. and turning it into a global powerhouse.

Stern, who spent 30 years as the NBA's longest-serving commissioner and one of the best in sports history, died Wednesday. He was 77.

"Without David Stern, the NBA would not be what it is today," Hall of Famer Michael Jordan said. "He guided the league through turbulent times and grew the league into an international phenomenon, creating opportunities that few could have imagined before."

Stern suffered a brain hemorrhage on Dec. 12 and underwent emergency surgery. The league said he died with his wife, Dianne, and their family at his bedside.

"The entire basketball community is heartbroken," the National Basketball Players Association said. "David Stern earned and deserved inclusion in our land of giants."

Stern had been involved with the NBA for nearly two decades before he became its fourth commissioner on Feb. 1, 1984. By the time he left his position in 2014 — he wouldn't say or let league staffers say "re-

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 19 of 34

tire," because he never stopped working — a league that fought for a foothold before him had grown to a more than \$5 billion a year industry and made NBA basketball perhaps the world's most popular sport after soccer.

"Because of David, the NBA is a truly global brand — making him not only one of the greatest sports commissioners of all time, but also one of the most influential business leaders of his generation," said Adam Silver, who followed Stern as commissioner. "Every member of the NBA family is the beneficiary of David's vision, generosity and inspiration."

Lakers forward LeBron James echoed Silver.

"We lost a great visionary," James said. "Him and Dr. James Naismith are the two most important people for the game of basketball. Dr. Naismith because he invented the game and David for his vision, his vision to make this game global."

Thriving on good debate in the boardroom and good games in the arena, Stern would say one of his greatest achievements was guiding a league of mostly black players that was plagued by drug problems in the 1970s to popularity with mainstream America.

He had a hand in nearly every initiative to do that, from the drug testing program, to the implementation of the salary cap, to the creation of a dress code.

But for Stern, it was always about "the game," and his morning often included reading about the previous night's results in the newspaper — even after technological advances he embraced made reading NBA.com easier than ever.

"The game is what brought us here. It's always about the game and everything else we do is about making the stage or the presentation of the game even stronger, and the game itself is in the best shape that it's ever been in," he said on the eve of the 2009-10 season, calling it "a new golden age for the NBA."

One that was largely created by Stern during a three-decade run that turned countless ballplayers into celebrities who were known around the globe by one name: Magic, Michael, Kobe, LeBron, just to name a few.

Stern oversaw the birth of seven new franchises and the creation of the WNBA and NBA Development League, now the G League, providing countless opportunities to pursue careers playing basketball in the United States that previously weren't available.

Not bad for a guy who once thought his job might be a temporary one.

Stern had been the league's outside counsel from 1966 to '78 and spent two years as the NBA's general counsel, figuring he could always go back to his legal career if he found things weren't working out after a couple of years.

Instead, after serving as the NBA's executive vice president of business and legal affairs from 1980-84, he replaced Larry O'Brien as commissioner.

Overlooked and ignored only a few years earlier, when it couldn't even get its championship round on live network TV, the NBA saw its popularity quickly surge thanks to the rebirth of the Lakers-Celtics rivalry behind Magic Johnson and Larry Bird, followed by the entrance of Jordan just a few months after Stern became commissioner.

"There are no words that can really describe the far-reaching impact of Commissioner Stern's brilliance, vision, fairness and hard work over so many years," Bird said. "When you think of all that he accomplished worldwide on behalf of thousands of players, so many fans, all of the jobs he created for team and arena employees and all of the people that benefitted from the many layers of growth in the sport and industry that David spearheaded and then passed on to others, there is no doubt Commissioner Stern lifted the NBA to new heights and he will be greatly missed by all of us."

Under Stern, the NBA would play nearly 150 international games and be televised in more than 200 countries and territories, and in more than 40 languages, and the NBA Finals and All-Star weekend would grow into international spectacles. The 2010 All-Star game drew more than 108,000 fans to Dallas Cowboys Stadium, a record to watch a basketball game.

"It was David Stern being a marketing genius who turned the league around. That's why our brand is so strong," said Johnson, who announced he was retiring because of HIV in 1991 but returned the following

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 20 of 34

year at the All-Star Game with Stern's backing.

"It was David Stern who took this league worldwide."

He was fiercely protective of his players and referees when he felt they were unfairly criticized, such as when members of the Indiana Pacers brawled with Detroit fans in 2004, or when an FBI investigation in 2007 found that Tim Donaghy had bet on games he officiated, throwing the entire referee operations department into turmoil. With his voice rising and spit flying, Stern would publicly rebuke media outlets, even individual writers, if he felt they had taken cheap shots.

But he was also a relentless negotiator against those same employees in collective bargaining, and his loyalty to his owners and commitment to getting them favorable deals led to his greatest failures, lockouts in 1998 and 2011 that were the only times the NBA lost games to work stoppages. Though he had already passed off the heavy lifting to Silver by the latter one, it was Stern who faced the greatest criticism, as well as the damage to a legacy that had otherwise rarely been tarnished.

"As tough an adversary as he was across the table, he never failed to recognize the value of our players, and had the vision and courage to make them the focus of our league's marketing efforts — building the NBA into the empire it is today," the NBPA said.

David Joel Stern was born Sept. 22, 1942, in New York, where he grew up a Knicks fan and worked in his fathers' deli. A graduate of Rutgers University and Columbia Law School, he was dedicated to public service, launching the NBA Cares program in 2005 that donated more than \$100 million to charity in five years.

He would begin looking internationally soon after becoming commissioner and the globalization of the game got an enormous boost in 1992, when Jordan, Johnson and Bird played on the U.S. Olympic Dream Team that would bring the sport a new burst of popularity while storming to the gold medal in Barcelona.

Stern capitalized on that by sending NBA teams to play preseason games against other NBA or international clubs, and opened offices in other countries. The league staged regular-season games in Japan in 1991 and devoted significant resources to China, and Stern's work there would pay off in 2008 when basketball was perhaps the most popular sport in the Beijing Olympics.

Growth slowed near the end of his tenure. The worldwide economic downturn in the late 2000s all but wrecked his longtime hopes of expanding overseas and led to the second lockout, with owners wanting massive changes to the salary structure after losing hundreds of millions of dollars a year on their basketball teams, on top of losses in their personal businesses.

He helped get them, and the league was thriving again by the time he left office. Stern said he felt the time was right, confident that he had groomed a worthy successor in Silver.

Silver, who worked for Stern for 22 years, is praised for his achievements since becoming commissioner. NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman also worked under Stern at the NBA, former NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue called him a great friend and ally on important issues, and many other executives in and out of sports have said they learned from the way Stern did business.

"Best leader in sports history," Washington Wizards owner Ted Leonsis said.

Stern stayed busy after leaving the league office, taking trips overseas on the NBA's behalf, doing public speaking and consulting various companies. He was inducted to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2014.

Stern and his wife had two sons, Andrew and Eric.

More AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/NBA> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Fleeing war, poverty, African migrants face racism in Egypt

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Two Sudanese sisters, Seham and Ekhlas Bashir, were walking their children home from elementary school in a Cairo neighborhood when a group of Egyptian teenagers crowded around them.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 21 of 34

The boys taunted them, calling them "slave" and other slurs. Then they tried to rip off Ekhlās' clothes.

An onlooker intervened, scolding the young harassers, and the sisters and their three children managed to escape. But they were shaken.

They had just arrived in Cairo months earlier, fleeing violence in their homeland. The harassment brought up traumatic memories of detention, torture and rape they said they experienced at the hands of militias in Sudan's Nuba mountains.

"We have come here seeking safety," said Ekhlās, recounting the incident that took place in November. "But the reality was very different."

Egypt has for decades been a refuge for sub-Saharan African migrants trying to escape war or poverty. But the streets of Cairo, a metropolis of some 20 million, can bring new dangers in the form of racist harassment or even violence in ways that other significant migrant communities here, such as Libyans and Syrians, don't face. While other major centers of African migration like Europe have been wrestling with racist violence, Egypt has only made small starts toward addressing the issue.

The U.N.'s International Organization for Migration says Egypt hosts more than 6 million migrants, more than half of them from Sudan and South Sudan, where simmering conflicts continue to displace tens of thousands of people annually. For some, Egypt is a destination and a haven, the closest and easiest country for them to enter. For others, it is a point of transit before attempting the dangerous Mediterranean crossing to Europe.

In visits to several migrant communities throughout Cairo, at least two dozen sub-Saharan Africans, including four children, told The Associated Press that they have endured racist insults, sexual harassment or other abuses in the past three months.

The children said they have had rocks and trash thrown at them as they go to or from school. One woman from Ethiopia said neighbors pound on the windows of her family's home, yelling "slaves" before disappearing into the night.

There are signs that Egypt is starting to recognize and censure racist crimes.

In November, there was a public outcry over a video that went viral showing three Egyptian teenagers bullying a schoolboy from South Sudan.

In the video, taken by mobile phone, the teenagers block the boy's way, laughing and making fun of his appearance before trying to take his backpack. In the aftermath, police detained the teenagers for a day before their families reached a settlement with the family of the South Sudanese boy, John Manuth.

Weeks later, Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi hosted Manuth at a youth forum in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh and made a rare high-level acknowledgement of the problem.

"They are our guests and negative treatment is not acceptable and not allowed," el-Sissi told the audience.

In 2018, a court sentenced to seven years in prison a man who was known to harass refugees and who beat to death a South Sudanese teacher who had worked in a community-run school for refugees in Cairo.

Refugees and rights workers say the country still has a long way to go.

Reported cases of sexual and gender-based violence against migrants has increased in recent months, according to the IOM. Women and girls are the most affected, but so are vulnerable men and young boys, said Shirley De Leon, a project development officer at the organization. She said that could in part be because of Egypt's economic strains — "challenges remain and are exacerbated by inflation, eroded income and high youth unemployment."

Most migrants live in crowded poorer neighborhoods, where they form insular communities in small, packed apartment buildings. The idea is to protect families and vulnerable new arrivals from abuses.

Racism has roots in Egyptian society. For centuries, Egypt was colonized by Arab, Turkish and European imperial powers. Lighter skin was identified with the elite. Darker-complexioned Egyptians and sub-Saharan Africans have been portrayed as doormen, waiters, and cleaners in films for decades. Some Egyptians still unabashedly address people by their skin color, calling them "black," "dark," or "chocolate." Historically, many have preferred to think of themselves as Arab, rather than African.

Attia Essawi, an expert on African affairs at Cairo's al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, says it will take a lot to break some societal beliefs.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 22 of 34

"Authorities should be decisive, with more severe measures against racism and bullying," he said. But for many, reporting a crime is not an option.

Two South Sudanese women, who work as part-time house cleaners, told the AP they had been sexually assaulted by their employers. Neither of them reported the allegations to police, as one of them has not finalized her documents as a migrant in Egypt and the other feared reprisals from her attacker. For the same reasons, they spoke on condition of anonymity.

Now, they and others say they make sure to be home by nightfall, and only go out in groups.

El-Sissi has said in the past that his country doesn't need camps for refugees, because it is welcoming and absorbs them so readily. Many sub-Saharan African migrants enter the country legally but overstay visas. Enforcement on those who stay illegally is lax, and a large number of them work in the huge informal economy as street vendors and house cleaners.

In a café frequented by migrants in a central Cairo neighborhood, Ethiopian refugee Ahmed el-Athiopi says that he came to the city five years ago to escape repression at home. He believes the only reason he has been able to keep a job is because he makes half that of an Egyptian.

For now, though, he says Cairo remains his best available option.

"I hope things get better in the future. Here is much better than in my home country as there is likely a zero chance to leave for Europe," he said.

Larsen, who threw only perfect World Series game, dies at 90

NEW YORK (AP) — Don Larsen, the journeyman pitcher who reached the heights of baseball glory when he threw a perfect game in 1956 with the New York Yankees for the only no-hitter in World Series history, died Wednesday night. He was 90.

Larsen's agent, Andrew Levy, said the former pitcher died of esophageal cancer in hospice care in Hayden, Idaho. Levy said Larsen's son, Scott, confirmed the death.

Larsen was the unlikeliest of characters to attain what so many Hall of Famers couldn't pull off in the Fall Classic. He was 81-91 lifetime, never won more than 11 games in a season and finished an unsightly 3-21 with Baltimore in 1954, the year before he was dealt to the Yankees as part of an 18-player trade.

In the 1956 World Series, won in seven games by the Yankees, he was knocked out in the second inning of Game 2 by the Brooklyn Dodgers and didn't think he would have another opportunity to pitch. But when he reached Yankee Stadium on the morning of Oct. 8, he found a baseball in his shoe, the signal from manager Casey Stengel that he would start Game 5.

"I must admit I was shocked," Larsen wrote in his autobiography. "I knew I had to do better than the last time, keep the game close and somehow give our team a chance to win. Casey was betting on me, and I was determined not to let him down this time."

The Dodgers and Yankees split the first four games and Stengel liked the deception of Larsen's no-windup delivery. The manager's instincts proved historically correct. The lanky right-hander struck out seven, needed just 97 pitches to tame the Dodgers and only once went to three balls on a batter — against Pee Wee Reese in the first inning.

In winning 2-0, the Yankees themselves only managed five hits against the Dodgers' Sal Maglie, but scored on Mickey Mantle's home run and an RBI single by Hank Bauer.

Larsen, selected MVP of the 1956 Series, had two close calls. In the second inning, Jackie Robinson hit a hard grounder that was deflected by third baseman Andy Carey to shortstop Gil McDougald, who threw out Robinson. In the fifth, Mantle ran down a long drive to left-center field by Gil Hodges. With two outs in the ninth, pinch-hitter Dale Mitchell took a third strike, completing the perfect game and sending catcher Yogi Berra dashing out from behind the plate to leap into Larsen's arms.

"When Yogi Berra jumped on me and grabbed with the bear hug, my mind went completely blank," Larsen wrote in his autobiography. "I was under friendly attack ... I was swept into the dugout."

Their celebration remains one of baseball's most joyous images.

"Don's perfect game is a defining moment for our franchise, encapsulating a storied era of Yankees

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 23 of 34

success and ranking among the greatest single-game performances in Major League Baseball history," the Yankees said in a statement. "The unmitigated joy reflected in his embrace with Yogi Berra after the game's final out will forever hold a secure place in Yankees lore. It was the pinnacle of baseball success and a reminder of the incredible, unforgettable things that can take place on a baseball field."

Born Aug. 7, 1929, in Michigan City, Indiana, Larsen moved with his family to San Diego, where he went to Point Loma High School, the alma mater of another Yankees perfect game pitcher, David Wells. Larsen played basketball and baseball and was signed by the St. Louis Browns for a \$500 bonus and \$150 a month.

After two minor league seasons, Larsen hurt his arm and then spent two years in the Army. He was promoted to the Browns in 1953 and moved with the team to Baltimore the following year. He struggled through his 3-21 season but two of the wins were against the Yankees, who insisted he be included in the trade that also brought pitching star Bob Turley to New York.

Larsen started 1955 with the Yankees' farm team in Denver, where he went 9-1 and developed the no-windup delivery. Promoted to the majors midway through the season, he finished 9-2 for New York. Larsen went 11-5 the next season and enjoyed the party atmosphere that came with playing for the Yankees, often running with Mantle, Billy Martin and Whitey Ford in their late-night rounds of the city. On the night before his perfect game, he had been out on the town, believing he was not in Stengel's plans for the next day.

Larsen pitched in three other World Series. He won Game 2 of the 1957 series against Hank Aaron and the Milwaukee Braves, but lost the decisive Game 7. He shut out the Braves 4-0 on six hits in Game 3 of the 1958 Series, when New York beat Milwaukee in seven games, and was back in the Bronx with the San Francisco Giants for the 1962 Fall Classic.

Pitching against the Yankees on Oct. 8, the sixth anniversary of his perfect game, he won in relief at Yankee Stadium. After the 1959 season, he was traded to Kansas City in a deal that brought Roger Maris to New York. With the A's, he went 1-10 in 1960, a reminder of his dreadful season with the Orioles. He was sent back to the minors where he became a relief pitcher and then moved on to the Giants, Chicago White Sox, Houston, Baltimore and the Chicago Cubs.

Larsen retired in 1967 with an 81-91 record over 14 major league seasons. He later worked as a liquor salesman and paper company executive. When David Cone tossed a perfect game for the Yankees during the 1999 season, Larsen was in attendance after throwing out the ceremonial first pitch.

No other pitcher has thrown a perfect game in the postseason, but in 2010 the Phillies' Roy Halladay pitched a no-hitter against the Cincinnati Reds during the National League Division Series.

"They can never break my record," Larsen would say of his game. "The best they can do is tie it. October 8, 1956, was a mystical trip through fantasyland. Sometimes I still wonder whether it really all happened."

Late on Wednesday night, Cone tweeted "RIP my friend" with a photo of himself, Wells and Larsen together on the field at Yankee Stadium.

"We are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Don Larsen, who remained a welcome and familiar face at our annual Old-Timers' Day celebrations in the decades following his playing career," the Yankees said. "He will be missed."

In a message posted Christmas Day on social media, Scott Larsen said his father was diagnosed with esophageal cancer soon after returning from his annual trip to St. Louis in August to attend the St. Louis Browns Historical Society gathering. The elder Larsen "immediately began a rigorous program of radiation therapy" that he had recently completed, Scott Larsen said.

In addition to his son, Larsen is survived by his wife of 62 years, Corrine, daughter-in-law Nancy, and grandsons Justin and Cody.

Funeral arrangements were pending.

Militiamen withdraw from US Embassy but Iraq tensions linger

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA and JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iran-backed militiamen withdrew from the U.S. Embassy compound in Baghdad on Wednesday after two days of clashes with American security forces, but U.S.-Iran tensions remain high and could spill over into further violence.

The withdrawal followed calls from the government and senior militia leaders. It ended a two-day crisis marked by the breach of the largest and one of the most heavily fortified U.S. diplomatic missions in the world.

The attack and its volatile aftermath prompted the Pentagon to send hundreds of additional troops to the Middle East and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to delay a European and Central Asian trip.

In an orchestrated assault, hundreds of militiamen and their supporters broke into the embassy compound, destroying a reception area, smashing windows and spraying graffiti on walls to protest U.S. airstrikes against an Iran-backed militia over the weekend that killed 25 fighters.

The U.S. blamed the militia for a rocket attack on an Iraqi military base in the northern city of Kirkuk last week that killed a U.S. contractor.

The protesters set up a tent camp overnight and on Wednesday set fire to the reception area and hurled stones at U.S. Marines guarding the compound, who responded with tear gas. There were no injuries on either side and no American staff were evacuated from the compound.

The Popular Mobilization Forces, an umbrella group of state-allied militias — many backed by Iran — called on its supporters to withdraw in response to an appeal by the Iraqi government, saying “your message has been received.”

By late afternoon the tents had been taken down and the protesters relocated to the opposite side of the Tigris River, outside the so-called Green Zone housing government offices and foreign embassies. U.S. Apache helicopters circled overhead.

“After achieving the intended aim, we pulled out from this place triumphantly,” said Fadhil al-Gezzi, a militia supporter. “We rubbed America’s nose in the dirt.” Trump has vowed to exact a “big price” for an attack he blamed squarely on Iran.

Kataeb Hezbollah, the Iran-backed militia targeted by the U.S. airstrikes, initially refused to leave but later bowed to demands to disperse. The militia is separate from the Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon, though both are backed by Iran.

“We don’t care about these planes that are flying over the heads of the picketers. Neither do we care about the news that America will bring Marines,” said Mohammed Mohy, a spokesman for Kataeb Hezbollah. “On the contrary, this shows a psychological defeat and a big mental breakdown that the American administration is suffering from,” he said, before withdrawing from the area.

The violence came as Iran and its allies across the region have faced unprecedented mass protests in recent months and heavy U.S. sanctions have cratered Iran’s economy.

Iraq has been gripped by anti-government protests since October fueled by anger at widespread corruption and economic mismanagement, as well as Iran’s heavy influence over the country’s affairs. Those protesters were not involved in the embassy attack.

The Pentagon sent an infantry battalion of about 750 soldiers to the Middle East. A U.S. official familiar with the decision said they would go to Kuwait. Pompeo postponed a trip that was scheduled to start in Ukraine late Thursday so that he can monitor developments in Iraq and “ensure the safety and security of Americans in the Middle East,” said State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus.

Iran denied involvement in the attack on the embassy. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was quoted by media as saying that “if the Islamic Republic makes a decision to confront any country, it will do it directly.”

Iran later summoned the Swiss charge d’affaires, who represents American interests in Tehran, to protest what it said was war-mongering by U.S. officials.

Public consular operations at the embassy were suspended and future appointments cancelled, it said

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 25 of 34

in a statement.

Tensions have steadily risen since Trump withdrew the U.S. from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers and embarked on a campaign of maximum pressure through economic sanctions. Iran has responded by abandoning some of its commitments under the deal.

U.S. officials have blamed Iran for the sabotage of oil tankers in the Persian Gulf and a drone attack on Saudi oil facilities in September that caused a spike in world oil prices. But the Trump administration has not responded with direct military action, apparently fearing a wider conflict.

The U.S. has sent more than 14,000 additional troops to the Gulf region since May in response to concerns about Iranian aggression. At the time of the attack, the U.S. had about 5,200 troops in Iraq, mainly to train Iraqi forces and help them combat Islamic State extremists.

The U.S. and Iran have vied for influence over Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein. Iran has close ties to Iraq's Shiite majority and major political factions, and its influence has steadily grown since then.

Iran helped to mobilize tens of thousands of mostly Shiite militiamen to battle the Islamic State group when it stormed across northern and western Iraq in 2014 as the armed forces collapsed. The U.S. and Iran both provided vital aid to Iraqi forces, who eventually declared victory over the extremists in December 2017.

The political influence of the Popular Mobilization Forces has risen in recent years, and their allies dominate the parliament and the government. That has made them the target of the anti-government protesters, who have attacked Iranian diplomatic missions and the local headquarters of parties affiliated with the militias across southern Iraq.

They have also set up a sprawling protest camp in central Baghdad, and for weeks have been trying to enter the Green Zone. Iraqi security forces have beaten them back with tear gas and live ammunition, killing hundreds.

The militiamen and their supporters, however, were able to quickly enter the Green Zone and mass in front of the embassy, with little if any resistance from authorities.

Iraq's government vehemently condemned the airstrikes on the militia, saying it violated national sovereignty. But Iran and its allies might have also seen the attack as a way of diverting attention from the anti-government protests.

"Iran has been trying to provoke the U.S. into helping it solve its Iraq problem," said the Crisis Group, an international think tank. "The Trump administration, by responding to the attacks in Kirkuk and elsewhere with airstrikes, has obliged."

Krauss reported from Ramallah, West Bank. Associated Press writers Amir Vahdat in Tehran, Iran, Bassem Mroue in Beirut and Robert Burns in Washington contributed.

T.S. Eliot letters to muse to be unveiled after 60 years

By CHRISTINA PACIOLLA Associated Press

After more than 60 years spent sealed up in a library storage facility, about 1,000 letters written by poet T.S. Eliot to confidante Emily Hale will be unveiled this week, and scholars hope they will reveal the extent of a relationship that's been speculated about for decades.

Many consider Hale to not only be his close friend, but also his muse, and they hope their correspondence will offer insight into the more intimate details about Eliot's life and work. Students, researchers and scholars can read the letters at Princeton University Library starting Thursday.

"I think it's perhaps the literary event of the decade," says Anthony Cuda, an Eliot scholar and director of the T.S. Eliot International Summer School. "I don't know of anything more awaited or significant. It's momentous to have these letters coming out."

Lifelong friends, Hale and Eliot exchanged letters for about 25 years beginning in 1930. The two met in 1912 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, but did not rekindle their friendship until 1927. Eliot was already living

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 26 of 34

in England and Hale taught drama at U.S. universities, including Scripps College in California.

In 1956, Hale donated the letters under an agreement they wouldn't be opened until 50 years after either her or Eliot's death, whichever came second. Eliot died in 1965. Hale died four years later.

Biographers say Eliot ordered Hale's letters to him to be burned.

Their relationship "must have been incredibly important and their correspondence must have been remarkably intimate for him to be so concerned about the publication," Cuda says.

T.S. Eliot was born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1888 and gained notoriety as a poet early in life. He was only 26 when "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" became his first professionally published poem.

Eliot's 1939 book of whimsical poetry, "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats," was adapted into "Cats," the award-winning musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber. The play opened in London first in 1981 and then on Broadway the next year. It was then turned into a feature film starring an ensemble cast that includes Judi Dench and James Corden just released in December.

His best known works include "The Waste Land," "The Hollow Men" and "Four Quartets."

The first poem in the "Quartets" series, called "Burnt Norton," piques the interest of enthusiasts of the poet, says Eliot scholar Frances Dickey, because of lines that suggest missed opportunities and what might have been with his muse. The poem is named after a home in England that Eliot visited with Hale in 1934.

"His relationship with her seems to be deep and meaningful and it's a door he chose not to open," she said.

The letters could also reveal details about Eliot's conversion to Anglicanism, something he deeply cherished, Dickey says.

Dickey, who served as one of the editors on "The Complete Prose of T.S. Eliot", said the poet was deeply ashamed of his marriage to his first wife, Vivienne Haigh-Wood, whom he was with for more than 15 years. Dickey said the letters could reveal just how close he and Hale were and if the two ever considered marriage.

"Was this an epistolary romance they would carry across the Atlantic?" Dickey said. "What role did she play in his emotional life?"

Eliot's letters to Hale began after that first marriage ended. Whatever else she was, Hale was a link to the life Eliot had left behind in the United States as a young man, Dickey said.

"He was really thinking more about the United States and his childhood during the period where he was in correspondence with Hale," says Dickey. "I have a feeling that having a relationship with an American woman helped him to uncover his past in a way."

The unsealed boxes, which also contain photographs, clippings and other ephemera, were actually opened at the library's special collections area called Firestone Library in October for cataloging and digitizing. Daniel Linke, interim head of special collections at the library, was part of the team working on the 14 boxes. He said there was very minimal, if any, reading.

He said that scholars from around the world will be traveling to Princeton in the first days they are available since they are copyrighted and won't be made available online.

"It will be the special collections equivalent of a stampede at a rock concert," Linke said.

As more women run for office, child care remains a hurdle

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — When Kimberly Dudik ran for her fourth term in the Montana House, state officials told her she could not use campaign money to pay for child care for her four young children.

She is now running for attorney general and is trying to visit a big chunk of the sprawling state, spending hours on the road. That means she needs even more help picking up her kids at school and day care when she's away and her husband has a late night at the office.

"It just seems behind the times," Dudik, whose family is living off her husband's income and savings from her work as a lawyer. "When it was a man campaigning, the woman was traditionally the one to stay home and take care of the children. There is not someone home just taking care of the kids."

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 27 of 34

Experts predict a large number of women will again run for office in 2020 like they did in 2018, and child care remains a hurdle for many of them.

A congressional candidate in New York successfully petitioned the Federal Election Commission in 2018 to allow campaign money to help cover child care costs. But it applies only to those running for federal office.

That leaves women in many states who are running for the Legislature, statewide positions like attorney general or local offices to find another way to pay for child care as they campaign, which often requires night and weekend work.

Only six states have laws specifically allowing campaign money to be used for child care. Five states are considering it. In most states, including Montana, the law is silent on the issue and up to interpretation by agencies or boards. Agencies in at least nine states have allowed child care to be a campaign-related expense, but those decisions are not law and could be reversed.

Utah is among the states that passed a gender-neutral child care expense law, which went into effect last May. Sponsored by Republican state Rep. Craig Hall, it easily passed the GOP-dominated legislature.

Luz Escamilla was one of the first candidates to use it as she campaigned to become the first Latina mayor of Salt Lake City. Escamilla had to take time off from her full-time banking job to knock on doors and shake hands as she made her case to voters.

Without a paycheck, it was hard to cover the cost of child care for her two youngest daughters. After the law was passed, she used about \$1,500 in campaign cash over two months to help pay for it. The extra time she could spend campaigning helped propel her to a spot in the general election, though she lost in November.

"Full-time campaigning during the summer with toddlers, it makes it really difficult," Escamilla said, adding of the law: "It was a great tool in our toolbox."

Lawmakers in Minnesota added child care as an allowable expense in 2018, while Colorado, New York, New Hampshire and California passed laws in 2019.

Before Colorado allowed campaign cash to be used for child care, Amber McReynolds, a former chief elections official in Denver, was contemplating a bid for statewide office in 2017. The costs of child care were a considerable concern as a single mother of two young children.

For that and other reasons, McReynolds decided against running.

"When we look at the statistics in terms of representatives in Congress or statewide office and you don't see single moms in that category, that's why," said McReynolds, who's CEO of a nonprofit. "The circumstances are just that much more difficult when you are in politics."

The policy also can help fathers running for office in families where both parents work.

Jean Sinzdak, associate director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, said the record number of women who ran for office in 2018 has helped drive the issue. Still, lawmakers in a number of states have resisted the change.

In Tennessee, the sponsor of a measure to add child care to the list of approved campaign expenses faced a skeptical audience during a subcommittee hearing last spring.

"If they aren't running for office because they can't find child care, how are they going to do the job down here?" asked state Rep. John Crawford, a Republican from Kingsport, Tennessee.

The sponsor, Democratic state Rep. Jason Powell, said he introduced the proposal after people he tried to recruit to run for City Council in Nashville declined because child care needs kept them from campaigning.

"I hate that people in our state feel like they can't run for office because they may or may not be able to use their campaign funds for a child care expense," Powell said.

The measure failed to advance after a split vote of the all-male subcommittee.

In Louisiana, Democratic state House candidate Morgan Lamandre had her request denied by the state ethics board even though it allowed a Republican man to claim campaign-related child care expenses in 2000. Members, who were not on the panel two decades ago and didn't have to follow the previous decision, said they were concerned it could be abused.

After a backlash, the board reversed itself.

While she's used campaign funds to pay for child care a few times, Lamandre said it's not a panacea for smaller races where candidates might have to choose between paying a baby-sitter or buying basics like lawn signs.

"It's helpful, but it's not a slam-dunk," she said.

Liuba Grechen-Shirley, who unsuccessfully ran for Congress on eastern Long Island and whose FEC petition led to child care expenses being allowed for federal candidates, started a group called Vote Mama to help mothers running for public office and hopes one day the expense is allowed in every state.

States now considering proposals include New Jersey, Illinois, Ohio, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Caitlin Clarkson Pereira tried a similar approach to Grechen-Shirley's, but ended up suing Connecticut after a board denied her request. She was told she couldn't use campaign money to pay for child care for her young daughter during her state House race in 2018, which she ultimately lost.

Connecticut officials cited a program that allows candidates to tap taxpayer money after they raise a certain amount on their own. With public money involved, the state says child care should be considered a personal expense.

Pereira argued that it should be considered as necessary as meals or travel.

"This is the time to remove the roadblocks that are clearly in the way of parents and families being able to run for office," she said.

Despite an eleventh-hour push last year by Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont, lawmakers failed to pass the policy.

Dudik, the Montana candidate, said the lack of these laws shows the need to have more women in power so policies can be changed.

"If we want more women running for office, we need to make allowances to make that a reality and not just give lip service to it," she said.

Cassidy reported from Atlanta. Associated Press writer Kimberlee Kruesi in Nashville, Tennessee, contributed to this report.

Family: Man stabbed in Hanukkah attack may have brain damage

By JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A man wounded in the Hanukkah stabbings north of New York City may have permanent brain damage and be partially paralyzed for the rest of his life, his family said.

The Orthodox Jewish Public Affairs Council released a statement from the family of Josef Neumann, 71, and a graphic photograph Wednesday showing severe head injuries he received Saturday at a rabbi's home in Monsey, New York.

Four other people were injured in the attack, which federal prosecutors say was a hate crime.

The photograph shows an intubated Neumann with a swollen and disfigured face lying in a hospital bed. A gash to his head appears to have been stitched up.

Neumann's family released the photograph for the world and "the Jewish community to understand the gravity of hate," Yossi Gestetner, the council's co-founder, said in an interview. Neumann has seven children.

"These things are vividly and viciously disturbing and have long-term consequences," Gestetner said.

The 18-inch machete used in the attack penetrated Neumann's skull, the statement said, adding that Neumann's "right arm has been shattered."

"Our father's status is so dire that no surgery has yet been performed on the right arm," the statement said. "Doctors are not optimistic about his chances to regain consciousness, and if our father does miraculously recover partially, doctors expect that he will have permanent damage to the brain, leaving him partially paralyzed and speech-impaired for the rest of his life."

The statement also called on Jewish people around the world to share their own experiences with anti-Semitism on social media using the hashtag #MeJew.

"We shall not let this terrible hate-driven attack be forgotten," the statement said, "and let us all work

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 29 of 34

to eradicate all sorts of hate.”

Federal prosecutors have charged Grafton Thomas, 37, with five federal counts of obstructing the free exercise of religious beliefs by attempting to kill with a dangerous weapon. He also has pleaded not guilty to five state counts of attempted murder and one count of burglary.

Authorities have said Thomas had handwritten journals containing anti-Semitic references and had recently used his phone to look up information on Hitler and the location of synagogues.

Thomas' family has said he was raised in a tolerant home and had a history of mental illness.

The Hanukkah attack came amid a string of violence that has alarmed Jews in the region.

Former New York State Assemblyman Dov Hikind said he recently spoke with an Orthodox Jewish man in New York who told him he had taken off his yarmulke out of fear.

“Part of what we’re trying to get across to people is that these attacks are not just statistics,” said Hikind, founder of Americans Against Antisemitism. “These people have to live with this the rest of their life.”

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Wednesday he has directed the state police to increase patrols in Orthodox Jewish neighborhoods around New York. Mayor and fellow Democrat Bill de Blasio announced a similar heightened police presence in the city last week.

“Everybody feels very upset and disturbed about what happened,” Cuomo said during a New Year’s Day visit to Brooklyn’s heavily Orthodox Williamsburg neighborhood, “and everybody stands in solidarity with you.”

Replay dominated sports in 2019, and expect more this year

By JOSH DUBOW AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — From the moment two officials failed to throw a flag for obvious pass interference on a play that helped decide the NFC championship — stunning the players, coaches and millions of fans — officiating and replay became a constant theme in 2019.

No matter the sport, fans and competitors were frustrated by inconsistent standards and rules that prevent some obvious mistakes from being changed. But those same fans and competitors also complain about long delays to determine something as mundane as whose fingernail last touched a basketball before it went out of bounds, even in a regular-season blowout.

“I don’t want any instant replay in my life personally, but if we are going to have it, let’s use it properly,” Oakland Raiders coach Jon Gruden said after getting an apology for a blown call that led to a loss. “I don’t think it’s that hard.”

But no one agrees on the proper way to implement video review. Some argue the technology takes away the human element and is too intrusive, and others counter that all wrong calls should be overturned. Some even want to let technology call balls and strikes in baseball.

From that no-call at the Superdome that helped send the Rams to the Super Bowl instead of the Saints, to the Final Four where Virginia was helped to a title by some calls that couldn’t be reviewed to another that was, to the Kentucky Derby where for the first time ever the apparent winner was disqualified for interference on video review, to controversy from the Video Assistant Review system at the Women’s World Cup and across Europe’s biggest soccer leagues, replay has confounded nearly everyone.

The only constant seems to be more of it.

“I don’t think you can go backward anymore,” NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said when his league expanded the use of replay following a series of mistakes in the playoffs that changed the outcome of some games.

“I think that ship has sailed. Frankly, we want to get it right.”

Figuring out how to do that is the challenge.

There was nearly unanimous agreement that there should have been pass interference called against the Rams’ Nickell Robey-Coleman on New Orleans’ Tommylee Lewis in the NFC title game. The no-call gave Los Angeles enough time to drive for a game-tying field goal before eventually winning in overtime to go to the Super Bowl.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 30 of 34

There has been no such unanimity when it comes to the solution. The NFL acceded to the wishes of the coaches led by New Orleans' Sean Payton to allow challenges of pass interference calls, but that has only added more ambiguity, with no consistent standard of what warrants an overturn.

Throw in weekly disputes on what constitutes roughing the passer, premature whistles that negate touchdowns, botched calls that aren't reviewed because a team is out of challenges, and the complaints have only grown louder.

"It seems like week in and week out, there are three or four games that have impact calls that continue to make the headlines," said former NFL referee and ESPN officiating analyst John Parry. "They have to find a way to get off of the headlines. There will be a holding call missed here and there. But it's the game changers, the two or three impact plays where quality officiating is needed. We're just not there."

Parry blames inexperienced officiating crews and the lack of a lower league training program like NFL Europe.

He's now open to more radical changes, including putting an extra official upstairs to communicate obvious misses to the field officials and allowing challenges on more types of calls.

But that won't solve all the missed calls, which have become more evident thanks to new camera angles and high-definition TV.

"I think slow-mo replay is the biggest problem with replay," Gruden said. "When you're looking at 'is it a catch or isn't it a catch?' at that speed it's hard to tell. It really is hard to tell. So I think if you threw that slow-mo out, I think you'd get back to common sense."

There are issues in almost every sport, from the pass interference debate in the NFL to balls and strikes in baseball to the block or charge in the NBA to the standard for penalties in the NHL to fans reporting infractions seen on TV in golf.

Perhaps the only sport that has implemented replay in a nearly controversy-free method is tennis. The only major complaints are whether replay should be added to clay court tournaments like the French Open, where linesmen use the old-fashioned method of checking marks.

Tournament director Guy Forget said this past year that's not about to change.

"Historically, we've been judging the course of a ball and where it lands on the court by the mark it leaves on the clay," he said. "Would you like to have a court with no chair umpire, no linesmen, just electronic line-calling? Is that something we really want in the future? I think we'd miss something."

That's exactly the debate going on in baseball, where many replay advocates are pushing for balls and strikes to be called electronically.

Those complaints reached a crescendo in Game 5 of the World Series, when a couple of apparent bad calls hurt the Washington Nationals.

Baseball has experimented with "robots" calling balls and strikes and communicating to an umpire in the Arizona Fall League and in the independent Atlantic League.

That could come to the big leagues soon. Umpires agreed to cooperate with Major League Baseball in the development and testing of an automated ball-strike system as part of a five-year labor contract announced in December, two people familiar with the deal told The Associated Press. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because those details of the deal, which is subject to ratification by both sides, had not been announced.

"It would change the game for the good. It would continue the effort to eliminate human deficiency," Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt wrote in a story for The Associated Press in October. "We have replay everywhere else in the game. Like it or not, replay gets the call right."

In soccer, the increased use of video assistant refereeing in 2019 collided with wider changes. Confusion was fueled as referees had to get used to a new way to interpret handballs and the movement of goalkeepers on their line when facing penalty kicks.

The arrival of VAR in the Premier League sowed fresh confusion. Fans and players alike had gotten used to referees going over to assess replays for themselves on field-side screens in other competitions. In England, referees have been relying heavily on the VAR system feeding their verdicts through the radio.

Fans have also grumbled about a new level of scrutiny, with VARs using forensic geometry to rule if a player is offside. At times, an attacker has been ruled offside because of the position of his armpit in relation to a defender.

The NBA also added a challenge system this season, but that didn't help correct one glaring mistake when Houston's James Harden had what appeared to be a clear dunk wrongly disallowed in a double-overtime loss to San Antonio.

The Rockets protested but the result held even though the officials in question were suspended.

Complaints about officiating are as old as sports and won't change no matter what kind of technology is used.

"At the end of the day, there's no perfect system," Parry said. "It is sports. It is humans making calls. We're just trying to interject technology into the human element to make it a little better."

AP sports writers Ronald Blum, Howard Fendrich, Rob Harris and Ben Walker contributed to this report.

Century-old TB vaccine may work better if given in a new way

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists think they've figured out how to make a century-old tuberculosis vaccine far more protective: Simply give the shot a different way.

In a study with monkeys, injecting the vaccine straight into the bloodstream dramatically improved its effectiveness over today's skin-deep shot, researchers reported Wednesday.

"This offers hope," although more safety studies are required before testing the approach in people, said Dr. Robert Seder of the National Institutes of Health, a senior author of the study.

Tuberculosis kills about 1.7 million people a year, mostly in poor countries. The only vaccine, called the BCG vaccine, is used mainly in high-risk areas to protect babies from one form of the disease. But it's far less effective at protecting teens and adults from the main threat, TB in the lungs.

Most vaccines are shots jabbed in the muscle or skin. Seder came up with the idea of IV immunization a few years ago, with experiments showing a malaria vaccine candidate worked better when injected into a vein. He wondered if the TB vaccine would react the same way.

Researchers at NIH teamed with the University of Pittsburgh to study certain monkeys, rhesus macaques, that react to TB infection much like people do. They tested a variety of ways to give the TB vaccine, including a mist that the monkeys inhaled through a mask.

Six months after the vaccinations, the researchers delivered TB bacteria straight into the animals' lungs and watched for infection. Monkeys given today's standard skin shot, even with a higher dose, were only slightly more protected than unvaccinated animals, and the mist wasn't too effective, either.

But in 9 of 10 monkeys, a higher-than-usual vaccine dose injected into a vein worked much better, the researchers reported in the journal *Nature*. The team found no trace of infection in six of the animals and counted very low levels of TB bacteria in the lungs of three.

Why? The hypothesis is that key immune cells called T cells have to swarm the lungs to kill off TB bacteria and can do so more quickly when the vaccine is carried rapidly around the body via the bloodstream. Sure enough, tests showed more active T cells lingering in the lungs of monkeys vaccinated the new way.

The findings are striking, showing that how a vaccine is given "clearly affects immunity," University of Massachusetts TB specialists Samuel Behar and Chris Sasseti, who weren't involved in the study, wrote in an accompanying editorial. Still, giving a vaccine intravenously isn't nearly as easy as other kinds of shots, they cautioned.

Seder said additional safety research is underway in animals, with hopes of beginning a first-step study in people in about 18 months.

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Global air crash deaths fall by more than half in 2019

By DAVID McHUGH AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — The number of deaths in major air crashes around the globe fell by more than half in 2019, according to a report by an aviation consulting firm.

The To70 consultancy said Wednesday that 257 people died in eight fatal accidents in 2019. That compares to 534 deaths in 13 fatal accidents in 2018.

The 2019 death toll rose in late December after a Bek Air Fokker 100 crashed Friday on takeoff in Kazakhstan, killing 12 people. The worst crash of 2019 involved an Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 MAX plane that crashed March 10, killing 157 people.

The report said fatal accidents in 2018 and 2019 that led to the grounding of Boeing's 737 MAX raised questions about how aviation authorities approve aviation designs derived from older ones, and about how much pilot training is needed on new systems.

The group said it expects the 737 MAX to eventually gain permission to fly again in 2020.

The report said the fatal accident rate for large planes in commercial air transport fell to 0.18 fatal accidents per million flights in 2019 from 0.30 accidents per million flights in 2018. That means there was one fatal accident for every 5.58 million flights.

The firm's annual compilation of accident statistics stressed that aviation needs to keep its focus on the basics of having well-designed and well-constructed aircraft flown by well-trained crews.

Last year may have seen fewer deaths but did not equal the historic low of 2017, which saw only two fatal accidents, involving regional turboprops, that resulted in the loss of 13 lives.

This report is based on crashes involving larger aircraft used for most commercial passenger flights. It excludes accidents involving small planes, military flights, cargo flights and helicopters.

Apes, monkeys among 30 animals killed in German zoo fire

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — A fire raced through a zoo in western Germany in the first few minutes of the new year, killing more than 30 animals, including apes, monkeys, bats and birds, authorities said. Police said paper lanterns launched nearby to celebrate the arrival of 2020 were probably to blame.

Several witnesses saw cylindrical paper lanterns with little fires inside flying in the night sky shortly after midnight Wednesday near the Krefeld Zoo, Gerd Hoppmann, the city's head of criminal police, told reporters.

"People reported seeing those sky lanterns flying at low altitude near the zoo and then it started burning," Hoppmann said.

He said investigators also found used lanterns on the ground that hadn't burned entirely. They were 34 centimeters (over 13 inches) long, made out of white paper with an opening at the bottom where a small fire would be suspended. The fire heats the air inside, making them fly and shine at night.

Police and firefighters received the first emergency calls at 12:38 a.m.

The zoo near the Dutch border said its entire ape house burned down and more than 30 animals — including five orangutans, two gorillas, a chimpanzee and several monkeys — were killed, as well as fruit bats and birds.

Only two chimpanzees were able to be rescued from the flames by firefighters. They suffered burns but are in stable condition, zoo director Wolfgang Dressen said.

"It's close to a miracle that Bally, a 40-year-old female chimpanzee, and Limbo, a younger male, survived this inferno," Dressen said, adding that many of the zoo's animal handlers were in shock at the devastation.

"We have to seriously work through the mourning process," Dressen said. "This is an unfathomable tragedy."

He said many of the dead animals were close to extinction in the wild.

The zoo said the Gorilla Garden, which is near its devastated Ape House, didn't go up in flames and that

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 33 of 34

gorilla Kidogo and six other members of his family are alive.

Germans usually welcome in the new year with fireworks at midnight and people are allowed to buy and launch fireworks. Sky lanterns, however, are both illegal and uncommon in Krefeld and most of Germany. The mini hot-air balloons made of paper have been used in Asia for centuries.

After requests by police for witnesses to come forward, Krefeld police said several people had come in and were being interrogated. Police said they would not release details on them.

Hoppmann said some of the partially burned lanterns had handwritten notes on them.

The Krefeld zoo, which opened in 1975, attracts 400,000 visitors each year. It closed after the fire and plans to remain closed Thursday.

Pete Buttigieg raises \$24.7 million during the 4th quarter

By ALEXANDRA JAFFE Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Pete Buttigieg's campaign says he raised more than \$24.7 million in the last three months and now has a campaign staff of 500 people nationwide, a show of financial and organizational strength heading into the presidential primaries.

In a memo from campaign manager Mike Schmuhl, Buttigieg's campaign said on Wednesday it had received more than 2 million contributions from over 733,000 people and had raised \$76 million since he launched his bid for president. It's a notable feat for the soon-to-be former mayor of South Bend, Indiana — Buttigieg was due to give up the position Wednesday when his successor is sworn in.

Buttigieg has come under fire for holding big-dollar fundraisers with wealthy donors that, until recently, he kept private. But in the fundraising announcement, Buttigieg's campaign touted that its average contribution was about \$38. And the big-dollar fundraisers have paid off — Buttigieg's 2019 fourth-quarter haul is far beyond the \$19.2 million he raised during the third quarter of the year.

Schmuhl also touted the fact that the campaign has opened 65 field offices across the four early primary states, including 35 in Iowa, the first state where Democrats make their primary preference known, next month. Buttigieg has been polling among the top three candidates in Iowa, though he still polls in the middle of the pack nationwide and faces lingering questions about his ability to broaden his support beyond white voters.

Catch up on the 2020 election campaign with AP experts on our weekly politics podcast, "Ground Game."

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 2, the second day of 2020. There are 364 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 2, 1960, Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts launched his successful bid for the presidency. On this date:

In 1788, Georgia became the fourth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1900, U.S. Secretary of State John Hay announced the "Open Door Policy" to facilitate trade with China.

In 1935, Bruno Hauptmann went on trial in Flemington, New Jersey, on charges of kidnapping and murdering the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was found guilty, and executed.)

In 1942, the Philippine capital of Manila was captured by Japanese forces during World War II.

In 1959, the Soviet Union launched its space probe Luna 1, the first manmade object to fly past the moon, its apparent intended target.

In 1965, New York Jets owner Sonny Werblin signed University of Alabama quarterback Joe Namath to a contract reportedly worth \$427,000.

In 1967, Republican Ronald Reagan took the oath of office as the new governor of California in a ceremony that took place in Sacramento shortly just after midnight.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Jan. 02, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 185 ~ 34 of 34

In 1974, President Richard Nixon signed legislation requiring states to limit highway speeds to 55 miles an hour as a way of conserving gasoline in the face of an OPEC oil embargo. (The 55 mph limit was effectively phased out in 1987; federal speed limits were abolished in 1995.) "Singing cowboy" star Tex Ritter died in Nashville at age 68.

In 1981, police in Sheffield, England, arrested Peter Sutcliffe, who confessed to being the "Yorkshire Ripper," the serial killer of 13 women.

In 1983, the original Broadway production of the musical "Annie" closed after a run of 2,377 performances.

In 2006, a methane gas explosion at the Sago (SAY'-goh) Mine in West Virginia claimed the lives of 12 miners, but one miner, Randal McCloy, Jr., was eventually rescued. The roof of a skating rink collapsed in the German town of Bad Reichenhall (bahd RYK'-ehn-hahl), killing 15 people.

In 2018, Sen. Al Franken formally resigned from the Senate a month after the Minnesota Democrat announced his plan to leave Congress amid a series of sexual misconduct allegations. NBC News announced that Hoda Kotb (HOH'-duh KAHT'-bee) would be the co-anchor of the first two hours of the "Today" show, replacing Matt Lauer following his firing due to sexual misconduct allegations.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama, in his weekly Internet and radio address, said an al-Qaida affiliate in Yemen apparently ordered the failed Christmas Day bombing plot against a U.S. airliner. Texas Tech rallied to beat Michigan State 41-31 in a shootout at the Alamo Bowl.

Five years ago: The United States imposed fresh sanctions on North Korea, targeting the North's defense industry and spy service in an attempt to punish Pyongyang for a crippling cyberattack against Sony. California began issuing driver's licenses to immigrants who were in the country illegally. Little Jimmy Dickens, a diminutive singer-songwriter who was the oldest cast member of the Grand Ole Opry, died at age 94.

One year ago: At a closed-door meeting between President Donald Trump and congressional leaders, neither side budged on Trump's demand for billions of dollars to build a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico, as the partial government shutdown continued through a 12th day. Apple CEO Tim Cook, in a letter to shareholders, said demand for iPhones was declining and that revenue for the last quarter of 2018 would fall well below projections. Daryl Dragon, the cap-wearing "Captain" of the singing duo Captain & Tennille, died in Arizona at the age of 76.

Today's Birthdays: Former House Speaker Dennis Hastert is 78. TV host Jack Hanna is 73. Actress Wendy Phillips is 68. Actress Cynthia Sikes is 66. Actress Gabrielle Carteris is 59. Movie director Todd Haynes is 59. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher David Cone is 57. Baseball Hall of Famer Edgar Martinez is 57. Actress Tia Carrere is 53. Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. is 52. Model Christy Turlington is 51. Actor Taye Diggs is 49. Actress Renee Elise Goldsberry is 49. Rock musician Scott Underwood is 49. Rock singer Doug Robb (Hoobastank) is 45. Actor Dax Shepard is 45. Actress Paz Vega is 44. Country musician Chris Hartman is 42. Ballroom dancer Karina Smirnoff (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 42. Rock musician Jerry DePizzo Jr. (O.A.R.) is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kelton Kessee (IMX) is 39. Pop singer-musician Ryan Merchant (Capital Cities) is 39. Actress Kate Bosworth is 37. Actor Anthony Carrigan is 37. Actor Peter Gadiot is 35. Jazz singer-musician Trombone Shorty is 34. Singer-songwriter Mandy Harvey (TV: "America's Got Talent") is 32. Rhythm-and-blues singer-rapper Bryson Tiller is 27.

Thought for Today: "Love doesn't grow on trees like apples in Eden — it's something you have to make. And you must use your imagination too." — Joyce Cary, Anglo-Irish author (1888-1957).

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