

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 1 of 35

- [1- KR Body Shop New Year's Ad](#)
- [2- Stolle Card of Thanks](#)
- [2- School Help Wanted Ad](#)
- [2- Upcoming Events](#)
- [3- City Council Agenda](#)
- [4- Brown County Commission Agenda](#)
- [5- Five hit double figures in Groton's win over Webster](#)
- [6- Coming up on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [7- Weather Pages](#)
- [10- Daily Devotional](#)
- [11- 2020 Groton Events](#)
- [12- News from the Associated Press](#)



“THINGS TURN OUT BEST FOR THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE BEST OUT OF THE WAY THINGS TURN OUT.”

-ART LINKLETTER

Oh! Oh!
This was not the way you were planning to get the big buck!

Have a safe 2020, but when an accident happens, call

KR BODY SHOP
Andover, SD

Kevin Raap
380-8539

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

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 2 of 35

CARD OF THANKS

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, love, and support. We appreciate all of you. Praise the lord for his strength -Glory to him ! We wish you a blessed 2020.

Love

Penny and Bill

EMPLOYMENT

The Groton Area School District is accepting applications for the position of Certified Sign Language Interpreter. Applicants should complete and submit the certified staff application form along with a current cover letter, resume, and three letters of recommendation. All materials should be submitted to Joe Schwan, Superintendent PO Box 410 Groton, SD 57445. EOE

Upcoming Events

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

CANCELLED: 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 City Council Meeting Agenda
January 7, 2020 – 7:00pm
Groton Community Center

1. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
2. Minutes
3. Bills
4. Employee salaries and volunteer list
5. Department reports
6. Reappoint Planning and Zoning member term through 2025
Les Hinds
7. Election Date April 14, 2020
2-Year Terms Ending:
 David Blackmun – Ward 1
 Burt Glover – Ward 3
1-Year Term Ending:
 Jon Cutler – Ward 1
 David McGannon – Ward 2
8. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
9. Adjournment

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 4 of 35

**AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION
COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS, COURTHOUSE ANNEX
25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD**

JANUARY 7, 2020

8:45 a.m. – 8:50a.m. – Reorganization Meeting – Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair
8:50 a.m. – 8:55 a.m. – Scott Meints (Emergency Management) – Mina Lake Dam
8:55 a.m. – 9:05 a.m. - Dirk Rogers (Highway Superintendent)- right of way city of Frederick,
set bid dates for equipment rentals for gravel materials, road oils & hot mix

- Approve General Meeting Minutes of December 31, 2019
- Claims/Payroll
- HR Report
- TMS Contract
- 2020 Salary Schedule
- Holiday Schedule Adjustments
- Assessor's Office Clothing Policy
- Official Newspapers
- Depositories
- Communications Council Appointments (Chair and Vice Chair, per agreement)
- Board Appointments and Commission Committee Assignments: Citizens Corp, Museum, Dive Team, 4-H, Fair Board, Housing & Redevelopment, Weed Board
- Appoint FSA Representative
- County Rental Rate and Fee Schedule
- Volunteers for Work Comp purposes
- Designation of number of Deputies in Auditor, Treasurer and Register of Deeds
- Investment Policy
- Interest Policy
- Expense Policy - Travel
- Expense Policy for Election Officials
- Tax Deed Notices
- ESRI Quote for 2020 – GIS
- Sheriff Uniform Allowance
- Inmate Transport Fee

Public Comment and any other matters to come before the Commission for discussion

Five hit double figures in Groton's win over Webster



Brodyn DeHoet and this Webster Area player battle for the ball. DeHoet led the Tigers with 21 points. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jonathan Doeden is quick to make a basket from underneath. He finished the night with 11 points.. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

It was an explosive offensive game for the Groton Area Tigers as they posted a 77-50 Northeast Conference win over Webster Area. The game was played Monday in Groton and broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Allied Climate Professionals, Blocker Construction, Groton Dairy Queen, Jark Real Estate, John Sieh Agency, Milbrandt Enterprises and Tyson DeHoet Trucking.

Groton Area is now 4-0 on the season and will host Hamlin on Friday in a double header. Webster Area is now 2-3. This game was Groton Area's highest scoring game of the season so far and it was Webster Area's lowest scoring game.

The Groton Area boy's game scheduled for Saturday at the Pentagon will not be held. There was a mix-up in the scheduling. Coach Brian Dolan said they are looking for an additional team play sometime during the season to make up for the lost game.

Groton Area jumped out to a 15-0 lead and it was with 3:05 left in the first quarter before Webster scored its first point on a free throw. The Tigers led, 20-5, at the end of the first quarter. The Tigers made eight of 16 field goals for 50 percent while Webster Area was two of 11 for 18 percent. Webster Area had 10 turnovers in the first quarter while Groton Area had four.

The Bearcats clawed their way back into the game as the Tiger lead was reduced to 10 at half time, 32-22. In the second quarter, Groton Area made three of 12 field goals for 25 percent while Webster Area warmed up to 47 percent, making seven of 15 shots.

Webster Area scored first in the third quarter and cut Groton Area's lead to eight, 32-24, but the Tigers would then score 13 unanswered points and went on to a 59-33 lead at the end of the third quarter. Cade Guthmiller made two three three-pointers and scored all 10 of his points in the third quarter as the Tigers shot 11 of 17 from the field for 64 percent while Webster Area was four of 16 for 25 percent.

Groton Area made eight of 13 free throws in the fourth quarter and was five of nine in field goals for 55 percent. Webster Area made seven of 16 shots in the fourth quarter for 44 percent.

For the game, Groton Area made 22 of 34 two-pointers for 65 percent and five of 18 three-pointers for 28 percent. Webster Area was 20 of 58 in shooting for 34 percent.



Cade Guthmiller made two 3-pointers in the third quarter and led the team in blocks with three. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 6 of 35

Five players hit double figures for the Tigers with Brodyn DeHoet leading the way with 21 points followed by Kaden Kurtz with 12, Jonathan Doeden had 11, Cade Guthmiller and Tristan Traphagen each had 10, Jayden Zak had nine, Isaac Smith three and Chandler Larson added one free throw.

Webster Area had the edge in rebounds, 28-25, with Austin Jones having seven rebounds for Groton Area and Jake Case had five for Webster Area.

Groton Area had 11 turnovers, seven of which were steals. Webster Area had 33 turnovers, 12 of which were steals with Kurtz having three. Guthmiller had three blocked shots and Doeden had one. Kurtz had five of the team's 15 assists.

Groton Area made 18 of 28 free throws for 64 percent off of Webster Area's 20 team fouls. Webster Area was six of seven from the line off of Groton Area's 13 team fouls.

Groton Area made it a clean sweep, winning the junior varsity game, 39-21, and the C game, 51-18.

JV Game Scoring: Lane Tietz 18 (4 three-pointers), Tristan Traphagen 6, Jayden Zak 4, Lucas Simon 4, Isaac Smith 2, Jordan Bjerke 2, Cole Simon 2, Wyatt Hearnen 1.

C Game Scoring: Cole Simon 10, Jackson Bahr 9, Cade Larson 8, Jackson Cogley 8, Tate Larson 7, Wyatt Hearnen 5, Jordan Bjerke 2, Jacob Zak 2.

- Paul Kosel



Kaden Kurtz is Groton Area's point guard and had 12 points and five assists for the Tigers.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

It's Girls' Basketball Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Roncalli
Cavaliers** VS



Groton Area Tigers

Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020
at the Groton Area Arena

JV game at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity game.

Parent Sponsor of JV game: Melanie Johnson

Broadcast Sponsors of both Varsity Games

Allied Climate Professionals
Blocker Construction
Groton Dairy Queen
Jark Real Estate
John Sieh Agency
Milbrandt Enterprises
Tyson DeHoet Trucking

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 7 of 35

Today



Decreasing
Clouds

High: 22 °F ↓

Tonight



Increasing
Clouds

Low: -2 °F

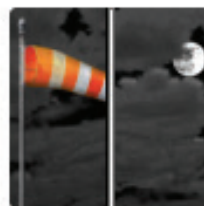
Wednesday



Cloudy and
Breezy

High: 19 °F

Wednesday
Night



Mostly Cloudy
and Breezy
then Mostly
Cloudy

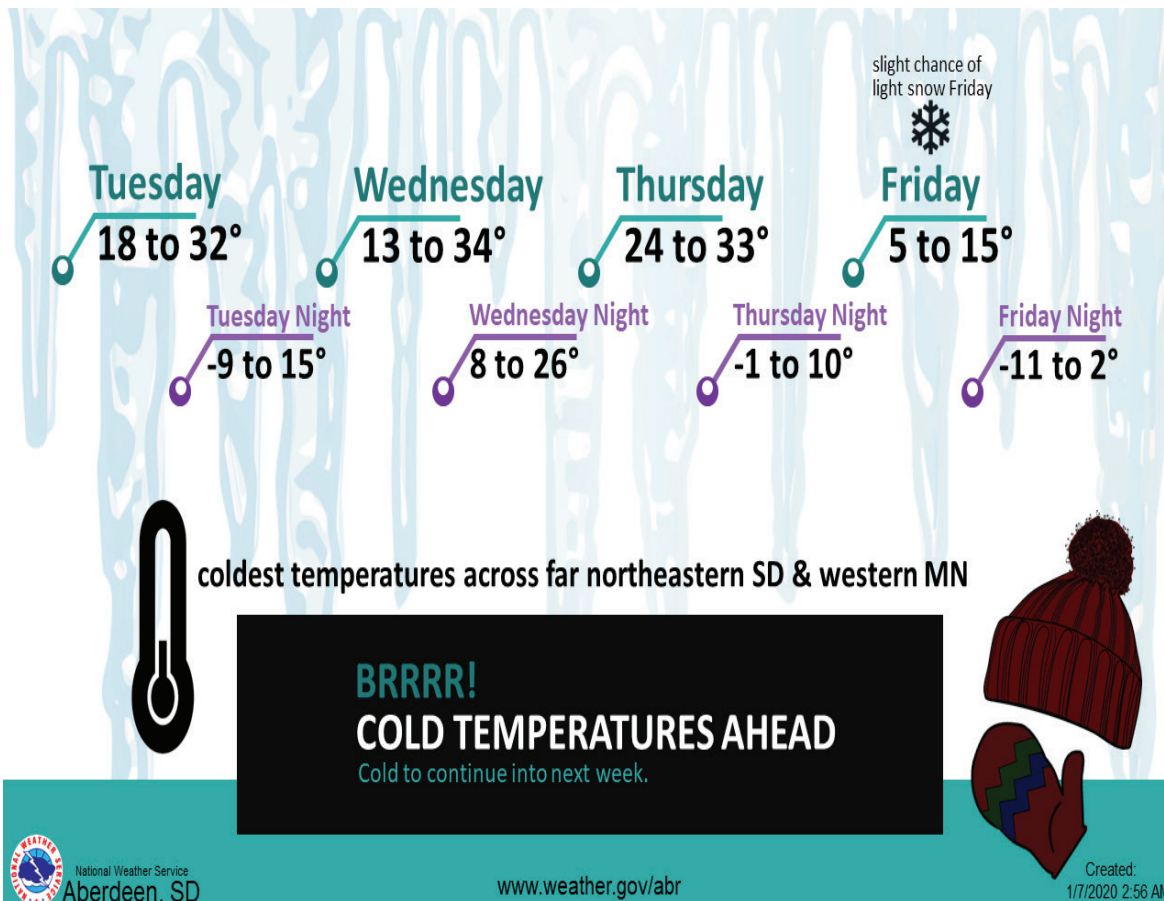
Low: 13 °F

Thursday



Partly Sunny

High: 24 °F



Cold temperatures arriving this week to continue into next week! The lowest temperature readings will be across far northeastern SD and western MN.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 8 of 35

Today in Weather History

January 7, 1873: A blizzard raged across the Great Plains. Many pioneers, unprepared for the cold and snow, perished in the tristate region of southwest Minnesota, northwestern Iowa, and southeastern South Dakota. Visibility was down to three feet. Cows suffocated in the deep drifts and trains were stuck for days. More than 70 people died, some bodies were not found until spring.

The following appears on pages 260-261 in the "History of Dakota Territory" by George Kingsbury. "On the 7th of January, 1873, a brother and sister of "John Foster," aged respectively fourteen and twelve years, went a short distance from home and soon afterward a blizzard came up suddenly. The children wandered in the storm to an old sod house which stood out on the prairie and there sought shelter from the driving snow. However, as the house was roofless it afforded but poor protection against the blizzard and the children perished, their bodies being buried in the snow. Our subject and the father were absent from home at the time. Weeks passed and in spite of continued searching the bodies of the children were not found, but in March a neighbor dreamed that the children were in the old house and on the 16th of that month their bodies were found there."

January 7, 1980: A strong area of low pressure moved out of the northern Rockies across South Dakota and central Minnesota on January 6th and 7th. Heavy snow along with very high winds caused widespread blowing and drifting snow with low visibilities. Many roads were closed, and many motorists were stranded. Snowfall amounts across western and northern Minnesota were from 7 to 12 inches.

January 7, 1989: Heavy snowfall of 5 to 19 inches fell in the north and east central South Dakota on the 6th and 7th. Snow and blowing snow reduced visibilities to near zero in many locations as winds gusted to near 50 mph. Part of Interstate 29 north of Sisseton closed the night of the 7th. Icy roads contributed to a school bus accident which injured eight boys. Extreme wind chills of 30 to 60 below also occurred. Snowfall amounts included 8 inches in Sisseton, with 12 to 19 inches across Marshall and Roberts counties.

This storm also affected northern Minnesota from the 6th through the 8th with heavy snowfall of 8 to 12 inches with local amounts of 24 to 26 inches. The heavy snow was followed by an Arctic intrusion which brought in 35 to 50 mph winds. This caused a shutdown the Red River Valley. Snowdrifts were from 5 to 10 feet in some areas. Roads had to be closed. The strong winds caused near-blizzard conditions along with extremely low wind chills.

1966: Tropical Cyclone Denise dropped 45 inches of rain on La Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean in 12 hours, and 71.80 inches of rain in 48 hours through the 8th.

1989: Empty foundations are all that remain of four homes on the southwest end of Allendale, Illinois after an F4 tornado ripped through. The tornado was extremely rare due to its strength and the fact that it occurred so far north during the middle of meteorological winter.

1971 - The temperature at Hawley Lake, located southeast of McNary, AZ, plunged to 40 degrees below zero to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A storm in the southwestern U.S. produced 30 inches of snow north of Zion National Park in southern Utah, with 18 inches reported at Cedar Canyon UT. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A winter storm in the southeastern U.S. produced 27 inches of snow in the Bad Creek area of South Carolina, and claimed the lives of two million chickens in Alabama. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A tornado in southern Illinois obliterated half the community of Allendale, injuring fifty persons and causing more than five million dollars damage, while thunderstorm winds gusting higher than 100 mph caused ten million dollars damage at Franklin KY. Twenty-five cities, from the Gulf coast to Michigan, reported record high temperatures for the date. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - A rapidly intensifying low pressure system and a vigorous cold front brought heavy rain and high winds to the Pacific Northwest. Two to five inches rains soaked western Washington and western Oregon, and winds gusting above 70 mph caused extensive damage. Wind gusts on Rattlesnake Ridge in Washington State reached 130 mph. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 9 of 35

Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 31 °F at 3:15 PM

Low Temp: 10 °F at 3:22 AM

Wind: 23 mph at 7:58 PM

Day Precip:

Record High: 54° in 1963

Record Low: -39° in 1912

Average High: 22°F

Average Low: 2°F

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.11

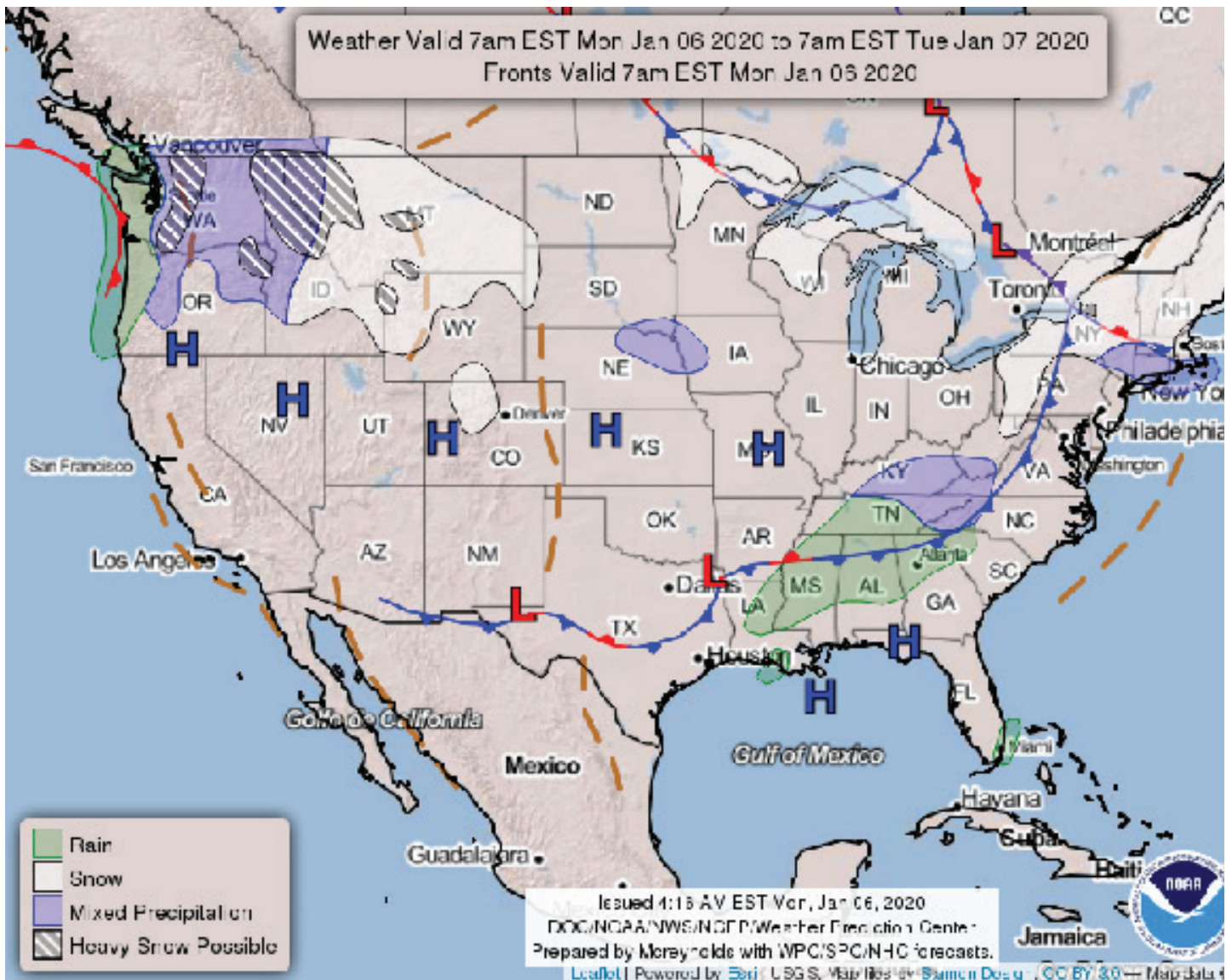
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.11

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:07 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:13 a.m.





FINDING LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Darkness.

We've all experienced it. Sometimes feared it. Always recognized it. Occasionally wanted it. Most often found our way out of it. But, have you ever tried to define it? Or explained it?

A quick and easy answer would be: "The absence of light." When darkness surrounds us, we need light to discover where we are and where we want to go.

Another question might be: Do we need darkness? Perhaps, some might say, "We need it for rest and peacefulness." But, consider the fact that we also need it to see the stars.

There are times in all of our lives when we are going through what we might call the "deepest darkness imaginable." Suddenly, a glimmer of light appears before us. And then it grows and grows, and then becomes larger and larger. Finally, we are surrounded by light.

Isaiah had a unique experience with darkness. It kept him from seeing God at work in His world and in his life. But, one day everything changed and he wrote, "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord." After his vision, he was able to recognize the presence and power of God and see His light. And after that experience, he became a mighty prophet and counselor to kings and prophesied many signs that described the coming Messiah. From the darkness that once surrounded him, he then experienced God's redeeming light.

It worked for Isaiah. It will work for us if we seek His light!

Prayer: Open our eyes, Lord, that we may see Your light and find the path You have prepared for us. Help us to seek Your light when we experience dark times in life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Isaiah 6:1-4 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 11 of 35

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)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Monday's Scores By The Associated Press

BOYS BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Christian 67, Waverly-South Shore 45
Arlington 64, Castlewood 54
Avon 66, Colome 34
Dell Rapids St. Mary 71, Estelline/Hendricks 40
Deubrook 52, Wilmot 41
Elkton-Lake Benton 63, Baltic 47
Groton Area 77, Webster 50
Howard 67, Colman-Egan 29
Sioux Falls Lincoln 63, Sioux Falls Washington 45
Waubay/Summit 53, Britton-Hecla 52

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Avon 67, Colome 47
Corsica/Stickney 65, Gayville-Volin 22
Howard 49, Colman-Egan 30
Irene-Wakonda 67, Canistota 50
Langford 53, Florence/Henry 49
Viborg-Hurley 75, Canton 45

Some high school basketball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

Bond set at \$1M for suspect in fatal shooting near Aberdeen

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Bond was set at \$1 million cash Monday for a Aberdeen area man charged with first-degree murder for allegedly shooting a man who was in a relationship with his daughter.

Jarrett Jones, 48, of Bath made his first court appearance Monday. The judge rejected a request by Jones' attorney to reduce bond to \$500,000.

Prosecutor Ross Aldentaller argued for high bond, saying the victim was shot once from about five feet away and a second time while the victim was on the ground and the shooter stood over him.

Jones is accused of killing 28-year-old Jon Schumacher early on Jan. 2. Defense attorney Marshall Lovrien said Schumacher was in a relationship with Jones' daughter and had made threats against her, the Aberdeen News reported.

According to court records, Jones' daughter showed investigators photos of bruises she received from Schumacher. Court documents also indicate Schumacher was arrested on charges of driving under the influence hours before he was shot. Schumacher was driving a pickup owned by Jarrett Jones, who retrieved the vehicle after Schumacher was arrested.

Jarrett Jones found three or four guns belonging to Schumacher inside the pickup Schumacher had been driving, according to court documents.

Schumacher called Jones' daughter asking for a ride, and when she refused, he called his ex-wife and demanded a ride to Jarrett Jones' home.



Jarrett Jones

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 13 of 35

Lovrien said Schumacher had previously made threats toward Jones' daughter and said he was going to kill her. The morning of the shooting, Lovrien said, Schumacher broke into Jarrett Jones' shop and refused to leave.

Jarrett Jones and another man who was in the shop told investigators that Schumacher was shot twice and then fell to the ground. But according to court records, video surveillance shows Schumacher was shot once and fell to the ground, and then was shot a second time shortly after he reached toward his pocket.

South Dakotans to vote on legalizing recreational marijuana

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakotans will vote this year on whether to legalize recreational marijuana for adults 21 years and older.

Secretary of State Steve Barnett said Monday his office has validated a proposed constitutional amendment that would legalize marijuana for adults 21 and older and require the state Legislature to enact a hemp cultivation law.

Barnett said his office found the petition had enough valid signatures to put the proposal on the Nov. 3 ballot. A constitutional amendment requires 33,921 valid signatures to qualify for the ballot.

The measure would legalize, regulate and tax marijuana as well as require the Legislature to pass laws on hemp. South Dakota lawmakers passed a bill in 2019 to legalize industrial hemp, but Republican Gov. Kristi Noem vetoed it. Noem has promised another veto if lawmakers pass a hemp bill in 2020, saying law enforcement can't differentiate between hemp and marijuana. Hemp is related to cannabis but does not contain enough THC to make someone high.

Citizens can still challenge the ballot validation, Barnett said. The deadline to file a challenge is 5 p.m. Central time Feb. 5.

South Dakota voters in November also will decide a measure to allow medical marijuana for patients with serious health conditions. The measure would allow patients with chronic or debilitating health conditions to use and possess up to 3 ounces of marijuana. They would need to get a registration card from the state's Department of Health.

Matthew Schweich, deputy director for the Marijuana Policy Project, said South Dakota will become the first state to vote on both medical marijuana and adult-use legalization initiatives on the same ballot.

Schweich said the recreational marijuana proposal "will greatly benefit the people of South Dakota by ending the injustice of arresting otherwise law-abiding adults for marijuana offenses" as well as allow law enforcement to focus on fighting serious crime, generate new tax revenue for the state and create jobs.

Eleven states have legalized marijuana for adults. Another 22 states have enacted medical marijuana laws.

University of Wyoming likely to appeal records lawsuit loss

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) — A University of Wyoming official says the school will likely appeal a judge's order to turn over records to news media outlets.

University spokesman Chad Baldwin said Monday the school's board of trustees hasn't made a final decision on whether to appeal but "that is the intent at this point."

Albany County District Court Judge Tori Kricken ruled Friday that the vast majority of records sought by the Casper Star-Tribune and WyoFile should be released though with redactions.

The university withheld records the news outlets sought involving a trustees' decision not to renew the contract of university President Laurie Nichols in 2019.

The decision took Nichols and many others on campus by surprise and trustees offered no explanation. Nichols' contract as the university's first female president expired June 30.

Nichols recently took a job as president of Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota, the Casper Star-Tribune reports.

The Friday order would've forced the release of the documents in a matter of weeks but Kricken says the records will continue to be confidential until the University of Wyoming and Nichols can appeal.

Nichols has sided with the university in the case.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 14 of 35

Noem names Schoenfish to Senate; appoints Overweg to House

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Kristi Noem made two appointments to the Legislature on Monday, tapping Rep. Kyle Schoenfish, R-Scotland, for a Senate seat and naming Marty Overweg of New Holland to fill Schoenfish's seat.

Schoenfish will fill the Senate vacancy from Stace Nelson's resignation.

All are Republicans.

Noem has appointed replacements for six lawmakers who left the Legislature in the last year. The 2020 legislative session starts next week, and all seats are currently filled.

The governor said both Schoenfish and Overweg "have excellent records of service."

UConn women still No. 1; S Dakota, Michigan, Princeton in

By DOUG FEINBERG AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — UConn cruised to two more conference wins and remained No. 1 in The Associated Press women's basketball poll to start off 2020.

The Huskies received 19 first-place votes Monday from a 30-member media panel to stay ahead of second-ranked Oregon. The Ducks got seven first-place votes, picking up two from Oregon State, which got three. The Beavers stayed No. 3 and were followed again by South Carolina, Stanford and Baylor.

The Lady Bears will play at Connecticut on Thursday — the first of three marquee matchups for the Huskies over the next month. UConn, which beat Wichita State and SMU last week, also plays Tennessee and Oregon, as well as having an exhibition game against the USA Basketball national team.

Louisville was No. 7, with UCLA jumping two spots to No. 8 after the Bruins beat previously undefeated Arizona on Sunday. North Carolina State was No. 9 and Texas A&M moved up to No. 10.

While the top of the poll was relatively unchanged, South Dakota, Michigan and Princeton entered the rankings at Nos. 22, 23 and 25 while Miami, Minnesota and Texas fell out.

The Tigers entered the poll despite not playing since Dec. 29. Princeton (12-1) plays rival Penn on Saturday and then is off for exams for a few weeks.

"I'm really thrilled to be in the Top 25 and for us to be recognized," first-year Princeton coach Carla Berube said. "It's great for our league. Our league is really, really strong this year. Opening up this weekend so we're excited about that. It's great to get this national attention. We've put together a great nonconference these first couple months. Had some really great wins. I like where our team is at."

Princeton is the only Ivy team ever to be ranked, reaching the women's Top 25 for the first time in the final poll of 2012 before having an 11-week run in 2015. The Tigers edged Northwestern by one point for the final spot. The Wildcats had a huge 23-point win over then-No. 12 Maryland before getting blown out by Iowa.

Here are a few other tidbits from the poll:

FALLING SEMINOLES: Florida State dropped three spots to No. 11 after losing its first game of the season on a last-second shot in overtime at Syracuse. The Seminoles bounced back with a nine-point victory over then-No. 23 Miami on Sunday.

WILY COYOTES: South Dakota is back in the poll for the second time this season. The Coyotes (15-2) had a one-week stay in the middle of December. South Dakota plays Omaha on Saturday.

More AP women's basketball: <https://apnews.com/Womenscollegbasketball> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Follow Doug Feinberg on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/dougfeinberg>

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 15 of 35

Sioux Falls company awards \$10 million in holiday bonuses

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls company has awarded holiday bonuses its 120 employees likely won't forget.

Myrl & Roy's Paving gave its workers \$10 million in bonuses ranging from \$5,000 to \$400,000 depending on length of employment and job duties.

One of the owners, Sue Unzelman, tells the Argus Leader they wanted to thank the employees for their hard work and loyalty.

"It's something we really wanted to do, reward their loyalty, their stick-to-it-ness," she added. "I can't tell you how happy I was to see the reactions, the tears in the room."

Unzelman and her siblings are selling the second-generation company to L.G. Everist, a rock mining company with pits and quarries in the region.

Myrl & Roy's Paving began over five decades ago after Myrl Unzelman and Roy. Schultz left their jobs in a road construction business and bought a \$500 dump truck, a rake and a shovel.

Eventually, their business grew and in 1968 they acquired their first asphalt plant.

Woman arrested in Sioux Falls homicide

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A woman accused of being an accessory to a fatal shooting in Sioux Falls has been booked into the Minnehaha County Jail.

The 27-year-old Sioux Falls woman was taken into custody on Sunday, according to the Argus Leader. Krista Kruckenberg was wanted on two counts of being an accessory to a felony.

Authorities said she was present when Benjamin Donahue III was shot twice in the head on Oct. 26 in downtown Sioux Falls.

Earlier Kruckenberg told investigators she and the man accused of shooting Donahue, Max Bolden, fled the scene and haven't talked since then. Bolden is still at large.

She's also accused of calling one of the other two witnesses of the shooting and telling her not to tell anyone what she say, according to the affidavit filed in the case

6.4 quake strikes Puerto Rico amid heavy seismic activity

By DANICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — A 6.4-magnitude earthquake struck Puerto Rico before dawn on Tuesday, and was followed three hours later by an aftershock measuring 6.0. They are the largest in a series of quakes that have struck the U.S. territory in recent days and caused heavy damage in some areas.

At least one person was known to have died. Teacher Rey González told the AP that his uncle was killed when a wall collapsed on him at the home they shared. He said 73-year-old Nelson Martínez was disabled and that he and his father cared for him.

Eight people were injured in the city of Ponce, near the epicenter of the quake, Mayor Mayita Meléndez told WAPA television.

Puerto Rico's power authority said on Twitter that one of the country's main power plants, which sits near the epicenter, had been damaged, but officials expect to restore power to the island later Tuesday.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake hit at 4:24 a.m. just south of the island at a shallow depth of 10 kilometers. It initially gave the magnitude as 6.6 but later adjusted it. At 7:18 a.m. the magnitude-6.0 aftershock hit the same area. People reported strong shaking and staff at a local radio station said live on air that they were leaving their building

A tsunami alert was issued for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands after the initial quake, but was later canceled.

Albert Rodríguez, who is from the southwest town of Guánica, said the tsunami sirens went off before officials canceled the alert. He said there is widespread damage in his neighborhood.

"The road is cracked in the middle and it lifted up," he said.

The mayor of Guayanilla, Nelson Torres, told NotiUno radio station that the church in the public plaza of his town collapsed.

Víctor Huérfano, director of Puerto Rico's Seismic Network, told The Associated Press that it is hard to obtain reports of damage or injuries because communications are down for much of the island. He said officials in Ponce told him there was widespread damage.

"We expect that this will be the largest quake for now," he said. "The aftershocks will continue for some time."

Puerto Rico's governor, Wanda Vasquez, told station Radioisla just before 6 a.m. that there had been no immediate reports of deaths. She ordered government offices closed for the day and urged citizens to remain calm and not check damage to their homes until daylight.

A 5.8-magnitude quake that struck early Monday morning collapsed five homes in the southwest coastal town

of Guánica and heavily damaged dozens of others. It also caused small landslides and power outages. The quake was followed by a string of smaller temblors.

The shake collapsed a coastal rock formation that had formed a sort of rounded window, Punta Ventana, that was a popular tourist draw in the southwest town of Guayanilla.

Residents in the south of the island have been terrified to go into their homes for fear that another quake will bring buildings down.

The flurry of quakes in Puerto Rico's southern region began the night of Dec. 28. Huérfano told the AP that shallow quakes were occurring along three faults in Puerto Rico's southwest region: Lajas Valley, Montalva Point and the Guayanilla Canyon.

He said the quakes overall come as the North American plate and the Caribbean plate squeeze Puerto Rico.

One of the largest and most damaging earthquakes to hit Puerto Rico occurred in October 1918, when a magnitude 7.3 quake struck near the island's northwest coast, unleashing a tsunami and killing 116 people.



A collapsed building with car crushed underneath, following an earthquake in Yauco, Puerto Rico, Tuesday Jan. 7, 2020. All the occupants of the home are reported to be uninjured. A 6.5-magnitude earthquake struck Puerto Rico, the largest in a series of quakes in recent days, and caused heavy damage in some areas. (J. Miguel Santiago Twitter via AP)

Death toll at 40 in stampede at funeral for Iranian general

By **NASSER KARIMI, AMIR VAHDAT and JON GAMBRELL** Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Two semiofficial Iranian news agency say 40 people have been killed and 213 others injured at a stampede during a funeral procession for a Revolutionary Guard general killed in a U.S. airstrike.

The semiofficial Fars and ISNA news agencies offered the new toll for the stampede in Iran's southeastern city of Kerman on Tuesday.

Both quoted Pirhossein Koulivand, the head of Iran's emergency medical services.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 17 of 35

The stampede came just before the burial of Gen. Qassem Soleimani, whose death has drastically raised tensions between Tehran and Washington.

THIS IS A MAJOR NEWS UPDATE. AP's earlier story is below.

A stampede erupted on Tuesday at a funeral procession for a top Iranian general killed in a U.S. airstrike last week, killing 32 people and injuring 190 others, Iran's state television reported.

According to the report, the stampede took place in Kerman, the hometown of Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani, as the procession got underway. There was no information as to what had set it off. Initial videos posted online showed people lying lifeless on a road and others shouting and trying to help them. His funeral was later delayed but no new timing was given.

Iranian state TV gave the casualty toll in its online report, citing Pirhossein Koulivand, the head of Iran's emergency medical services.

"Unfortunately as a result of the stampede, some of our compatriots have been injured and some have been killed during the funeral processions," he earlier said. In delaying Soleimani's burial, authorities cited concerns about the massive crowd that had gathered, the semi-official ISNA news agency said.

A procession in Tehran on Monday drew over 1 million people in the Iranian capital, crowding both main thoroughfares and side streets in Tehran.

Soleimani's death has sparked calls across Iran for revenge against America for a slaying that's drastically raised tensions across the Middle East. The U.S. government warned ships of an unspecified threat from Iran across all the Mideast's waterways, crucial routes for global energy supplies. Meanwhile, the U.S. Air Force launched a drill with 52 fighter jets in Utah, just days after President Donald Trump threatened to hit 52 sites in Iran.

Early Tuesday, the leader of Iran's Revolutionary Guard threatened to "set ablaze" places supported by the United States over the killing of a top Iranian general in a U.S. airstrike last week, sparking cries from the crowd of supporters of "Death to Israel!" Hossein Salami made the pledge before a crowd of thousands gathered in a central square in Kerman before a casket carrying Soleimani's remains.

The outpouring of grief was an unprecedented honor for a man viewed by Iranians as a national hero for his work leading the Guard's expeditionary Quds Force. The U.S. blames him for the killing of American troops in Iraq and accused him of plotting new attacks just before his death Friday in a drone strike near Baghdad's airport. Soleimani also led forces in Syria backing President Bashar Assad in a long war, and he also served as the point man for Iranian proxies in countries like Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen.

His slaying already has pushed Tehran to abandon the remaining limits of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers as his successor and others vow to take revenge. In Baghdad, the parliament has called



Mourners attend a funeral ceremony for Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani and his comrades, who were killed in Iraq in a U.S. drone strike on Friday, in the city of Kerman, Iran, Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020. The leader of Iran's Revolutionary Guard threatened on Tuesday to "set ablaze" places supported by the United States over the killing of a top Iranian general in a U.S. airstrike last week, sparking cries from the crowd of supporters of "Death to Israel!" (Erfan Kouchari/

Tasnim News Agency via AP)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 18 of 35

for the expulsion of all American troops from Iraqi soil, something analysts fear could allow Islamic State militants to mount a comeback.

Speaking in Kerman, Salami praised Soleimani's exploits, describing him as essential to backing Palestinian groups, Yemen's Houthi rebels and Shiite militias in Iraq and Syria. As a martyr, Soleimani represented an even greater threat to Iran's enemies, Salami said.

"We will take revenge. We will set ablaze where they like," Salami said, drawing the cries of "Death to Israel!"

Israel is a longtime regional foe of Iran.

According to a report on Tuesday by the semi-official Tasnim news agency, Iran has worked up 13 sets of plans for revenge for Soleimani's killing. The report quoted Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, as saying that even the weakest among them would be a "historic nightmare" for the U.S. He declined to give any details,

"If the U.S. troops do not leave our region voluntarily and upright, we will do something to carry their bodies horizontally out," Shamkhani said.

The U.S. Maritime Administration warned Tuesday ships across the Mideast, citing the rising threats after the U.S. killed Soleimani. "The Iranian response to this action, if any, is unknown, but there remains the possibility of Iranian action against U.S. maritime interests in the region," it said.

Oil tankers were targeted in mine attacks last year the U.S. blamed on Iran. Tehran denied being responsible though it did seize oil tankers around the crucial Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of the world's crude oil travels.

The U.S. Navy's Bahrain-based 5th Fleet said it would work with shippers in the region to minimize any possible threat.

The 5th Fleet "has and will continue to provide advice to merchant shipping as appropriate regarding recommended security precautions in light of the heightened tensions and threats in the region," 5th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Joshua Frey told The Associated Press.

Meanwhile, Iranian Gen. Alireza Tabgsiri, the chief of the Guard's navy, issued his own warning.

"Our message to the enemies is to leave the region," Tabgsiri said, according to ISNA. The Guard routinely has tense encounters with the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf.

Iran's parliament, meanwhile, has passed an urgent bill declaring the U.S. military's command at the Pentagon and those acting on its behalf in Soleimani's killing as "terrorists," subject to Iranian sanctions. The measure appears to be an attempt to mirror a decision by Trump in April to declare the Revolutionary Guard a "terrorist organization."

The U.S. Defense Department used the Guard's designation as a terror organization in the U.S. to support the strike that killed Soleimani. The decision by Iran's parliament, done by a special procedure to speed the bill to law, comes as officials across the country threaten to retaliate for Soleimani's killing.

The vote also saw lawmakers approve funding for the Quds Force with an additional 200 million euros, or about \$224 million.

Also Tuesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the U.S. had declined to issue him a visa to travel to New York for upcoming meetings at the United Nations. The U.S. as the host of the U.N. headquarters is supposed to allow foreign officials to attend such meetings.

"This is because they fear someone will go there and tell the truth to the American people," Zarif said. "But they are mistaken. The world is not limited to New York. You can speak with American people from Tehran too and we will do that."

The U.S. State Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Soleimani will ultimately be laid to rest between the graves of Enayatollah Talebzadeh and Mohammad Hossein Yousef Elahi, two former Guard comrades. The two died in Operation Dawn 8 in Iran's 1980s war with Iraq in which Soleimani also took part, a 1986 amphibious assault that cut Iraq off from the Persian Gulf and led to the end of the bloody war that killed 1 million people.

___ Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Japan issues arrest warrant for Nissan

ex-chair's wife

By YURI KAGEYAMA

AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Tokyo prosecutors obtained an arrest warrant Tuesday for former Nissan chairman Carlos Ghosn's wife on suspicion of perjury, adding to the couple's legal troubles in the country where he once was revered as a star executive.

The move against Carole Ghosn, who is not in Japan, followed her husband's flight to Lebanon last week while he was out on bail awaiting trial for alleged financial misconduct.

Prosecutors said in a statement that Carole Ghosn gave false testimony to a Tokyo court last year in her husband's case about the transfer of money from one company to another that allegedly caused losses to Nissan.

She also denied knowing various people, or meeting with them, and the statements were false, they said. The allegations cited were unrelated to Ghosn's escape.

Carole Ghosn was not immediately available for comment but earlier she told The Associated Press after her questioning in court that she considered the questions trite and unsubstantial.

She was banned from meeting with her husband after his release on bail because of fears she might help tamper with evidence.

Lebanon and Japan do not have an extradition treaty. Japanese justice officials acknowledge that it's unclear whether the two can be brought back to Japan to face any of the charges. They said they were still looking into what could be done.

The Lebanese presidential palace said Tuesday that Lebanon's president met with the Japanese ambassador and they discussed the case, but did not provide any other details. This is the first known meeting between the president and a Japanese diplomat since Ghosn arrived in the country on Dec. 30.

Japan's chief government spokesman said Japanese officials have told Lebanon that Ghosn left the country illegally and that they are seeking cooperation in finding out what happened. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said the situation must be handled carefully.

Prosecutors have said they did not want Carlos Ghosn to be granted bail because they saw him as a flight risk.

"With his abundant financial power and multiple foreign bases worldwide, it would be easy for the defendant Ghosn to flee from Japan," they said in a statement.

Earlier Tuesday, Ghosn's former employer, Nissan Motor Co., said it was still pursuing legal action against him despite his escape.

The Japanese automaker said in a statement that Ghosn engaged in serious misconduct while leading



FILE - In this May 12, 2016, file photo, then Nissan Motor Co. President and CEO Carlos Ghosn speaks during a press conference in Yokohama, near Tokyo. Japanese Justice Minister Masako Mori vowed Monday, Jan. 6, 2020 to strengthen border departure checks and review bail conditions, given the flight of Ghosn. Mori told reporters at the ministry action has already been taken to prevent a recurrence, while declining to give details. Ghosn skipped bail while awaiting trial on various financial misconduct allegations and appeared in Lebanon. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko, File)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 20 of 35

the Nissan-Renault-Mitsubishi alliance.

"The company will continue to take appropriate legal action to hold Ghosn accountable for the harm that his misconduct has caused to Nissan," it said, without giving details.

Ghosn managed to skip bail and leave the country despite surveillance while he was staying at a home in Tokyo.

Japanese news reports Tuesday gave new details of that escape, saying he left his residence alone, met two men at a Tokyo hotel, and then took a bullet train to Osaka before boarding a private jet hidden inside a case for musical equipment.

Japanese Justice Minister Masako Mori told reporters that measures were being taken to make sure all cargo and luggage are inspected at regional airports, including those for private jets, to prevent a recurrence.

Japanese major business daily Nikkei reported, without citing sources, that dozens of people in various countries helped to plan Ghosn's clandestine departure.

Nissan's statement was the first word from the company since Ghosn's flight last week. The automaker and Japanese prosecutors allege Ghosn misstated his future compensation and diverted company assets for personal gain. He says he is innocent.

Ghosn has not appeared in public since arriving in Lebanon. He is expected to give his side of the story in a news conference planned for Wednesday in Beirut.

Earlier, he said the allegations against him were concocted by Nissan, Japanese authorities and others who wanted to block efforts toward a fuller merger between Nissan and its French alliance partner Renault SA.

Ghosn said in a statement last week that he wanted to escape "injustice." Critics of the Japanese judicial system say his case exemplifies its tendency to move too slowly and keep suspects in detention for too long.

Nissan said in its statement that an investigation is ongoing in France, and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has found some wrongdoing.

Ghosn has not been charged in France or the U.S.

Mori and other Japanese officials have defended the nation's judicial system and denounced Ghosn's escape as an "unjustifiable" crime. Mori said each nation's system has its own way of making arrests and granting bail.

The scandal over Ghosn's case has tarnished Nissan's image and created a leadership vacuum at a time when the automaker's profits and sales are tumbling. Ghosn's successor Hiroto Saikawa also resigned last year amid financial misconduct allegations related to questionable income.

"Nissan will continue to do the right thing by cooperating with judicial and regulatory authorities wherever necessary," the Yokohama-based company said.

Although Ghosn is unlikely to face trial in Japan, Greg Kelly, another Nissan former executive, is still facing charges of under-reporting Ghosn's future compensation. He says he is innocent.

Kelly, an American, who is out on bail, has not been charged with the breach of trust allegations Ghosn is also facing.

Nissan has also been charged as a corporate entity. The company says it won't fight the charges and will pay the required fines.

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

Iranian general transformed Syria's war in Assad's favor

by SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — When Syrian President Bashar Assad made a rare visit to Tehran last year, the powerful Revolutionary Guard commander Qassem Soleimani was there to greet him, along with Iran's supreme leader and president. Iran's foreign minister wasn't, and he resigned in protest at being excluded from talks with a crucial ally.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 21 of 35

It was a telling episode on who controls Iran's policy in Syria.

Iran's frontman in Syria since 2011, Soleimani helped turn the tide in the now nearly 9-year-old civil war, intervening to save Assad as armed rebels neared the capital, Damascus, and seized key cities. He welded together Shiite militias from across the region to back Syria's military and waged sieges that captured back territory, wreaked destruction and prevented the collapse of Assad's state.

His killing in an U.S. airstrike in Iraq is likely to rattle thousands of Iranian-backed fighters in Syria. The networks of militias he set up will remain in place, and Syria is likely to become a scene for confrontation with hundreds of U.S. troops stationed there.

The Iranian-backed militias are scattered all over Syria, including near civilians and some near American positions, said Danny Makki, a Syrian analyst based in Britain. If the U.S.-Iranian conflict escalates — "as is very likely," he said — the U.S. or Israel could strike the militias, or the Iranian-backed fighters could attack American positions, which are in the

eastern part of Syria, including near Kurdish-controlled oil fields that Damascus is eager to regain.

"The battleground will be Syria and Iraq," Makki said. "It could go bad on multiple levels."

Soleimani's killing could also have a resounding knock-on effect in Syria. If Baghdad forces U.S. troops to leave Iraq in protest, American soldiers in Syria would lose a vital logistics and supply line and would likely have to pull out as well. That would leave the Americans' ally, the Syrian Kurds, vulnerable. Iraq's Parliament on Sunday demanded U.S. troops leave, but it is not immediately clear if the government will carry out the threat.

Soleimani, known simply as the General, transformed Iran's traditional role of supporting proxies focused on challenging Western influence to forging paramilitary forces that could prop up a ruler and a traditional army.

He led Iran's intervention in Syria when it became clear to Tehran, early on in the war, that its only state ally in the region was on the verge of collapse. That would have endangered a vital hub for Tehran: Assad's state provided access to Iran's most important and professional militia ally, Lebanon's Hezbollah, gave depth and protection to its influence in Iraq and put Iranian influence on the border with Israel.

Soleimani, at the head of the Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force, brought in and organized thousands of Shiite militiamen from Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran to back Assad's overstretched military, providing firepower and skills. He reorganized Syria's own various paramilitary groups into one force, injecting disciplined fighters into the otherwise drained troops.

It was also Soleimani who negotiated joint military operations with Russia in 2015, two months before Russia began its airstrikes in Syria. In April 2016, Russia carried out airstrikes inside Syria from Iran, the



FILE - In this Nov. 22, 2013 file photo, Iraqi and Lebanese Shiite fighters from a group called the Hussein Brigade, loyal to Syria's President Bashar Assad, use a helmet to draw a sniper into view during clashes against the Sunni-dominated Free Syrian Army in the town of Hejeira, Syria, outside the capital Damascus. As Iran's frontman in Syria since 2011, Qassem Soleimani, Commander of Iran's Quds Force, brought in and organized thousands of Shiite militiamen from outside Syria to back President Bashar Assad's overstretched military, providing firepower and skills. (AP

Photo/Jaber al-Helo, File)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 22 of 35

first time a foreign state operated inside Iran since World War II, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Soleimani set battlefield priorities, wresting strategic areas from opposition control one by one. An early objective was Qusayr, a town near the Lebanese border key to supply lines with Hezbollah, then central cities and suburbs around Damascus and a top prize, Syria's largest city, Aleppo. When Aleppo was fully recaptured in 2016, it was Soleimani, not Assad, who visited the city.

At home in Iran, he may have been seen as a war hero fighting extremists, but his opponents say he introduced some of the most brutal tactics of the Syrian war, particularly the use of long, devastating sieges of populated areas that strangled civilians and clawed back territory until resistance collapsed. The tactic killed or displaced hundreds of thousands and left urban areas in ruins. Moreover, pitting Shiite militias against the largely Sunni opposition deepened the war's sectarian nature and fueled atrocities.

"He was the godfather of demographic change in Syria ... His hallmarks are on every massacre that happened in an area cleared of its people, starting from Homs, Ghouta, Daraa and Aleppo," said Tarek Muharram, an opposition fighter from Aleppo who fought against Iranian-backed militias.

"Those tactics won't change much after he dies," said Abdul-Salam Abdul-Razek, a defecting Syrian army officer who also fought against Soleimani's militias.

Displaced Syrians celebrated Soleimani's killing, distributing sweets or shouting thanks to U.S. President Donald Trump. In one of the last opposition-held cities in northern Syria, men danced and sang in a public square.

"We woke up to the best news," said Jamil Andani, a displaced man in Idlib. Soleimani "made us suffer. He was our worst enemy."

For Assad and his forces, Soleimani was a savior.

Eulogizing Soleimani, Assad said he left "clear marks in his victories against terrorist groups" in Syria.

The question now is how much impact Soleimani's death will have on the forces he led. Besides his skill as a strategist and tactician, Soleimani was a powerful presence in the field, often showing up in operations rooms to direct fighting or at front lines to boost morale.

"The Syrian-Iranian alliance will continue that's for sure," Makki said. "But the loss of Soleimani, the mastermind of so many victories, plans and strategies will be a big blow for Syria and Iran on a policy level and in terms of regional clout."

Assad said the tactics used by the general will only grow and be entrenched in the men he trained.

Reflecting concerns over the effect of Soleimani's killing, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said advances made in Syria should not stall, urging fighters to be steadfast and all Iran proxies to fight the U.S. presence in the region.

"No one should be shaken or worry or be afraid," Nasrallah said Sunday. "We should continue the path firmly toward victory."

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. STAMPEDE ERUPTS AT IRAN GENERAL'S FUNERAL More than 30 people were killed and nearly 200 injured during the procession for Gen. Qassem Soleimani, killed in a U.S. airstrike last week.

2. US PREPARES FOR POSSIBLE IRANIAN REPRISAL U.S. officials are noting heightened levels of military readiness in Iran and preparing for a possible "tit-for-tat" attempt on the life of an American military commander.

3. HOPE WANES FOR FAMILIES OF US PRISONERS The prospect of a speedy resolution for the handful of captives in Iran seems to have dimmed with the two nations edging dangerously close to conflict.

4. 'THEY JUST WANT THE CHANCE TO BE AMERICANS' Interpreters in Afghanistan who served alongside U.S. service members during the war are hoping to be awarded special visas before it's too late.

5. WEINSTEIN JURY SELECTION TO START Potential jurors in the film mogul's sexual assault trial are ex-

pected to fill a New York courtroom a day after new charges in Los Angeles.

6. **PUERTO RICO HIT BY ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE** A 6.4-magnitude tremor strikes the U.S. territory before dawn, causing widespread power outages.

7. **AUSTRALIA GETS WEATHER REPRIEVE** Aided by cooler weather and desperately needed rain, firefighters are racing to shore up defenses against deadly wildfires before the blazes flare again.

8. **NEW LEGAL WOES HIT GHOSH** Prosecutors in Tokyo obtain an arrest warrant for the wife of Nissan's former chairman on suspicion of perjury.

9. **HOW SPACEX TRIES TO APPEASE STARGAZERS** The aerospace company launches 60 more mini internet satellites, this time testing a dark coating to not disrupt the nighttime sky.

10. **LEAGUES FINALLY CASH IN ON SPORTS BETTING** America's professional sports leagues are selling their official data to gambling companies and making the case that the leagues are creating new products for gamblers to bet on.



In this aerial photo released by an official website of the office of the Iranian supreme leader, mourners attend a funeral ceremony for Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani and his comrades, who were killed in Iraq in a U.S. drone strike on Friday, in Tehran, Iran, Monday, Jan. 6, 2020. The processions mark the first time Iran honored a single man with a multi-city ceremony. Not even Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who founded the Islamic Republic, received such a processional with his death in 1989. (Office of the Iranian Supreme Leader via AP)

US prepares for possible Iranian reprisal after drone strike

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR, ROBERT BURNS and ZEKE MILLER** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials braced for Iran to respond to the killing of its most powerful general, noting heightened military readiness in the country and preparing for a possible "tit-for-tat" attempt on the life of an American military commander. They warned ships across Mideast waterways crucial to global energy supplies about the "possibility of Iranian action" against U.S. maritime interests in the region.

President Donald Trump ordered the Jan. 2 strike against Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Quds Force, after the death of an American contractor in Iraq. Now, amid massive demonstrations of Iran's public mourning period for Soleimani and a state TV report of a deadly stampede at his funeral, officials believe the next steps by America's longtime foe will determine the ultimate course of the latest crisis.

While officials say American intelligence isn't clear on whether Iran's latest military moves are designed to bolster Tehran's defenses or prepare for an offensive strike, the U.S. is continuing to reinforce its own positions in the region, including repositioning some forces. One official said the U.S. anticipated a "major" attack of some type within the next day or two.

On Monday, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said no decision had been made about withdrawing troops from Iraq. Pro-Iranian factions in the Iraqi Parliament have pushed to oust American troops following Soleimani's killing on Iraqi soil. Esper spoke to reporters after a letter from a U.S. Marine general circulated that seemed to suggest a withdrawal had been ordered in response to a vote by the Iraqi Parliament over the weekend. "There's been no decision whatsoever to leave Iraq," Esper said.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 24 of 35

On Tuesday, the U.S. Maritime Administration put out the warning for ships, citing the rising threats after Soleimani's killing. Oil tankers were targeted last year in mine attacks the U.S. blamed on Iran. Tehran denied being responsible though it did seize oil tankers around the crucial Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of the world's crude oil travels.

Soleimani's death, which has sparked major protests, further nuclear development and new threats of violence, has raised the prospect of a wide and unpredictable conflict in the Middle East and escalated tensions between Iran and the U.S.

The two nations have careened from one flare-up to another since Trump began his "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran shortly after taking office. He abrogated the 2015 nuclear deal and reimposed crushing economic sanctions, both steps aimed at preventing Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and deterring the sort of regional aggression spearheaded by Soleimani.

Two U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss internal discussions, said targeting Soleimani was not representative of a wholesale shift in American policy toward Iran, despite Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's comments on Sunday that the U.S. was targeting Iran's "actual decision-makers" rather than its network of proxy allies. Trump has repeatedly contended that he is not seeking "regime change" in Iran, as has been pushed by some of his more hawkish advisers.

Still, Trump's strike against Soleimani, a revered figure in Iran whose death sparked large displays of anger and grief, was a risky decision his Republican and Democratic predecessors opted not to take out of concern it would draw the U.S. and Iran closer to conflict.

U.S. officials are also aware that Iran could try to strike a high-level American leader in a "tit-for-tat" move, potentially a military commander.

One official said some Iranian ships have spread out, and while the intent isn't immediately clear, they could move rapidly to attack.

The U.S. military has increased protection of its forces, particularly in Iraq. Officials said a number of the recently deployed soldiers from the 1st Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division had moved into Iraq from Kuwait in order to increase security for Americans there. The U.S. military has stopped all training of Iraqi forces to focus on force protection, officials said.

As of Monday, officials said, there had not been a broadly distributed order or recommendation to increase security at military installations worldwide. Instead, decisions were being left up to the commanders.

The U.S. military's concern about its vulnerability to Iranian attack in the Persian Gulf region has been at a heightened state since about May, when the administration reported it was getting intelligence indications that Iran was planning attacks on U.S. interests in Iraq and elsewhere in the region. The Pentagon sent additional forces to the Gulf at that point, and in July it worked out an arrangement with the government of Saudi Arabia to send U.S. forces to a large base deep in the Saudi desert, in less obvious range



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, left, hands off the microphone to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper to deliver a statement on Iraq and Syria, at President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago property, Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019, in Palm Beach, Fla. (AP Photo/ Evan Vucci)

of Iranian missiles.

The main hub for American military air operations throughout the Middle East is located at al-Udeid air base in Qatar – within easy range of Iranian missiles. American forces also are stationed in the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait. The Navy's 5th Fleet, which operates throughout the region, is based at Bahrain.

Meanwhile on Capitol Hill in the U.S., Democrats prepared largely symbolic resolutions under the War Powers Act to limit the president's military actions regarding Iran. In a letter to House Democrats, Speaker Nancy Pelosi called the airstrike on Soleimani "provocative and disproportionate" and said it had "endangered our servicemembers, diplomats and others by risking a serious escalation of tensions with Iran."

Congress, which has the sole power to declare war, has complained that Trump did not provide advance notice of his airstrike in Baghdad. Trump did meet the 48-hour deadline required by the War Powers Act to notify Congress after the deadly drone strike. The document was classified, and no public version was released.

Senators will receive a briefing Wednesday on the situation, according to a person familiar with the meeting. Pompeo, Esper, CIA Director Gina Haspel and Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are expected to speak. The House is also expected to be briefed this week.

White House Counselor Kellyanne Conway, speaking Monday on "Fox & Friends," dismissed complaints from Democrats about notification as a "partisan action."

Pelosi said the notification "raises more questions than it answers. This document prompts serious and urgent questions about the timing, manner and justification of the Administration's decision to engage in hostilities against Iran," she said.

In remarks to reporters Monday, Gen. Milley insisted that the intelligence on which Trump based his decision to kill Soleimani called for urgent action.

"I'll stand by the intelligence I saw," he said, adding that details had not been made public because they are classified. He said the intelligence showed Soleimani was plotting attacks and that the U.S. would have been negligent not to act. "It was imminent," he said, "and it was very, very clear in scale and scope. Did it exactly say who, what, when and where? No, but he was planning, coordinating and synchronizing significant operations against U.S. military forces in the region, and it was imminent."

Death of Iran general spurs anxiety over fate of US hostages

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The killing of a top Iranian general has ratcheted up the anxiety of families of Americans held in Iran, one month after the release of a New Jersey student had given them hope.

The Trump administration has made a priority of bringing home hostages held abroad, but the prospect of a resolution for the handful of captives in Iran seems to have dimmed with the two nations edging dangerously close to conflict and warning of retaliatory strikes and continued agitation.

"He wasn't safe before now, but now he's really not safe," said Joanne White, whose son, Navy veteran Michael White of Imperial Beach, California, has been imprisoned since July while visiting a girlfriend in Iran. "I don't know if anyone is going to retaliate."

Iran has vowed revenge for the airstrike that killed Revolutionary Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani — the U.S. accused him of plotting new attacks just before his death — and has abandoned the remaining limits of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. The Trump administration, while saying it remains committed to freeing Americans from Iran, has said it's prepared to respond to any attacks from the Islamic Republic.

The tensions are the worst in 40 years and are in contrast to the diplomatic breakthrough that resulted in December's release of Princeton University graduate student Xiyue Wang in exchange for the U.S. freeing a detained Iranian scientist. Crushing U.S. sanctions on Iran remain in place, but the release suggested Tehran could be open to using American captives as bargaining chips for future negotiations.

Weeks earlier Iran had acknowledged in a filing to the United Nations that it had a "missing person" file on former FBI agent Robert Levinson, who vanished in the country in 2007. One of his daughters, Sarah Levinson Moriarty, told reporters last month that she considered the notice from Iran an acknowledgment

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 26 of 35

that the country had her father and knew where he was.

Even so, there were already concerns about how recent protests in Iran tied to spiking gas prices might affect the fate of Western prisoners. The new tensions have caused even greater uncertainty.

Babak Namazi said he has tried to stay even-keeled in the four-and-a-half years that his brother, Siamak, has been imprisoned in Iran. His father, Baquer, is in a highly restrictive medical furlough there. Both are being held on what the family says are manufactured charges of collaborating with the United States.

"From the lens that I look through of how things affect my family and getting them home safely and expeditiously, when we're in a period of detente, I feel more hopeful," said Namazi, who is based in Dubai.

Though he has felt at times like his loved ones are close to being released, he has also endured periods of escalating tension. Those moments make him uneasy since the freedom of his father and brother is "very much dependent on both sides being able to talk to each other."

"I've had to learn, very painfully, not to get my hopes up as much as I want to until something actually happens," Namazi said. "At the same time, I've had to teach myself not to get too despondent because, if I don't have hope, how can I go on? It's my honest feeling now."

He said he saw a silver lining in President Donald Trump's statement on Twitter that "Iran never won a war, but never lost a negotiation!" and is hopeful that means the two sides are open to easing and even humanitarian gestures.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who a month ago said the Wang swap could lead to a dialogue between Washington and Tehran over prisoners, said on "Meet the Press" on Sunday that "I love these families" and that he knows they're "suffering greatly."

"We continue to work on that process, to get every American held anywhere in the world, including by the kleptocrats and theocrats in Iran, to get them to return American hostages. We will never give up on that mission," Pompeo said.

Joanne White said she is particularly concerned about her son, who was convicted of insulting Iran's supreme leader and posting private information online. He is ill with cancer and recently complained to her that he was starving in prison. She said he has long been a Trump supporter and, when it came to the president's impeachment, "he told me to tell the Democrats to leave Trump alone."

White, who lives in Arizona, said she personally doesn't know what to make of the Trump administration's assertion that Soleimani was planning imminent attacks at the time of his death.

"It's something he's going to have to answer," she said of Trump. "I know he's going to have to answer to that."



FILE - In this March 7, 2019, file photo, Christine Levinson, wife of Robert Levinson, a former FBI agent who vanished in Iran in 2007, left, gets a hug from Babak Namazi, right, the son of Baquer Namazi who has been held in Iran, following their testimony before a House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Capitol Hill in Washington. The killing of a top Iranian general has ratcheted up the anxiety of families of Americans held in Iran. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh, File)

Follow Eric Tucker at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

Australian crews race to contain blazes as damage bill soars

By NICK PERRY and KRISTEN GELINEAU Associated Press

BALMORAL, Australia (AP) — Bolstered by cooler weather and desperately needed rain, exhausted firefighters in Australia raced to shore up defenses against deadly wildfires before the blazes flare again within days when scorching temperatures are expected to return.

The first hints of the financial toll from the disaster began to emerge on Tuesday. The Insurance Council of Australia said the estimated damage bill had doubled in two days, with insurance claims reaching 700 million Australian dollars (\$485 million).

That estimate comes one day after Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the government was committing an extra 2 billion Australian dollars (\$1.4 billion) toward the recovery effort in addition to the tens of millions of dollars that have already been promised. Morrison's funding announcement came amid fierce criticism from many Australians who say he has been too slow to respond to the crisis. He has also faced backlash for downplaying the need for his government to address climate change, which experts say helps supercharge the blazes.

The fires, fueled by drought and the country's hottest and driest year on record, have been raging since September, months earlier than is typical for Australia's annual wildfire season. So far, the blazes have killed 25 people, destroyed 2,000 homes and scorched an area twice the size of the U.S. state of Maryland. Three people in New South Wales state who were reported missing earlier Tuesday were later found, police said.

Across New South Wales, 130 fires were still burning on Tuesday, around 50 of which were uncontrolled. The day's cooler, rainier weather was providing thousands of weary firefighters a "psychological and emotional" reprieve as they scrambled to strengthen containment lines around the blazes before temperatures rise again, said Shane Fitzsimmons, commissioner of the New South Wales Rural Fire Service.

"It really is about shoring up protection to limit the damage potential and the outbreak of these fires over the coming days," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The rain was not heavy enough to extinguish the blazes. Victoria state Emergency Services Minister Lisa Neville said on Monday at least 200 millimeters (8 inches) of rain would need to fall in a short time to snuff out the fires — around 20 times what has fallen across the region in the past day. And officials warned that Australia's wildfire season — which generally lasts through March — was nowhere near its end.

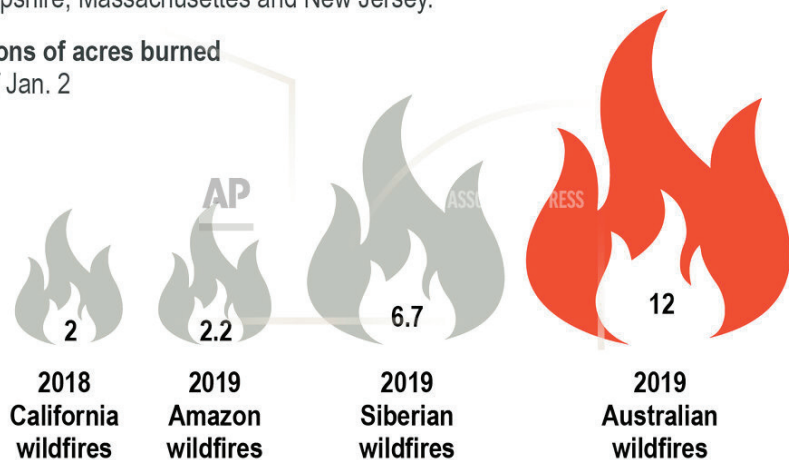
The rain was also complicating firefighters' attempts to strategically backburn certain areas, and was making the ground slippery for fire trucks.

Anxious, weary and frustrated after living through months of fires already, many Australians have focused their fury on the prime minister, whose response to the crisis has been roundly criticized as lax, and at times, dismissive. Morrison faced particularly fierce backlash for taking a family vacation to Hawaii in the

Australia fires dwarf other major wildfires

The wildfires burning in Australia, covering roughly 12 million acres, are as large as the state of Maryland and bigger than several other states including Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New Jersey.

Millions of acres burned
as of Jan. 2



SOURCE: Statista

AP

midst of the disaster.

Helena Wong and her partner Justin Kam, who lost their home when fires swept through the town of Balmoral south of Sydney last month, were frustrated with what they say has been a slow, uncoordinated response to the fires and a lack of preparedness by the government.

"Disaster plans should have been put in place ahead of time, not after the fact when everybody's in a state of emergency and everybody's scrambling," Wong said. "Communication could be better. We are told different things by different people. ... We are a fire-prone country. Things should have been put in place."

Thousands of army, navy and air force reservists were being dispatched to battle the fires. On Tuesday, rescue crews were still trying to reach some affected communities. A navy ship was sent to rescue stranded residents of Mallacoota, a coastal town in Victoria cut off for days by fires that forced around 4,000 people to shelter on beaches over the weekend. Heavy smoke squandered the navy's efforts to airlift people out on Monday.

Around 200 of the 340 residents still waiting to be evacuated from the town had signed up to board the navy ship on Tuesday, said Andrew Crisp, Victoria's Emergency Management Commissioner. The rest were hoping to be rescued by military helicopter.

The fires have exacted a grisly toll on the country's wildlife, with carcasses of kangaroos littering the sides of roadways. Hundreds of millions of wild animals are believed to have been killed in the blazes, along with thousands of livestock.

"Those who are working with wildlife, those who are having to go through that incredibly painful process of having to put down stock ... my heart — as someone who grew up in regional Victoria — I could only think how challenging it would be for my family to have to destroy stock," Victoria state Premier Daniel Andrews said. "I can barely imagine how the grief, the toll, that would take on you."

SpaceX launches 60 more satellites, trying to tone them down

By **MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — SpaceX launched 60 more mini internet satellites late Monday, this time testing a dark coating to appease stargazers.

It's a "first step" compromise between SpaceX and astronomers fearful of having dark skies spoiled by hundreds and, eventually, thousands of bright satellites circling overhead.

The Falcon 9 rocket blasted into a cold, clear night sky, recycled by SpaceX for its fourth flight. As the first-stage booster flew to a vertical landing on an ocean platform, the Starlink satellites continued hurtling toward orbit to join 120 similar spacecraft launched last year.

Flight controllers applauded, and the launch commentator described the booster's fourth touchdown as "awesome." An hour later, all 60 satellites were free of their upper stage and making their own way in orbit. "It's a beautiful sight," the commentator observed.

His Starlink fleet now numbering 180, SpaceX founder and chief executive Elon Musk plans to ultimately launch thousands of these compact flat-panel satellites to provide global internet service. Each spacecraft is just 575 pounds (260 kilograms).

After the first Starlink batch of 60 was launched in May and the second in November, astronomers complained how the bright satellite chain was hampering their observations. In response, SpaceX came up with a darkening treatment to lessen reflectivity. The coating is being tested on one of the newly launched satellites.

Jeff Hall, director of the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, said the Starlinks have been just an occasional problem — so far — but noted the risk to stargazing will grow as the constellation expands and other companies launch their own fleets. He heads the American Astronomical Society's committee on light pollution, space debris, and radio interference, and is working with SpaceX on the issue. The matter is on the agenda, in fact, at the society's conference in Hawaii this week.

"Anything that darkens the satellites is a step in the right direction," Hall said in an email Monday. He said it's too soon to know whether the dark coating will work, "but it definitely is just a first step and not enough

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 29 of 35

to mitigate the issues astronomy will experience with the Starlinks.”

The Starlinks are initially placed in a relatively low orbit of 180 miles (290 kilometers), easily visible as a long, strung-out cluster parading through the night sky. Over a few months, krypton-powered thrusters raise the satellites to a 340-mile (550-kilometer) orbit.

The higher the orbit, the less visible the satellites are from the ground, according to SpaceX. Even so, SpaceX said it's supplying astronomy groups with the satellite coordinates in advance, so they can avoid the bright flyover times.

Already established in launching satellites for others and making space station deliveries for NASA, SpaceX is among several companies looking to provide high-speed, reliable internet service around the world, especially in places where it's hard to get or too expensive. Others include Jeff Bezos' Amazon and OneWeb.

SpaceX may start service later this year in the northern U.S. and Canada, then expand to the world's most populated areas after 24 launches.



In a time exposure, the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launches from Cape Canaveral, as seen from Viera, Fla., late Monday, Jan. 6, 2020. In the foreground is the traffic roundabout, which is lit up for the holiday season. (Tim Shortt/Florida

Today via AP)

Weinstein jury selection to start in NY; new charges in LA

NEW YORK (AP) — Potential jurors in Harvey Weinstein's New York sexual assault trial are expected to fill a courtroom Tuesday as the former movie titan's legal problems deepen with new charges in Los Angeles.

In New York, jury selection is set to start Tuesday and could take weeks as prosecutors, Weinstein's lawyers and the judge find people to serve on a lengthy trial in a high-profile case that has fueled societal pressure for accountability for sexual misconduct.

The trial involves charges that Weinstein raped a woman in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013 and forcibly performed a sex act on another woman in the city in 2006.

Weinstein, 67, has said any sexual activity was consensual.

"In this great country, you are innocent until proven guilty," his lawyer Donna Rotunno said Monday.

Across the street from the courthouse, women who say they were sexually harassed or assaulted by Weinstein branded him a villain undeserving of anyone's pity.

"This trial is a cultural reckoning regardless of its legal outcome," said Sarah Ann Masse, a performer and writer who said Weinstein once sexually harassed her in his underwear during a job interview.

The Associated Press generally does not identify people who say they have been sexually assaulted unless they come forward publicly.

Once one of Hollywood's most powerful producers, Weinstein has now been accused of sexual assault, harassment and misconduct by dozens of women, from famous actresses to assistants at his former company. The allegations began surfacing publicly in October 2017 and sparked the #MeToo movement, as well as investigations in multiple places.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 30 of 35

Los Angeles prosecutors charged Weinstein Monday with sexually assaulting two women there on successive nights during Oscar week in 2013.

Lawyers for Weinstein had no immediate comment on the new charges, though he has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey said the timing of the charges was unrelated to the New York trial. She said the case took more than two years to build because the women were reluctant to provide all the information necessary, and the filing happened on the first business day when all the necessary people could gather.

There is some connection between the cases, though: One of the Los Angeles accusers is expected to testify in the New York case to help prosecutors establish what they say was Weinstein's pattern of forcing himself on young actresses and women trying to break into Hollywood. Weinstein is expected to appear in court in California after his New York trial, Lacey said.



Harvey Weinstein, third from left, leaves court in New York, Monday, Jan. 6, 2020. The disgraced movie mogul faces allegations of rape and sexual assault. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

Trump tests Congress' war powers with strike against Iran

By LISA MASCARO and DEB RIECHMANN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's confrontation with Iran is posing a gut check for Congress, brazenly testing whether the House and Senate will exert their own authority over U.S. military strategy or cede more war powers to the White House.

As tensions rise at home and abroad, Speaker Nancy Pelosi will hold House votes this week to limit Trump's ability to engage Iran militarily after the surprise U.S. airstrike that killed Gen. Qassem Soleimani. A Senate vote is expected to soon follow.

Yet Congress has shown time and again it is unable to exert its ability to authorize — or halt — the use of military force. With their inaction, lawmakers have begrudgingly allowed the commander in chief to all but disregard Congress.

"I think this president has pushed this to the limit with action that has a huge, escalating effect," said Scott Anderson, a former attorney in the State Department's legal office and former legal adviser for the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. "Maybe this will push Congress to make it a priority. ... Anything short of legislative action doesn't mean anything."

The showdown between the White House and Capitol Hill provides the latest example of how Trump's willingness to break the norms in Washington is setting new standards in governance.

Ahead of the attack that killed the Iranian general, the president did not consult with congressional leaders. In the aftermath, he refused to make public his justification for the airstrikes.

Facing an outcry, Trump scoffed that his tweets should provide adequate updates to Congress, regardless of what is required by law.

Republicans have largely supported Trump's actions, saying the president was well within his power to take out Iran's architect of proxy operations against Americans in the Middle East. The U.S. considered Soleimani a terrorist.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 31 of 35

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Monday there's plenty of time for lawmakers to learn more about the president's reasoning for the attack. He complained that Democrats "rushed to blame our own government before even knowing the facts, ... rushed to downplay Soleimani's evil while presenting our own president as the villain."

But Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said Monday, "It is essential for Congress to put a check on this president."

Jack Goldsmith, a professor at Harvard Law School, said both parties in Congress have for years gone along with an expansion of presidential war powers, especially with regard to the conflicts in the Middle East.

"In short, our country has — through presidential aggrandizement accompanied by congressional authorization, delegation, and acquiescence — given one person, the president, a sprawling military and enormous discretion to use it in ways that can easily lead to a massive war," Goldsmith said in an



E-KHALQ - Members of the Iranian American community of Washington, D.C., who support the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, or the MeK, an Iranian exile group that seeks to overthrow Iran's government, rally outside the State Department in Washington, Monday, Jan. 6, 2020. Participants at the rally celebrated the death of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who was killed by a U.S. airstrike in Iraq. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

essay in Lawfare, an online newsletter he co-founded. "That is our system: One person decides."

Past presidents at least signaled a nod to the legislative branch, which has the sole power under the Constitution to declare war, knowing they would need to ask Congress to pay for military operations. It's one way the founders sought to keep the executive in check.

But Congress has allowed its role to erode since the passage of Authorization for Use of Military Force in 2001 to fight terrorism after the Sept. 11 attacks, and passage of another AUMF for the invasion of Iraq in 2002.

The fallout from those votes has deeply divided Congress and the nation, with many lawmakers, particularly Democrats, now saying they were mistakes. Yet lawmakers have been paralyzed on the question of whether to repeal or change those authorities.

Only after U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi was killed last summer in a gruesome murder at the Saudi Arabian consulate in Turkey did Congress muster the resolve to slap restrictions on U.S. involvement with the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

It was a rare exertion of authority from Congress, the first since the passage of the War Powers Act of 1973. And Trump promptly vetoed it.

"There's no question the president has gotten stronger over time, the Congress less strong," said Wendy Sherman, a former undersecretary of state in the Obama administration and chief negotiator of the Iran nuclear deal.

"This is a president who we know makes decisions by impulse and without any deliberative process," said Sherman, who now directs the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard's Kennedy School. "Ceding all this power to an impulsive president ... puts our national security at risk."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 32 of 35

Pelosi announced the House will vote this week on a resolution from Rep. Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich., a former CIA and Defense Department official, that would require an end to the action against Iran unless Congress votes to authorize it.

Similar legislation passed the House last year but failed in the Senate. Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., is pushing it again this year and plans to force a vote that could come as soon as next week.

"I think this president doesn't care about Congress," Kaine told The Associated Press. "But the president is deeply concerned and to the point of insecurity about his own personal popularity. And I think a vote by Congress on a matter like this is ultimately a demonstration — well, what does the American public think? Should we be in another war in the Middle East?"

On Monday, Schumer and Sen. Robert Menendez, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called on Trump to declassify "in full" his notification to Congress over the weekend justifying the strikes.

Under the War Powers Act, the White House has 48 hours to notify Congress of such actions. Pelosi said it was "highly unusual" for the information to be entirely classified and is demanding a full briefing for Congress.

Debates have raged on and off Capitol Hill over whether the White House can continue to rely on nearly 20-year old authorizations for its actions abroad.

At the time of their passage, Congress resisted then-President George W. Bush's effort to secure an even broader authorization, clipping language that would have allowed for actions to deter future acts of terrorism against the U.S., according to a 2019 report from the Congressional Research Service.

"Because Congress did not accept this broader authorization language, it can be argued that Congress deliberately chose to limit presidential authority," the report said, adding that the debate about the authorities since then "calls for legislative clarification of such scope."

Texas GOP Sen. John Cornyn on Monday defended Trump, comparing the killing of the Iranian general to Obama's decision to target Osama bin Laden, even though that raid was more directly tied to the post-2001 war authorizations.

"The president not only has the authority under the Constitution, but the responsibility to defend the nation," Cornyn said. He also said Soleimani's death was not an assassination, as some have suggested.

"This was the president of the United States exercising his lawful authorities," he said.

Associated Press reporter Padmananda Rama in Washington contributed to this report.

US strike on Iran could have consequences in North Korea

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The U.S. strike that killed Iran's top military commander may have had an indirect casualty: a diplomatic solution to denuclearizing North Korea.

Experts say the escalation of tensions between Washington and Tehran will diminish already fading hopes for such an outcome and inspire North Korea's decision-makers to tighten their hold on the weapons they see, perhaps correctly, as their strongest guarantee of survival.

North Korea's initial reaction to the killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani has been cautious. The country's state media was silent for several days before finally on Monday issuing a brief report on the attack that didn't even mention Soleimani's name.

The Korean Central News Agency report didn't publish any direct criticism by Pyongyang toward Washington, instead simply saying that China and Russia had denounced the United States over last week's airstrike at the airport in Baghdad.

The North's negotiations with the U.S. have been at a stalemate since last February, when a summit between leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump collapsed over disagreements about exchanging sanctions relief for nuclear disarmament. The North has recently pointed to that lack of progress and hinted it may resume tests of nuclear bombs and intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 33 of 35

While the killing of Soleimani may give Pyongyang pause about provoking the Trump administration in such a way, the North ultimately is likely to use the strike to further legitimize its stance that it needs to bolster its nuclear arsenal as a deterrent against American aggression.

The North has often pointed to the demises of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi while justifying its nuclear development, saying they would still be alive and in power had they successfully obtained nuclear weapons and didn't surrender them to the U.S.

Soleimani's name will soon be mentioned with them too, said Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Dongguk University.

"North Korea would say that the 'imperialist' nature of the United States would never change, and that there is no other option for them other than to strengthen its nuclear deterrent while bracing for long-term confrontation," said Koh, an adviser to current South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

It's clear Pyongyang has been closely watching the developments between Washington and Tehran since the Trump administration in May 2018 abandoned a nuclear agreement Iran reached with world powers in 2015.

The North's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper published more than 30 articles analyzing the U.S.-Iran tensions since last August, reflecting the keen interest of Pyongyang's decision-makers, Hwang Ildo, a professor from South Korea's National Diplomatic Academy, recently wrote.

Kim and Trump exchanged insults and threats of war during a highly provocative run in North Korean weapons tests in 2017. But then in 2018, Kim initiated diplomatic talks with Washington and suspended nuclear and long-range missile tests. The opening came after months of concerns that the Trump administration could consider preventive military action against the North.

There are views that North Korea's measured brinkmanship of 2019, highlighted by tests of shorter-range weapons and defiant statements on overcoming U.S.-led sanctions, were influenced by Tehran's calibrated provocations against Washington, which coincided with efforts to retain European countries participating in the 2015 deal.

Washington's decision not to retaliate against Iran's interception of a U.S. surveillance drone last June could have emboldened Pyongyang, which possibly concluded it wouldn't have to fear U.S. military action as long as it avoids directly threatening American lives or more crucial assets, some experts say.

The U.S. airstrike that took out Soleimani came after Iranian proxies fired rockets onto an Iraqi base, killing an American contractor, and those proxies then helped generate a mob that attacked the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

In comments published New Year's Day, Kim said there were no longer grounds for the North to be "unilaterally bound" to its self-imposed moratorium on nuclear and ICBM tests, which Trump has repeatedly boasted as a major foreign policy accomplishment.

But Kim gave no explicit indication that he was abandoning negotiations entirely or restarting the suspended tests. He seemed to leave the door open to diplomacy, saying North Korea's efforts to bolster its deterrent will be "properly coordinated" depending on future U.S. attitudes.

The U.S. killing of Soleimani will make the North more hesitant about crossing a metaphorical "red line" with the Trump administration by restarting such tests, said Du Hyeogn Cha, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Kyung Hee University.

"The airstrike does serve as a warning to North Korea about taking extreme actions as the presumption that the Trump administration refrains from using military force when concerned about consequences has been shattered," said Cha, an ex-intelligence secretary to former South Korean President Lee Myung-bak.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 34 of 35

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 7, the seventh day of 2020. There are 359 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 7, 2004, President George W. Bush proposed legal status, at least temporarily, for millions of immigrants improperly working in the U.S.

On this date:

In 1789, America held its first presidential election as voters chose electors who, a month later, selected George Washington to be the nation's first chief executive.

In 1904, the Marconi International Marine Communication Company of London announced that the telegraphed letters "CQD" would serve as a maritime distress call (it was later replaced with "SOS").

In 1927, commercial transatlantic telephone service was inaugurated between New York and London.

In 1953, President Truman announced in his State of the Union message to Congress that the United States had developed a hydrogen bomb.

In 1959, the United States recognized the new government of Cuba, six days after Fidel Castro led the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1972, Lewis F. Powell, Jr. and William H. Rehnquist were sworn in as the 99th and 100th members of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1979, Vietnamese forces captured the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, overthrowing the Khmer Rouge government.

In 1989, Emperor Hirohito of Japan died in Tokyo at age 87; he was succeeded by his son, Crown Prince Akihito.

In 1999, for the second time in history, an impeached American president went on trial before the Senate. President Bill Clinton faced charges of perjury and obstruction of justice; he was acquitted.

In 2002, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and nine U.S. senators swept into Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan for an unannounced visit and promised Afghan leaders their full support in rebuilding the shattered country.

In 2004, President George W. Bush proposed legal status, at least temporarily, for millions of immigrants improperly working in the U.S.

In 2006, Jill Carroll, a freelance journalist for The Christian Science Monitor, was kidnapped and her translator shot dead in Baghdad. (Carroll was freed almost three months later.)

Ten years ago: A worker for a transformer-making company in St. Louis showed up at the plant and opened fire, killing three people and wounding five before killing himself. Thousands of Egyptian Christians went on a rampage after six members of their community were gunned down as they left midnight Mass for Coptic Christians in the southern Egyptian town of Nag Hamadi. No. 1 Alabama held on for a 37-21 win over No. 2 Texas in the BCS championship played in Pasadena, California.

Five years ago: Masked gunmen stormed the Paris offices of Charlie Hebdo, a French newspaper that had caricatured the Prophet Mohammad, methodically killing 12 people, including the editor, before escaping in a car. (Two suspects were killed two days later.) Actor Rod Taylor 82, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Actor Kevin Spacey pleaded not guilty in Nantucket, Massachusetts, to groping an 18-year-old busboy in 2016 in the first criminal case brought against Spacey following a string of sexual misconduct allegations. Second-ranked Clemson defeated No. 1 Alabama 44-16 in the national championship game of the college football playoffs; Clemson became the first team in the AP poll era, dating back to 1936, to finish 15-0. For the first time in more than 25 years, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was absent from oral arguments as she recuperated from cancer surgery. Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam granted clemency to 30-year-old Cyntoia Brown, who said she was a 16-year-old sex trafficking victim when she killed a man in 2004. Amazon eclipsed Microsoft as the most valuable publicly-traded company in the U.S.

Today's Birthdays: Magazine publisher Jann Wenner is 74. Singer Kenny Loggins is 72. Singer-songwriter Marshall Chapman is 71. Actress Erin Gray is 70. Actor Sammo Hung is 68. Actress Jodi Long is 66. Actor

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Jan. 07, 2020 ~ Vol. 28 - No. 190 ~ 35 of 35

David Caruso is 64. Talk show host Katie Couric is 63. Country singer David Lee Murphy is 61. Rock musician Kathy Valentine is 61. Actor David Marciano is 60. Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., is 59. Actress Hallie Todd is 58. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., is 57. Actor Nicolas Cage is 56. Singer-songwriter John Ondrasik (on-DRAH'-sik) (Five for Fighting) is 55. Actor Rex Lee is 51. Actor Doug E. Doug is 50. Actor Kevin Rahm is 49. Actor Jeremy Renner is 49. Country singer-musician John Rich is 46. Actor Dustin Diamond is 43. Actor Reggie Austin is 41. Singer-rapper Aloe Blacc is 41. Actress Lauren Cohan is 38. Actor Brett Dalton is 37. Actor Robert Ri'chard is 37. Actress Lyndsy Fonseca is 33. Actor Liam Aiken is 30. Actress Camryn Grimes is 30. Actor Max Morrow is 29. Actor Marcus Scribner is 20.

Thought for Today: "One cannot and must not try to erase the past merely because it does not fit the present." — Golda Meir, Israeli prime minister (1898-1978).

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