



A local group is focusing on attracting more visitors to Livingston's downtown.

# DOWNTOWN STRATEGY

## Downtown businesses present economic enhancement project

By Sam Klomhaus  
Enterprise Staff Writer

The Livingston Downtown Building Owners and Business Association has developed its strategic plan for 2019-2020, part of the Livingston Economic Enhancement Project.

Andy Turner, vice president of the LDBOBA and branch manager of American Bank Montana's Livingston Branch, presented the plan to the Livingston City Commission Tuesday.

The plan contains 12 objectives: promote the completion of Second Street with new lighting, sidewalks, water/sewer facilities, flower baskets, and sidewalk amenities; implement studies regarding two-way street parking, analysis of existing parking, apartment parking downtown and bike paths; work to implement a growth policy; establish highway signs encouraging people traveling west on Interstate 90 to turn off at Exit 337; create "wayfinding" signage starting at Exit 337; book tour buses into downtown Livingston; promote winter ski season for downtown Livingston; continue Yellowstone Park Bus Historic District Tours; promote the return of rail passenger service to the Livingston Depot; put the shops back to work; create "Welcome to Livingston" signs; and lobby to have "economic health" included in Livingston City Strategic Plan.

The LDBOBA board is made up of Turner, Patricia Grabow (president), Jack Luther (treasurer), Don Platek, Lauren Silano, Rick Pittendorfer, Richard Smith, Jordan Rose, Theresa Soule and the Livingston Area Chamber of Commerce

Those goals can be broken down into three categories, Turner said: infrastructure, municipality and tourism.

Parking was a particular area of concern in the plan. Turner said the LDBOBA would like to be part of efforts to mitigate future parking issues.

"As downtown business activity increases and people decide to reside in the downtown area, parking becomes more of an issue, putting pressure on existing parking lots and nearby residential areas," Turner said.

Turner said Livingston should look to what Kalispell has done as a model for utilizing the shops in and around the depot area for economic development.

The city is in the process of updating its growth policy, and Turner commended the city for opening that process to the community.

Promoting tourism involves increasing signage around Livingston on I-90 and the entrances to Livingston, as well as promoting Yellowstone National Park and local ski areas, according to the plan, as well as continuing Yellowstone Park Bus Historic District Tours. Two of the board members, Luther and Platek, are affiliated with Yellowstone Bus Tours, according to the plan.

After the presentation, City Commission Chairwoman Dorel Hoglund asked Turner how the LDBOBA comes up with their objectives.

The LDBOBA meets monthly to discuss topics they feel will lead to improvement in the Livingston area and better promotion of the area, Turner said.



Walking Park Street following a lunch downtown are, from left, Christina and Scott Stolzenburg and Andy Stellpflug.

# US dismisses Iraq request on plan for troop withdrawal

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's caretaker prime minister asked Washington to work out a road map for an American troop withdrawal, but the U.S. State Department on Friday bluntly rejected the request, saying the two sides should instead talk about how to "recommit" to their partnership.

Thousands of anti-government protesters turned out in the capital and southern Iraq, many calling on both Iran and America to leave Iraq, reflecting their

■ See related stories:  
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anger and frustration over the two rivals — both allies of Baghdad — trading blows on Iraqi soil.

The request from Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi pointed to his determination to push ahead with demands for U.S. troops to leave Iraq, stoked by the American drone strike on Jan. 3 that killed top Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani. In a phone call Thursday night, he told U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo that recent U.S. actions were unacceptable breaches of Iraqi sovereignty and a violation of their security agreements, his office said.

He asked Pompeo to "send delegates to Iraq to prepare a mechanism" to carry out the Iraqi Parliament's resolution on withdrawing foreign troops, according to the statement.

"The prime minister said American forces had entered Iraq and drones are flying in its airspace without permission from Iraqi authorities, and this was a violation of the bilateral agreements," the statement added.

Abdul-Mahdi signaled he was standing by the push for U.S. forces to leave despite signs of de-escalation by Tehran and Washington after Iran retaliated for Soleimani's death by firing missiles that hit two Iraqi bases where American troops are based but caused no casualties.

Iraqis feel furious and helpless at being caught in the middle of the fighting.

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AP photo  
Anti-government Iraqi protesters chant anti-Iran and anti-U.S. slogans while they carry a poster that reads in Arabic "this parliament does not represent us," during the ongoing protests in Tahrir square, Baghdad, Iraq, Friday.

# Park High School to host first-ever Speech, Drama, Debate tourney



Enterprise photos by Nate Howard  
Park High School Speech and Drama coach Keaton Ramm takes notes on a rehearsal given by sophomore Summer Melin, Thursday in her classroom. At right, Summer Melin, 15, rehearses her humorous oral interpretation act.

By Sam Klomhaus  
and Nate Howard  
Enterprise Staff Writers

The Park High School Speech, Drama and Debate Team will host its first-ever tournament Jan. 18.

The all-day tournament will feature solo dramatic acts, persuasive speeches, analysis of historical speeches, impromptu works, and debates about current events and policies, coach Keaton Ramm said in an email.

Ramm, a math teacher at Park High School, said 19 schools from around Montana will be in attendance.

On Thursday, Ramm helped coach Summer Melin, a 15-year-old sophomore at

Park High, as Melin rehearsed lines for her humorous oral interpretation act. Melin read lines from the "Junie B. Jones" book series, which she credited with helping her to read as a young child.

"Everyone is doing the same ridiculous thing," Melin said of her humorous



interpretation, which focuses on her character as a kindergarten student at recess.

Ramm watched Melin's rehearsal several times, advising Melin on her interpretation of the book in her tone, facial inflection and breathing.

"We're family," said Melin



of her teammates and coaches, Ramm and Addie Pittman.

The family is growing, from 11 students last year to 17 this year, Ramm said.

"We are extremely excited to be able to support the continued strength of these programs around the state," Ramm said.

Melin and her 16 teammates participate in the sport sanctioned through the Montana High School Association for no school credits, simply because they want to.

"It helps me get out of my

See **Tournament** Page 3



# OBITUARIES

## Lawrence (Larry) B. Link

Larry passed away surrounded by loved ones at Barrett Hospital in Dillon, Montana, on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020.

He was born in Los Angeles, California on April 1, 1933 and moved back to Montana with his parents when he was two. Growing up with Yellowstone Park in his backyard, Larry learned to appreciate the natural beauty of Montana and loved hunting, hiking, camping, and fishing. He attended elementary school in Gardiner and graduated from Park County High School in Livingston in 1951 as senior class president. He served in the U.S. Army as a Military Policeman in post-war Berlin, Germany.



He met his wife Darleen in high school, and they were married shortly after his military service. The young couple moved to Helena when he was given a job examining unemployment applications immediately after applying himself. After that he was a bookkeeper for a construction firm before becoming the Director of Financial Aid at Western Montana College. He was always learning and attended Helena Business College, LaSalle Extension University, Idaho State University, and Western Montana College while he was working full time. His hard work was rewarded when he received his CPA license in 1979. After retiring from the college in 1985 he practiced as a CPA in Dillon until he was 80. He was well known and loved in his community and took pride in growing the earliest daffodils and tomatoes, and baking the best raspberry rhubarb pie in Dillon. He is a life member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Dillon Elks.

He is predeceased by his father, Edward Lawrence Link; mother, Beryl (Bishop) Link; and wife of 61 years, Darleen (Eastep) Link. He is survived by their daughter, Dr. Laureen Link; son-in-law, Dr. Jeff Cooper; and grandchildren, Brian Cooper, Tara Cooper, and Kelly Cooper of Redding, California. He is also survived by their son, Garry Link; daughter-in-law, Linda Link; and grandchildren, Nick Bosworth and Wyatt Link of Pacific City, Oregon. He is also predeceased by his brother-in-law, Donald Eastep; and survived by his sister-in-law, Mimi Eastep and their families.

Brundage Funeral Home in Dillon, Montana is overseeing cremation and services. His memorial service will be held at the Saint James Episcopal Church on Jan. 18, 2020 at 11 a.m., in Dillon, followed by a luncheon reception at the Guild Hall. Burial with military honors will be at the Mountain View Cemetery in Livingston on Jan. 19, 2020 at 1 p.m.

# Montana man pleads not guilty to new homicide charge

MISSOULA (AP) — A Montana man has pleaded not guilty to a new homicide charge in a fatal shooting where two people died and two people were wounded, including a Montana Highway Patrol trooper.

Johnathan Albert Bertsch, 28, now faces two counts of deliberate homicide in the deaths of Julie Blanchard and Shelley Hays and two counts of attempted deliberate homicide in the March shooting, Missoulian reported Thursday.

Bertsch was originally charged with one count of deliberate homicide in the death of 28-year-old Hays before being charged with another count when 52-year-old Blanchard later died in June from gunshot wounds sustained during the shooting, prosecutors said.

Bertsch allegedly shot up a vehicle carrying three people and later ambushed a state trooper searching for him shortly after midnight, authorities said.

Investigators reviewed security footage from a tavern on the night of the shooting, authorities said. Julie Blanchard had arrived to pick up her son and his

friend Hays while Bertsch was there to speak with his father, court records said. Both were leaving at about the same time, records said.

“Before leaving the parking lot, the red pickup driven by Julie briefly stopped and emitted an extremely large and dense cloud of diesel exhaust,” prosecutors said. “After the cloud of diesel exhaust enveloped the vehicle driven by Jonathan, he abruptly pulled out and followed the pickup.”

Blanchard told officers that a white SUV had followed her pickup, began flashing its lights and then shots were fired, authorities said. Hays died at the scene and Blanchard died weeks later.

The deaths were ruled homicides, coroners said.

Montana Highway Patrol Trooper Wade Palmer was shot in the head, face and neck early the next day near Evaro after reporting he had spotted the suspect's vehicle, authorities said.

Palmer is now recovering at home after treatment at University of Utah Hospital in Salt Lake City, authorities said.

Bertsch is scheduled for trial in August.

# Avalanche traps delivery truck, closes Wyoming pass

JACKSON, Wyo. (AP) — A busy mountain road in western Wyoming is back open after two avalanches closed it for about 10 hours, including one that trapped a delivery box truck.

Driver Riley Doyle was alone in the truck and unhurt in the first slide on Teton Pass around midday Thursday on Wyoming Highway 22 near the Idaho line.

Buckrail reports that while highway crews were responding to that avalanche, another one was triggered nearby. No one was caught in that slide.

The avalanche that trapped Doyle's truck was 150 feet wide and 2-3 feet deep, Wyoming Department

of Transportation spokeswoman Stephanie Harsha said.

Over a foot of snow had fallen over parts of the Teton Range before the slides. More snow is forecast for the area Friday night before spreading along western Wyoming, The National Weather Service said.

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# ANNIVERSARY

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# BRIEFS

- **Sacajawea Audubon Society** is hosting a special screening of “Epic Yellowstone: Life On The Wing” at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 11 in the Dulcie Theatre at the Shane Lalani Center for the Arts. “Life On The Wing” is part of a four-part documentary series on Yellowstone National Park, filmed over a 3-year period by Bozeman-based Grizzly Creek Films. The screening will be followed by a question and answer session with some of the film's crew. Admission is free but a donation of \$5 is requested.
- **Beaver Creek Community Hall** will hold a potluck lunch at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 12 at 651 Swingley Rd. The public is invited to attend.
- **The trustees for Park County Rural Fire District #1** will hold a regular monthly meeting on Monday, Jan. 13. A complete agenda will be available Thursday, Jan. 9. The meeting and the agenda will be at 304 E. Park St. in Livingston.
- **The Gardiner Resort**

**Area District** will hold its regular monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 14 at the Gardiner Visitor Center. The public is welcome to attend. For more information, visit [www.gardinerresorttax.com](http://www.gardinerresorttax.com).

- **The Park County branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW)** will hold its monthly meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 15 at the Mint Bar and Grill. Guest speaker Karen Reinhart, curator of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum, will

speak on “Montana Women — Making Due and Making a Difference.” AAUW welcomes current members and the public. For more information, contact Lisa Harrel at (651) 270-4168.

- **Friends of the Library** will hold its annual meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 20 at the Livingston-Park County Public Library. During the meeting, officers will be elected for the coming year. After, author Russell Rowland will speak on “Rethinking the Western Narrative.”

# CALENDAR

- FRIDAY**
- Roller Skate Night, Civic Center, 5 p.m.-9 p.m.
  - American Legion Post 23 Burger Night, American Legion, 5 p.m.
  - Pinochle, Park County Senior Center, 6:45 p.m.
  - Celebrate Recovery, Living Hope Church, 7 p.m. Call 223-2791.
  - 449 AA meeting, Loaves and Fishes, corner of West Clark and South Main streets, 8 p.m.
- SATURDAY**
- Beginner's Mind Meditation Group, Yoga Room at the Shane Center, 10-11 a.m.
  - Al-Anon, Vince Grant

- Live and Let Livingston Vegan Potluck, Park County Senior Center, 4:30 p.m.
  - Free Family Movie Night, Gardiner Baptist Church, 6 p.m.
  - Sunday Night AA meeting, Vince Grant Hall, 7 p.m.
- MONDAY**
- Open Walking, Civic Center, 8 a.m.
  - Tai Chi, Civic Center, 8 a.m.
  - Learning Partners Adult Education Program, 112 W. Lewis St., 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
  - Tot Time, Civic Center, 10 a.m.
  - Pickleball, Civic Center, 2 p.m.
- Angel Line board meeting, West Room, City-County Complex, 3 p.m.
  - Dual Recovery Anonymous, Peer Solutions Drop-In Center, 104 W. Clark St., 4-5 p.m. Call 222-3332.
  - Park County Al-Anon meeting — 12 step and 12 traditions, Vince Grant Hall, 5:30 p.m. Call 223-4856.
  - Livingston Women's Group AA Big Book Study, Vince Grant Hall, 1306 E. Park St. 6 p.m.
  - Knights of Columbus, St. Mary's Catholic Church, St. Joseph's Hall, 7 p.m.
  - As Bill Sees It AA meeting, Vince Grant Hall, 1306 E. Park St., 8 p.m.

# Record amount is paid for livestock killed by predators

BOZEMAN (AP) — The state of Montana has made more payments to ranchers for livestock killed by predators in 2019 than any previous year.

The Montana Livestock Loss Board has paid ranchers more than \$247,000, The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported Thursday.

The claims were made on more than 360 animals killed by mountain lions, grizzly bears or wolves.

Officials said 2019 was the third consecutive year a new

record was set for the payouts.

Madison County had the most losses with 44 animals killed, officials said.

The number of losses to grizzly bears almost doubled the losses to wolves, board Executive Director George Edwards said.

The number of confirmed livestock deaths is rising, and Edwards predicted the trend will continue.

The Montana Legislature approved an increase in funding for the Livestock Loss Board from \$200,000 to \$300,000 in 2019.

The statistics tracked by the loss board since 2008 include the county location and type of animal killed and the predator responsible, but that only provides a snapshot of the state's losses, Edwards said.

Livestock killed by one of the three listed predators must be inspected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to be eligible for market rate payouts, Edwards said.

Some ranchers do not file claims, he said.

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BUSINESS



Body Shop Training owner Sally Bandstra, left, is pictured with her daughter, manager and trainer Sadie Ropp, who holds her 1-year-old daughter Paisley Ropp, at the fitness gym on Tuesday.

Enterprise photos by Nate Howard

New fitness gym opens in Livingston

By Dwight Harriman  
Enterprise Staff Writer

Need an exercise fix but your facility is closed? No problem, just press your fingerprint on the front door lock print reader, step in, and get started.

That's one of the features that a new Livingston fitness gym, Body Shop Training, offers its members.

Body Shop Training opened Jan. 5 at 224 S. C St., just down the street from the old Lincoln School.

The business is a family affair. It's owned by Sally Bandstra. Her daughter, Sadie Ropp, works as manager and trainer, while her other daughter, Abby Bandstra, also works as a trainer.

Ropp described the facility as "a gym that has a little bit for everyone."

It features treadmills, ellipticals, rowers, a SkiErg ski machine, recumbent bikes, a weightlifting area (with everything from basic weightlifting gear to a cable machine) and an artificial turf cross training area on which a variety of gear and equipment can be used.

Like the fingerprint entry,



The front of Body Shop Training, which is located at 224 S. C St. in Livingston.

the touch of modern extends to the equipment, which is all brand-new. Most of it is made by Rogue, a made-in-the USA company that is one of the top-rated in the fitness industry, Ropp said. And the treadmills are Bluetooth enabled if you like to do your exercise to your favorite music or programs.

The turf area is designed for a wide variety of activities where people can push and pull sleds, jump or step onto Plyo boxes, work battle ropes, do kettle bells or work out with various types of exercise balls.

"We want to teach people how to be creative," Ropp said.

The gym has bathrooms and a changing room, but no showers.

There is a gated area for kids where exercising parents can keep an eye on their children.

"Our main goal here is to be a family friendly place where people look forward to coming," Ropp said.

All skill levels are welcome.

There are workout instructions posted in each section for people who don't know

what to do in a gym. The facility also offers personal training classes and group workouts, which are covered by membership.

Membership costs range from one month — \$40; to four months — \$37/month with automatic monthly withdrawals or a one-time payment of \$144; to one year — \$34/month with automatic monthly withdrawals or a one-time payment in full of \$396. There is a one-time \$30 joining fee for membership.

There is also the option of a \$7 charge for a drop-in visit, or for a training and workout class.

January hours for Body Shop Training, when staff will be present, are 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4:30 to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday; and 9 to noon on Saturday. Fingerprint-entry hours for members are 5 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., seven days a week.

In February, the gym plans to change hours to cover the whole day with staff present.

For more information on Body Shop Training, visit [bodyshoptraininggym.com](http://bodyshoptraininggym.com), visit it on Facebook, or call 222-1653.

Police: Local man faces charges after found with suspected meth

By Justin Post  
Enterprise Staff Writer

A 39-year-old Livingston man is facing felony drug charges after police say he was found with suspected methamphetamine in downtown Livingston.

Justin Levi Hinton was charged with eight counts, three of which are felonies, following his Dec. 10 arrest in Livingston.

Hinton is scheduled to appear on Monday before Judge Brenda Gilbert of Montana's Sixth Judicial District Court in Livingston.

He is charged with two felony counts of criminal possession of dangerous drugs, two misdemeanor counts of criminal possession of drug paraphernalia, a felony count of criminal possession with intent to distribute, and misdemeanor counts of careless driving, second offense operating a vehicle without liability insurance and driving a motor vehicle while privileges to do so are suspended or revoked.

Police began investigating on Dec. 10 after a detective with the Park County Sheriff's Office observed what appeared to be a "hand-to-hand" transaction between Hinton and a woman known to the Missouri River Drug Task Force as a drug user, charging documents said.

The detective parked nearby the residence on Garnier Avenue where the alleged exchange happened and reported that Hinton, who was driving a red Jeep Cherokee, was there for less than a minute before leaving, documents said.

An officer with the Livingston Police Department was several blocks behind the Jeep when it left the Garnier Avenue residence, documents said.

The Jeep turned west onto Park Street without signaling and struck the curb, running over it as it turned, documents said. A police officer turned on his emergency lights and attempted to stop the vehicle, which was briefly out of sight, documents said.

Law enforcement located the Jeep parked behind the Murray Hotel and Bar with a dog inside and still running, documents said.

Hinton and a woman believed to be his passenger were found by law enforcement near the rear entrance of the bar, and Hinton advised that he had been driving the Jeep and that it didn't have insurance, documents said.

Law enforcement placed Hinton in handcuffs and searched him, finding a bag containing a white crystal substance that appeared to be methamphetamine, documents said.

Law enforcement processed the evidence and determined there were six small jeweler bags each containing 3.8 grams of meth, for a total of 22.8 grams, as well as 42 jeweler bags and two cut straws believed to be used to measure out drugs, documents said.

"Defendant was very upset and attempted to hit his head against the hood" of an officer's patrol vehicle, charging documents said.

Law enforcement later searched Hinton's vehicle on a warrant and found a glass pipe used for smoking methamphetamine under the parking brake, documents said.

A case worker with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, meanwhile, visited the Garnier Avenue residence to follow up on the detective's complaint that a woman at the address purchased methamphetamine "while currently having an infant and young child," charging documents said.

The woman became irate, refused to cooperate and told the case worker she had never purchased methamphetamine in her life, documents said.

The caseworker requested that the woman and a man who was with her report to Southwest Chemical Dependence for urinalysis testing, documents said.

IN COURT

Following are proceedings before Park County Justice Court Judge Linda Cantin:

TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

Cody Viers, 37, of Livingston, pleaded guilty Jan. 7 to no insurance. He was

fined \$285. He was cited on Dec. 21.

Tanya Shuman, 43, of Wilsall, pleaded guilty Jan. 7 to expired registration, no vehicle insurance and a basic rule violation. She was fined \$235. She was cited on Dec. 11.

Isaiah Borquez, 22, of Livingston, pleaded guilty Jan. 7 to no valid driver's license. He was fined \$585 with \$200 suspended. He was cited on Dec. 28.

POSSESSION

Coby Richards, 17, of Belgrade, pleaded guilty Jan. 7 to possession of drug paraphernalia. He was fined \$385. He was cited on Dec. 28.

BURNING WITHOUT A PERMIT

Raymond Peine, 32, of Belgrade, pleaded guilty Jan. 7 to burning without a permit. He was fined \$285 with \$100 suspended. He was cited on Jan. 1.

Tournament, from Page 1

comfort zone," said Melin, who explained she had been nervous speaking in front of groups.

The tournament will be organized into three preliminary rounds and a top eight final round for each category, Ramm said.

The tournament requires 60 to 70 judges for the Saturday event, and Ramm said she's in need of many more volunteers. Judges can choose a time slot or volunteer the entire event. Training for the judges along with breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Anyone interested in judging the tournament can contact Ramm at [Keaton.Ramm@Livingston.k12.mt.us](mailto:Keaton.Ramm@Livingston.k12.mt.us) or sign up at [bit.ly/JudgeAtPark](http://bit.ly/JudgeAtPark). Training will be provided.

"Students have worked hard all season to prepare, and have poured their soul

into sharing their passion," Ramm said.

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2020 March for Life

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GUEST EDITORIAL

What’s next for Trump after the death of Soleimani

It may be true that no good deed goes unpunished, but only the ever-active Donald Trump could take it upon himself to punish his own good deed. The good deed was ordering the elimination of Iran’s Qasem Soleimani, who as head of Iran’s Quds Force spent his years deploying one strategy: Export the 1979 revolution by killing people. The dead included Americans, Iraqis, Iranians, Europeans, Syrians and others across the Middle East. In the days before a drone hit his car, Soleimani was planning more death. President Trump had a good couple of days after the strike. His statement on the action was measured and direct. Despite criticism, Mr. Trump kept quiet, letting the action speak for itself. Still, it was a major decision by the President involving the nation’s interests, and naturally his supporters across the country wondered what would come next. What came next was something familiar: a Trumpian crack-back at his critics—in Iraq. Though Mr. Trump kept the lid on Sunday as pundits and Democrats howled across social media and the morning shows, he apparently couldn’t

abide a largely symbolic vote in Iraq’s parliament—most Sunnis and Kurds didn’t show up—to expel U.S. troops from the country. Aboard Air Force One Sunday evening, Mr. Trump threatened to “put very big sanctions on Iraq.” His twin threat to bomb Iran’s “cultural sites” quickly devolved into a debate about the Geneva Conventions, with some Republicans separating themselves from the remarks. We think the President’s strike against Soleimani was justified on the merits, as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo spent Sunday morning explaining on TV. A concurrent reality, however, is that we are starting a presidential election. To win, the Democrats desperately need to be able to run against Mr. Trump personally, as Mike Bloomberg’s ad blitz is making clear. If the President allows his Soleimani decision to look like a one-and-done event, with no follow-up beyond tweets and rhetorical barrages against the Iranian and Iraqi people, he’ll give his opponents an opening. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren may be on the dismissable fringe of Democratic foreign policy, but mod-

erates such as Joe Biden, Amy Klobuchar and Mr. Bloomberg will seek to buttress their “return to normalcy” argument by saying Mr. Trump’s post-Soleimani behavior shows he is too impetuous and volatile to entrust with national security. They know their best chance lies with driving voter unease about Mr. Trump as Commander in Chief. Mr. Trump’s obligation is to prove them wrong. Isolationists in his party will counsel Mr. Trump to wash his hands of the post-Soleimani world, but that isn’t possible now. With that decision, President Trump has put powerful forces in play in the Middle East and beyond. If events now spin in dangerous ways, such as if the U.S. leaves Iraq in a huff, Mr. Trump will not be able to blame everyone else. He should be reassuring Iraq that the U.S. is there to help preserve its sovereignty, not to exploit it. The Iranian mullahs’ threats against U.S. citizens may or may not be bluster. Their announced intention to abandon limits on uranium enrichment under the Obama nuclear deal isn’t much more than they were already

doing. But it is meant to drive a wedge between the U.S. and Europe while they wait for Mr. Trump’s successor in 2021. Since pulling out of that pact in 2018, Mr. Trump has developed an increasingly strong hand with a “maximum pressure” campaign built around severe economic sanctions on Iran. The mullahs are unloved at home and have few real outside allies. Their cat’s paw, Qasem Soleimani, is gone. The opportunity now exists to shape a coalition of allies, and perhaps even a few serious Democrats, in support of additional policy initiatives on Iran. We would not rule out proposing talks with the Iranian regime about negotiating an end game to its self-depleting 40-year struggle with the West. Targeting Soleimani was a bold act that other Presidents probably would not have attempted to restore a measure of deterrence against an enemy state. Most Americans appreciated its show of strength. But now Mr. Trump has to show he can manage the consequences in a way that proves it was a wise decision in America’s interests. — Wall Street Journal

Energizer Bunny Biden Spooks the left

Throughout this unsettling conflict with Iran, Joe Biden has stood out as a calming Democratic voice, speaking of the stakes and challenges with deep knowledge of for-



Syndicated columnist

FROMA HARROP

eign policy. Just another reason for activists on the left backing Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren to lose their minds. The news for them hasn’t been great of late. Biden is now tied with or close to Sanders for first place in Iowa and New Hampshire, according to the most recent reputable poll. Warren polls behind Pete Buttigieg in both places. Sanders and Warren were supposed to triumph in these states, where the Democratic electorate tends toward very liberal white people. Biden also raised nearly \$23 million in the fourth quarter, the best haul since he entered the campaign. Sanders or Warren may still win, but with just over four weeks before the Iowa caucuses, it doesn’t look like these contests will be any kind of romp for either of them. Then comes South Carolina, where a heavily African American electorate still seems to favor Biden by a large margin.

Thus, the attacks from the left flank. A group called Indivisible is now going after Biden’s immigration plan for holding that a pathway to citizenship would include an ability to speak English. That doesn’t sound wholly unreasonable. Such a requirement was included in the 2013 comprehensive immigration reform bill, which Sanders and Warren both voted for. The Progressive Change Campaign Committee is slamming Biden’s electability argument. Co-founder Adam Green said that many Democrats “are under the mistaken impression that Biden is safe or electable when he’s the least electable option we have.” Almost every poll contradicts that statement, but if Green says so ... PCCC has also accused Biden of giving the impression that “electability means

old, white, male, and conservative,” according to Politico. Going after white males is sure going to wow the voters in Wisconsin. In his long career, Biden has cast votes that I, too, wish he hadn’t. I especially disliked his stance on bankruptcy reform. But then both Sanders and Warren have taken regrettable votes benefiting economic interests at home. Sanders voted to fund the F-35 fighter jet boondoggle, and Warren led the fight to remove a tax on medical devices -- money that helped support the Affordable Care Act. Attaching the label “progressive” tends to be in the eyes of the attacker. I base such judgments on the issue involved. Biden has been very progressive on the fight against global warming. In 1986, when almost no one was talking about this, he introduced a bill ordering the president to set up a task force on climate change. It was eventually passed and funded. As vice president, Biden was Barack Obama’s point man on setting limits on coal plant and tailpipe emissions. He also led the charge in bringing the United States into the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

Biden’s current proposal is to spend \$1.7 trillion over a decade and slap a tax on greenhouse gases. His goal to bring carbon emissions to net zero by 2050 matches the European Union’s. And so it’s not totally clear why progressive environmentalists in the Sunrise Movement would hassle Biden at campaign events. Are they ignorant of his record? They’re obviously working for his political opponents. The group is attached to Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and her Green New Deal, and AOC is attached to Sanders. Former Florida Sen. Bill Nelson hit the nail in explaining the latest anti-Biden fusillade from the left. “This is their last attempt to try to derail the Energizer Bunny ... and they can’t figure out why they can’t stop him,” Nelson told Politico. “So they’re throwing the kitchen sink at him.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: Follow Froma Harrop on Twitter @FromaHarrop. She can be reached at fharrop@gmail.com. To find out more about Harrop, visit the Creators webpage at www.creators.com.



IN THE MAIL

Hold onto your seat

Editor: As we enter into a new year, a new decade, and an increasingly apprehensive future, please take a moment to reconnoiter our ethical and moral duty to future generations. Despite a polarized political arena today, I suspect future generations will reflect back on this time with an understanding of hesitation, apathy and an intellectually cloistered social order swallowed up by xenophobic fear mongering and division. That said, should anyone be convinced Mexico will pay for the wall and the POTUS is, as he states, “the chosen one” who won’t have time to play golf, please consider ending your perusal here. Regrettably, our bloviating Warlord in Chief would rather marvel at the likes of Joe McCarthy and Vladimir Putin than any respectable law-abiding democratic official. Generally unhinged and arrogant, his belligerence bolsters toxic government policies and foreign affairs to the point of disbelief and embarrassment. At the foundation of current foreign and domestic policy resides the hostile and parasitic machinery that compromises the well-being and security of all Americans. More recently, the concern has been WWII, involving Iran. Or, as Albert Einstein once said, “I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.” The danger is bonafide. At fault is a perceptible cult of ignorance that has spread like a virus through much of America, emanating from a poor understanding of history, the anesthetic effects of social media, and the subversion of our educational and labor structure. In contrast to the design of our Constitution, religious doctrine and greed have been given priority over

science, moral values and democracy. Additionally, a refusal to abide by the Constitution, acknowledging three branches of balanced government as designed by our founding fathers. Americans have become euthanized to the recurrent lies, distractions and corruption of our current administration. History will provide hope. Like many of his loyal followers, our pompous POTUS may likely be unemployed or in jail by the end of 2021. Yet, since natural selection has not rid us of the rising quagmire of ignorance and greed, thinking Americans must rise up, being diligent in an effort of correcting an increasingly dangerous trend. Another most pressing issue for 2020, and many years to come, is the climate emergency enveloping this planet. There is valid rationale why Greta Thunberg was chosen Person of the Year by Time magazine. Not only is she correct in her assessment, sincere and steadfast in her viewpoint, she also realizes the youth of our planet are most at risk, given the data driven climate crisis.. So, as Mother Theresa stated, “Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.” Hold on to your seat. Gerald D. Cole Paradise Valley

Column submissions

The Enterprise welcomes guest columns from Park County or area residents on issues of local interest. If you would like to submit a column for consideration, email it to Enterprise Managing Editor Justin Post at jpost@livent.net.

Letters Policy

The Enterprise welcomes letters to the editor expressing opinions on any issue of a public interest to our Park County readership. But in order to be published, the letters must: • Include the writer’s first and last name, home address and daytime phone number. Addresses and phone numbers may be used for verification, but only the name and hometown will be published. • Be kept short and, if possible deal with one topic. The Enterprise reserves the right to edit for length, taste and libel considerations. Preference will be given to letters from the Park County area. Letters from outside the area will be considered if, in the view of the editor, they are of sufficient interest to our local readers. The address for emailed letters is enterprise@livent.net.

THE LIVINGSTON ENTERPRISE

A Yellowstone Newspaper

John Sullivan, Editor and Publisher • Justin Post, Managing Editor

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# Searchers find third body buried by Idaho avalanche

**By The Associated Press**

Buried under about 10 feet of snow after an avalanche this week at an Idaho ski resort, Bill Fuzak made peace with his predicament and prepared for death.

“I had already relegated myself to the inevitable as I knew the air would not last long,” Fuzak, 62, wrote on a public Facebook page for skiers. “I’m really surprised how calm I felt but knew there was nothing I could do but wait and pray.”

His prayers were answered. Fuzak became one of four survivors extricated from Tuesday’s avalanche at the Silver Mountain Resort near Kellogg, Idaho. Two other skiers were killed, and the body of a third skier was recovered on Thursday. The resort remained closed Thursday.

Fuzak, a skier who lives in the nearby Spokane, Washington, area, said he was entombed in the snow for about 50 minutes, much longer than most avalanche survivors.

Unable to move anything but his right hand, he cleared snow from his face and mouth. At some point, he passed out.

“The first thing I remember when coming back to consciousness was a group of rescuers cheering that a survivor had been located: me,” Fuzak wrote in what he called a “personal summary” on Facebook about the ordeal.

Fuzak wrote that he was among a group of skiers and snowboarders he knew, heading down Wardner Peak on a difficult run called 16-to-1 about 11 a.m.

“The snow started to fracture

above us as well as below us and the slide started to propagate and accelerate,” he wrote.

Fuzak then fell and said he started “swimming to try and stay on top of the slide.”

The slide eventually stopped. Completely buried, Fuzak managed to punch a hole through the snow that let air flow in.

“Within seconds, another, more powerful slide hit and buried my breathing hole under what felt like feet of snow,” Fuzak wrote. “At this point I tried to calm my breathing and conserve air.”

He passed out and then woke up to cheers from the rescuers and a ski patrol member holding his hand.

“My hands and feet were extremely cold but I was uninjured, breathing and moving well,” Fuzak wrote. “I was more than ready to get out of my encasement; afraid that a 3rd slide would bury me again.”

The avalanche came after the ski resort in the Idaho Panhandle received heavy snow and resort crews used explosives the morning of the slide to try to reduce avalanche threats on Wardner Peak, where all of the runs are rated as difficult.

Fuzak and three other skiers who were not identified were rescued, but two skiers died. They were identified by the Shoshone County Sheriff’s Office on Thursday as Carl Humphreys, 58, of Liberty Lake, Washington, and Scott Parsons, 46, of Spokane Valley, Washington.

The resort did not realize that another skier was missing until a day after the avalanche, when it



The Coeur d’Alene Fire Department K-9 Team responds to Silver Mountain for an avalanche in Kellogg, Idaho. Officials are searching for a person who was skiing at an Idaho resort near where avalanches killed two skiers and injured five others.

received a call Wednesday morning from a concerned family member unable to get in touch with that person.

That prompted searchers to resume their hunt on Wednesday and Thursday.

Shoshone County Sheriff Mike Gunderson told KHQ-TV that a third body buried under the avalanche was found Thursday by searchers in a helicopter and identified as the person reported missing on Wednesday. He said there were no other reports of missing persons on the mountain.

During the winter of 2018-19, 25 people died in avalanches in the United States, The Spokesman-Review newspaper reported. People who are buried in snow for more than 30 minutes have a lower chance of survival than those rescued more quickly, the newspaper said.



A desert tortoise at its new home in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve east of Leeds, Utah.

## Over 16K comment on highway set for desert tortoise habitat

ST. GEORGE, Utah (AP) — More than 16,000 public comments have been submitted for a proposal on whether to allow a highway to be built through a protected Mojave desert tortoise habitat in southern Utah, federal officials said.

The proposed four-lane road has drawn criticism from conservationists, because the corridor would run through land set aside to protect the tortoise.

The Bureau of Land Management opened the public comment period last month and will now go through all of the comments before releasing the draft environmental impact statement, The Spectrum newspaper reported Wednesday.

“We make sure we reach out to local neighbors and reach out nationally since we manage public lands for the nation,” BLM spokesperson Christian

Venhuizen said. “We do our best to be a good neighbor, our local public is very important to us.”

BLM is not permitted to say where the people submitting comments were from, but there was a “mix” of people

who submitted comments locally and nationally, Venhuizen said. Details on the nature of the comments were not dis-

closed. The draft is the first step in the year-long National Environmental Policy Act, officials said.

# Bruce Lay

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### “I Sell Real Estate”

# MARKETS

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST						
Name	Div	Yld	PE	Last	Daily Chg	YTD %Chg
AT&T Inc	2.08	5.4	17	38.79	-.01	-.7
AclarisTh	...	...	...	2.21	+35	+170
AMD	...	...	...	48.44	-.54	+5.6
Alibaba	...	53	223.72	+194	+5.5	
Ambev	.05	1.1	7	4.63	+0.5	-.6
AnteroRes	1.00	41.9	5	2.39	-.01	-16.3
Apple Inc	3.08	1.0	28	310.70	+1.07	+5.8
AppGenTc	...	...	...	7.75	-1.52	+71.5
AuroraC	...	...	...	1.69	-.18	-22.0
B2gold g	...	...	50	3.99	+20	-.6
BcoSantSA	.21	5.2	...	4.10	-.05	-1.0
BkofAm	.72	2.1	12	34.85	-.18	-1.1
BedBath	.68	4.7	...	14.33	-.88	-17.2
BeyondMt n	...	...	...	95.83	+5.58	+26.8
Billilili	...	...	53	21.76	-1.41	+16.8
CallionPet	...	...	9	4.29	-.07	-11.2
ChesEng	...	...	1	7.4	-.05	-10.7
Cisco	1.40	3.0	20	47.45	+13	-.3
ClevCliffs	.24	3.1	2	7.71	-.05	-7.6
CocaCola	1.60	2.9	34	55.85	+51	+9
Comcast	.84	1.9	22	45.21	-.31	+.5
CountrP	...	...	...	3.33	+2.34	+257.5
CronosGp	...	...	7	6.85	-.21	-10.8
DenburyR	...	...	...	1.30	-.09	-8.2
Dermira	...	...	...	19.21	-.87	+26.7
ElancoAn	...	...	...	28.81	+7.7	-2.2
EnCana g	.07	1.6	7	4.33	-.13	-7.8
EnLinkLLC	1.11	21.5	7	5.17	-.37	-15.7
Ericsson	.11	1.3	...	8.69	-.19	-1.1
ExxonMbl	3.48	5.0	16	69.41	-.35	-.5
Facebook	...	...	...	41	+219.44	+11.4
FordM	.60	6.4	7	9.33	+0.7	+3
FprtMcM	2.0	1.5	9	13.04	+0.8	-.6
FuelCell rs	...	...	...	2.17	-.03	-13.7
GenElec	.04	.3	...	11.77	-.14	+5.4
Gerdaur	.02	.4	...	5.11	+13	+4.4
GrubHub	...	...	...	52.35	-3.38	+7.6
GuardHlt n	...	...	...	.36	+63.6	
HeclaM	.01	.3	...	3.14	+0.7	-.74
IQIYI	...	...	...	23.78	-.74	+12.6
Infosys	...	...	...	21	10.69	+21
Intel	1.26	2.1	20	59.31	+0.1	-.9
ItauUnH	...	...	...	8.53	-.04	-.6.7
JD.com	...	...	...	71	39.01	+11
JP.MorgCh	3.20	2.3	14	136.62	-.82	-2.0
KindMorg	1.00	4.6	21	21.05	+10	+2.3
L.Brands	1.20	6.2	7	19.50	+54	+7.6
Lipocine	...	...	...	.47	+0.6	+22.6
LucikinCf n	...	...	...	43.58	-.79	+10.7
Macys	1.51	8.5	6	17.68	-.03	+4.0
MarathonO	2.0	8.5	...	13.21	-.24	-2.7
MatlonaS	...	...	...	1.50	-.42	-34.1
MicroTn	...	...	...	56.94	-.38	+5.9
NektarTh	2.04	1.3	32	162.37	+28	+3.0
NokiaCp	.19	4.7	...	7	26.25	+4.6
NortonLife	.50	1.9	12	26.44	-.25	+3.6
Nvidia	.64	.3	57	245.34	+2.32	+4.3
OasisPet	...	...	...	3.24	+13	-.8

## Keep an EYE on the MARKETS...

...check The Enterprise Markets every day to keep track of the stock markets, mutual funds and other financial news.

Stock Market Indexes									
<div> Dow</div> <div>28,916.26    -40.64</div>			<div><div> NASDAQ</div></div> <div>9,211.23    +780</div>			<div><div> S&amp;P 500</div></div> <div>3,276.45    +1.75</div>			
52-Week						Net		YTD	12-mo
High	Low	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	%Chg	%Chg	%Chg	
28,988.01	23,301.59	Dow Industrials	28,916.26	-40.64	-14	+1.32	+20.50		
11,226.54	9,143.17	Dow Transportation	11,022.74	-3.08	-0.3	+1.11	+14.52		
882.61	688.44	Dow Utilities	874.33	+1.68	+19	-5.5	+22.48		
14,004.42	11,502.26	NYSE Composite	13,999.94	+2.29	+0.2	+6.2	+18.16		
9,215.95	6,741.40	Nasdaq Composite	9,211.23	+780	+0.8	+2.66	+32.13		
4,352.14	3,168.96	Nasdaq Global Sel	4,349.06	+2.71	+0.6	+2.66	+32.88		
1,466.76	1,122.38	S&P 100	1,467.23	+7.6	+0.5	+1.74	+27.66		
3,275.58	2,524.56	S&P 500	3,276.45	+1.75	+0.5	+1.41	+26.20		
2,073.72	1,680.52	S&P MidCap	2,056.73	-1.32	-0.6	-3.9	+16.62		
33,347.18	26,048.54	Wilshire 5000	33,344.46	+11.25	+0.3	+1.39	+24.16		

Market Summary											
Gainers (\$2 or more)				Losers (\$2 or more)				Actives (\$1 or more)			
Name	Last	Chg	%chg	Name	Last	Chg	%chg	Name	Vol (000s)	Last	Chg
CountrP	3.33	+2.34	+235.9	PortolaPh	14.95	-9.79	-39.6	SorrentoTo	42591	4.83	+14.2
SorrentoTh	4.83	+1.42	+41.6	Infinox rs	3.95	-1.20	-23.3	GenElec	35181	11.77	-1.4
OrigIn h	9.60	+2.72	+38.4	SixFlags	35.63	-8.13	-18.6	AMD	31136	48.44	-54
UltraGeny	58.64	+12.91	+29.5	AppGenTc	7.75	-15.2	-16.4	CountrP	30749	3.33	+24.34
BioXcelT	15.08	+2.82	+23.0	SportsWhs	6.78	-1.20	-15.0	Apple Inc	25254	310.70	+107
NektarTh	26.25	+4.66	+21.6	ArIra rs	28.80	-4.60	-13.8	Dermaira	25058	19.21	+87
VenusCn rs	6.75	+1.20	+21.6	QumInt	2.95	-4.7	-13.8	TrilliumTh	25026	3.11	+22
Ecmoho n	8.44	+4.41	+21.1	BeyondA	5.55	-7.5	-11.9	LuciraCf n	25008	43.58	-79
AclarisTh	2.21	+3.45	+18.9	TurnPttH n	5.18	-7.20	-11.0	AukonC	23863	1.69	-18
Microbot	13.19	+2.09	+18.8	Chembio	4.33	-53	-10.9	Infosys	23604	10.69	+21





This image taken from a video on Wednesday shows a light in the sky which appears to show the Ukrainian jetliner plane on fire and crashing into ground.

## Verified videos show plane in Iran struck

LONDON (AP) — In the pitch black, pre-dawn sky on the outskirts of the Iranian capital Tehran, a tiny fast-moving light can be seen racing up through the trees, as someone films from the ground. Then there is a flash of light as it seems to collide with something in the air.

It is the ill-fated Ukrainian International airliner which had taken off Wednesday just hours after Iran had fired missiles at U.S. bases in Iraq in retaliation for the slaying of its top military man, Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

Western leaders have said the plane seemed to have been unintentionally brought down by a surface-to-air missile near Tehran. Iran denies that a missile was to blame for the crash.

Videos verified by The Associated Press show the final seconds of the jet and what likely brought it down, killing all 176 people on board.

One video seems to show the impact. Buildings can be seen from ground level below the darkened sky as the tiny light arches upward,

then the flash. The scene is silent, except for a dog barking nearby. Then 10 seconds later, there is a frightening boom, like loud thunder.

A second video appears to show the plane on fire and crashing. A white blaze plummets downward across the black sky, sometimes letting off sparks. Then it disappears behind trees, and a huge fireball lights up the sky as it hits the earth.

Someone off-camera says in Farsi “The plane has caught fire. Shahriar. Ferdosieh. In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. God please help us. Call the fire department!” The names are two suburbs of Tehran near the airport.

Another clip, filmed from inside a traveling car at distance, shows a pinpoint fiery light moving at speed. This footage then shows the plane exploding far on the horizon, illuminating the darkened sky.

As part of the verification process, the AP compared buildings in view with map locations and in the precise context of where the jet went off the radar.

# As Iran and US take step back from the brink, Canada grieves

TORONTO (AP) — The worst had passed, it seemed, and the United States and Iran no longer appeared poised at the edge of war.

“All is well!” President Donald Trump tweeted Tuesday night, days after a U.S. drone strike killed Iran’s most powerful general, and Iran, after a barrage of missiles, had signaled it was stepping back from further escalation.

But 27 seconds before Trump’s tweet, commercial flight trackers had lost contact with a Ukrainian International Airlines jet that had just taken off from Tehran’s main airport. On board were 176 people, including 138 passengers on their way to Canada and at least 63 Canadian citizens and 11 Ukrainians. The plane, which never made a mayday call, slammed moments later into the ground.

Everyone on board died. They were students, newlyweds, doctors and parents. The youngest was a 1-year-old girl, Kurdia Molani, who was flying back home with her parents to the Toronto suburb of Ajax.

By late Thursday, Western leaders said that Iran had most likely shot down the jetliner with a surface-to-air missile — probably by accident. The loss of so many lives transformed the U.S.-Iran confrontation, which had seemed to conclude with limited bloodshed.

Instead, what had begun with a drone attack on Gen. Qassem Soleimani’s motorcade at the Baghdad airport had suddenly rippled outward until dozens of Iranian-Canadians, dozens of Iranian students studying in Canada, were dead.

“The community is overwhelmed with mourning and sadness,” said Payman Parseyan, a prominent Iranian-Canadian in western Canada, counting through the names of the friends he had



Members of Montreal’s Iranian community attend a vigil, Thursday, downtown Montreal.

lost. There was Pedram Mousavi and his wife Mojgan Daneshmand, both of them engineering professors, and their two daughters, Daria and Dorina Mousavi. There was Dr. Shekoufeh Choupannejad, an obstetrician-gynecologist, and her two daughters, Saba and Sara Saadat. It seemed impossible.

Some in Canada quickly blamed Trump for the disaster.

“This is insane. Sickening. Imagine having a family member on that plane,” said Rob Kent, a 42-year-old Toronto resident. “One man, and only one, is responsible for those deaths. And he will never face consequences for them.”

But Parseyan wasn’t so sure. “It takes two to tango,” he said. “It’s not hard to see the downing as a result of the escalation between the two countries. However, Iran is responsible for its own military defense equipment.

While it has the right to defend itself, as it should to protect its own people, it should also have the responsibility with that right to make sure their defensive systems aren’t targeting civilian aircraft.”

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who has at times had a rocky relationship with Trump, was careful not to say the U.S. strike was responsible for what happened.

“I think it is too soon to be drawing conclusions or assigning blame or responsibility in whatever proportions,” he told reporters.

But, he said, an accidental missile strike would compound the grief of so many people.

“My thoughts instantly went to how much harder this must make it for those families who are experiencing just a terrible amount of grief right now,” he said.

Trudeau met privately with

families of some of the victims on Friday.

Many in Canada simply struggled to make sense of the disaster.

“If something like this happened as an accident, it’s much easier to take in than when you hear that maybe it got shot,” said Nina Saeidpour, a Calgary real estate agent whose friend Kasra Saati was among the victims. “We’re just trying to figure out what happened.”

Ukrainian flights out of Tehran are often full of Iranian-Canadians and Iranian students studying in Canada, particularly after the long holiday break. Going back and forth via Kyiv is one of the most affordable routes between the two countries, and avoids stopovers in the United States, which is difficult for most Iranians.

At least 17 Canadian universities have confirmed that they lost students, professors or researchers.

# Meghan, Harry miles apart as they start new independent life

LONDON (AP) — Prince Harry and his wife Meghan were taking the first steps into their new independent life thousands of miles apart on Friday, as a friend of the couple pushed back against accusations they blindsided Queen Elizabeth II with the announcement they would be stepping down from royal duties.

As Meghan flew back to Canada, where the couple spent a six-week Christmas break out of the public eye, Harry stayed in England, where the royal family sought to contain the crisis sparked by the couple’s decision to effectively quit as senior royals.

The queen moved quickly to take control of the situation, ordering royal courtiers to sort out a future role for the couple within days. British media reported Friday that the monarch, who is at her Sandringham estate in eastern England, held a conference call with her son Prince Charles and grandsons Prince William and Prince Harry.

The royal family is said to be “hurt” by Harry and Meghan’s deci-



Britain’s Prince Harry and his fiancée Meghan Markle arrive at Edinburgh Castle in Edinburgh, Scotland.

sion to step down from their royal role, with reports claiming they were not told of the statement beforehand. But the queen, Charles and William have told their teams

to work with government and the couple to sort out a solution.

In the meantime, Buckingham Palace confirmed Friday that Meghan had returned to Canada,

where the couple and 8-month-old son Archie spent the holiday season at a secluded luxury home on Vancouver Island. The former actress is American but has longstanding ties to Canada, having lived in Toronto while filming the popular TV show “Suits.”

The crisis talks were triggered by the pair’s “personal message” Wednesday evening saying they were stepping back from being senior members of Britain’s royal family, would work to become financially independent and would “balance” their time between the U.K. and North America.

Harry, 35, is sixth in line to the British throne, behind his father, older brother William and his brother’s three children. The former British army officer is one of the royal family’s most popular members and has spent his entire life in the public eye.

Before marrying the prince in a wedding watched around the world in 2018, the 38-year-old Meghan had carved out a successful career as an actress and lifestyle “influencer” with a popular blog, the now-

defunct The Tig.

A friend of the couple, broadcaster Tom Bradby, said Harry and Meghan were made aware while in Canada over the holidays that the monarchy’s future focus would be on those at the top of the line of succession. An image of the queen and the three next in line to the throne — Charles, William and his son George — underscored the message of who the Windsors see as their core members.

“It had been made clear to them in their absence there was going to be a slimmed down monarchy and they weren’t really a part of it,” said Bradby, an ITV television anchor who filmed revealing interviews with Harry and Meghan while they were in Africa last year.

Bradby described the royal split as inevitable. He said the wish by the couple, also known as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, to leave the grind of front-line royal duty had been known, though the timing of their announcement was not.

“It’s certainly not true to say the palace were blindsided by this,” Bradby told ITV.

## Withdrawal, from Page 1

Abdul-Mahdi has said he rejects all violations of Iraqi sovereignty, including both the Iranian and U.S. strikes.

The State Department flatly dismissed Abdul-Mahdi’s request, saying U.S. troops are crucial for the fight against the Islamic State group and it would not discuss removing them.

Pompeo indicated Friday the troops would remain, adding that the U.S. would continue its mission to help train Iraqi security forces and counter the Islamic State group.

“We are happy to continue the conversation with the Iraqis about what the right structure is,” Pompeo said at the White House during an unrelated appearance.

“Our mission set there is very clear. We’ve been there to perform a training mission to help the Iraqi security forces be successful and to continue the campaign against ISIS, to continue the counter-Daesh campaign,” he said, using alternate acronyms for the militant group.

“We’re going to continue that mission but, as times change and we get to a place where we can deliver upon what I believe and what the

president believes is our right structure with fewer resources dedicated to that mission, we will do so,” Pompeo said.

He said a NATO team was at the State Department working on a plan “to get burden- sharing right in the region, as well, so that we can continue the important missions to protect and defend, and keep the American people safe” while reducing costs and burdens borne by the U.S.

Earlier in the day, Pompeo’s spokeswoman Morgan Ortega said any delegation sent to Iraq would be dedicated to “discussing how to best recommit to our strategic partnership - not to discuss troop withdrawal, but our right, appropriate force posture in the Middle East.”

Iraqi lawmakers passed a resolution Sunday to oust U.S. troops, following the U.S. drone strike that killed Soleimani and senior Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis at Baghdad’s airport. The nonbinding vote put the responsibility on the government to formally request a withdrawal. Abdul-Mahdi urged lawmakers at the time to take “urgent measures” to ensure the removal of the troops.

In speaking to Pompeo, Abdul-Mahdi stopped short of requesting an immediate withdrawal, allowing time to draw up a strategy and timeline for departure.

In its initial readout of the call, the State Department made no mention of Abdul-Mahdi’s request on the troops. It said Pompeo, who initiated the call, reiterated the U.S. condemnation of the Iranian missile strikes and underscored that President Donald Trump “has said the United States will do whatever it takes to protect the American and Iraqi people and defend our collective interests.”

There are some 5,200 U.S. troops in Iraq assisting and providing training to Iraqi security counterparts to fight IS.

An American pullout could deeply set back efforts to crush remnants of the group amid concerns of its resurgence during the political turmoil.

Both the U.S. and Iran have fought to defeat IS, and neither wants to see it stage a comeback.

IS gloated in its first comments on Soleimani’s slaying, saying his death “pleased the

hearts of believers,” in an editorial in the group’s al-Nabaa online newspaper. It carried a photo of Soleimani and al-Muhandis, saying that “God brought their end at the hands of their allies.”

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State David Schenker said future talks between Baghdad and Washington were expected to focus on the nature of their strategic relationship.

“We provide assets that no other coalition ally can provide. ... If the United States wasn’t in Iraq, it’s hard to imagine the coalition being in Iraq,” he told reporters in Dubai at the end of a visit to the region in which he met with Iraqi officials in the northern Kurdish region.

Schenker added that the U.S. and its partners have provided \$5.4 billion to the Iraqi military in the last four years.


Ortagus said the U.S. and Iraqi governments need to talk about security as well as “our financial, economic and diplomatic partnership.” She did not elaborate.

Iraq is highly dependent on Iran sanctions waivers from Washington to continue importing Iranian gas to meet


electricity demands, and the U.S. has consistently used this as leverage. The current waiver expires in February, and without a new one, Iraq could face severe financial penalties.

The demand for a troop withdrawal is not universal

among Iraqis. Sunni and Kurdish lawmakers, who oppose the Parliament resolution, see the U.S. presence as a bulwark against domination by the majority Shiites and Iran. Kurdish security forces have benefited from U.S. training and aid.



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# Pelosi: House moving to send impeachment to Senate next week

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Friday the House will take steps next week to send articles of impeachment to the Senate ending Democrats' blockade of President Donald Trump's Senate trial.

In a letter to her Democratic colleagues, Pelosi said she was proud of their "courage and patriotism" and warned that senators now have a choice as they consider the charges of abuse and obstruction against the president.

"In an impeachment trial, every Senator takes an oath to do 'impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws,'" Pelosi wrote. "Every Senator now faces a choice: to be loyal to the President or the Constitution."

Pelosi has been in a standoff with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell that has consumed Capitol Hill and scrambled the political dynamics more than three weeks after the House impeached Trump.

She said she has asked House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler to be prepared to bring to the floor next week a resolution to appoint managers and transmit the articles of impeachment to the Senate.

"I will be consulting with you at our Tuesday House Democratic Caucus meeting on how we proceed further," Pelosi wrote. She did not announce a date for the House vote.

The move eases for now the protracted showdown between Pelosi and McConnell over the rare impeachment trial, only the third in the nation's history.

The president faces charges of abuse and obstruction over his

actions toward Ukraine.

Transmittal of the documents and naming of House impeachment managers are the next steps needed to start the Senate trial.

Yet questions remain in the Senate on the scope and duration of the trial.

McConnell wants to launch a speedy trial without new witnesses but Democrats point to new evidence that has emerged as they press for fresh testimony.

Trump mocked Pelosi with his tweets Friday and derided her and other Democrats late Thursday in Toledo, his first rally of 2020.

The House impeached Trump in December on the charge that he abused the power of his office by pressuring Ukraine's new leader to investigate Democrats, using as leverage \$400 million in military assistance for the U.S. ally as it counters Russia at its border. Trump insists he did nothing wrong, but his defiance of the House Democrats' investigation led to an additional charge of obstruction of Congress.

McConnell told GOP senators at a lunchtime meeting this week to expect the trial next week, according to two people familiar with his remarks. The people requested anonymity to discuss the private meeting.

He had signed on to a resolution from Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., to change Senate rules to allow for the dismissal of articles of impeachment if the House doesn't transmit them in 25 days. That now appear unlikely.

In the weeks since Trump was impeached, Democrats have focused on new evidence about Trump's effort to pressure Ukraine to investi-



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., arrives at the Capitol in Washington, Friday.

gate his political rivals and they pushed the Senate to consider new testimony, including from former White House national security adviser John Bolton. Republicans are just as focused on a speedy trial with acquittal.

Republicans have the leverage, with a slim 53-47 Senate majority, as McConnell rebuffs the Democratic

demands for testimony and documents. But Democrats are using the delay to sow public doubt about the fairness of the process as they try to peel off wavering GOP senators for the upcoming votes. It takes just 51 senators to set the rules.

"When we say fair trial, we mean facts, we mean witnesses, we mean documents," said Senate Minority

Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., promising votes ahead. "Every single one of us, in this Senate, will have to have to take a stand. How do my Republican friends want the American people, their constituents, and history to remember them?"

Trump had weighed in from the White House suggesting that he, too, would like more witnesses at trial. They include former Vice President Joe Biden, who is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination now, and his son Hunter, as well as the government whistleblower whose complaint about the president's pressure on Ukraine sparked the impeachment investigation.

On a July telephone call with Ukraine's new president, Trump asked his counterpart to open an investigation into the Bidens while holding up military aid for Ukraine. A Ukrainian gas company had hired Hunter Biden when his father was vice president and the Obama administration's point man on Ukraine. There is no evidence of wrongdoing by either Biden.

Trump suggested that his administration would continue to block Bolton or others from the administration from appearing before senators. Many of those officials have defied congressional subpoenas for their testimony.

"When we start allowing national security advisers to just go up and say whatever they want to say, we can't do that," Trump said Thursday during an event with building contractors. "So we have to protect presidential privilege for me, but for future presidents. That's very important."

# Trump boasts Iranian general's death was 'American justice'



President Donald Trump points to supporters before he speaks during a campaign rally at the Huntington Center, Thursday, in Toledo, Ohio.

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — President Donald Trump used his first campaign election rally of 2020 to argue that he served up "American justice" by ordering a drone strike to take out Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani, while jeering Democratic leaders for questioning his decision to carry out the attack without first consulting Congress.

Trump's remarks on Thursday careened from mockery of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Rep. Adam Schiff, who heads the House Intelligence Committee, to a suggestion that he should have won the Nobel Prize, a preview of the sharp-edged reelection campaign that he will wage.

The president made his comments shortly after the Democratic-controlled House approved a resolution asserting that Trump must seek approval from Congress before engaging in further military action against Iran.

Trump mocked Pelosi's mental acuity and called Schiff a "pencil neck." He also tagged Sen. Bernie Sanders as "Crazy Bernie" for raising objections to how he carried out the strike on Soleimani.

"We got a call. We heard where he was. He knew the way he was getting there," Trump told cheering supporters in Toledo. "We didn't have time to

call up Nancy, who isn't operating with a full deck."

"They want us to tell them so they can leak it to their friends in the corrupt media," Trump added.

Last week's killing of Soleimani brought long, simmering tensions between the U.S. and Iran to a boil. Iran, in retaliation, fired a barrage of missiles this week at two military bases in neighboring Iraq that house hundreds of U.S. troops. But with no casualties to U.S. or Iraqi troops, Trump said he had no plans to take further military action against Iran and would instead enact more sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

The Iran crisis, which momentarily overshadowed Trump's looming impeachment trial, has also opened a new front in the 2020 presidential campaign for Trump, who in 2016 campaigned on a promise to end American involvement in "endless wars."

Vice President Mike Pence, who joined Trump for the rally, said the president deserved credit for taking out a "dangerous terrorist" while managing to keep the engagement from escalating into an all-out war.

"And when American lives were threatened by the most dangerous terrorist in the world, President Donald Trump

took action and Qassem Soleimani is gone," Pence said. "And in the wake of that attack, Iran responded, but thanks to the professionalism of the military, we suffered no American casualties and Iran appears to be standing down. That's what leadership looks like."

Trump also sought to compare his response to the recent attack on the U.S. embassy in Baghdad to the 2012 attack on U.S. government facility in Benghazi. A U.S. ambassador to Libya, a foreign service officer and two CIA contractors were killed in the Benghazi attack, which led to a two-year Republican-led investigation into then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who was not found to have committed wrongdoing.

No Americans were killed in the Baghdad assault. The protesters managed only to breach the edge of the sprawling embassy complex.

"This was the anti-Benghazi," he said. "We got there very quickly. This is the exact opposite."

Trump also turned to a topic that frequently rankles him: the fact that he has never won a Nobel Prize. Referencing the 2019 Nobel Prize winner, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Trump said that he himself deserved the honor instead.

"I made a deal. I saved a

country, and I just heard that the head of that country is now getting the Nobel Peace Prize for saving the country," Trump said. "I said, 'What?' Did I have something to do with it? Yeah. But, you know, that's the way it is. As long as we know, it's all that matters."

Abiy was awarded the prize in October for his sweeping reforms and surprising embrace of a bitter rival.

Trump enters the election year flush with more than \$100 million in campaign cash, a low unemployment rate, and an unsettled Democratic presidential field. Yet, polling shows he remains vulnerable.

In December, an AP-NORC poll showed Trump's approval rating at 40%. There have not been more recent polls to gauge support for the president in the wake of the targeted killing of Soleimani, though opinions of Trump have changed little over the course of his presidency.

Trump has never fallen into historic lows for a president's approval ratings, but Gallup polling shows his December rating registers lower than that of most recent presidents at the same point in their first terms. Notably, approval of Trump and former President Barack Obama in the December before their reelection bid is roughly the same.

# Steyer wants climate change refugees to enter US legally

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Tom Steyer on Friday unveiled an immigration proposal seeking to make immigrants fleeing the effects of climate change eligible for legal entry into the United States.

Like a lot of his White House rivals, Steyer is promising to use executive action to reinstate Obama administration protections for people brought to the country illegally as children. He'd do the same to nullify President Donald Trump's Muslim ban and end the separation of immigrant families at the U.S.-Mexico border.

The billionaire environmental activist from California also would seek to decriminalize illegal border crossings and work with Congress to approve a pathway to citizenship for millions of people in the U.S. illegally.

And Steyer wants to adequately fund agencies that foster legal immigration, which he argues have seen their budgets shrink as previous administrations poured more federal money into border enforcement.

As part of his plan, Steyer says he will help countries cope with the effects of climate change by offering "funding, equipment and expertise" designed to bolster disaster response. But he also wants to establish new categories of legal U.S. immigration to ensure that refugees fleeing the effects of rising seas and climate-related disasters abroad can enter the U.S. legally.

"We need to see what we can do to help people in place," Steyer said in an interview. "At the same time, we understand this is going to put massive pressure on our immigration systems."

# Bloomberg adds 3 key hires in Calif.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Michael Bloomberg is adding three experienced California Democrats to his presidential campaign in the state that awards the most primary delegates, including the former head of Sen. Kamala Harris' state campaign operation.

Courtnei Pugh, who led Harris' strategy in the senator's home state, is joining Bloomberg's team as a senior adviser focused on paid media targeting constituency groups such as Latino and black voters, the campaign announced Friday. Bloomberg also has hired Crystal Strait, the former head of the state's

Planned Parenthood chapter, as political director, and Alex Gallardo Rooker, a vice chair of the state Democratic party, as a senior adviser.

Strait, who also has worked for the state party and former California Sen. Barbara Boxer, said she's joining the campaign because she believes Bloomberg is the party's best chance of beating President Donald Trump.

"Winning is the only thing that we need to be focused on right now," she said.

Bloomberg, the former New York City mayor and billionaire businessman, launched his campaign in November and is counting on

success in California to capture the nomination. He is skipping the first four early voting states to focus his energy on California and the other states that vote on Super Tuesday, held on March 3.

His latest hires join Chris Masami Myers, who heads his California operation and previously served as executive director of the state party.

Bloomberg's pattern of bringing on operatives with party experience could bring his campaign needed expertise on the party's rules for picking up delegates. California has more than 400 delegates, the most of any state.

# US courts rule for border walls

WASHINGTON (AP) — Crews could start building a private border wall in South Texas within the coming days following a federal judge's ruling Thursday that lifted a restraining order against the project.

U.S. District Judge Randy Crane's order was the second federal ruling in two days in favor of border barriers. On Wednesday, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals lifted a lower court's stay that had prevented President Donald Trump's administration from diverting \$3.6 billion from military construction projects to fund 175 miles of border wall.

While the White House on Thursday celebrated the appeals court's ruling, saying it rightfully lifted an "illegitimate nationwide injunction," Crane's ruling actually went against the U.S. government's position.

Fisher Industries, a North Dakota-based construction firm, wants to install 3 miles of steel posts about 35 feet from the U.S. bank of the Rio Grande, the river that forms the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas. The company's president, Tommy Fisher, wants to spend \$40 million on the private border wall — originally promoted by a pro-Trump online fundraising group — to prove that his company can build barriers more effectively.

The U.S. government sued to stop Fisher on the grounds that building so close to the Rio Grande risked changing

the flow of the river and potentially pushing floodwaters into Mexico, in violation of treaty obligations. The U.S. attorney's office argued the project could shift the river and the international boundary, which violated the president's authority "to conduct the foreign relations of the United States."

Existing segments of fencing and the small sections that the government is currently building typically run along the Rio Grande levee or through property a significant distance away from the river. The U.S. is currently working to seize private land to build more sections of wall in Texas.

Crane issued a restraining order in December, but lifted that order Thursday. He also declined to grant a restraining order at the request of the National Butterfly Center, a nonprofit located next to the South Texas construction site. The butterfly center and environmentalists warn building a border barrier so close to the river could wors-

en erosion and potentially damage other land.

Fisher Industries has submitted documents to the government that argue installing fence posts and clearing and grading the land will reduce flooding, though environmentalists disagree with that claim.

Speaking after the hearing Thursday, Fisher said his work crews were ready to start working Sunday and could install all of the steel posts in a week. "We look forward to showing the whole entire world that you can have border protection where you need it," Fisher said.

The butterfly center had been in the path of a potential border wall for years until Congress effectively exempted it and several other environmentally sensitive areas and cultural sites.

Marianna Trevino Wright, the center's executive director, said Thursday's ruling "makes you wonder when it's going to end and how many more of these proxies are there."



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# NATION SHORTS

## Virginia lawmakers ban guns at state Capitol

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia lawmakers voted Friday to ban firearms at the state Capitol, the first in what's expected to be many contentious gun votes in coming weeks.

Newly empowered Democrats in the General Assembly voted to ban guns at the Capitol and a legislative office building, saying the move was needed to protect public safety.

Public officials have expressed concerns about planned Jan. 20 rallies that are set to draw huge crowds of pro-gun and gun-control advocates. Gun advocates from around Virginia and even out of state have pledged to turn out in force to highlight their resistance to proposed gun-control measures.

“The overall goal here is to protect and ensure the safety of our members and of the people that are in our building coming and going,” Democratic Del. Marcus Simon said before the vote.

The ban would apply to lawmakers in addition to the general public.

Republicans have voiced opposition to banning guns at the Capitol and some GOP lawmakers routinely carry guns while at the legislature. “I feel this egregious, I think it’s an overreach,” said Del. Terry Austin.

## Water company pleads guilty to hazardous waste violations

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A California company that produces Crystal Geyser bottled water pleaded guilty Thursday to illegally storing and transporting hazardous waste and agreed to a \$5 million fine, federal prosecutors said.

The waste was produced by filtering arsenic out of Sierra Nevada spring water at CG Roxane LLC’s facility in Owens Valley, authorities said.

The company entered the pleas to one count of unlawful storage of hazardous waste and one count of unlawful transportation of hazardous material, the U.S. Attorney’s Office said.

The office said the \$5 million fine was included in a recently filed plea agreement.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office statement noted that the investigation focused on handling, storage and transportation of CG Roxane’s wastewater, “not the safety or quality of CG Roxane’s bottled water.”

## NC to mark 75th anniversary of deaths in secret WWII project

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. (AP) — The Russian ambassador to the U.S. is among those expected to attend a service to mark the 75th anniversary of the deaths of five people during a top-secret World War II mission when hundreds of Soviet aviators trained on North Carolina’s coast.

The service to remember Project Zebra and the five aviators killed when their seaplane crashed into the Pasquotank River will be held Saturday in Elizabeth City, news outlets report. The pilot and three others survived the crash.

State and local officials also will attend Project Zebra day, said Don Pendergraft, director of the Museum of Albemarle, which is sponsoring the event.

The Project Zebra collaboration was among the last of its kind between the two nations, Pendergraft said.

“I think it is accurate to say that we did at that point have a beautiful relationship,” he said. “It was an experiment that went very well.”

Project Zebra Day will include character reenactments at the museum, a wreath-laying ceremony on the waterfront and a reception.

The project, declassified in 2013, helped train about 300 Soviet aviators in 1944 and 1945. Their mission was to find German submarines and bomb them.

On Jan. 11, 1945, three Russians, a Ukrainian and a Canadian were killed when their seaplane bought for Russia crashed in the Pasquotank River. After the project was declassified, efforts began to honor it with a monument.

## Man breaks into Taco Bell, prepares food, takes nap

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (AP) — Taco Bell wasn’t open on Christmas Day but a burglar in Georgia decided he wanted a festive feast anyway — and to take a nap while he was at it.

Police have asked for the public’s help in identifying the man who broke into the restaurant, prepared food and fell asleep early Christmas morning.

At around 12:15 a.m. on Dec. 25, a man approached a Taco Bell in unincorporated Lawrenceville and entered through the drive-thru window. Surveillance video showed him using the fryers to make himself a meal. After eating, he proceeded to take a nap on the restaurant floor. Prior to leaving about three hours later, the suspect stole a laptop and tablet, investigators said.

The suspect was described as a black male wearing black sweatpants, a black hooded sweatshirt, and black sneakers. Anyone with information in this case, was urged to contact police at 770-513-5300.

## ‘Send Nudes’: Drivers shocked by road sign’s racy request

PINE KNOT, Ky. (AP) — Drivers traveling along a Kentucky highway didn’t have to check their direct messages to receive the infamous sexting request: send nudes.

An electronic road sign that was hacked early Thursday morning asked drivers on Highway 92 in Pine Knot to “send nudes,” news outlets reported.

Officials with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet said someone had hacked through the password-protected system. The sign belonged to a contractor doing construction work on the Ky. 92 realignment project through McCreary and Whitley counties, near the Tennessee border.

Driver Tevon Stephens told news outlets he noticed the “clearly hacked” sign while going to work.

“But seriously, we needed to bring awareness to it so the road departments would add cameras or add locks to the equipment to keep from distracting the drivers,” Stephens said.

## Delaware: 1 dead, 5 hurt in collision of car and school bus

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — A 16-year-old girl was killed and three other girls with her in a car were injured in a collision with a school bus in Delaware on Thursday, authorities said.

Police said two 10-year-old boys on the bus also were injured and taken to a children’s hospital in stable condition.

New Castle County Police responded to the crash scene around 3:40 p.m. and found a bus and a grey Chevrolet had collided, The News Journal of Wilmington reported Thursday. The bus had about 20 students on board, according to police.

Police said four 16-year-old girls were in the Chevrolet, one of whom was pronounced dead at the scene. The other three were taken to the hospital, where one girl is in serious condition and the other two are stable, police said.

# California could be the first state to sell own prescription drugs



Gov. Gavin Newsom talks to reporters at his Capitol office, in Sacramento, Calif.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California could become the first state to make its own prescription drugs under a proposal announced Thursday by Gov. Gavin Newsom, who says it would “take the power out of the hands of greedy pharmaceutical companies.”

The Democratic governor wants the nation’s most populous state to contract with generic drug companies to make medications on its behalf so it could sell them to its nearly 40 million residents. The goal is to lower prices by increasing competition in the generic drug market, Newsom said.

His proposal also would create a single market for drug pricing in California, with companies having to bid to sell their medicine at a uniform price. One expert said that piece would have the bigger impact.

“Other countries control or negotiate the price of drugs, and if there is one state that could do it, it’s California, which is the size of a country,” said Larry Levitt, executive vice president of health policy for the Kaiser Family Foundation. “A drug company could walk away from Rhode Island. It’s much harder to walk away from California.”

Lawmakers would have to approve the proposal before they could become law. A legislative leader in charge of reviewing the plan gave a tentative endorsement Thursday.

“If Costco can have a Kirkland brand, why can’t California have our own generic brand?” said Democratic Assemblyman Joaquin Arambula, an emergency room doctor from Fresno who chairs the House Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services.

“I really do think there is quite a bit of merit in having us produce the medications.”

Priscilla VanderVeer, vice president of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, which represents brand-name drug companies, said she’s waiting for more details from Newsom before commenting.

A representative from the Association for Accessible Medicines, which represents generic drug manufacturers, did not respond to a request for comment.

The drug plan is part of Newsom’s budget proposal, which he must present to lawmakers by Friday. The state could have as much as a \$7 billion surplus this year, according to the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst’s Office.

Newsom’s office did not say how much the drug pro-

posal would cost, prompting criticism from some Republican lawmakers who said the state should not compete with private companies.

“When the state runs it, it costs more money,” said Republican Assemblyman Devon Mathis, who’s also on the health subcommittee. “The money is coming out of families’ pockets paying all those crazy taxes.”

California law requires drug companies to report any price increases to the state. Generic drugs saw a three-year median increase of 37.6%, according to a report from the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. That analysis was based on the list prices of the drugs and did not include discounts or rebates.

But the report doesn’t include generic drugs that

decreased in price because companies are not required to report that. Nationally, generic drug prices have been decreasing overall, according to a report that AARP produced with the University of Minnesota.

Supporters say California’s generic drug label could help lower the cost of a common drug that has steadily increased in price — insulin for diabetes patients. Three drug companies control most of the market for insulin.

“Consumers would directly benefit if California contracted on its own to manufacture much-needed generic medications like insulin — a drug that has been around for a century yet the price has gone up over tenfold in the last few decades,” said Anthony Wright, executive director of Health Access California.

# Weinstein judge declines to step aside as jury selection resumes



Harvey Weinstein, center, leaves Manhattan criminal court with his lead attorney Donna Rotunno, left, on Thursday, in New York.

requests, but Weinstein’s lawyers could be also making a play to make an issue of Burke’s comments and rulings for a possible appeal.

The defense had further argued that Burke failed to

adequately safeguard Weinstein’s right to a fair and impartial jury, in part by rejecting a request to halt jury selection for a “cooling off” period after prosecutors in Los Angeles filed new sex

crimes charges against him Monday.

“There is no time like the present,” Burke said Thursday. “All sides are ready.”

Weinstein is charged in New York with raping a woman in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013 and sexually assaulting another woman, Mimi HALEY, in 2006. If convicted, he could be sentenced to life in prison. The 67-year-old ex-studio boss has pleaded not guilty and maintains that any sexual activity was consensual.

The initial phase of jury selection ended around mid-day Thursday, and will continue through next week. So far, 66 prospective jurors have advanced to the next stage in what is expected to be a lengthy selection process aimed at finding people who can keep an open mind about the disgraced movie mogul.

That challenge was demonstrated Thursday when Burke detected a stir after breaking the news to a new batch of prospective jurors that they were there for the Weinstein case.

## Mississippi, lacking guards, sends inmates to private prison

By The Associated Press

Mississippi’s prison system signed a 90-day contract to shift 375 inmates from the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman to a nearby private lockup, saying it doesn’t have the guards to safely keep the inmates in state custody in the wake of recent violence.

The state and CoreCivic announced the contract Thursday, a day after it was signed. The inmates were being shifted after violence led to three deaths at Parchman and an unknown number of injuries. Some inmates were earlier moved into a closed-down cell block to separate clashing gang members.

The department said the 90-day contract to house inmates at the Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility in Tutwiler would cost more than \$2 million. Department spokeswoman Grace Simmons Fisher declined to provide a copy of the contract and directed The Associated Press to file a formal public records request.

Gov. Phil Bryant released a copy of a Monday letter declaring an emergency and allowing the state to sign a contract without soliciting bids.

The state and CoreCivic, based in Nashville, Tennessee, say the contract could be extended for 180 more days, and allows for the state to send more prisoners.

“We are pleased to be able to assist the state of Mississippi due to significant challenges in their correctional system,” CoreCivic CEO Damon Hininger said.

CoreCivic said it would house close-custody prisoners, those requiring high security.

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# SPORTS

## Thunder roll past Rockets in Westbrook's return

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The Oklahoma City Thunder spoiled Russell Westbrook's return.

Westbrook scored 34 points, but the Thunder beat the Houston Rockets 113-92 on Thursday night.

Westbrook was a league MVP and two-time scoring champ for the Thunder before being traded to the Rockets last summer for Chris Paul and draft picks.

The fans remember him as the star who stayed after Kevin Durant left for then-rival Golden State in 2016, and they showered him with appreciation before the game. There was a tribute video, then loud cheers as he was introduced with enthusiasm, in the same manner as a home Thunder player. The crowd stood, cheered loudly and even chanted M-V-P as the announcer moved on to other players. Westbrook even ran over to a corner of the court and exhorted the crowd before the tip, just like he did when he played for the Thunder.

"Some things you can't put into words," Westbrook said. "I've been here for so long and so many great memories, great people. The absolute best fans in the world because they come with it, and tonight they came with it."

The atmosphere also lifted the Thunder.

"The energy was amazing," Paul said. "Our first nationally televised



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Dennis Schroeder (17) knocks the ball away from Houston Rockets guard Russell Westbrook (0) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, in Oklahoma City.

game and Russ being back so we knew that the crowd — I mean the crowd is always great, but we knew it was going to be a different energy tonight with Russ' first game back here and I mean, you've got to get excited during the player intros. Shai (Gilgeous-Alexander) and I were just sitting over there talking about, you know, 'All right, let's get to it.'"

It was a strange day for Westbrook. He said he had never even seen the visiting locker room during his 11-year run in Oklahoma City. It was a bit odd for him early in the game when the crowd that he so often riled to a fever pitch was cheering for the other team during a run that put the Rockets on their heels.

"Definitely different, but once

you start hooping and competing, you kind of zone it out a little bit," he said.

Westbrook scored 18 points in the first half, but the Thunder led 60-48 at the break after shooting 53.8% from the field. The Thunder extended their lead throughout the second half. Westbrook was subbed out with 7:18 remaining.

Danilo Gallinari led the Thunder with 23 points and 11 rebounds and Gilgeous-Alexander added 20 points.

Houston's James Harden, who entered the night averaging a league-best 38.5 points, was held to 17 on 5-for-17 shooting.

After the game, Westbrook embraced several Thunder players, then went over and hugged Thunder owner Clay Bennett. He acknowledged the crowd one last time before he exiting on the opposite end of the floor from his days as a Thunder player.

Westbrook was the last remaining player from the team that began playing in Oklahoma City in 2008 after the franchise left Seattle.

"I don't regret one thing being here in Oklahoma City," he said. "I don't regret signing back, I don't regret staying here. I don't regret anything that I did here. I feel like I left everything out on the floor every single night and did what I could for the city."

## NFC Divisional round

## Rodgers knows time to win 2nd ring is running out

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Aaron Rodgers won his first Super Bowl nearly a decade ago. The time to capture a second is running out.

"It's on my mind every day," Rodgers said. "That's why we play the game. That's why you put in the time in the offseason. That's why you do the little things. It's to put yourself in this position where we're two games away from being able to compete for that."

"I'm 36, I know what this is all about. This is an important opportunity for us. I feel like I got a lot of really good years left, but you never know. A lot of things happen year to year. We've had some great teams that have been an injury away or a play away from being special, so I want to make the most of this opportunity."

Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers will host the Seattle Seahawks in Sunday's NFC divisional playoff game. It will be the first postseason appearance for Rodgers in three years.

"I'm at the age now, I believe, that Brett (Favre) was when I was drafted, and obviously closer to the finish than the beginning," he said. "The most important thing is winning, and I know how difficult a couple of those years were when we weren't winning."

Rodgers led an injury-laden Packers team to the NFC championship game in Green Bay's previous postseason appearance following the 2016 season before getting blown out 44-21 by the Falcons. But this Packers squad — including Rodgers — is as healthy as Green Bay has been in recent years.



LEFT: Seattle Seahawks' D.K. Metcalf catches a touchdown pass during the second half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game against the Philadelphia Eagles, Sunday, in Philadelphia. RIGHT: Green Bay Packers' Aaron Rodgers warms up before an NFL football game against the Chicago Bears Dec. 15 in Green Bay, Wis.

"I feel great," Rodgers said. "I started all 16 (games) and wasn't in the training room a whole lot. I had some issues early in the season with my knee. But, man, I felt great from about Week 8 on. ... It feels good to be where I'm at right now."

### LACK OF EXPERIENCE

The biggest issue for the Packers is playoff experience, or a lack thereof. There are only four players left from the 2010 Super Bowl team and seven from the 2014 team that lost to the Seahawks in the NFC championship game in Seattle. Matt LaFleur is also preparing for his first playoff test as a head coach.

"I think it just goes back to doing what you always do," the 40-year-old LaFleur said. "It's just like every other week. I think for guys that maybe haven't experienced the playoffs, there's definitely a heightened intensity

around it. But as far as your process, as far as how you go about your daily business, I think it's got to be the same as it is any other week."

### CAN YOU DIGGS IT?

No one has more experience on Seattle's roster playing against Rodgers than safety Quandre Diggs. Until the middle of this season, Diggs faced Rodgers twice a year as part of the Detroit secondary. Even though it's a changed offense from what he played against in the past, Diggs is still being leaned on by teammates for little tips on how to try and slow down Rodgers.

"He is a really smart guy and any knowledge that he has is always good to gain," Seahawks linebacker Bobby Wagner said.

The addition of Diggs has been a huge boost for Seattle's defense. The Seahawks are 5-1 in the six games Diggs has played since com-



ing over in a midseason trade from the Lions. While the defensive numbers aren't markedly different, Seattle has played better with Diggs on the field.

### KEEP IT CLEAN

LaFleur said Monday that a "little bit of a sickness" had crept into the building. But he said on Wednesday that "most of the guys are pretty healthy right now."

Packers wide receiver Davante Adams had a simple prescription for the problem.

"Wash your hands, wash your butt, man. That's it," said the two-time Pro Bowler.

### THE ENCORE

DK Metcalf had quite the debut to the NFL playoffs. Metcalf set an NFL rookie playoff record with 160 yards receiving last week against the Eagles. Metcalf had a season-high seven catches and pulled in a 53-yard touchdown in the second half that

gave Seattle an 11-point lead. He also had a 36-yard catch on Seattle's final possession to seal the victory.

"(Metcalf is) just a big, physical, fast, young receiver who I think is going to be a really, really good one," LaFleur said of the 6-foot-4, 229-pound second-round pick from Ole Miss.

Metcalf had a strong second half of his rookie season, but the stage of the postseason put him in the spotlight after his performance against the Eagles. He's caught at least six passes in six of the past nine games. He's received praise all season from coach Pete Carroll and quarterback Russell Wilson for his progression.

"Just seeing that they trust in me, two of the highest people on the team trust in me to get things done," Metcalf said. "I just got to take that and continue working and show them why they trust me so much."

## NFL doctor calls Wentz 'heroic' for reporting concussion

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The NFL's chief medical officer called Carson Wentz "heroic" for reporting his concussion during Philadelphia's playoff loss and disputed the notion the league's system failed the Eagles quarterback.

"I think what Carson Wentz did is heroic and should be highlighted as an example of how an unbelievably skilled and competitive athlete understands the seriousness of concussion injury and is willing to honestly report it and receive the care that he needs independent of his desire and drive to continue to participate in the game," Dr. Allen Sills told The Associated Press on Thursday. "Having a concussion and playing through it is not about toughness. That's demonstrating a lack of understanding of the severity of the injury. So I applaud Carson Wentz for understanding how serious this injury is and for getting appropriate

care that he needs."

Wentz was injured when Seattle's Jadeveon Clowney hit him helmet-to-helmet from behind in the first quarter of a 17-9 loss in an NFL wild-card game Sunday.

Wentz stayed in and threw a couple passes before reporting symptoms on the sideline. He was examined in the medical tent and went to the locker room for further evaluation after failing the concussion protocol. He was not allowed to return to the game.

"It's a great example to players at all ages and levels that you only have one brain and you shouldn't take chances with a brain injury," said Sills, a neurosurgeon at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. "Brain injuries are different than other injuries. Anytime someone has a sprained ankle, you can see their ankle swell up or they dislocate a finger and you can see the finger pointing in



Philadelphia Eagles' Carson Wentz (11) is hit by Seattle Seahawks' Jadeveon Clowney (90) during the first half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game, Sunday, in Philadelphia.

the wrong direction. You can't see a brain injury from the outside, but that does not make it any less severe or any less dangerous to the recipient than any of those other injuries."

Because the independent

spotters and the neurotrauma consultants monitoring the game did not see Wentz exhibit behavior or symptoms suggestive of a concussion and he had to tell the team's medical staff, some media and fans have argued

the league's system for concussion detection is broken.

"I would vigorously disagree," Sills said. "Video identification of (symptoms) is one part of a concussion identification. You're not going to see things like amnesia or confusion on video, and that's why all the other elements of detection are really important."

Those elements include players being open and honest about their symptoms. Also, the team's trainers and medical staff are relied upon to notice and report symptoms. So are coaches, teammates and game officials.

"You have to have people talking to the players," Sills said. "You want to make the players and their officials and coaches and everyone aware of the symptoms because you're not always going to see it on video, but yet there will be signs there if you're looking at everything."

### PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

#### Rangers

##### Friday

- Wrestling @ Miles City, TBA
- Basketball @ Laurel, Girls: 6 p.m. Boys 7:30 p.m.

##### Saturday

- Wrestling @ Miles City, TBA
- Girls Basketball vs Butte Central, 4 p.m.
- Boys Basketball @ Butte Central, 4 p.m.



#### Bruins

##### Friday

- Basketball vs. Lone Peak, 5:30 p.m.

##### Saturday

- Basketball @ Sheridan, 5:30 p.m.



#### Rebels

##### Friday

- Basketball vs. West Yellowstone, Boys: 5:30 Girls 7 p.m.

##### Saturday

- Basketball @ Manhattan Christian, Boys: 4 p.m. Girls: 5:30 p.m.

\* Home games in bold

## Miss. St. hires Leach away from WSU

(AP) — The pirate is heading to Starkvegas.

Mississippi State hired Washington State's Mike Leach as its new head coach Thursday, bringing one of the nation's quirkiest and most successful coaches from the Pac-12 to the South-eastern Conference.

Leach will replace Joe Moorhead, fired last week after two seasons. Mississippi State announced it hired Leach with a social media hype video that included its new coach bellyflopping into a pool.

College football in the state of Mississippi has gotten a lot more interesting over the last month, with Leach joining new Ole Miss coach Lane Kiffin.

"Welcome to the state old pirate and friend!!" Kiffin tweeted.

The post-bowl game firing by Mississippi State was unusual, but the Bulldogs now have a coach with a long track record of winning at programs that have historically struggled. In 18 years at Texas Tech and Washington State, Leach is 139-90, using his Air Raid offense to set records and consistently reach the postseason.

At Washington State, Leach took over a program that had been mired in the Pac-12 basement and went to five straight bowl games, including a school-record 11 victories in 2018.

He finished 55-47 in eight seasons with the Cougars. He produced a similar turnaround at Texas Tech, taking the Red Raiders to bowl games in all 10 seasons.

His style is anything but typical. Leach gets a lot of attention for his news conferences, where he has been known to dole out wedding advice, once pondered which Pac-12 mascots would survive a fight and told tales about his passion for pirates. He taught a class at Washington State last year about football and combat.

It has not all been fun and games, though.

Leach was fired by Texas Tech after being accused of mistreating a player, Adam Jones — the son of former ESPN announcer and NFL player Craig James — who had suffered a concussion. He then clashed with his bosses, and sued Texas Tech for wrongful termination. The school was protected by state law, but Leach is still trying to fight that case. He also filed a lawsuit against ESPN and Craig James that was later dismissed.

When his teams have struggled, his news conferences have been far less amusing. Leach has not been shy about calling players soft and making other disparaging remarks.



# Patriots OC Josh McDaniels to interview with Browns

CLEVELAND (AP) — Josh McDaniels is back home. Maybe not just to visit.

The Patriots offensive coordinator, whose first shot as an NFL coach didn't go well, interviewed Friday with the Cleveland Browns, the team he grew up watching as a kid in Canton, Ohio.

McDaniels is the eighth candidate to interview with owner Jimmy Haslam and the Browns' search committee, which could be nearing a decision on the franchise hiring yet another coach after two decades in a futile search for stability.

The Browns have no other interviews scheduled at this point, giving McDaniels a chance to make a strong, lasting impression.

This is McDaniels' third go-around with the Browns, who fired Freddie Kitchens after just one sea-

son. The 43-year-old was a candidate for Cleveland's job in 2009 when it went to Eric Mangini and he took Denver's job. Then again in 2014, when McDaniels pulled himself from consideration.

McDaniels would leave perhaps one of the league's most stable teams for one of the shakiest. But he might be ready to leave the comforts of New England, where he's won Super Bowl titles on Bill Belichick's staff while working alongside superstar quarterback Tom Brady.

Part of McDaniels' appeal to the Browns is he could help quarterback Baker Mayfield. McDaniels liked Mayfield coming out of college and there were reports the Patriots had serious interest in the Oklahoma QB, who was selected with the No. 1 overall pick by Cleveland in 2018.

Because of his major past success, McDaniels' meeting could be as much about him seeing if the Browns, who haven't made the playoffs since 2002, are a fit for him.

McDaniels had a rocky two seasons with the Broncos. He won his first six games but then went 5-17 and was dismissed with four games left in the 2010 season. Two years ago, he agreed to become coach with Indianapolis but backed out of the deal, a decision that led to questions about his character.

A return to his roots could be just the thing for McDaniels and the Browns. He was raised near the Pro Football Hall of Fame and played quarterback at Canton McKinley for his dad, Thom, a legendary high school coach in Northeast Ohio. McDaniels graduated from John Carroll University in suburban Cleveland.



AP  
Josh McDaniels watches his team warm up before a game against the Tennessee Titans, Saturday, in Foxborough, Mass.

If he's hired, McDaniels is expected to bring someone from New England's front office to be Cleveland's new general manager. Director of player personnel Nick Caserio and

director of pro personnel Dave Ziegler have been speculated as candidates. Both played with McDaniels at John Carroll.

Haslam wants his coach to have a major say in the hiring of a GM as a way to have alignment from the outset. The Browns parted ways with GM John Dorsey last week.

The Browns interviewed Vikings offensive coordinator Kevin Stefanski on Thursday. He was a finalist for the job a year ago.

Cleveland has also interviewed former Packers coach Mike McCarthy, Ravens offensive coordinator Greg Roman, Chiefs offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy, Bills offensive coordinator Brian Daboll, 49ers defensive coordinator Robert Saleh and Eagles defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz.

McCarthy took the head coaching job with the Dallas Cowboys.

## Williams and Wozniacki reach Auckland semis

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — Serena Williams and Caroline Wozniacki both advanced to the singles semifinals at the ASB Classic on Friday, then extended their first-time partnership to reach the doubles final.

Williams beat Laura Siegemund 6-4, 6-3 and Wozniacki defeated two-time defending champion Julia Goerges 6-1, 6-4 in the quarterfinals.

Both players will face American opponents in the semifinals on Saturday; Wozniacki will play Jessica Pegula and Williams will play Amanda Anisimova.

Williams and Wozniacki

then combined to beat Kristlen Flipkens and Alison van Uytvanck 7-6 (9), 6-2 to reach their first doubles final.

The pair, close friends, are playing doubles together for the first time in their careers.

Wozniacki will retire after the Australian Open and, with Williams, snatched the last chance of their long careers to play doubles.

Friday's results raise the possibility the pair will meet in the singles final on Sunday, then will have to combine in the doubles final.

"I've done it before with

my sister (Venus) and we're still really close so I'm sure me and Caroline will still be super close," Williams said.

Williams had to overcome a swirling wind on center court to come from a break down in the second set to beat Siegemund.

She was able to step up on crucial points, converting three of her five break points.

Siegemund, who beat American teenager Coco Gauff in the second round, stretched Williams with her variety and placement.

Siegemund couldn't match the 23-time Grand Slam champion's power from the baseline.

"She was an incredibly tricky player and the conditions really didn't help," Williams said. "But, oh my God, it's good to get through that."

Wozniacki was convincing in her win over Goerges, the 2018 and 2019 champion in Auckland. She dominated the game on serve and gave Goerges few chances to fight her way back into the match.

"I've had so many tough matches against Julia in the past and I knew this one was going to be tough as well," Wozniacki said. "I've been serving well this week so hopefully it can continue."

## Carter-Hollinger lifts Grizzlies over Eastern Washington, 90-63

CHENEY, Wash. (AP) — Derrick Carter-Hollinger had a season-high 20 points plus 14 rebounds as Montana rolled past Eastern Washington 90-63 on Thursday night.

Carter-Hollinger made 9 of 12 shots. He added four blocks.

Sayed Pridgett had 18 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for Montana (8-8, 4-1 Big Sky Conference). Kendal Manuel added 14 points. Timmy Falls had 12 points, six assists, three steals and two blocks for the visiting team.

The 90 points were a season best for Montana,

which also posted a season-high 21 assists.

Eastern Washington scored 35 second-half points, a season low for the team.

Jacob Davison had 15 points for the Eagles (9-6, 2-2). Mason Peatling added 12 points and nine rebounds.

Kim Aiken Jr., the Eagles' second leading scorer coming into the matchup at 16 points per game, had eight points on 3-of-10 shooting.

Montana matches up against Portland State at home on Monday. Eastern Washington plays Idaho on the road next Thursday.

## Cavs coach John Beilein says he apologized for 'thugs' comment

DETROIT (AP) — John Beilein's first season as an NBA coach took another turbulent turn because of a comment he made during a film session.

Beilein said Thursday he had apologized after using the word "thugs" while reviewing film with his players the previous day. ESPN.com, citing unidentified sources, reported that Beilein suggested during a Wednesday film session his players were no longer playing

"like a bunch of thugs." Beilein told ESPN he had meant to say "slugs" in reference to the team's effort level.

Beilein repeated that explanation Thursday after his team's shoot-around in Detroit, hours before the Cavaliers faced the Pistons.

"I was saying: 'We're making a lot of mistakes mentally, and we deserve better because we're really playing hard right now. We're not playing like slugs. We're playing

hard,'" Beilein said. "And somehow that word came out."

Beilein said he called the players afterward to explain the situation, and said he apologized.

"There was really positive reinforcement from the guys this morning and last night. Very understanding, but it's something that certainly they understand that it was serious," Beilein said. "Something that shouldn't have happened."

The rebuilding Cavaliers made a bold move when they hired Beilein, who had never coached in the NBA and turns 67 next month. He was highly regarded at the college level for his offensive acumen and his ability to develop players.

Beilein left his job at Michigan to take over the Cavaliers before this season, but he's off to a rocky start. Even after winning Thursday's game 115-112 in overtime, Cleveland is 11-27, and there have been hints of dysfunction along the way.

About a month ago, a report in The Athletic cited unidentified players saying that Beilein was being tuned out. More recently, star forward Kevin Love had a verbal exchange with general manager Koby Altman. Love also threw up his arms in disgust several times while on the floor. Love later said he was "acting like a 13-year-old."

Love said Thursday he didn't think there was malice behind

Beilein's comments, and forward Larry Nance Jr. echoed that sentiment.

"He made a mistake. We all make them, but he apologized, owned up to it, and it this point, that's all we can ask him to do," Nance said. "We all heard it, we were all there. But at the same time, I don't think there's any player on the team that believes there was mal-intent behind it."

The word "thug" is considered problematic in part because of the way it's been used to describe black athletes over the years. Football star Richard Sherman once said he felt the word was like "an accepted way of calling someone the N-word."

# SCOREBOARD

## Football NFL Playoffs

By The Associated Press  
All Times EST

Wild-card Playoffs  
Saturday, Jan. 4  
Houston 22, Buffalo 19, OT  
Tennessee 20, New England 13  
Sunday, Jan. 5  
Minnesota 26, New Orleans 20, OT  
Seattle 17, Philadelphia 9  
Divisional Playoffs  
Saturday, Jan. 11  
Minnesota at San Francisco, 4:35 p.m. (NBC)  
Tennessee at Baltimore, 8:15 p.m. (CBS)  
Sunday, Jan. 12  
Houston at Kansas City, 3:05 p.m. (CBS)  
Seattle at Green Bay, 6:40 p.m. (FOX)  
Conference Championships  
Sunday, Jan. 19  
AFC, 3:05 p.m. (CBS)  
NFC, 6:40 p.m. (FOX)  
Pro Bowl  
Sunday, Jan. 26  
At Orlando, Fla.  
AFC vs. NFC, 3 p.m. (ESPN)  
Super Bowl  
Sunday, Feb. 2  
At Miami Gardens, Fla.  
NFC champion vs. AFC champion, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

Friday's Games  
Atlanta at Washington, 7 p.m.  
New Orleans at New York, 7:15 p.m.  
Miami at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.  
Indiana at Chicago, 8 p.m.  
San Antonio at Memphis, 8 p.m.  
Charlotte at Utah, 9 p.m.  
Orlando at Phoenix, 9 p.m.  
L.A. Lakers at Dallas, 9:45 p.m.  
Milwaukee at Sacramento, 10 p.m.  
Golden State at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.  
Saturday's Games  
Minnesota at Houston, 5 p.m.  
Chicago at Detroit, 7 p.m.  
New Orleans at Boston, 7 p.m.  
L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
Cleveland at Denver, 9 p.m.  
Milwaukee at Portland, 10 p.m.  
Sunday's Games  
Miami at New York, 3:30 p.m.  
Utah at Washington, 3:30 p.m.  
Atlanta at Brooklyn, 6 p.m.  
Golden State at Memphis, 6 p.m.  
San Antonio at Toronto, 6 p.m.  
Charlotte at Phoenix, 8 p.m.  
L.A. Clippers at Denver, 8 p.m.  
Monday's Games  
New Orleans at Detroit, 7 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Indiana, 7 p.m.  
Chicago at Boston, 7:30 p.m.  
Oklahoma City at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
Charlotte at Portland, 10 p.m.  
Orlando at Sacramento, 10 p.m.  
Cleveland at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Tampa Bay 4, Arizona 0  
St. Louis 5, Buffalo 1  
Nashville 5, Chicago 2  
Calgary 2, Minnesota 1  
Dallas 3, Anaheim 0  
Los Angeles 5, Vegas 2  
San Jose 3, Columbus 1  
Friday's Games  
Arizona at Carolina, 7:30 p.m.  
Ottawa at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Colorado, 9 p.m.  
Saturday's Games  
Vancouver at Buffalo, 1 p.m.  
Los Angeles at Carolina, 7 p.m.  
Boston at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.  
Montreal at Ottawa, 7 p.m.  
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.  
New Jersey at Washington, 7 p.m.  
N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis, 8 p.m.  
Anaheim at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.  
Edmonton at Calgary, 10 p.m.  
Columbus at Vegas, 10 p.m.  
Dallas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.  
Sunday's Games  
Nashville at Winnipeg, 2 p.m.  
Vancouver at Minnesota, 4 p.m.  
Buffalo at Detroit, 5 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Arizona, 6 p.m.  
Toronto at Florida, 7 p.m.  
Boston at New Jersey, 7 p.m.  
Monday's Games  
Calgary at Montreal, 7 p.m.  
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.  
Boston at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.  
Columbus at Washington, 7 p.m.  
Anaheim at St. Louis, 8 p.m.

KORN FERRY TOUR  
THE BAHAMAS GREAT EXUMA CLASSIC  
Dates: Jan. 12-15  
Site: Great Exuma, Bahamas.  
Course: Sandals Emerald Bay GC. Yardage: 7,001. Par: 72.  
Purse: \$600,000. Winner's share: \$108,000.  
Television: Sunday-Tuesday, 2-5 p.m. (Golf Channel);  
Wednesday, 1:30-4:30 p.m. (Golf Channel).  
Defending champion: Zecheng Dou.  
Points leader: First event.  
Last tournament: Tom Lewis won the Korn Ferry Tour Championship.  
Next week: The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic on Jan. 19-22.  
Online: www.pgatour.com/kornferry

OTHER TOURS  
ASIAN TOUR: Hong Kong Open, Hong Kong GC, Fanling, Hong Kong. Defending champion: Aaron Rai. Online: www.asiantour.com

## Transactions

Thursday's Sports Transactions BASEBALL  
American League  
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Agreed to terms with RHP Miguel Castro on a one-year contract.  
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Agreed to terms with 1B-DH Edwin Encarnacion on a one-year contract.  
DETROIT TIGERS — Sent LF Brandon Dixon outright to Toledo (IL).  
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Promoted Nick Relic to manager of minor league operations; John Wagle to director of performance science and player development; Jarrett Abell to coordinator of strength & conditioning; and Rustin Sveum to minor league video coordinator. Named Jason Simontacchi pitching coordinator; Mitch Stetter manager of pitching performance; Drew Saylor hitting coordinator; Keoni DeRenne assistant hitting coordinator; Mike Tosar special assignment hitting coach; Damon Hollins coordinator of outfield, base running and bunting; and Derrick Robinson baseball operations intern.  
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Agreed to terms with C Max Stassi and RHP Cam Bedrosian to one-year contracts.  
TAMPA BAY RAYS — Acquired RHP Peyton Battenfield and OF Cal Stevenson from the Houston Astros for RHP Austin Pruitt. Promoted Barry Newell to vice president, business operations & analytics; David Egles to director, community engagement; Mike Ferrario to director, stadium operations; Dan Newhart to Director, ticket sales & service; Devin O'Connell to Director, public affairs & corporate communications; Ryan Sheets to director, communications and Scott Wilson to director, guest services. Named Stephen Estep director, security. Agreed to terms with RHP Chaz Roe on a one-year contract.  
TEXAS RANGERS — Agreed to terms with RHP Luis Garcia and LHP James Jones on minor league contracts. Released RHP Reed Garrett. Assigned RHP Jimmy Herget outright to Nashville (PCL).  
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Named Shane Farrell amateur scouting director. Agreed to terms with INF-OF Brandon Drury on a one-year contract.  
National League  
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Agreed to terms with RHP Hector Rondón on a one-year contract. Designated RHP Jimmie Sherry for assignment.  
CINCINNATI REDS — Designated LF Nick Martini for assignment.  
MIAMI MARLINS — Agreed to terms with C Francisco Cervelli on a one-year contract. Designated OF Austin Dean for assignment.  
NEW YORK METS — Agreed to terms with OFs Ryan Cordell and Johneshwy Fargas, INF Jake Hager, RHPs Pedro Payano, Francisco Rios and Adonis Ucelta, and C David Rodriguez on minor league contracts. Released 2B Sam Haggerty.  
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Named Mike Rabelo assistant hitting coach. Agreed to terms with OF Guillermo Heredia on a one-year contract. Designated INF Pablo Reyes for assignment.  
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Agreed to terms with OF Michael A. Taylor on a one-year contract.  
Atlantic League  
LONG ISLAND DUCKS — Signed INF Vladimir Frias.  
Frontier League  
FLORENCE FREEDOM — Signed INF Taylor Bryant to a contract extension.  
NEW JERSEY JACKALS — Signed 3B Emilio Guerrero to a contract extension.

National Football League  
ATLANTA FALCONS — Named Joe Whitt Jr. secondary coach. Announced the retirement of tight ends coach Mike Mulierkey.  
CHICAGO BEARS — Named Clancy Barone tight ends coach.  
OAKLAND RAIDERS — Signed G/T Denzelle Good to a one-year contract extension.  
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Fired offensive coordinator Mike Groh and wide receivers coach Carson Walsh.  
WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Announced they have mutually parted ways with senior vice president of football operations and general counsel Eric Schaffer. Named Rob Rogers senior vice president of football administration.  
HOCKEY  
OTHER TOURS  
DETROIT RED WINGS — Reassigned D Moritz Seider from Germany's U20 National Team to Grand Rapids (AHL) and C Joe Veleno from Canada's U20 National Team to the Grand Rapids.  
SOCCER  
Major League Soccer  
ATLANTA UNITED — Signed D Anton Walkes. Extended the loan of F Jon Gallagher with Aberdeen FC until the end of Aberdeen's 2019-20 season. Terminated the contract of M Dion Pereira.  
D.C. UNITED — Acquired a 2020 first-round MLS Super-Draft pick and the No. 21 slot in the 2020 Allocation Ranking from Philadelphia for the No. 17 slot in the 2020 Allocation Ranking and future considerations.

FC CINCINNATI — Acquired F Yuya Kubo as a designated player from KAA Gent (Belgium).  
NEW YORK CITY FC — Named Nick Cushing assistant coach.  
TAMPA BAY ROWDIES — Promoted Lee Cohen to president and Ryan Helfrick to director, sales & corporate partnerships.  
TORONTO FC — Signed D Chris Mavinga to a contract extension.  
National Women's Soccer League  
WASHINGTON SPIRIT — Re-signed G Aubrey Bledsoe and M Andi Sullivan.  
U.S. Soccer Federation  
USFF — Named Matt Potter coach of the U.S. Under-23 Women's National Team.  
COLLEGE  
EMORY & HENRY — Announced the addition of men's and women's wrestling as intercollegiate sports which will begin competition during the 2020-21 academic year.  
FLORIDA GULF COAST — Promoted Chris Sweat to beach volleyball coach.  
MEMPHIS — Named Mike MacIntyre defensive coordinator.  
MISSOURI STATE — Fired football coach Dave Steckel.  
MISSISSIPPI STATE — Named Mike Leach football coach.  
ST. JOHN'S — Promoted Mike Hampton to baseball coach on an interim basis.  
SYRACUSE — Named Santita Ebangwese volunteer assistant volleyball coach.

## Basketball NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	25	11	.694	—
Toronto	25	13	.658	1
Philadelphia	25	14	.641	1½
Brooklyn	16	20	.444	9
New York	10	28	.263	16
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	27	10	.730	—
Orlando	18	20	.474	9½
Charlotte	15	25	.375	13½
Washington	12	25	.324	15
Atlanta	8	30	.211	19½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	33	6	.846	—
Indiana	23	15	.605	9½
Detroit	14	25	.359	19
Chicago	13	27	.342	19½
Cleveland	11	27	.289	21½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	25	12	.676	—
Dallas	23	14	.622	2
San Antonio	16	20	.444	8½
Memphis	16	22	.421	9½
New Orleans	13	25	.342	12½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	26	11	.703	—
Utah	25	12	.676	1
Oklahoma City	22	16	.579	4½
Portland	16	23	.410	11
Minnesota	15	23	.405	11
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	30	7	.811	—
L.A. Clippers	26	12	.684	4½
Sacramento	15	23	.395	15½
Phoenix	14	23	.378	16
Golden State	9	30	.231	22
Thursday's Games				
Philadelphia 109, Boston 98				
Cleveland 115, Detroit 112, OT				
Minnesota 116, Portland 102				
Oklahoma City 113, Houston 92				

## Hockey NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
Atlantic Division										
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Boston	45	26	8	11	63	151	117			
Tampa Bay	43	26	13	4	56	160	127			
Toronto	45	24	15	6	54	162	145			
Florida	44	23	16	5	51	158	148			
Buffalo	44	19	18	7	45	128	140			
Montreal	45	18	20	7	43	141	147			
Ottawa	44	16	22	5	37	118	149			
Detroit	44	11	30	3	25	96	168			
Metropolitan Division										
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Washington	45	30	10	5	65	163	133			
N.Y. Islanders	42	27	12	3	57	120	108			
Pittsburgh	43	26	12	5	57	146	116			
Carolina	43	25	16	2	52	145	123			
Philadelphia	44	23	15	6	52	140	136			
Columbus	45	21	16	8	50	118	124			
N.Y. Rangers	43	21	18	4	46	144	144			
New Jersey	43	15	21	7	37	112	154			
WESTERN CONFERENCE										
Central Division										
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
St. Louis	45	28	10	7	63	143	122			
Dallas	44	26	14	4	56	120	105			
Colorado	44	25	15	4	54	159	130			
Winnipeg	45	24	17	4	52	141	139			
Nashville	43	20	16	7	47	149	145			
Minnesota	44	20	18	6	46	134	146			
Chicago	45	19	20	6	44	130	148			
Pacific Division										
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Arizona	46	25	17	4	54	133	118			
Vegas	47	24	17	6	54	149	142			
Edmonton	46	24	17	5	53	141	144			
Calgary	46	24	17	5	53	127	136			
Vancouver	44	23	17	4	50	145	139			
San Jose	46	20	22	4	44	124	152			
Los Angeles	46	18	24	4	40	118	144			
Anaheim	44	17	22	5	39	113	139			
NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.										
Thursday's Games										
Boston 5, Winnipeg 4										
Florida 5, Vancouver 2										
Edmonton 4, Montreal 2										
N.Y. Rangers 6, New Jersey 3										

PGA TOUR  
SONY OPEN  
Site: Honolulu.  
Course: Waialae CC. Yardage: 7,044. Par: 70.  
Purse: \$6.6 million. Winner's share: \$1,188,000.  
Television: Thursday-Saturday, 7-10:30 p.m. (Golf Channel);  
Sunday, 6-10 p.m. (Golf Channel).  
Defending champion: Matt Kuchar.  
FedEx Cup leader: Justin Thomas.  
Last week: Justin Thomas won the Sentry Tournament of Champions.  
Notes: All but 11 players from the winners-only field at Kapalua are playing the Sony Open. Among those skipping are five players from the top 20 in the world, including Xander Schauffele, Patrick Cantlay, Dustin Johnson and Gary Woodland. ... Justin Thomas and Ernie Els are the only players to sweep the Hawaii swing at Kapalua and Waialae. ... Thomas set the PGA Tour scoring record in 2017 at the Sony Open at 253. He opened with a 59. ... Jordan Spieth was entered and then withdrew with a minor illness. He is expected to return at Torrey Pines. ... The field also includes Hideki Matsuyama, Kevin Kisner and Patrick Reed. ... This is the 20-year anniversary of Paul Azinger winning the Sony Open for his final PGA Tour victory. Azinger says the victory kept him from an offer to join CBS Sports as an analyst.  
Next week: The American Express.  
Online: www.pgatour.com

EUROPEAN TOUR  
SOUTH AFRICAN OPEN  
Site: Johannesburg.  
Course: Randpark GC.  
Purse: 17.5 million rand. Winner's share: 2.9 million rand.  
Television: Thursday-Friday, 5-10 a.m. (Golf Channel); Saturday-Sunday, 4-9 a.m. (Golf Channel).  
Defending champion: Louis Oosthuizen.  
Race to Dubai leader: Pablo Larrazabal.  
Last tournament: Adam Scott won the Australian PGA Championship.  
Notes: The event has



Suggested names for car pour in

I did not expect this contest to name my car to get emotional. So why do I have tears running down my face right now? It was after printing out all the emails and letters that came this week. See for yourselves:

Vicki Miller in Livingston wrote, “Reading all the names for your new car and knowing the past names, I was suddenly struck with idea for a name that would suit the calling that you have. Gabriel. (Hebrew name meaning God is my strength and God is my strong man.) When we travel, even if it is to the Park or Bozeman, I always ask in Jesus’ name for traveling mercies and His angels around us. If the female version is more to your liking, Gabrielle, which means messenger of God. That is fitting I believe. What a comfort to know that the angels are surrounding you on the road and at home.”

And from Diane Miller in Colstrip, “Hello Lois, Diane Miller here in Colstrip. How about Isa-



TIME OUT WITH LOIS

named Rosie. She is still hanging in there since 1999. She was in the repair shop at least five times last year and every time we think she’s done she amazes us and keeps on trucking! Anyway, thank you for your columns. I enjoy reading them!”

From Glenna Stucky, Avon, Montana: “Dear Lois, Just wanted you to know how much I enjoy your articles after all the years when I first attended your workshop at Montana Cattlewomen! I don’t have any other ideas to name your car — those submitted are appropriate and great. Please be safe on the road and I’ll continue to look forward to your news.”

From Verna and Don in Colora-

do, “Naming cars is fun! Our granddaughter in Perrysburg named her little car, Petunia, makes me laugh every time I ride in it! A good name would be Esther “for such a time as this” but would call her “Essie.” Your Mother is such an inspiration, she probably has the right name for you.”

David and Cynde Nelson from Silesia, Montana, wrote, “We think you should name your car ‘Shield’ because of where you live. When we hear of the Shields, we think of your Mom and Dad (the best people ever). With Shield I think of protection, something your folks would be praying for their girl, and Bob would be wanting for his girl, concerning your safe travels.”

Shirley and Jim Edwards Billings said, “We’re sure God will give you the right name for your car. Old Faithful would be a good one.” And Linda Braun in Arizona said, “I think “Fordie” would be appropriate!” Rose Klumpers suggested “Blessed Bee” and Bonnie Pinkerton “Rosie.” Chris Wistey wrote “Elizabeth came to mind but how about Betsy or Bessie?” and Joyce Sarrazin’s pick was

“Lizzie,” “Amazing Gracie” or “Carri-edge” (carriage) came from Eileen.

Stacy Batie, Colstrip, wrote: “I just asked a group of kids what suggestions they had for a grandma who wanted to name her Ford Edge. They came up with “Edge 4,” “Timid” and “Snowcone” if it was white. For fun, my suggestion is “Harriet.” I always attempt to name something “Harriet,” but no one will agree. Perhaps you would like to use it?”

And Bill Harris said, “Sounds like a male car to me. How about He Who?” Nope, sorry, Bill, that name is already taken in my life.

What a blessing this has been for me, thank you all! I wish we could have listed every one. I have made a decision but have to wait until next week to tell you the top five and the winner. After that we will get to your 2020 Bible verse picks! Psalm chapter 34 is our Bible reading this week

EDITOR’S NOTE: Lois Olmstead is a conference speaker and author who lives in the Shields Valley. Email her at [loistimeout@gmail.com](mailto:loistimeout@gmail.com) or visit [www.timeout-withlois.com](http://www.timeout-withlois.com).

White evangelicals distinct on abortion and LGBT policy, new poll finds

By The Associated Press

White evangelical Protestants stand noticeably apart from other religious people on abortion restrictions and LGBT discrimination protections, two of the most politically divisive issues at play in the 2020 presidential election, according to a new poll.

The findings point to an evangelical Protestant constituency that’s more firmly aligned with President Donald Trump’s agenda than other Americans of faith. White evangelicals were also more likely than members of other faiths to say religion should have at least some influence on policymaking.

Rev. Franklin Graham, son of the late Rev. Billy Graham and one of Trump’s most stalwart evangelical allies, pointed to the president’s record on abortion

See **Poll**, Page 13

ATTEND THE SERVICE OF YOUR CHOICE

<p><b>AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)</b> F and Lewis streets. Sunday worship 9 a.m. Elevator available. Phone 222-0512.</p> <p><b>BAHA’I FAITH</b> For meeting times and information, call John Kolstoe at 222-2448, Nancy Moore at (406) 539-8873 or toll free 1-800-22UNITE (228-6483). Online: <a href="http://www.Bahai.org">www.Bahai.org</a>.</p> <p><b>CATHOLIC CHURCHES</b> Fr. Leo McDowell, pastor. Phone 222-1393. Mass times are as follows: <b>St. Mary’s</b> – South F Street, Livingston. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. at St. Mary’s; Friday, 9 a.m. at Caslen Living Center, 1301 Wineglass Lane; Saturday, 5 p.m. at St. Mary’s; Sunday, 8 a.m. at St. Mary’s. <b>St. William’s</b> – Gardiner Sundays, 11 a.m. <b>St. Margaret’s</b> – Clyde Park Sunday, 8 a.m. <b>St. Joseph’s</b> – Big Timber Sunday, 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS</b> Livingston Ward, Main and Summit streets. Bishop Trevor Strupp. On Sunday: 10-11:10 a.m., Sacrament Meeting; 11:10-noon, Sunday School; 12:05-1 p.m. — Relief Society, Priesthood, Young Men, Young Women, Primary. On Wednesday at 7 p.m.: Young Men, Young Women and Scouts. Phone 222-3570.</p> <p><b>CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS</b> Yellowstone North Branch, Gardiner, at 12 White Lane. David Gilbert, Branch President. On Sunday: 10-11:10 a.m., Sacrament Meeting; 11:10-noon, Sunday School; 12:05-1 p.m. — Relief Society, Priesthood, Young Men, Young Women, Primary. On Wednesday at 7 p.m.: Young Men, Young Women and Scouts.</p> <p><b>CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM</b> 2010 West Koch, Bozeman. Phone 556-0528.</p> <p><b>EMMAUS LUTHERAN MISSION (LCMS)</b> Pastor Arlo Pullman. 801 E. Park St., Livingston. Sunday services alternate between Livingston and Big Timber locations. Check the website <a href="http://www.EmmausLutheranMT.org">www.EmmausLutheranMT.org</a> for the schedule. Livingston service is at 3 p.m. Pastor Pullman’s phone: 222-9417.</p> <p><b>EXPEDITION CHURCH</b> 27 Merrill Lane, Livingston. Pastor Darryl</p>	<p>Brunson. Sundays: Coffee fellowship at 10 a.m. and worship gathering at 10:30 a.m. Phone (406) 224-1774, website <a href="http://www.expeditionmt.org">www.expeditionmt.org</a>.</p> <p><b>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 8 and Lewis streets, Livingston. Pastor Bryce Maurer. Bible classes 9:30 a.m.; worship service 10:45 a.m.; Communion/Lord’s Supper – first Sunday every month. Small groups/Bible studies – call church for information. Phone 222-1603.</p> <p><b>FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST SCIENTIST, BOZEMAN</b> 502 S. Eighth Ave., Bozeman. Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 a.m. Wednesday evening testimony meeting 7:30 p.m. Child care provided at both services. Reading room located at church, open before and after all services. Church phone 586-5819. All are welcome.</p> <p><b>GARDINER BAPTIST CHURCH</b> U.S. Highway 89 in the center of town. Pastor Britton Gray. Sunday: Bible study 9:30 a.m.; worship service 11 a.m., with lunch following; Bible study 6:30 p.m. Wednesday: Bible study at 6:30 p.m. Phone 848-2134.</p> <p><b>GARDINER COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 318 Main St. in Gardiner. Rev. Jeff Ballard. Sunday worship service at 10:15 a.m. Phone 848-7300.</p> <p><b>GRACE CENTER</b> Sunday fellowship at 6 p.m. 16530 Brackett Creek Rd., Bozeman. Phone (406) 686-9929.</p> <p><b>GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Ninth and West Clark streets. Rev. Patti Agnew, pastor. Sunday: “Praise and Pastry” service at 8 a.m. Church phone: 222-1041. Web:<a href="http://www.methodistsontheyellowstone.org">www.methodistsontheyellowstone.org</a>.</p> <p><b>HOLBROOK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> Lewis and Fifth streets. Rev. Patti Agnew, pastor. Sunday worship services 11 a.m. Child care during services in winter and choir practice 10:30 a.m. on Sundays, also in winter. Church office phone, 222-1112. Web: <a href="http://www.methodistsontheyellowstone.org">www.methodistsontheyellowstone.org</a>.</p> <p><b>KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES</b> 1505 E. Gallatin St. Sunday: Public talk and Watchtower study, 10 a.m.; Tuesday: Mid-week meeting, 7:30 p.m. Phone 222-7564.</p>	 <p><b>KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES</b> 1505 E. Gallatin St.</p> <p><b>LIVING HOPE CHURCH</b> Come and grow with good news and grace. Corner of Third and Clark streets. Sundays: 8 a.m. traditional worship, 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. contemporary worship, 7 p.m. high school youth group. Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m. grades K-5 kids’ clubs, 7 p.m. middle school youth group. Fridays: 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery 12-step program. Contact: Pastor Shad Durgan, Youth Minister Wes Theis or Children’s Minister Shary Noble, 222-1577. Website: <a href="http://www.livchurch.com">www.livchurch.com</a>.</p> <p><b>LIVINGSTON BIBLE CHURCH</b> 325 N. Fifth St. Monty Casebolt, pastor. Sunday worship service, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, all ages, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday evening prayer service, 7 p.m.; Awana (Sept.-April) on Wednesday evenings, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., starting Sept. 18. For more information, call 222-2714.</p> <p><b>LIVINGSTON CHRISTIAN CENTER (ASSEMBLIES OF GOD)</b> 1400 Mount Baldy Drive. Duane Huie, pastor. Sunday: Everyone welcome for coffee time at 9:30 a.m. and worship service 10 a.m. (nursery available). Children’s services are at 10 a.m. Sunday. On Wednesday: “OutLoud” Youth Group, 6:30 to 8:15 p.m.; on Thursday: Awana for boys and girls, 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information, call 222-3144.</p>	<p>May, 9:30 a.m.; June-September, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Phone 838-2397.</p> <p><b>PARADISE VALLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 1772 E. River Road. Pastor Jay Foley, Associate Pastor, Andrew Alberda. Sunday School for all ages, 9 a.m.; coffee fellowship, 10 a.m.; Sunday worship and children’s church, 10:30 a.m.; and CrossLife Youth (grades six through high school), Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Web: <a href="http://www.paradisevalley.church">www.paradisevalley.church</a>.</p> <p><b>PINE CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> A historic, rural church 14 miles south of Livingston on East River Road (old U.S. 89). Rev. Patti Agnew, pastor. Morning worship 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School begins at 9:15 a.m. during worship. Pastor available during the week by appointment. Church office phone, 222-1041. Web: <a href="http://www.methodistsontheyellowstone.org">www.methodistsontheyellowstone.org</a>.</p> <p><b>REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)</b> Fifth and Lewis streets. Sunday worship at 11 a.m. Holy Communion first and third Sundays. Elevator available. Phone 222-1175.</p> <p><b>SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST</b> 1 Guthrie Lane. Pastor Jim Jenkins. Saturday: Church service at 9 a.m. and Sabbath School at 10:30 a.m. Phone 222-7598.</p> <p><b>SHIELDS RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)</b> 105 Ordway St., Wilsall. Worship at 9 a.m. Phone 578-2212.</p> <p><b>SHIELDS VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH</b> West side of Clyde Park, 405 Fifth St. West. Pastor Glen Heilig. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Sunday morning worship service, 11 a.m.; youth group on Wednesdays Sept.-May, 7 p.m.; Awana (Sept.-April) at the Community Center Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Phone 686-4708.</p> <p><b>SHIELDS VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</b> 210 Miles St., Clyde Park. Rev. Patti Agnew, pastor. Worship at 9 a.m. on Sunday. Phone 222-1041. Web: <a href="http://www.methodistsontheyellowstone.org">www.methodistsontheyellowstone.org</a>.</p> <p><b>ST. ANDREW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b> Third and Lewis streets. Rev. Kristin Orr. Sunday worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School</p>	<p>also at 10:30 a.m. Website: <a href="http://www.saintandrewsepisopalchurch.org">www.saintandrewsepisopalchurch.org</a>. Phone 222-0222.</p> <p><b>ST. JOHN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH</b> Emigrant. Rev. Kristin Orr. Sunday Holy Eucharist, 8 a.m. Website: <a href="http://www.saintjohnsepisopalchurch.org">www.saintjohnsepisopalchurch.org</a>.</p> <p><b>ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT ORTHODOX CHURCH</b> 2005 Love Lane, Bozeman. Rev. David Morrison, priest. Saturday: Great Vespers 6 p.m.; Sunday: Matins 8 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m., Church School 8:55-9:25 a.m.; Wednesday: Vespers 6 p.m., Orthodoxy 101 Class 7 p.m.; Friday: Matins 6:30 a.m. Phone (406) 600-7409. Web: <a href="http://www.orthodoxbozeman.org">www.orthodoxbozeman.org</a>.</p> <p><b>ST. MARK’S CHURCH UNIVERSAL &amp; TRIUMPHANT</b> Located at the corner of D and Lewis streets. Sunday worship service 10:15 a.m. Wednesday evening service 6:30 p.m. Both services open to the public. Phone (406) 222-7135.</p> <p><b>ST. PAUL’S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (WISCONSIN SYNOD)</b> Twelfth and Geyser streets. Rev. Paul Stern. Sunday service, 10:15 a.m.; Bible study and children’s Sunday School, 9 a.m. Phone 222-3372.</p> <p><b>VALLEY SHEPHERD CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> Interim pastor, Christie American Horse. Looking for a casual time of fellowship and worship? Sunday: coffee fellowship at 10 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday: Bible study at 6:45 p.m. First Wednesday of each month: potluck at 6 p.m. For our home church location or more information, call the pastor at 223-1072.</p> <p><b>WILSALL COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> 110 Liquin Hill Rd. (west of U.S. Highway 89 North); take Clark Street to Liquin Hill Road). Stephen Fanning, pastor. Church office phone, 578-2004. Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship service 10:45 a.m. Youth group Wednesdays 7 p.m. Women’s Bible study Mondays 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>YELLOWSTONE PARK CHAPEL AT MAMMOTH</b> At Mammoth Hot Springs in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming. Rev. Jeff Ballard, pastor. Service at 8:30 a.m. Phone (406) 848-7300.</p>
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# Woman with transplanted uterus gives birth

**By The Associated Press**

A woman who gave birth to a boy she carried inside a transplanted womb said Thursday that the experimental procedure delivered a “miracle.”

Jennifer Gobrecht and her husband, Drew Gobrecht, appeared Thursday at a news conference in Philadelphia. Their child, Benjamin, was the first baby born as part of Penn Medicine’s 2-year-old uterine transplant trial, and the eighth baby in the United States to be born to the recipient of a uterus transplant, according to Penn.

Jennifer Gobrecht, 33, who was born without a uterus, underwent a 10-hour transplant procedure in 2018. The uterus came from a deceased donor.

“This journey has not been easy, but every time I look at Benjamin’s face, I know it was worth it,” she said. “Benjamin is truly a miracle, and we feel beyond lucky to have him.”

There have been about 70 uterus transplants performed worldwide. Penn Medicine said its trial is one of the few to accept donations from both living and deceased donors, an

approach it said that could pay dividends in the form of an expanded pool of donor organs. Most transplant programs accept only from living donors, according to Penn.

Some medical ethicists and transplant experts have expressed concerns about uterine transplants, questioning whether the benefit justifies the risk.

But Dr. Kathleen O’Neill, one of the lead trial investigators at Penn, said uterine transplantation could give couples like the Gobrechts another option besides adoption and the use of a gestational carrier.

“Uterus transplant is the only path to parenthood that will actually allow these women to carry their own pregnancies,” she said.

Penn said trial participants will be followed for five to 10 years, from in vitro fertilization through long-term follow-up after delivery. Because of the risk of rejection, women with transplanted uteruses have hysterectomies after giving birth.

Gobrecht has Mayer-Rokitansky-Kuster-Hauser syndrome, a congenital condition that occurs in 1 of every 4,500 females. She learned at age 17 she wouldn’t be able



Jennifer and Drew Gobrecht look at their baby, Benjamin, at home in Ridley Park, Pa. Jennifer gave birth in November 2019 following a uterine transplant.

to carry a child.

“That was a very difficult thing to hear as a teenage girl who had dreams of being a loving mother,” Gobrecht said. “Like many young girls, I dreamed of how it would feel to grow a baby in my womb, to feel them kick inside me, and those dreams

disappeared.”

Years later, she and her husband, both of suburban Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, underwent fertility treatments that produced several embryos. They were exploring a gestational carrier when Jennifer Gobrecht learned of the Penn trial.

Benjamin was born via Cesarean section in November.

“Two years ago, if you had told me I would be sitting here not only a mother but one who got to bear her own child, I simply would have not believed you,” Gobrecht said. “But here I am.”

## DiCaprio gives \$3M to Australia

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Leonardo DiCaprio’s Earth Alliance environmental organization will donate \$3 million to help wildfire relief efforts in Australia.

The foundation said Thursday that it has started the Australia Wildfire Fund to help with an “international response to the catastrophic bushfires” currently raging in the country.

The wildfires have scorched an area twice the size of the U.S. state of Maryland, killed at least 25 people and destroyed 2,000 homes. 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.

The Academy Award-winning actor serves as Earth Alliance’s co-chair along with philanthropists Laurene Powell Jobs and Brian Sheth. The organization was launched last year to combat climate change and biodiversity loss.

### Poll, from Page 12

as a key driver of support from his religious community.

“I don’t think evangelicals are united on every position the president takes or says, but they do recognize he is the most pro-life-friendly president in modern history,” Graham said in a recent interview. “He has appointed conservative judges that will affect my children and grandchildren’s lives, long after he’s gone.”

Asked about significant restrictions that would make abortion illegal except in cases of rape, incest or to threats to a mother’s life, 67% of white evangelical Protestants responded in support. Those abortion limits drew 39% support from white mainline Protestants, 33% support from nonwhite Protestants, 45% support from Catholics and 37% of all Americans, according to the poll of more than 1,000 American adults from various faith backgrounds conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

A similar divide emerged over whether the government should bar discrimination against people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender in workplaces, housing or schools. About 6 in 10 Catholics, white mainline Protestants and nonwhite Protestants supported those protections, compared with

about a third of white evangelical Protestants.

The differences between white evangelicals and other religious Americans, as well as the non-religious, were less stark on other policy issues examined in the poll.

Indeed, white evangelical Protestants’ preference for a religious influence on abortion policy surpassed most other issues examined in the poll. About 8 in 10 white evangelicals said religion should have at least some influence on abortion policy. A similar share said that of poverty, compared with about 7 in 10 saying the same about education and roughly 6 in 10 saying that about income inequality, immigration and LGBT issues.

Trump has embraced a staunch anti-abortion agenda, and his administration has opposed legislation supported by Democrats seeking to challenge him in 2020 that would extend broad anti-discrimination protections for LGBT individuals.

“There is nobody, except a few wackos who are one-half of 1%, that would ever want to discriminate against some of these groups,” said Stephen Strang, founder of the Christian magazine Charisma and author of a forthcoming book backing Trump’s reelection.

“But what happens is, this legis-

lation is criminalizing long-held beliefs that we believe are scriptural,” Strang added, referring to conservative evangelicals’ opposition to same-sex marriage.

About 8 in 10 white evangelical Protestants approve of the president’s job performance, according to the poll, which asked respondents to self-identify as born-again or evangelical.

Trump’s reelection campaign showcased that support Jan. 3 in Miami, where the president unveiled an “Evangelicals for Trump” coalition.

But not every Trump-backed policy found strong support in the poll from white evangelical Protestants. A majority of white evangelicals opposed an immigration policy that separates children from parents who are detained entering the country illegally, although non-white Protestants and white mainline Protestants opposed that policy by slightly larger margins.

“I disagree with the president on that one,” said Dorothy Louallen, 87, of Dunlap, Tennessee, who described herself as a born-again Christian opposed to abortion. “I really don’t think government and churches should be involved.”

The poll also showed a majority of white evangelical Protestants supporting higher taxes on the

wealthy, albeit by smaller margins than the other major religious groups surveyed, as well as the non-religious. Trump signed a GOP tax bill in 2017 that cut taxes for the middle class but delivered a larger tax break for the wealthiest Americans.

Similarly, about half of white evangelicals showed support for increasing government aid to the poor, comparable to that policy’s support from Catholics and white mainline Protestants. About 7 in 10 nonwhite Protestants supported more government assistance for the poor. More than 600,000 low-income Americans are set to lose access to food stamps under new work requirements proposed by the Trump administration.

In addition, about 6 in 10 white evangelicals supported regulating the levels of carbon dioxide that power plants can emit, a climate change-fighting measure that Trump has weakened and that majorities of other religious groups also support, as well as those without a religious affiliation.

Americans without any religious affiliation registered stronger opposition in the poll than people of specific faiths to abortion restrictions (72%) and stronger support than people of specific faiths for government action to

shield people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender from discrimination (83%). About one-quarter of Americans currently align with no religious faith, a figure that’s risen notably over three decades, according to the General Social Survey.

However, some Americans of faith continue to defy easy characterization — a trend that promises to scramble the political calculus heading into a 2020 campaign where Democrats have shown strong interest in connecting with voters of faith, even evangelicals whom Trump is often assumed to have locked down.

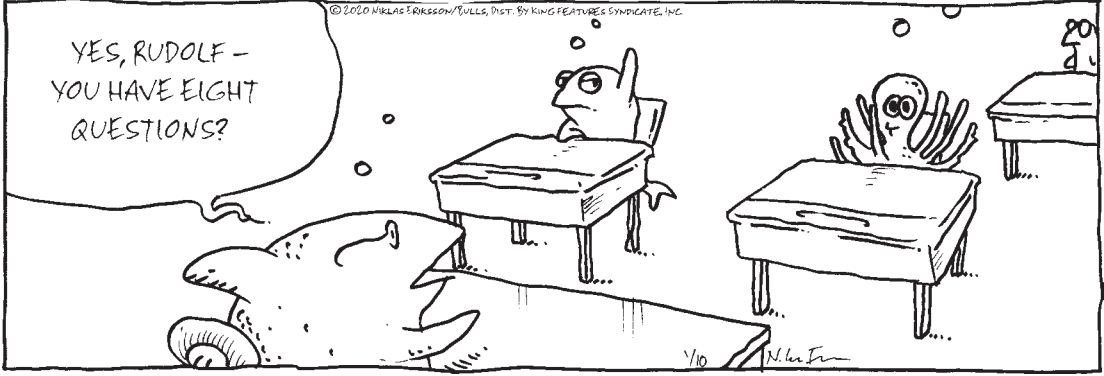
Courtney Lester, 29, of Macon, Georgia, said she was baptized in the Baptist faith but “can’t say I’m in one set religion.”

Once policy makers “mix religion with politics, that’s when things get very mixed up,” Lester added, noting that she is “not here to judge anyone” of a different sexual orientation and praising immigrants for making America “great the first time.”

Lester, who is undecided in the election, said faith should play the same role in politics that it does in medicine: Doctors, she said, prioritize health rather than asking “Who is your God?” before they “see if you have the flu.”

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By Niklas Eriksson



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By Jim Davis



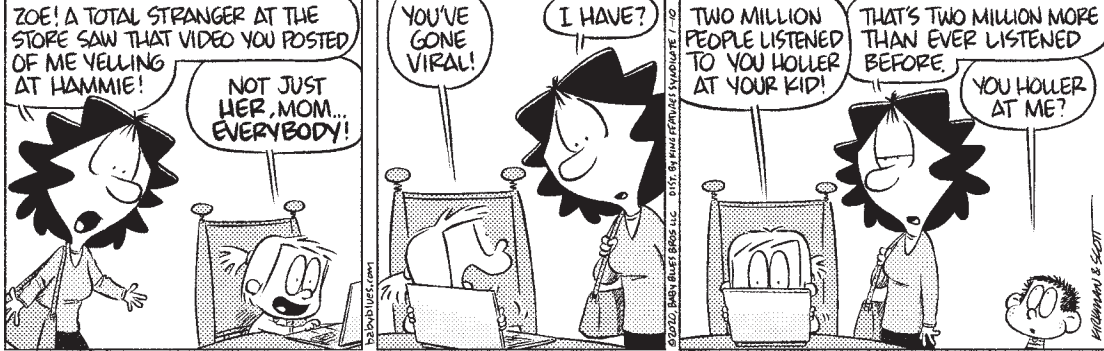
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By Wiley Miller



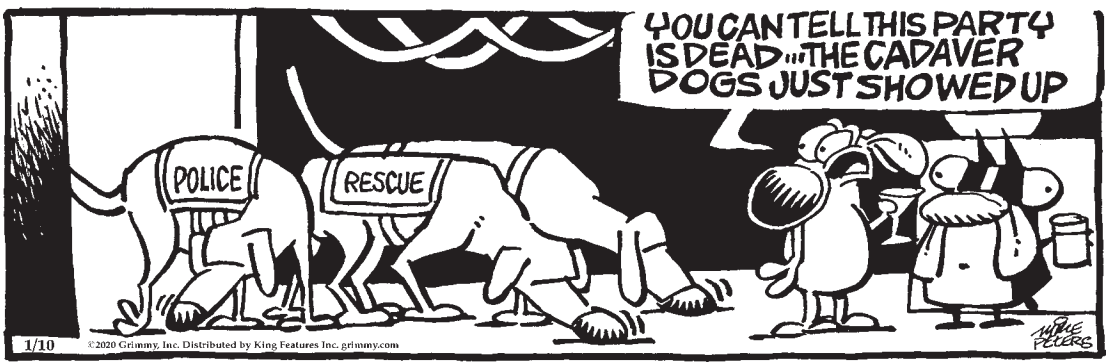
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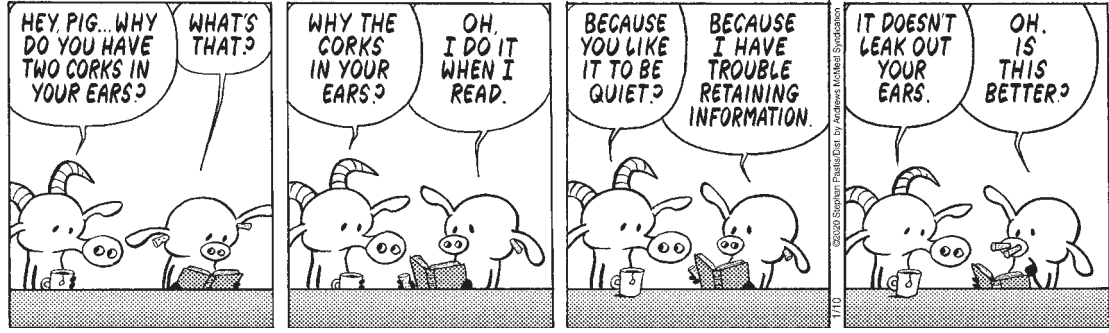
## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

By Mike Peters



## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

By Stephan Pastis



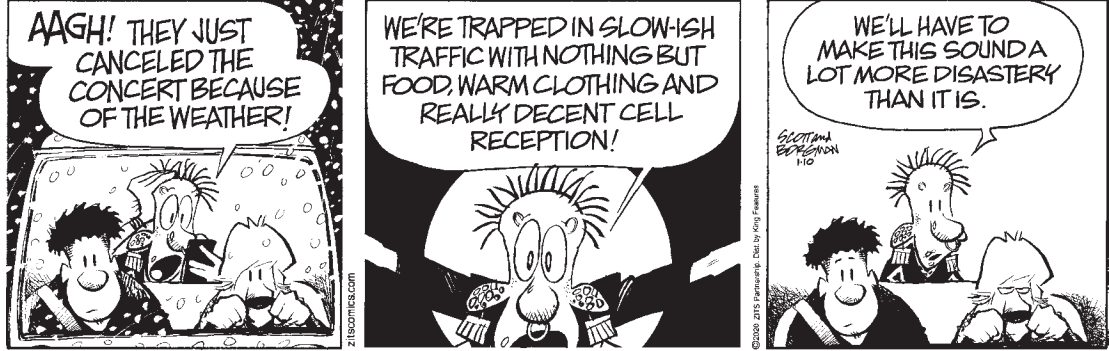
## LOLA

By Steve Dickenson & Todd Clark



## ZITS

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## BRIDGE

### Test your play

You are declarer with the West hand at Three Notrump, and North leads the four of hearts to South's jack and your king. How would you play the hand?

West  
♠ K Q 7 6  
♥ A K  
♦ Q J 4  
♣ 10 9 6 3

East  
♠ A 4  
♥ 7 5  
♦ K 9 6 3 2  
♣ A Q J 2

\*\*\*

If you stake the outcome on a club finesse at trick two, the contract is sure to go down if South has the king. He would return a heart, and you would finish with only eight tricks.

You could also fail by attacking diamonds immediately, even though that is superior to trying a club finesse. If you led the queen or jack of diamonds at trick two, for example, you would go down if South had something like:

♠ J 9 3 2  
♥ J 9 6  
♦ A 10 8 7  
♣ K 5

The most promising method of

play by far is to lead a spade to the ace at trick two and a low diamond from dummy at trick three. If South has the ace, you are sure to make the contract whether he takes the ace or follows low.

If he goes up with the ace, you have nine tricks — three spades, two hearts, three diamonds and a club — regardless of how the diamonds are divided. If he does not take the ace, you also score nine tricks by trying the club finesse after the diamond queen holds. Even if the finesse fails, you are home, scoring three spades, two hearts, a diamond and three clubs.

The only time the contract can fail by adopting the suggested line of play is when North started with precisely the singleton ace of diamonds and South has the king of clubs, in which case you could make three notrump by leading the four of diamonds from your hand at trick two. As opposed to this one remote possibility — less than a 2 percent chance — it is significantly better to start the diamonds by leading a low one from dummy initially.

## Daily Crossword Puzzle

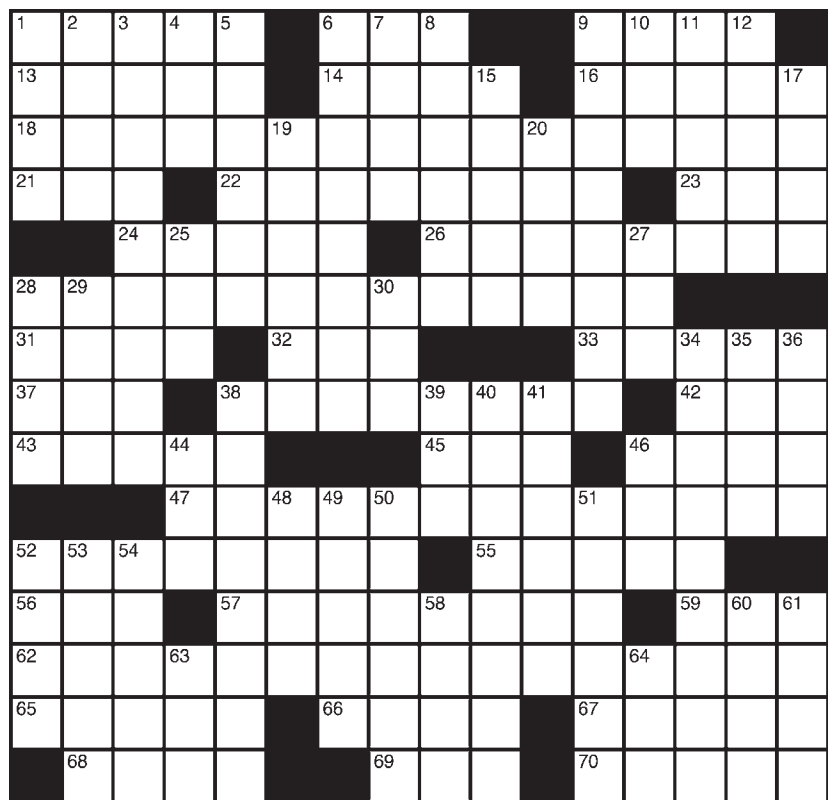
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

### ACROSS

- They may be counted
- "Masterpiece" aier
- Hideaway
- Disinclined
- One in the script
- Tribal leader
- Joint venture?
- Neon tips?
- "C'mon, play along"
- A toddler may be put down for one
- Curtails, with "in"
- Of inferior quality
- Joint venture?
- Winter Olympics event
- Programming pioneer Lovelace
- Hustle
- Combustion residue
- Like the object of an "Aww!"
- U.K. singer Rita \_\_\_\_\_
- Food packaging abbr.
- Cause of some royal sleeplessness
- Salt Lake City team
- Joint venture?
- Coastal evergreen
- Character usually seen in 41-Down
- Nail
- Pink drink
- "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very \_\_\_\_\_ Day": 2014 film
- Joint venture?
- Trauma pro
- Timbuktu's land
- "Stronger" rapper West
- 1975 Wimbledon winner
- Coddling, briefly
- Place

### DOWN

- Plum used to flavor spirits
- Jazz band staple
- Adheres to a healthy diet



By Joe Deeney

1/10/20

### Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C U P P A D M A S A G  
A S H S P O O L C H I  
M A Y O Y E N T E H A H N  
S H O W S T O P P E R  
F L I C K A P O L Y P S  
L E C A R R E F O U L S U P  
A V I L A X C I R O P E R  
M I S C C U E D I N E  
E T T U M E T R O O C T A  
S Y S T A L E C K L E E D  
T U M S E L A L  
E M B A L M A M Y T A N  
L A O N A P S H E I C U  
E X C L A M A T I O N M A R K  
N I C E I D I O M E R I E  
A M E X A S A N A L A D S

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1/10/20

- Blissful
- Pacific weather phenomenon
- Iraq war issue, briefly
- Currency mkt. money
- Real hoot
- "To recap ..."
- Boo
- Smart set?
- Cautious
- Automaker whose current models end in X
- "The Big Bang Theory" crowd
- "Actually ..."
- "Game of Thrones" girl — Stark
- Turned green, say
- Japanese drama
- Skin pic

### PUBLIC COMMENT

**Presentation**  
January 24th Professional Development

**Whole Board Action**  
Solar Panel Request for Proposal

### CONSENT AGENDA

Obsolete Items  
Expenditures  
December 10th Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
December 17th Special Board Meeting Minutes

### New Hires:

Connor Webb — SGMS Special Education Teacher  
Donna Kellough — Bus Barn Parts and Service/Dispatcher  
Patrick Sullivan — LINKS Stem Teacher  
Alexandra Swoboda — High Needs Paraeducator

### Resignations:

Joey Lane — PHS Head Volleyball Coach

### Retirees:

**Information Items:**

Policies 8301, 8500

**Communications:**

LEA Report

Superintendent's Report

Board Chair Report

Negotiations Committee Report

Finance Committee Report

Policy Committee Report

Calendar Committee Report

Public Relations Committee Report

Curriculum Committee Report

Facilities Committee Report

Board Workshop Immediately Following the Regular Board Meeting

Pub. Jan. 10, 2020

MNAXLP

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## SUDOKU

### Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	1				
8		2		4	
	9	3	8	2	7
	2			4	
6			8		3
	8			9	
9	3	7		2	5
	5		4		6
				7	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/10



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## 数独

### Answer to previous puzzle

3	2	7	6	1	5	4	9	8
1	9	4	8	7	2	6	5	3
5	8	6	3	9	4	7	2	1
6	3	9	4	5	1	2	8	7
7	4	1	2	8	9	5	3	6
8	5	2	7	6	3	1	4	9
4	7	8	5	3	6	9	1	2
2	1	3	9	4	7	8	6	5
9	6	5	1	2	8	3	7	4

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/10

This is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Friday.



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3BR, 2Bath, 1408 sq.ft.  
Gas Fireplace, 5.18 Acres  
1BR 1Bath Guest Home  
2 Car Detached Garage

**\$495,000**

MLS #338011 \$495,000 21 Cascade Lane

**VIEWS VIEWS VIEWS!**

3BR, 2bath, + Full Basement  
3 Car Attached Garage  
New Build on 2 Acres

**\$489,000**

MLS # 338115 \$489,000 7 Terrier Lane

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3 Car Attached Garage  
Being Built on 2.23 Acres

**\$459,000**

**NOW PENDING**

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**Your Local Real Estate Market Experts**

**OPEN HOUSES – FRI. 4-6 PM AND SAT. 11 AM-1 PM**

**216 S. 10TH ST.**

QUAINT HISTORIC CHARM :: 3Br/2bath with move in ready updates of a new home! New windows, insulation, updated electrical, and remodeled bathrooms. Kitchen has stainless steel appliances and tile countertops. Bonus room/loft above the finished single car garage. Beautifully landscaped yard includes a custom stone patio with fire pit.

\$425,000 #341264 Call Theresa 223-1405

**116 N. 5TH ST. UNIT #3**

SPECTACULAR! :: The Lofts at Fifth are streamlined, elegant & easy to use. Ground level: big one car garage, office with separate entrance, both w/9' ceilings. Upstairs: a large, light filled loft w/skylights, a wall of windows, spectacular kitchen. Bathroom has 18' wall of gorgeous tile and a floating vanity. Imagine living only in space you really need. Residential or Commercial zoning.

\$284,000 #330527 Call Gillian 220-4340

**1114 PRAIRIE DR.**

PANORAMIC MOUNTAIN VIEWS! :: One look and you'll fall in love with this new home in North Town, Livingston's newest housing development. 3BR/2bath home with open living/dining area, large windows, gas fireplace, vaulted ceiling. The kitchen includes a walk-in pantry with farmhouse style door, granite counters, and gas range. The master suite will WOW you with its wall of windows. A must see!

\$395,000 #341518 Call Jon Ellen 223-8700

**617 N. 10TH**

COZY 1950'S STYLE HOME ON 4 CITY LOTS! :: Walk through the front door to original hardwood floors in the living room, 2 bedrooms & additional room on the main level. Basement has 2 non-conforming bedrooms, a family room, wood burning stove, extra room, laundry room and bathroom. A large 2 car garage, covered patio and mature landscaping.

\$275,000 #341088 Call Brooke 223-3389

**4 POWDER HORN RANCH DR. – BIG TIMBER**

MAGNIFICENT VIEWS! :: This sunny, spacious, 3Br/2 bath home is part of a Planned Unit Development (P.U.D.) - a great opportunity to enjoy 30+ beautiful, impeccably maintained common acres. The floor plan is comfortable & open: the kitchen/dining/living room stays cool in summer, with a shady porch to sit on just outside - in winter, cozy up next to the big wood stove while the snow flies. Move in ready.

\$299,000 #337235 Call Gillian 222-4340

**4964 HWY. 89 S.**

A STONES THROW FROM THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER :: This remarkable park like setting has mature trees, beautiful landscaping and covered wrap around deck. Inside this 2Br/2bath home, the details are endless. You will find custom woodwork throughout, pegged wood floors, granite counters, reclaimed wood beams, and a professional series Viking Range. Additionally, the property features a darling guest cottage, two RV hookups, two garages and other outbuildings. Close to town.

\$465,000 #317625 Call Jessie 223-5881

**101 HANNAFORD ST. – WILSALL**

DARLING HOUSE :: This 1 Bedroom/1 Bath sits on a corner lot with mature shrubs and newly built partial privacy fence. Lots of light with Southern exposure, facing the stunning Crazy Mountain Range. Built in 2017 with spacious deck the length of the home and all the appliances convey! The home has been detitled and is on a permanent foundation. Don't wait to see this one!

\$167,000 # 338461 Call Tammy 220-0159

**15 COOPER LANE – CLYDE PARK**

BEAUTIFUL LOCATION :: Settle in to this comfortable 3Br/2 bath ranch house surrounded by the mountains of the Shields Valley. The home rests on 40 acres and features wood floors and a main floor master bedroom. The detached two car garage has plenty of work space and has its own bathroom. Ready for animals, there is an open face shed with hay storage and horse fencing around pastures. Property has water rights.

\$550,000 #341239 Call Jessie 223-5881

**617 N. 13TH ST.**

TONS OF ROOM :: This is a very comfortable home in good condition with a large lot on a quiet street near the soccer fields. There are 3 bedrooms and 1.5 baths and a cozy den with gas fireplace. There is an attached single garage, deck and covered patio area in the large back yard that has ample room for a nice shop and the zoning is R2 so you could have a mother in law apartment above your new shop. Shown by appointment. Call today.

\$285,500 #335100 Call Ernie 220-0231

**705 NORTHERN LIGHTS RD.**

SWEET, WELL CARED FOR PROPERTY :: 4Br/2bath with basement. This lovely home was built in 2004 and has 3 bed 2 bath on the main floor. Laundry is on the main floor as well as the master suite with walk in closet. A Large deck is right off the dining/kitchen area. The lot is fenced for privacy, has a garden with raspberries, native plants and mature trees. Double attached garage and side yard parking area.

\$329,000 #335594 Call Julie 223-7753

**806 NEBULA ST.**

VERY LARGE LOT! :: 4Br/2.5 baths, fully finished basement with egress style windows that includes a second kitchen. Oversized garage has plenty of room for workbenches plus offers about 500 S.F. of bonus room above the garage. The wonderful floor plan has the master on the main level and a second small bedroom or office. Tiled floors in the kitchen, dining, hall and laundry room areas. The 2 bedrooms and full bath and second kitchen downstairs would make for a nice mother-in-law style set up. There is no active HOA.

\$349,000 #340758 Call Julie 223-7753

**720 N. 11TH ST.**

A LOT FOR THE MONEY! :: This well-maintained 3BR/2bath home features granite counters in kitchen and both bathrooms, massive master suite with enough room for a sitting area, walk-in closet, his/hers sinks in bathroom with tiled walk-in shower and jetted soaking tub, and exit to back yard patio. Vaulted ceilings in living area and master suite, plus a 400 S.F. (+/-) covered patio, central A/C and oversized 2 car attached garage.

\$359,000 #341034 Call Jon Ellen 223-8700

**215 South Main Street**  
**Livingston, Montana**  
**406-222-8700**  
**www.eralivingston.com**





Tonight

Snow

Precip Chance: 35%

23

Winds:

33-40 mph SSW

Saturday

Partly Cloudy

Precip Chance: 20%

35 21

Winds:

22-33 mph SSW

Sunday

Mostly Cloudy

29 16

Winds:

17-19 mph SSW

Monday

Scattered Snow

18 3

Winds:

14-17 mph SW

Tuesday

Scattered Snow

6 -9

Winds:

11-18 mph SE

Livingston Outlook

Tonight, expect mostly cloudy skies with a 35 percent chance of isolated snow, overnight low of 23. South southwest wind 33 to 40 mph. The record low temperature for tonight is -41 set in 1962.

Livingston Statistics

As recorded through yesterday.

Temperatures

High yesterday . . . . . 34

Low yesterday . . . . . 18

Record high . . . . . 53 in 2007

Record low . . . . . -42 in 1962

Precipitation (as of 4 p.m.)

Yesterday . . . . . Trace

Month to date . . . . . 0.02"

Year to date . . . . . 0.02"

Snowfall Yesterday . . . . . Trace

Snowfall season to date . . . . . 18.5"

Average Humidity . . . . . 76%

Barometer (noon) . . 29.72" (falling)

Wind Sock

Peak gust for last 24 hours: 25 mph (Recorded at Mission Field)

Yellowstone River

Depth (at Carter's Bridge) . . . . . 0.92 ft.

Current flow . . . . . 1,440 ft3/sec.

77-year average . . . . . 1,230 ft3/sec.

Temperature . . . . . n/a

Montana Weather

Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs.

City	Tomorrow	Sunday
	Hi Lo Wx	Hi Lo Wx
Belgrade	34 20 sn	32 16 cl
Billings	37 20 mc	27 11 mc
Bozeman	34 22 sn	32 18 cl
Butte	28 19 sn	27 15 sn
Dillon	29 16 sn	32 18 mc
Glasgow	32 5 mc	11 -8 sn
Glendive	29 13 cl	23 1 mc
Great Falls	37 10 mc	15 -8 cl

City	Tomorrow	Sunday
	Hi Lo Wx	Hi Lo Wx
Havre	31 6 mc	7 -7 sn
Helena	35 22 mc	30 8 mc
Kalispell	35 23 sn	29 4 sn
Lewistown	36 12 mc	19 -3 mc
Miles City	34 16 mc	22 6 mc
Missoula	35 26 sn	33 20 sn
Sidney	24 10 sn	18 -3 cl
W. Yellowstone	20 10 sn	19 12 sn

Sun and Moon

Sunset tonight . . . . . 4:58 p.m.

Sunrise tomorrow . . . . . 8:01 a.m.

Moonrise tomorrow . . . . . 6:10 p.m.

Moonset tomorrow . . . . . 8:54 a.m.

Moon Phases

1/10

1/17

1/24

2/1

National Weather

Forecast map for Jan. 11, 2020

For latest weather updates: [www.UpdatedWx.com/LE](http://www.UpdatedWx.com/LE)

City	Tomorrow	Sunday	City	Tomorrow	Sunday
	Hi Lo Wx	Hi Lo Wx		Hi Lo Wx	Hi Lo Wx
Anchorage	1 -7 s	6 -4 sn	Los Angeles	65 46 s	64 47 s
Atlanta	70 51 sh	66 54 sh	New York	61 57 mc	65 42 sh
Boston	58 55 mc	61 36 sh	Phoenix	61 39 s	64 41 s
Chicago	37 22 ra	31 28 pc	Salt Lake City	37 28 ss	34 30 ss
Dallas	44 34 mc	60 43 s	Seattle	45 39 sh	42 30 ra
Denver	49 24 pc	44 23 pc	Washington, D.C.	66 59 cl	69 45 pc

Legend: Wx-weather, s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, cl-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, ra-rain, fl-flurries, rs-rain/snow, sn-snow, i-ice, w-windy, R-Record.

# Boeing papers show employees slid 737 Max problems past FAA



A Boeing 737 Max being built for Norwegian Air International taxis for a test flight at Renton Municipal Airport in Renton, Wash.

By The Associated Press

Boeing employees raised doubts among themselves about the safety of the 737 Max, apparently tried to hide problems from federal regulators and ridiculed those responsible for designing and overseeing the jetliner, according to a batch of emails and texts released nearly a year after the aircraft was grounded over two catastrophic crashes.

The documents, made public Thursday by Boeing at the urging of Congress, are likely to fuel allegations the vaunted aircraft manufacturer put speed and cost savings ahead of safety in rolling out the Max. Boeing has been wracked by turmoil since the twin disasters and is still struggling to get the plane back in the air. Last month, it fired its CEO, Dennis Muilenburg.

In the internal messages, Boeing employees talked about misleading regulators about problems with the company's flight simulators, which are used to develop aircraft and then train pilots on the new equipment. In one exchange, an employee told a colleague he or she wouldn't let family members ride on a 737 Max. The colleague agreed.

In a message chain from May 2018, an employee wrote:

"I still haven't been forgiven by God for covering up (what) I did last year." It was not clear exactly what the cover-up involved. The documents contain redactions and are full of Boeing jargon. The employees' names were removed.

Employees also groused about Boeing's senior management, the company's selection of low-cost suppliers, wasting money, and the Max.

"This airplane is designed by clowns who in turn are supervised by monkeys," one employee wrote.

In response, Boeing said that the conversations "raise questions about Boeing's

interactions with the FAA" in getting the simulators qualified. But it said the company is confident the machines work properly.

It said it is considering disciplinary action against some employees: "These communications do not reflect the company we are and need to be, and they are completely unacceptable."

The Max has been grounded worldwide since March, after two crashes five months apart — one involving Indonesia's Lion Air, the other an Ethiopian Airlines flight — killed 346 people. Investigators believe the crashes were caused when the jetliners' brand-new automated flight-control software mistakenly pushed the planes' noses down.

Boeing is still working to fix the flight-control software and other systems on the Max and persuade regulators to let it fly again. The work has taken much longer than Boeing expected, and it is unclear when the plane will return to the skies.

92 MILLER DRIVE

NEW OFFERING FROM JANE TECCA

Open House on Saturday the 11th from 1-3 PM

Hosted By: Kenzie Jesson

MLS # - 341371

Jane Tecca | Broker | REALTOR®

Engel & Völkers Livingston

jane.tecca@evrealestate.com

406.223.0453

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## US adds 145K jobs; unemployment at 3.5%

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers added 145,000 jobs in December and the unemployment rate held steady at 3.5%, signaling that the job market remains strong at the start of 2020 even if hiring and wage gains have slowed somewhat more than a decade into an economic expansion.

Friday's snapshot from the Labor Department showed hiring slipped from robust gains of 256,000 in November, which were given a boost by the end of a strike at General Motors. For the year, employers added an average of roughly 175,000 jobs per month, compared with about 223,250 per month in 2018.

Annual wage growth fell in December to 2.9%, down from an annualized average of 3.3% a year earlier, a possible sign that some slack remains in the labor market and that unemployment could fall even further from its current half-century low.

The picture of a slowly-but-steadily improving economy — plus low inflation -- likely gives the Federal Reserve comfort in keeping interest rates low, which has been a boon to stock markets. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was largely unchanged in Friday morning trading, but it briefly reached the record-level of 29,000. "We're starting 2020 in very good shape," said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial Services. "We should see continued economic expansion throughout 2020 driven by consumers."

The state of the job market has become a pivotal division between President Donald Trump and his Democratic challengers. Trump can campaign on the low unemployment rate and job growth as he seeks a second term. Democrats, seeking to oust him, will point to wages that have not taken off in a meaningful way for many Americans coping with high costs for medical care and higher education.

This is the last jobs report before the Iowa caucus in February that will serve as a first step for choosing the Democratic presidential nominee.

The prospect of a stable job market, a pick-up in global growth, supportive central banks, an easing of trade tensions and U.S. economic growth of around 2% should be a positive for this year.

"We really have the wind at our backs going into 2020," said Julia Pollak, a labor economist at the employment marketplace ZipRecruiter.

Yet job growth has failed so far to translate into substantially better hourly pay. The pace of annual average wage growth slowed in December to 2.9% from 3.3% a year ago, a possible sign that there is still room for additional job gains despite the decade-plus expansion that has reduced the number of unemployed Americans. There is also the potential that wages jumped in January as many states adjusted their minimum wages.