



INTERNATIONAL

Iran Is Preparing A Launch. But Is It For A Space Rocket Or A Missile?

About once a day, little satellites zip over northern Iran and snap a few pictures of the Imam Khomeini Space Center. The satellites, operated by a company in San Francisco called Planet, haven't recorded much, until recently. "We're seeing all kinds of activity," says Jeffrey Lewis, a scholar at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, who is analyzing the images as they come in. In recent days, he has noticed cars and trucks moving around the site. "We saw a large number of fuel trucks show up, suggesting that there is fuel being moved to the site," Lewis says. "We can also just see all kinds of activity at both launch pads." Iran has said publicly that its motives are peaceful. It soon intends to launch several satellites for communications and remote-sensing as part of the nation's long-running space program. But in a statement, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo recently called the planned launches "provocative." He said these launches, if they happen, are really about developing intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). The technology used by Iran, he said, is "virtually identical" to what's needed for an ICBM. Markus Schiller, founder of ST Analytics, an independent consultancy in Germany, has spent a lot of time looking at Iran's space program. He says the program does have links to the military. For example, the engines Iran uses on its Simorgh space launcher have a military origin. "It is actually a missile engine," he says. But not a very good one, he says. It's an old design from the Soviet Union, picked up by the North Koreans and later transferred to Iran. It's clunky and inefficient, and it uses a low-power kind of rocket fuel. That means a lot of fuel is required to get even a small payload into space, or a warhead to a distant target. The rocket has to be huge. It takes weeks to set up, and it can probably only launch when the weather is favorable. Also, Schiller says based on press photos like those released before a launch of the Simorgh in 2017, Iran's space rocket can't work as a missile. Its second stage is too small. Put it all together and he takes Iran at its word.

Ice loss from Antarctica has sextupled since the 1970s, new research finds

Antarctic glaciers have been melting at an accelerating pace over the past four decades thanks to an influx of warm ocean water — a startling new finding that researchers say could mean sea levels are poised to rise more quickly than predicted in coming decades. The Antarctic lost 40 billion tons of melting ice to the ocean each year from 1979 to 1989. That figure rose to 252 billion tons lost per year beginning in 2009, according to a study published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. That means the region is losing six times as much ice as it was four decades ago, an unprecedented pace in the era of modern measurements. (It takes about 360 billion tons of ice to produce one millimeter of global sea-level rise.) "I don't want to be alarmist," said Eric Rignot, an Earth-systems scientist for the University of California at Irvine and NASA who led the work. But he said the weaknesses that researchers have detected in East Antarctica — home to the largest ice sheet



on the planet — deserve deeper study. “The places undergoing changes in Antarctica are not limited to just a couple places,” Rignot said. “They seem to be more extensive than what we thought. That, to me, seems to be reason for concern.” The findings are the latest sign that the world could face catastrophic consequences if climate change continues unabated. In addition to more-frequent droughts, heat waves, severe storms and other extreme weather that could come with a continually warming Earth, scientists already have predicted that seas could rise nearly three feet globally by 2100 if the world does not sharply decrease its carbon output. But in recent years, there has been growing concern that the Antarctic could push that even higher. That kind of sea-level rise would result in the inundation of island communities around the globe, devastating wildlife habitats and threatening drinking-water supplies. Global sea levels have already risen seven to eight inches since 1900. The ice of Antarctica contains 57.2 meters, or 187.66 feet, of potential sea-level rise.

NATIONAL

President Concealed Details of Meeting with Russian President Putin

President Trump went to extraordinary lengths to conceal details of his conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin, including on at least one occasion taking possession of the notes of his own interpreter and instructing the linguist not to discuss what transpired with other administration officials, current and former U.S. officials said. Trump did so after a meeting with Putin in 2017 in Hamburg that was also attended by then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. U.S. officials learned of Trump’s actions when a White House adviser and a senior State Department official sought information from the interpreter beyond a readout shared by Tillerson. The constraints that Trump imposed are part of a broader pattern by the President of shielding his communications with Putin from public scrutiny and preventing even high-ranking officials in his own administration from fully knowing what he has told one of the United States’ main adversaries. As a result, U.S. officials said there is no detailed record, even in classified files, of Trump’s face-to-face interactions with the Russian leader at five locations over the past two years. Such a gap would be unusual in any presidency, let alone one that Russia sought to install through what U.S. intelligence agencies have described as an unprecedented campaign of election interference. Special counsel Robert S. Mueller III is thought to be in the final stages of an investigation that has focused largely on whether Trump or his associates conspired with Russia during the 2016 presidential campaign. The new details about Trump’s continued secrecy underscore the extent to which little is known about his communications with Putin since becoming president. Former U.S. officials said that Trump’s behavior is at odds with the known practices of previous presidents, who have relied on senior aides to witness meetings and take comprehensive notes then shared with other officials and departments. Trump’s secrecy surrounding Putin “is not only unusual by historical standards; it is outrageous,” said Strobe Talbott, a former deputy secretary of state now at the Brookings Institution. “It handicaps the U.S. government — the experts and advisers and Cabinet officers who are there to serve [the president] — and it certainly gives Putin much more scope to manipulate Trump.”



Report: Americans Are Now More Likely To Die Of An Opioid Overdose Than On The Road

For the first time in U.S. history, a leading cause of deaths, vehicle crashes, has been surpassed in likelihood by opioid overdoses, according to a new report on preventable deaths from the National Safety Council. Americans now have a 1 in 96 chance of dying from an opioid overdose, according to the council's analysis of 2017 data on accidental death. The probability of dying in a motor vehicle crash is 1 in 103. "The nation's opioid crisis is fueling the Council's grim probabilities, and that crisis is worsening with an influx of illicit fentanyl," the council said in a statement released Monday. Fentanyl is now the drug most often responsible for drug overdose deaths, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported. And that may only be a partial view of the problem: Opioid-related overdoses have also been under-counted by as much as 35 percent, according to a study published last year in the journal *Addiction*. The council has recommended tackling the epidemic by increasing pain management training for opioid prescribers, making the potentially-lifesaving drug naloxone more widely available and expanding access to addiction treatment. While the leading causes of death in the U.S. are heart disease (1 in 6 chance) and cancer (1 in 7), rising overdose numbers are part of distressing trend: The lifetime odds of an American dying from a preventable, unintentional injury have gone up over the past 15 years. "It is impacting our workforce, it is impacting our fathers and mothers who are still raising their children," said Ken Kolosh, manager of statistics at the National Safety Council.

PG&E Plans To File For Bankruptcy Over Possible Liability In California Wildfires

Pacific Gas & Electric Corp., the parent company of California's largest utility, plans to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection amid what could be billions of dollars in liability costs over the massive wildfires that have torn through California in recent years. PG&E said its CEO, Geisha Williams, would be stepping down. The state's fire agency, Cal Fire, determined in June that PG&E equipment had sparked 17 wildfires across Northern California in 2017. In 12 of those fires, the agency's findings were referred to the appropriate county District Attorney's offices for potential violations of state law. And regulators are now investigating the utility's potential culpability in November's Camp Fire, the deadliest in state history. If PG&E is found legally responsible for some or all of the costs connected to the 2017 and 2018 Northern California wildfires, its liability could exceed \$30 billion, according to the company's filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Monday. And that figure does not include potential punitive damages, fines and penalties or damages related to future claims. California law says utility companies can be held liable for fire damage caused by their equipment, even if they weren't negligent in maintenance. "We believe a court-supervised process under Chapter 11 will best enable PG&E to resolve its potential liabilities in an orderly, fair and expeditious fashion," interim CEO John Simon, the company's general counsel, said in a statement. "We expect this process also will enable PG&E to access the capital and resources we need to continue providing our customers with safe service and investing in our systems and infrastructure."



STATE

Wisconsin Experts Expect Increase in Farm Bankruptcies to Continue Into 2019

A report from the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis found the number upper Midwest farm bankruptcies has more than doubled in the last four years and Wisconsin agriculture experts expect more cases to be filed in 2019. From June 2017 to June 2018, 84 farms in the bank's 9th District filed for Chapter 12 bankruptcy, a chapter reserved for farmers and fishermen. The district includes Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana. Wisconsin leads the region with 50 Chapter 12 bankruptcies. That's 12 more than were filed during the previous year. Paul Mitchell, director of the Renk Agribusiness Institute at UW-Madison, said he thinks that number will be even higher in 2019. "This is the time of year when the operating loans for the 2018 crop, the final payments are due and (farmers) are often renegotiating to get new operating loans to put in the 2019 crop," Mitchell said. Mitchell said there's little data on how much debt farmers have with these kinds of agribusinesses. But when traditional lenders turn producers down, he said buying things on credit becomes an attractive alternative. "I'm very curious how these machinery companies that were offering credit and some of these input suppliers that were offering credit, what are they doing? Are they the ones foreclosing and starting on these loans and forcing the farmers into bankruptcy?" Mitchell said. Despite the increase in bankruptcies, agriculture experts agree the industry isn't in complete crisis. "That's 50 out of some 68,000 or so farms we have in Wisconsin. That is not a huge number," said Mark Stephenson, director of dairy policy analysis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Stephenson said the uptick in bankruptcies is not surprising after several years of low prices for milk, corn and soybeans. But the increase in bankruptcies is indicative of a much bigger financial problem in the ag industry.

UW-Madison Ranks No. 1 For Peace Corps Volunteers For Second Year In A Row

For the second year in a row, the University of Wisconsin-Madison has been ranked the No. 1 feeder school for the Peace Corps. The UW-Madison's Peace Corps tradition is so strong that Peace Corps Director Jody Olsen visited campus at the end of November to celebrate. "We are so thrilled with the effort that the University of Wisconsin is making in really helping another generation of young people in their lifetime commitment to service," Olsen said. "It means a lot to be able to say thank you to the University of Wisconsin-Madison." Specifically, she thanked UW-Madison for sending more volunteers across the globe to serve for two years than any other college or university the last two years. UW-Madison has appeared in the top five of the Peace Corps' ranking for the past three years. "The university has really embedded for many, many years this history of service: this intentionality of service, this intentionality of looking beyond the town, the city, looking beyond the state, looking beyond the country," Olsen said. Since the Peace Corps' founding in 1961, volunteers have served in 141 countries across the globe. Currently, Olsen said, people are stationed in 64 countries, nearly half located in Sub-Saharan Africa. Peace Corps volunteers are also in much of the Balkans, about half of Latin America and in several countries in Asia.



Gateway Technical College Classes Ready Students For Foxconn And Beyond

The class is set up as an open lab. Students can use anything from protractors to computer programs. The tools teach them everything from the basics of electrical circuits to robotics. Lubrano, 32, is soft spoken. He has two arm-length tattoos. One says "Lubrano" in old-English lettering. On his other arm, in the same lettering, is the name of his daughter, Ariana. Last year, Lubrano saw a billboard for Gateway's new advanced manufacturing degree while driving in his hometown of Racine. It was one of two degrees the school developed for Foxconn Technology Group. The other degree is called supply chain management. There are currently 50 students enrolled in both degree programs. When Lubrano graduated from Park High School he wasn't thinking much about his future. After spending about eight years working in retail and at fast food jobs, Lubrano got a job at Thermal Transfer Products in Racine. "Yeah, I wasn't really goal orientated at the time," he said. "Unfortunately, you kind of have to put your hands to work and make a living. That's what I did. I just found a job and I actually became pretty interested in it, over time." Lubrano is hoping what he learns at Gateway will teach him enough to quit his current job. Maybe it will lead to a job at Foxconn. Or maybe it will lead to a position with another manufacturer in southeastern Wisconsin. If Lubrano chooses the right vocation, he could even land a six-figure salary. No company has made more promises to Wisconsin's potential workforce than Foxconn. The company is planning to build a \$10 billion dollar, 20-million-square-foot manufacturing complex just east of Interstate-94 in Racine County. An agreement between the company and Gateway, signed in early 2018, states Foxconn will hire 236 people skilled in advance manufacturing and 46 supply chain management graduates by year five. As part Foxconn's deal with the state, the company doesn't have to report how many people it has hired until April 2019. Tony Lestan spent 25 years working with large manufacturers in Milwaukee and Racine. He became a full-time instructor at Gateway in mid-2018 as a way to give back to the industry he spent his career in. "We had a lot of trouble finding personnel, even at the elevated salaries," Lestan said. "So when the opportunity came up to fill the gap, I felt that I owed it to people. It really elevates people's standard of living to get that better salary and learn the skills we really need right now."

Jake Thomas Patterson Charged With Homicide, Kidnapping In Jayme Closs Case

"Incredible" and "unbelievable." Those are two of the words Barron County District Attorney Brian Wright used to describe Jayme Closs' escape last week from her alleged captor, Jake Thomas Patterson, after a court hearing on Monday where he formally charged Patterson with killing Jayme's parents and kidnapping her in October. "Unbelievable," Wright said. "She's 13 years old. And if you read the criminal complaint, you can see the amount of control that he was exerting over her, and at some point, she found it within herself at 13 years old to say, 'I'm going to get myself out of this situation.' I think it's incredible." Wright said that Jayme was lucky when she escaped. "Everything had to fall into place that afternoon for it to have happened. Ten minutes either way on either side ... I just, it doesn't take much imagination to figure out what likely would have been the result," he said. Patterson, 21,



appeared in Barron County Circuit Court on Monday afternoon for the first time. Prosecutors formally charged him with two counts of first-degree intentional homicide, one count of kidnapping and one count of armed burglary. Wright said he thought setting bail at \$5 million was necessary. "All of this indicates the defendant is a flight risk, a danger to the public and he is unlikely to further return for further court proceedings without an exceedingly high cash bail," he said. He cited the steps Patterson allegedly took to conceal his identity and prevent capture. "He indicated that if he had been stopped by police, it was likely he was going to shoot at police officers with the three shotgun shells that he had remaining," Wright said. Investigators say Patterson used a shotgun to blast his way through the front door of James and Denise Closs' home near Barron on Oct. 15, gunned the couple down and abducted Jayme. The teen was missing for nearly three months before she escaped from the home in the Town of Gordon where she said Patterson had been holding her against her will.

SPORTS

Study: UW-Madison Athletes In Better Mental Shape Than Classmates

A new study finds University of Wisconsin-Madison Division 1 athletes are in better mental shape than their classmates. UW-Madison's School of Medicine and Public Health had 842 athletes and 1,322 undergraduates complete a survey of their physical and mental health in 2016. The athletes' mental health scores were substantially higher than any of the four levels of physical activity the undergraduates self-selected, including club athletics, intramural sports, regular exercisers and physically inactive. Traci Snedden, a nursing professor who led the study, says Division 1 athletes have more resources, including tutors, psychologists and trainers. She says non-athletes may struggle with a lack of health insurance, a lack of time to deal with illnesses or don't know how to navigate health services. The American Journal of Health Promotion published the results Wednesday.

High school wrestling: individuals keep top spots for fifth straight week

WAUSAU - Eight individuals from the G10 market have held on to the top spot at their respective weight classes all five weeks of the Wisconsin Wrestling Online state poll this season. The athletes are part of the USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin coverage area, which comprises Green Bay, Appleton, Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Stevens Point, Wausau, Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield. The state poll was released late last week. A total of 15 individuals representing teams in that coverage area sit atop the poll this week. Marshfield's Sam Mitchell has been ranked first at 195 pounds in Division 1 throughout the season. Hortonville's Eric Barnett was No. 1 at 126 pounds for the fourth time and also spent a week atop the rankings at 120. Freedom's Sam Peters and Luxemburg-Casco's Reece Worachek have held the top positions in Division 2 at 160 and 170 pounds, respectively, since the first poll, as has Spencer/Columbus Catholic's Logan Zschernitz at 285. Weyauwega-Fremont's Cian Fischer (126), Coleman's Caleb Gross (132) and Stratford's Dylan Schoenherr (285) have held the top spots in their respective weight classes in Division 3 since the beginning of the season as well.



WEATHER

- **Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 20. Southwest wind 5 to 7 mph becoming north after midnight.
- **Tuesday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 29. North northeast wind around 7 mph becoming east in the afternoon.
- **Tuesday Night:** A 20 percent chance of snow after 7pm. Cloudy, with a low around 23. East wind around 5 mph becoming light and variable.
- **Wednesday:** A slight chance of snow and freezing drizzle before 7am. Partly sunny, with a high near 33. Chance of precipitation is 20%.
- **Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 17.
- **Thursday:** Snow likely, mainly after 1pm. Cloudy, with a high near 23.
- **Thursday Night:** Snow likely, mainly before 1am. Cloudy, with a low around 8.
- **Friday:** A chance of snow before 7am. Partly sunny, with a high near 12.
- **Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around -5.

COMMERCIALS

Our son Arjun was born with cystic fibrosis. CF is a genetic disease that shortens lives. The CF Foundation has made amazing progress, but until a cure is found for all people with CF we will not stop. Help us add tomorrows. Visit [CFS dot org](http://CFS.org) today.

Come to Main Street Pizza Buffet for weekday lunch and get a stamp each time you dine in. Collect ten stamps and get a free buffet! On Two-Stamp Tuesdays, you can earn double and get to your magic ten much quicker! So, come on down to Main Street Pizza today, and pick your favorite type of pizza, whether it's a fresh tomato sauce with pepperoni or thick alfredo sauce with spinach and chicken. Main Street Pizza Buffet: Pizza your way at the buffet!