

BRIEFLY

Georgia family discovers owl in Christmas tree

ATLANTA — A Georgia family got a real hoot from its Christmas tree: More than a week after they bought it, they discovered a live owl nestled among its branches.

Katie McBride Newman said Friday that she and her daughter spotted the bird on Dec. 12. They had bought the 10-foot tall tree from a Home Depot, brought it back to their Atlanta area home and decorated it with lights and, coincidentally, owl ornaments.

"It was surreal, but we weren't really freaked out about it," McBride Newman said. "We're really outdoorsy people. We love the wilderness."

Trump to deliver State of Union on Feb. 4

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump will deliver the State of the Union to a joint session of Congress on Feb. 4.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi sent a letter to the president on Friday formally inviting him to deliver the address at the U.S. Capitol.

"In the spirit of respecting our Constitution, I invite you to deliver your State of the Union address before a Joint Session of Congress," Pelosi wrote.

UK charges U.S. diplomat's wife over teen's death

LONDON — An American diplomat's wife who left Britain after being involved in a fatal road accident that killed a British teenager has been charged, British prosecutors said Friday.

British police say 19-year-old motorcycle rider Harry Dunn died when he was hit by a car driven by Anne Sacoolas, whose husband was stationed at a U.S. military base in England. Sacoolas claimed diplomatic immunity and left Britain after the crash.

Dunn's family has urged her to return and face British justice, and met President Donald Trump as part of their campaign.

Britain's Crown Prosecution Service said it had authorized police to charge Sacoolas with causing death by dangerous driving "following a thorough review of the evidence available." A spokesman for the family said they had been informed of the charges.

Christian magazine calls for Trump's removal

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump blasted a prominent Christian magazine on Friday, a day after it published an editorial arguing that he should be removed from office because of his "blackened moral record."

Trump tweeted that Christianity Today, an evangelical magazine founded by the late Rev. Billy Graham, "would rather have a Radical Left

nonbeliever, who wants to take your religion & your guns, than Donald Trump as your President."

The magazine "has been doing poorly and hasn't been involved with the Billy Graham family for many years," Trump wrote. He later questioned whether the magazine would prefer a Democratic president "to guard their religion."

Some of his strongest evangelical supporters, including Graham's son, rallied to his side and against the publication. Their push-back underscored Trump's hold on the evangelical voting bloc that helped propel him into office and suggested the editorial would likely do little to shake that group's loyalty.

Rev. Franklin Graham, who now leads the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and prayed at Trump's inauguration, tweeted Friday that his father would be "disappointed" in the magazine. Graham added that he "felt it necessary" following the editorial to share that his father, who died last year after counseling several past presidents, voted for Trump. The president thanked Graham for the disclosure.

Christianity Today "represents what I would call the leftist elite within the evangelical community. They certainly don't represent the Bible-believing segment of the evangelical community," Graham told The Associated Press in an interview. He wrote on Facebook: "Is President Trump guilty of sin? Of course he is, as were all past presidents and as each one of us are, including myself."

The magazine's circulation is estimated at 130,000. In the editorial titled "Trump Should Be Removed from Office," Editor-in-Chief Mark Galli wrote that Democrats "have had it out for" the president since he took office.

But Galli asserted that the facts "are unambiguous" when it comes to the acts that led to the president's impeachment this week by the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives.

Prince Philip in hospital as a precaution

LONDON — Prince Philip, the husband of Queen Elizabeth II, was admitted to a London hospital Friday "as a precautionary measure," Buckingham Palace said.

The palace said the 98-year-old Philip was admitted to the King Edward VII hospital for observation and treatment of a preexisting condition.

"The admission is a precautionary measure, on the advice of His Royal Highness' Doctor," the palace said in a statement.

Philip had been at the royal family's Sandringham estate in eastern England, where the queen and her family usually spend Christmas. The palace said Philip didn't travel by ambulance and his admission wasn't an emergency. He is expected to be in the hospital for a few days.

— Associated Press

Washington state lawmaker engaged in 'domestic terrorism'

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — A Washington state lawmaker took part in "domestic terrorism" against the United States during a 2016 standoff at a wildlife refuge in Oregon and traveled throughout the West meeting with far-right extremist groups, according to an investigative report released Thursday.

The report prepared for the state Legislature said Rep. Matt Shea, a Republican from Spokane Valley in Eastern Washington, also found that he trained young people to fight a "holy war," condoned intimidating opponents and promoted militia training by the Patriot Movement for possible armed conflict with law enforcement.

Shea was suspended from the state House Republican Caucus Thursday evening, and advised to resign, House Minority Leader J.T. Wilcox tweeted. "He cannot use House Republican staff, he cannot meet with the caucus, his office will be moved," Wilcox said. Shea will also be removed from his House committee assignments.

The incoming House Speaker, Democratic Rep. Laurie Jenkins, said the report had been forwarded to federal prosecutors and the FBI. She said her caucus would continue to work with Republicans to explore options based on the report's findings.

Both Democratic and Republican politicians had demanded Shea's resignation.

Shea did not respond to phone and email messages requesting comment by The Associated Press on Thursday.

Prior to the release of the report, Shea was defiant.

"I will not back down," Shea said. "I will continue to fight for our shared values that have made this country such a blessing to the rest of the world."

Shea said he has been denied any opportunity to review and respond to the report, prepared by an outside investigator. The report noted Shea declined to be interviewed as part of the probe.

"Due process is the right of every citizen, and should be afforded to all members of the House regardless of their views or party affiliation," Shea said.

The investigative team, headed by a former FBI agent and a former law enforcement officer, was hired in July.

The team's findings, first reported by the news website Crosscut, said: "Investigators obtained evidence that Representative Shea planned, engaged in, and promoted a total of three armed conflicts of political violence



AP Photo/Rachel La Corte
House Republican Leader J.T. Wilcox, left, and caucus chair Rep. Paul Harris talk to the media on Thursday in Olympia, Wash. Wilcox has called on Republican Rep. Matt Shea to resign following an investigative report that found he took part in "domestic terrorism" against the United States during a 2016 standoff at a wildlife refuge in Oregon.



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren, File
Washington state Rep. Matt Shea, R-Spokane Valley, in suit and yellow tie at center, poses for a group photo in 2015 with gun owners inside the Capitol in Olympia, Wash., following a gun-rights rally.

against the United States ... in three states outside the State of Washington over a three-year period to include 2014, 2015 and 2016."

The report said Shea "participated in an act of domestic terrorism" when in 2016 he visited the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge to support its armed occupation by two sons of rancher Cliven Bundy.

Shea "engaged in conversations with Ammon Bundy and other militia members in the planning and preparation of the armed takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Burns, Oregon," the report said. He also issued a press release

on Dec. 11, 2015, asking for patriot and militia groups near the takeover to rally against the U.S. government, according to the report.

After the occupation of the wildlife refuge ended, Shea posted on his Facebook page: "After much prayer, I'm afraid violence might be necessary to take our country back," the report said.

Shea also went to Cliven Bundy's Nevada ranch in 2014 during a standoff with FBI agents in a dispute over grazing rights. And in 2015, in Idaho, Shea resisted the planned removal of firearms from a military veteran who was not eligible to have them.

The report also said that Shea in 2012 engaged in the intimidation when he posted a photo of himself on his Facebook page standing in front of a political opponent's home, and refused to remove the photo despite requests from his adversary, GOP officials and law enforcement.

A 2017 online chat indicated the lawmaker joined a discussion in which some suggested violence against left-wing protesters. Reports of the chat surfaced in the *Guardian* earlier this year and were expanded by *The Spokesman-Review* newspaper.

Based on chat transcripts, there's no indication Shea advocated violence himself, although he offered to do background checks on political opponents.

The texts came after Shea, a lawyer who was first elected in 2008, attracted international attention over a document he wrote that laid out a "biblical basis for war" against gay marriage and abortion. He later said that the document was taken out of context.

Shea has also pursued creation of a 51st state in Eastern Washington that would be called Liberty and run on biblical principles.

The Army veteran hosts a weekly show on the American Christian Network and in 2017 complimented members of Team Rugged, a group that one member said provides special forces-type gun training for young men so they can be effective in Christian warfare.

Shea last year lost a House leadership position after acknowledging he distributed the "biblical basis for war" document that also calls for killing non-Christian males who refuse to follow fundamentalist biblical law.

Shea is popular in his very conservative district and was re-elected in 2018 with 58% of the vote.

24th Annual Christmas Spirit Award Presentations

Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation is pleased to announce Roger & Karen Bounds and Charlie & Carol Clupny as the 2019 Christmas Spirit Award Recipients.

Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation is pleased to honor Roger & Karen Bounds as recipients of the 24th Annual Christmas Spirit Award. This award is given to those who exemplify the Spirit of Christmas by giving of themselves to others all throughout the year.

Roger & Karen Bounds have a long history of community service in the greater Hermiston area. They have spent countless hours seeking to help individuals in need or to enhance the ability of others to be successful.

Karen has participated as a charter member of the Desert Arts Council and chaired many events. They are both enthusiastic supporters of the Hermiston Warming Station, dedicating countless hours to help the indigent or underserved of our community. They have provided two buildings to house the station at various times when there was a need.

Roger & Karen have given many unsolicited and anonymous acts of kindness to those in need. They quietly support a multitude of non-profit organizations through donations and contributions, and volunteer the use of their personal skills and abilities to promote education and literacy within our community.

Their various acts of kindness include visiting the shut-ins, the aged, providing dinners for the underserved and to those who are grieving. They are examples of benevolent service and a willingness to dedicate their time and energy to assist others and make the Hermiston community a great place to live.

It is for these reasons that Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation, which strives to make our community a better place to live, has selected Roger & Karen Bounds as 2019 Christmas Spirit Award recipients.



Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation is pleased to honor Charlie & Carol Clupny as recipients of the 24th Annual Christmas Spirit Award. This award is given to those who exemplify the Spirit of Christmas by giving of themselves to others all throughout the year.

Charlie & Carol Clupny are kind, compassionate, and enthusiastic members of our community who give of their time, talents and resources to various organizations to benefit others. Their dedication and work ethic has blessed the lives of many community members.

They actively give service to the Lions Club, been avid supporters of the Hermiston High School band, and volunteered to help individuals in need without hesitation and formal requests. They exemplify the virtues of integrity, compassion, and caring concern for others less fortunate.

Both have served the Parkinson's Support Group that brings comfort and understanding to those who are afflicted with Parkinson's disease. Carol has written a book that has been widely acclaimed in documenting her journey and experiences that has helped others through this debilitating and life-changing experience. Charlie has been an emcee for various worthy causes, and is a CASA worker, and both are supporters of Made to Thrive helping the youth within our community.

You will not find a more kind, loving or gentle couple to grace any community. They do not seek the limelight but are known for their benevolence by friends and strangers alike.

It is for these reasons that Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation, which strives to make our community a better place to live, has selected Charlie & Carol Clupny as 2019 Christmas Spirit Award recipients.



The Foundation mission is to enhance the quality of life and general health of residents living in West Umatilla and Morrow County communities by raising funds and giving to community projects. Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation reviews funding requests and makes awards for worthwhile projects twice a year. The next deadline for submitting grant applications to the Foundation is January 31, 2020. Groups or individuals interested in making a donation or being considered for funding are encouraged to call the Foundation office at 667-3419.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season.



Season's Greetings

Holiday Design by Addalyn Pointon of Lewiston, ID.

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