

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, March 8, 2019 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 241 ~ 1 of 55

## Groton Area Schedule of Events

### Saturday, March 9, 2019

Regional Destination Imagination, Groton Area High School

Best of Show Competition, Sioux Falls Washington High School

### Sunday, March 10, 2019

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

Grades JK-8 2pm - 4pm; Grades 6-12 4pm - 6pm

### Monday, March 11, 2019

Big Question National Qualifier Debate, Aberdeen Central High School

7:00pm- 9:00pm, School Board Meeting, Groton Area High School

### Wednesday, March 13, 2019

End of 3rd Quarter, Groton Area School District

### Thursday, March 14, 2019

Girls Varsity State Tournament @ Sioux Falls

Boys Varsity State Tournament @ Sioux Falls

No School, Groton Area School District - Spring Break

### Friday, March 15, 2019

Girls Varsity State Tournament @ Sioux Falls

Boys Varsity State Tournament @ Sioux Falls

- 1- Help Wanted
- 2- Truss Pros is Hiring
- 2- Nursing Center in Huron to Close: Long Term Care Crisis Continues
- 3- SD News Watch: New machines, games help video lottery revenues rebound in S.D.
- 7- Change Clocks – and Smoke Alarm Batteries – This Weekend
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## Help Wanted

Looking for a fun, part-time job? Groton Dairy Queen is now hiring. Stop in for an application. (0216.0316)

**CLOSED:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

## Nursing Center in Huron to Close: Long Term Care Crisis Continues Lack of Funding Leads to Sixth Closure in Three Years



Thursday, the Board of Directors of Violet Tschetter Memorial Home in Huron announced their closure as of May 10, 2019. The closure is due to severe underfunding of Medicaid by the state, to the point that operations were no longer sustainable.

The closure of Violet Tschetter Memorial Home is in addition to other recent closures in Madison, Mobridge, Tripp, Bryant, and Rosholt. Low Medicaid reimbursement was the primary cause of the closures in each case.

"We are in the midst of a long term care funding crisis," said Mark. B. Deak, Executive Director of the South Dakota Health Care Association (SDHCA). "For years, Medicaid has not been properly funded and we are unfortunately now seeing the consequences. It is critical that the legislature and Governor act urgently to address this crisis."

Medicaid reimbursement for nursing centers is currently at such a low level that centers lose an average of \$58.30 each day for each resident paying through Medicaid. Statewide, costs of unreimbursed care total more than \$66 million annually. A significant majority (53%) of the total resident population in nursing centers relies on Medicaid to pay for their care. This disparity fuels staffing challenges, including difficulty hiring caregivers and high turnover among nursing center staff.

If additional funding is not secured, more closures will almost certainly occur.

"This closure comes just as legislators are working to finalize their budget for the next fiscal year," continued Deak. "For the sake of our elderly and disabled residents, as well as their caregivers in nursing centers, I hope this latest closure will serve as the catalyst for adequate funding that is so desperately needed."

# NOW HIRING!

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**SOUTH DAKOTA  
NEWS WATCH**

Inform. Enlighten. Illuminate.

## New machines, games help video lottery revenues rebound in S.D. By: Tom Griffith

This story was produced by South Dakota News Watch, a non-profit news organization. Find more in-depth reporting at [www.sdnewswatch.org](http://www.sdnewswatch.org).

Eight years after a smoking ban dealt South Dakota video lottery owners a heavy blow, the industry has quietly remade itself, last year recording nearly its highest revenue in 30 years.

The games brought in \$221 million in fiscal 2018, substantially higher than the \$176.6 million achieved at the industry's recent low point in 2012. The proceeds are divided evenly among the machine owners and the state.

Industry executives credit new games, updated gaming technology and more variety in entertainment options with the turnaround.

"A lot of that is the introduction of line game terminals, originally introduced in 2011," said South Dakota Lottery Executive Director Norm Lingle, who has held his post since 2005. "As we have seen that consistent and steady growth and investment in the new terminals, that has probably been the largest factor in us achieving year-after-year growth."

The gaming landscape has changed greatly since South Dakota first activated its video lottery system in 1989. Standalone casinos now are operating in neighboring states and a new casino is proposed for Yankton. An effort to allow sports betting in Deadwood is also underway. Even so, the state's most financially formidable gambling interest seems to have stabilized and, some proponents say, video lottery could be situated for even bigger growth if the state will allow it.

### Smoking ban fears envelop industry

In the fall of 2010, South Dakota voters overwhelmingly endorsed a ban on smoking, prohibiting it in public places, including bars, casinos and restaurants. The vote came on the heels of a contentious battle in the state Legislature, which passed a smoking ban in March 2009. A petition drive followed and a ballot initiative sought to overturn the ban. When voters went to the polls in the fall 2010 general election, they approved the no-smoking measure by a lopsided 64-36 percent margin.

Smoking ban opponents had predicted that video lottery revenues, the second largest state revenue source behind only sales and use taxes, would drop 20 percent if smoking was prohibited in bars and casinos. And, reports from the state Department of Revenue indicate they were nearly right.

In fiscal 2008, net machine income from video lottery, which represents the cash players put in video lottery terminals minus the prizes they win, peaked at \$224.6 million. In fiscal 2009, the year before the smoking ban took effect, it fell to \$220.2 million.



**Despite accounting for slightly more than 40 percent of the state's video lottery machines, new terminals produced more cash and net machine income than their legacy counterparts in 2018, helping boost video lottery revenues.** Photo:

Tom Griffith

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After the smoking ban was implemented midway through fiscal 2010, net machine income dropped to \$215.5 million, then to \$191.7 million in fiscal 2011, before plummeting to \$176.6 million in fiscal 2012.

Since that year, video lottery revenues have posted continuous gains, rising to about \$185 million in both fiscal 2013 and 2014, and \$199.1 million in fiscal 2015.

Meanwhile, in fiscal 2018, the total number of establishments offering video lottery across the state stood at 1,336, down from its 2008 peak of 1,478. Those operators managed 9,109 terminals last year, just shy of the high of 9,156 terminals in 2010.

## A rocky history in S.D.

According to the state Lottery website, South Dakota pioneered the first state video lottery in the nation on Oct. 16, 1989. But it has been anything but smooth sailing.

An initiated measure to repeal video lottery appeared on the general election ballot in 1992, when voters statewide favored continuing the revenue stream by a 63 to 37 percent margin.

Opponents then filed a lawsuit questioning the constitutionality of video lottery, and on June 22, 1994, the South Dakota Supreme Court declared video lottery unconstitutional.

In a special legislative session in July 1994, lawmakers passed a resolution to place a constitutional amendment on the general election ballot to reauthorize it. A court order to shut down video lottery was handed down Aug. 12, 1994, but South Dakotans voted by a 53 percent to 47 percent margin to reauthorize it and, on Nov. 22, 1994, video lottery was restarted.

The issue came before voters two more times: Nov. 7, 2000, when a measure to outlaw video lottery failed by a 54 to 46 margin, and in November 2006, when an initiated measure to repeal video lottery was defeated 67 to 33 percent.

Despite the overwhelming support for video lottery evident in the votes, opponents have continued to describe this specific form of entertainment as "the crack cocaine" of gambling, preying on those with addictive tendencies, destroying families, and encouraging crimes such as theft and embezzlement.

As recently as a Feb. 2 legislative question-and-answer session, a state legislator from Rapid City was asked about a sports betting bill before the Legislature and used the occasion to blast the video lottery.

Labeling video lottery a scourge on South Dakota that has led to increased social ills, District 30 Rep. Tim R. Goodwin also said state government had grown addicted to the revenues.

"We're drunk on the money," Goodwin said. "It's a shame we have dirty money in our state but that's what this video lottery revenue is – dirty money."

Goodwin said if gambling is legal in South Dakota, it should be confined to Deadwood.

"I don't think there should be a casino on every corner," he said.

## Some point to growth options

But Larry Mann, a Rapid City lobbyist who has represented clients in the video lottery industry since its inception and whose current client operates 4,000 of the 9,000 terminals in the state, said those who oppose the industry have never presented a viable alternative to replace the revenue that would be lost should video lottery be outlawed. Mann said that opposition also has stood in the way of advances that could increase play as well as revenues to the state.

"We tried hard to get an increase in bet limit and the number of machines allowed per location, but we couldn't get it accomplished," Mann said. "There's resistance to this day. In the past few years,

## Video lottery revenues rebound

South Dakota video lottery revenues have rebounded in recent years after declines following a statewide smoking ban.

Year	Net machine income
2008	\$224.6 million
2009	\$220.2 million
2010	\$215.5 million
2011	\$191.7 million
2012	\$176.6 million
2013	\$184.6 million
2014	\$185.2 million
2015	\$199.1 million
2016	\$207.6 million
2017	\$213.3 million
2018	\$221 million

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**New gaming terminals and a variety of new games entered the video lottery arena in 2011. Response from players has been good and revenues continue to grow.** Photo: Tom Griffith

there have been at least three efforts to ban video lottery all together."

"But the issue is you can't replace \$112 million," he added. "There are still those out there who just want it to go away. The video lottery is the second largest source of revenue, outside of state sales tax. That's huge and no one can figure out how to replace it."

Lottery Executive Director Lingle credits new technology and new games with the steady surge in net machine income, attracting new players and retaining them for longer durations.

According to the state Lottery's 2018 annual report, "FY18 was out with the old and in with the new for many South Dakota video lottery players. The year saw the continued emergence of updated technology in the video lottery industry, as many players and retailers enjoyed the use of new terminals.

"The new terminals featured updated graphics and a wider array of games, which appealed to players based on the numbers," the report continued. "Despite accounting for just over 40 percent of the state's machines, new terminals produced more cash in (\$418 million to \$325 million) and net machine income (\$119 million to \$102 million)."

To that end, the South Dakota Lottery announced in January a seven-year deal with International Game Technology to provide the state lottery with an updated central system, business intelligence tools, new point-of-sale and self-service terminals, ongoing maintenance and retailer training.

Lingle, who oversees 31 Lottery employees across the state who monitor video lottery as well as scratch-off lotto games, said South Dakota has remained competitive in the face of a proliferation of gaming opportunities throughout the U.S.

"I think the growth in net machine income has been steady," he said. "When compared to other gaming jurisdictions, we have done well in South Dakota with year-after-year growth in video lottery."

## One operator's perspective

For the past 36 years, Don Rose has operated a Sioux Falls bar and restaurant. His establishment currently offers 10 video lottery terminals. He also is vice president of the South Dakota Licensed Beverage Dealers and Gaming Association, which represents some 300 members across the state.

From Rose's perspective, the statewide rebound of video lottery revenues since the smoking ban was instituted has been uneven and, for him, a bit disconcerting.

"Our experience is it went down everywhere," Rose said recently. "Some places have come back and some haven't. My numbers are down 21 or 22 percent, and it hasn't come back an inch for me. We have play, but we don't have it the way it was prior to the smoking ban."

Rose said the one bright spot has been the addition of new terminals that are gradually replacing "the VLCs, known as the old black boxes."

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"They were the main thing for years and years," he said. "With a bit of change and a bit of push, they got new machines, and they are very similar to Deadwood slots. If you played them, you'd think you were in Deadwood, though on a smaller scale. That's what brought people back and their familiarity has made them more attractive."

Yet, Rose said the video lottery industry's offerings have largely remained the same as the nation has witnessed a proliferation of gaming venues and players have cycled through 30 years of changing technologies.

"We still have a maximum bet of \$2 and a maximum payout of \$1,000," he noted. "Our Lottery Commission doesn't want to ruffle anybody's feathers, so they haven't made many changes. Very little has changed over the years."

Without changes in the future, Rose predicts a slumbering video lottery industry with 1 percent annual growth and no real prognosis for significant increases in play or spikes in revenue.

**"We still have a maximum bet of \$2 and a maximum payout of \$1,000. Our Lottery Commission doesn't want to ruffle anybody's feathers, so they haven't made many changes. Very little has changed over the years."**

- Don Rose, vice-president, S.D. Licensed Beverage Dealers and Gaming Association

"There are people who want to help the state and we've made suggestions," he said. "We could easily bring in another \$10 million for the state with a \$5 maximum bet and increased payouts."

State regulations permit 1,400 video lottery licenses with each authorized to have 10 terminals, Rose noted. In fiscal 2018, only 1,336 licenses were in-force with 9,109 devices.

"Without changing the video lottery, the bet limit or the maximum payout, we could authorize existing video lottery establishments to have five more machines each," Rose said. "That would be a win for the governor, for the state and for places like mine."

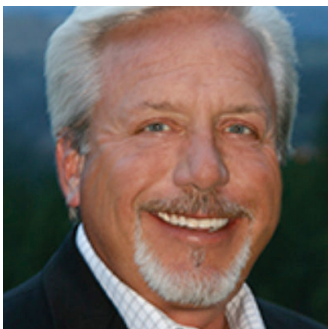
Over the past three decades, the South Dakota Lottery has provided nearly \$2.7 billion to support education, develop natural resources, lower property taxes, and provide problem gambling treatment services, according to the agency's website.

That includes more than \$441 million to the state general fund. Each year, nearly half of the general fund is used to support local K-12 schools, state universities and technical institutes.

Additionally, the Lottery has provided more than \$79 million to the Capital Construction Fund. Local communities use these funds to pay for rural water systems, community drinking water and wastewater improvement projects, plus recycling and waste disposal programs, according to the agency. The Lottery also has provided \$3.46 million to the state Department of Social Services for problem gambling treatment services.

Net machine income is divided between the state and machine operators on a 50/50 split. One-half of 1 percent of the state's share is retained by the Lottery for administration.

"Video lottery has generated a lot of revenue to assist with various state projects and programs, including education," Director Lingle said. "But we always like to remind people to please play responsibly. Some people do have issues with gaming, just as they may have issues with other vices."



## About Tom Griffith

Tom Griffith, Deadwood, S.D., reported this story for South Dakota News Watch, a non-profit news organization. A fourth-generation South Dakotan, Griffith has been a journalist, editor and photographer in Arizona, Montana and South Dakota. He also has written or co-authored more than 70 books and his travel features have appeared in more than 250 magazines and newspapers worldwide.

## Change Clocks – and Smoke Alarm Batteries – This Weekend

PIERRE, S.D. – When changing clocks this weekend, the Department of Public Safety urges South Dakotans to also change the batteries in their smoke alarms.

Daylight Saving Time starts at 2 a.m. local time Sunday morning. That means pushing clocks ahead one hour.

State Fire Marshal Paul Merriman says this is also a good time to change the batteries in the smoke alarms. He says smoke alarms save lives.

“Nationally, three of every five home fire deaths result from fires in homes that either had no working smoke alarms or none at all,” says Merriman. “Many of those could have been prevented if smoke alarms were present in the home and were properly working.”

Residents can check their smoke alarms by pushing the test button on the alarm. Merriman says if the alarm doesn’t sound, the batteries should be replaced.

“Testing your smoke alarms is a very easy thing to do,” he says. “By making sure the smoke alarms are working in your home, you could protect your family from a tragic incident.”

Additional fire safety tips include:

- At least once a month, press the test button on the smoke alarm. If the alarm does not work, it might be the batteries or the alarm itself.
- For maximum protection, install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home.
- Smoke alarms lose sensitivity over time and should be replaced periodically. They are usually good for about 10 years.
- Make sure your family has an emergency exit plan in case there is a fire in the home. If your family doesn’t have a plan, this is a good time to develop one.

The Fire Marshal’s Office is part of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.



## Swisher Wins First Place in Corn Yield Contest

Groton farmer Travis Swisher earned a first-place state yield award in the 2018 National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) National Corn Yield Contest. Swisher was recognized as one of the top-yielding corn producers in the nation with DEKALB® DKC46-79RIB Brand Blend corn yielding an impressive 272.66 bushels per acre in the A No-Till/Strip-Till Non-Irrigated category. (Courtesy Photo)

## WINTER STORM WARNING

**Issue Date: 2:51 AM Fri, Mar 8, 2019**

**Expiration: 6:00 AM Sun, Mar 10, 2019**

...WINTER STORM WARNING IN EFFECT FROM 6 AM CST SATURDAY TO 7 AM CDT SUNDAY...

\* WHAT...Heavy snow expected. Total snow accumulations of 5 to 7 inches expected. Winds gusting as high as 35 mph.

\* WHERE...Brown and Spink Counties.

\* WHEN...From 6 AM CST Saturday to 7 AM CDT Sunday.

\* ADDITIONAL DETAILS...Travel could be very difficult. Patchy blowing snow could significantly reduce visibility.

A Winter Storm Warning for snow means severe winter weather conditions will make travel very hazardous or impossible. If you must travel, keep an extra flashlight, food and water in your vehicle in case of an emergency.

The latest road conditions can be obtained by calling 5 1 1.



South Dakota

## GAME, FISH AND PARKS



### Smithsonian Exhibition Coming to Fort Sisseton Historic State Park

FORT SISSETON HISTORIC STATE PARK - Every day, Americans are hard at work on farms, factories, in homes, or at desks keeping communities thriving. Fort Sisseton State Historical Park, in cooperation with the Fort Sisseton Commission, will explore the professions and the people that sustain American society when it hosts "The Way We Worked," a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition.

The exhibit will be on view March 30 through June 26.

"The Way We Worked," adapted from an original exhibition developed by the National Archives and Records Administration, explores how work has become a central element in American culture. It traces the many changes that have affected the workforce and work environments over the past 150 years, including the growth of manufacturing and the increasing use of technology. The exhibition draws from the Archives' rich collections, including historic photographs, archival accounts of workers, film, audio, and interactives, to tell the story of how work impacts our individual lives and the historical and cultural fabric of our communities.

"We are pleased to be able to bring 'The Way We Worked' to our area," said Ali Tonsfeldt, park manager at Fort Sisseton. "It allows us the opportunity to explore this fascinating aspect of our own region's history, and we hope that it will inspire many to become even more involved in the cultural life of our community. With this special tour, we are pleased to be working with the surrounding businesses and museums to develop a local exhibition and public programs to compliment the Smithsonian exhibition."

Programs include a grand opening on April 6, educational classes, book discussions, and more.

"The Way We Worked" is part of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). SITES connects millions of Americans with their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of art, science and history exhibitions. The exhibition was made possible with the support of the United States Congress.

Fort Sisseton State Historical Park is located southwest of Lake City in northeast South Dakota.

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## SAVE THE DATE

### Fort Sisseton Historical Festival

May 31 - June 2, 2019

Relive history in a re-enactment of frontier life at the 42nd annual Fort Sisseton Historical Festival. Scenes of early settlement set the stage with muzzleloaders, riflemen and more participating in a rendezvous gathering complete with fur traders and both military and teepee encampment sites.

The event offers activities to showcase frontier life such as fiddle music, period oriented dance instruction classes, arts and craft shows and a costume ball.

### 2019 Park Entrance License

2019 park entrance licenses are available for purchase. The passes are valid October 1, 2018, through May 17, 2020.

### Groton Prairie Mixed

**Team Standings:** Coyotes 38, Foxes 35 ½ Cheetahs 34, Shih Tzus 30 ½ Chipmunks 23, Jackelopes 19

**Men's High Games:** Doug Jorgensen 193, Brad Waage 189, Ron Belden 184

**Women's High Games:** Nicole Kassube 187, Darci Spanier 178, Lori Giedt 162

**Men's High Series:** Roger Colestock 534, Doug Jorgensen 531, Brad Waage 525

**Women's High Series:** Nicole Kassube 480, Darci Spanier 468, Lori Giedt 424

### GFP to Hold CWD Open House Meetings

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) will be holding a series of open house meetings regarding Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal brain disease of deer, elk, and moose that is caused by an abnormal protein called a prion. Animals infected with CWD show progressive loss of weight and body condition, behavioral changes, excessive salivation, increased drinking and urination, depression, loss of muscle control and eventual death. Chronic wasting disease is always fatal for the afflicted animal. The disease can not be diagnosed by observation of physical symptoms because many big game diseases affect animals in similar ways.

These meetings are designed to provide information on the disease, listen to questions, and get your input on how to help protect South Dakota's deer and elk herds.

There will be a brief presentation to begin the meeting. Attendees will then have an opportunity to sit down with GFP staff in small groups to learn about disease surveillance, known CWD distribution and long term concerns, and what measures can be taken to prevent the spread of this disease.

The meeting schedule is as follows:

3/12 Aberdeen at the Best Western Ramkota, 1400 8th Ave. NW

3/13 Sioux Falls at the University Center, 4801 N. Career Ave.

3/14 Huron at the Crossroads Event Center, 100 4th St. SW

3/18 Rapid City at the GFP Outdoor Campus, 4130 Adventure Trail

3/19 Hot Springs at the Mueller Center, 801 S. 6th St.

3/25 Wall at the Community Center, 501 Main St.

3/26 Pierre at the Capitol Lake Visitors Center, 650 E. Capitol Ave.

All meetings are from 7-9 p.m. local time.

For more information on CWD in South Dakota, visit: [gfp.sd.gov/chronic-wasting-disease/](http://gfp.sd.gov/chronic-wasting-disease/) or listen to the CWD episode of the GFP Podcast and Blast.

For more information on this meeting, contact [Chad.Switzer@state.sd.us](mailto:Chad.Switzer@state.sd.us)

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## "I Hate Winter" Party



It was the "I Hate Winter" event at the Groton Care & Rehab Center. Residents and members of the community were treated to a root beer float and a cup of smores. Bottom left features Activities Directory Pam Hanson with a water gun. Bottom right features Administrator Brynn Pickrel having her photo taken with resident Jack Mahan. (Photos by Paul Kosel)



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## Today in Weather History

March 8, 2000: High winds of 30 to 50 mph, combined with 3 to 7 inches of snow, caused widespread blizzard conditions across north central South Dakota. Many schools were closed early in the day. Travel was also significantly disrupted. Telephone service went down for several hours between Mobridge and Selby. Some heavy snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Eagle Butte, Selby, and Hoven, and 7 inches southwest of Keldron.

March 8, 2013: A surface low-pressure area moving across the region brought warm moist air overtop low-level cold air which resulted in the widespread freezing rain across much of northeast South Dakota during the evening and into the early morning hours of the 8th and 9th. For much of the area, the precipitation changed over to all rain before ending as temperatures rose to above freezing. Ice accumulations ranged from a tenth of an inch to a half of an inch. Some ice accumulation reports include; 0.25 inches at Garden City, Hayti, Waubay, Clear Lake, Sisseton, and Summit; and 0.50 inches near Florence and Clark. Travel became hazardous with no significant accidents reported. Also, no problems with power outages or tree damage were reported.

1717 - On Fishers Island in Long Island Sound, 1200 sheep were discovered to have been buried under a snow drift for four weeks. When finally uncovered, one hundred sheep were still alive. (The Weather Channel)

1909 - The town of Brinkley AR was struck by a tornado which killed 49 persons and caused 600,000 dollars damage. The tornado, which was two-thirds of a mile in width, destroyed 860 buildings. Entire families were killed as houses were completely swept away by the tornado. Tornadoes killed 64 persons and injured 671 others in Dallas and Monroe counties during the Arkansas tornado outbreak. (David Ludlum)

1972: A wind gust of 207 mph was recorded at the Thule Air Force Base in Greenland. Winds were sustained at over 146 mph for three hours during the storm.

1984 - A freak thunder snowstorm produced high winds, vivid lightning, and up to seven inches of snow in the northern suburbs of Washington D.C. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987 - Thirty-two cities in the eastern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date, including Madison WI with a reading of 71 degrees. Afternoon highs of 68 degrees at Houghton Lake MI and 72 degrees at Flint MI smashed their previous records for the date by fourteen degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A cold front brought wintry weather to the north central U.S. Snowfall totals in northwestern Minnesota ranged up to eight inches at Roseau and Hallock. Winds in South Dakota gusted to 61 mph at Brookings. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989: While Arctic cold gripped the northeastern U.S., unseasonably warm weather prevailed across the southwestern states. Albany, New York reported a record low of 2 degrees below zero. Tucson, Arizona reported a record high of 90 degrees.

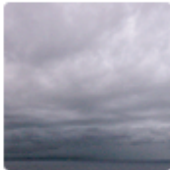



1990 - Late afternoon thunderstorms produced severe weather in east central Iowa and west central Illinois. Thunderstorms spawned a tornado south of Augusta IL which traveled 42 miles to Marbleton. Golf ball size hail was reported at Peoria IL and near Vermont IL. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

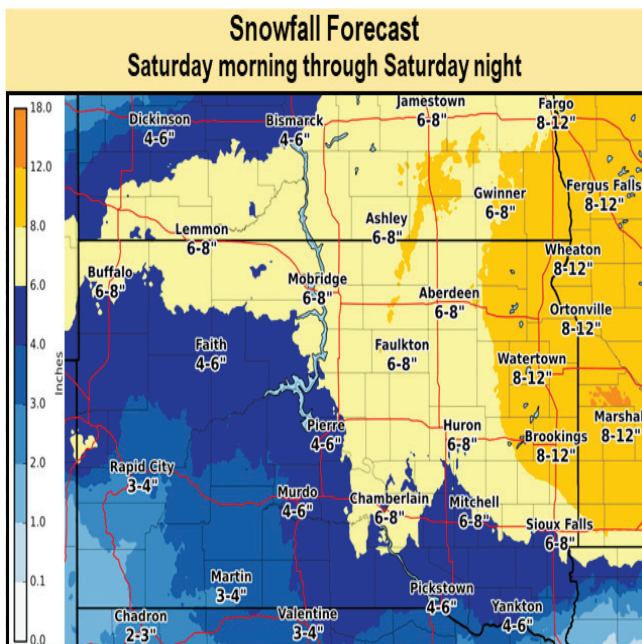
2004 - The California coast warms up. San Francisco broke a 112-year record by reaching 82 degrees. Los Angeles soared to 93 degrees.

2005 - A line of strong to severe thunderstorms affected the eastern portions of North and South Carolina, with wind damage and a few tornadoes reported. Winds gusted over 70 MPH with some of the stronger storms.

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Today	Tonight	Saturday		Sunday
				
Cloudy	Cloudy then Wintry Mix	Heavy Snow and Patchy Blowing Snow	Snow Likely and Patchy Blowing Snow	Mostly Sunny
High: 28 °F	Low: 21 °F	High: 30 °F	Low: 13 °F	High: 23 °F



**Widespread 5 to 12" of snow expected Saturday morning through Saturday night**

**Snow Saturday into Saturday night**  
**Blowing Snow Saturday afternoon into Sunday morning**  
 Light Glaze of Freezing Drizzle or Freezing Rain initially tonight

**Snow and Blowing Snow Timing**

	FRI	SAT	SAT	SAT	SAT	SUN	SUN	SUN	SUN
	6pm to midnight	midnight to 6am	6am to noon	noon to 6pm	6pm to midnight	midnight to 6am	6am to noon	noon to 6pm	6pm to midnight
Mobridge & surrounding area		Snow	Blowing Snow						
Pierre & surrounding area		Snow	Blowing Snow						
Redfield & surrounding area		Snow	Blowing Snow						
Aberdeen & surrounding area		Snow	Blowing Snow						
Sisseton & Surrounding Area		Snow	Blowing Snow						
Watertown & Surrounding Area		Snow	Blowing Snow						

Check out the latest forecast for your area at... [www.weather.gov/abr](http://www.weather.gov/abr)

**Road Conditions...**  
<https://www.dot.nd.gov/travel-info-v2/>  
<https://www.safetravelusa.com/sd/>  
<https://hb.511mn.org/>

National Weather Service  
**Aberdeen, SD**

Graphic created 3/8/2019 4:49 AM

Published on: 03/08/2019 at 4:53AM

Widespread 5 to 12 inches of snow is likely, as the forecast continues to be refined. A light glaze of freezing drizzle or light freezing rain may be possible as precipitation starts initially tonight, especially across central South Dakota. Snow will fall heavy at times Saturday into Saturday night, with blowing snow in wind gusts of up to 40 mph Saturday afternoon into Sunday morning. For your site specific forecast, check out [www.weather.gov/abr](http://www.weather.gov/abr)

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 21 °F at 2:49 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: -3 °F at 1:13 AM**

**High Gust: 15 mph at 9:51 PM**

**Precip:**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 58° in 1927, 1911**

**Record Low: -32° in 1995**

**Average High: 36°F**

**Average Low: 17°F**

**Average Precip in Mar.: 0.20**

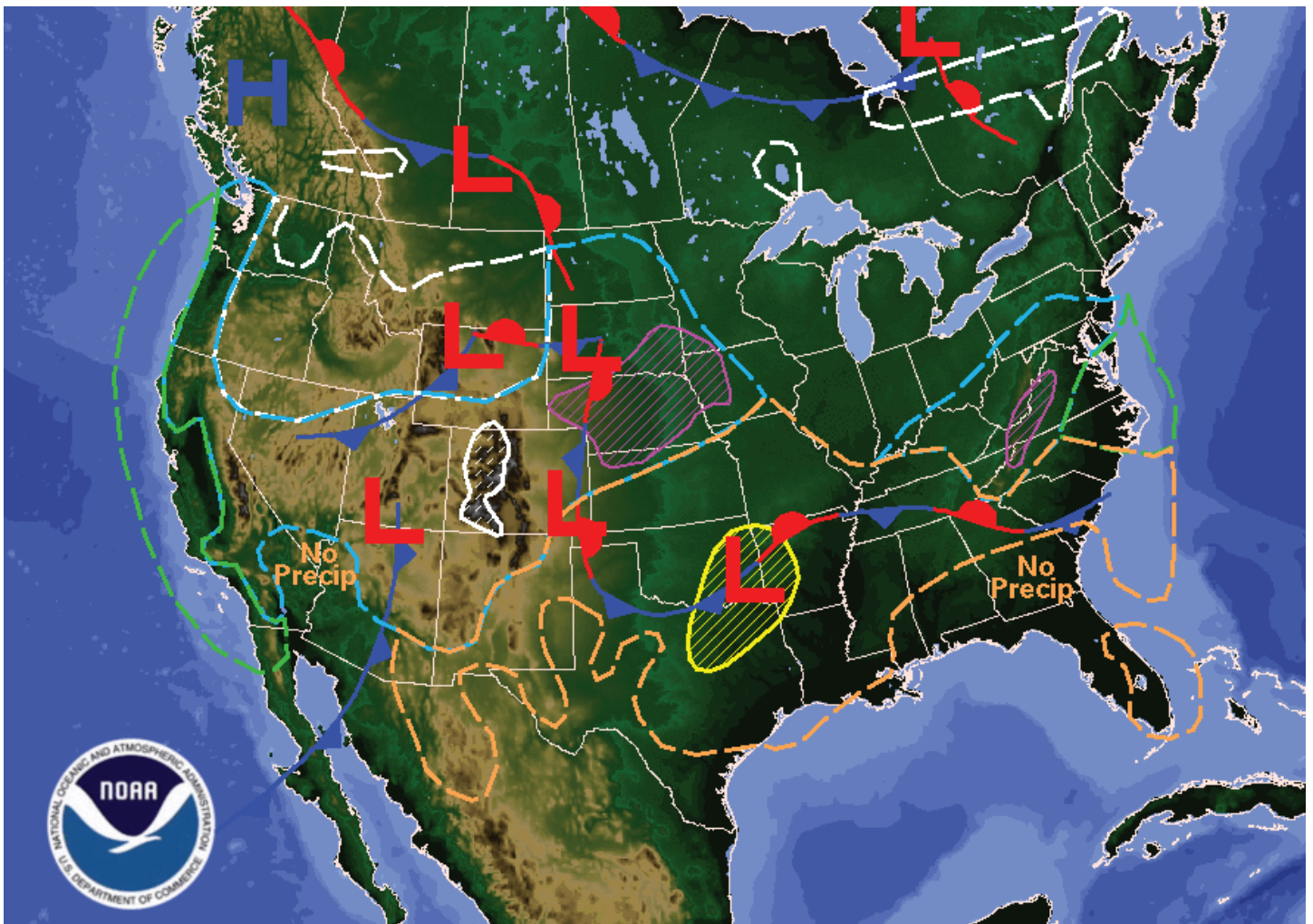
**Precip to date in Mar.: 0.00**

**Average Precip to date: 1.22**

**Precip Year to Date: 0.00**

**Sunset Tonight: 6:30 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:58 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Mar 08, 2019, issued 4:38 AM EST

DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center

Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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## CONFIDENCE GUARANTEED!

Each time I walk through a book store I make it a point to visit the self-help section. It never ceases to amaze me at the large amount of space this particular category of books occupies. Over 1,500,000 different titles are available in the United States, and the amount of money spent on them exceeded \$13,900,000.00.

In 1859 Samuel Smiles published a book entitled, *Self-help*, and an industry designed to provide self-help, self-improvement, problem-solving, and confidence-building was born. But, this was not the beginning of this movement. The Egyptians receive some credit for this area of knowledge as well as *The Book of Proverbs*.

However, there's one very important difference between *Proverbs* and the other sources available for hope and help: *The Book of Proverbs* comes with a guarantee from God. The others do not, even cannot, guarantee anything. Only a guarantee that comes from God can be trusted.

For the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared. Confidence does not come from formulas or mental exercises, nor a plan or a program. It comes from the only One who can empower us to become and do things that are beyond our imagination. Whatever God wants us to do, He will, through His power, enable us to do it.

Confidence does not come from within - it comes from God. When we apply His discernment and sound judgment, His presence and power are available for us.

Prayer: Lord, may we seek the wisdom of Your Word and reject the foolishness of those who live in darkness. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 3:26 For the Lord will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared.

## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 03/17/2019 Groton American Legion Spring Fundraiser
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main
- 11/09/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course 2019 Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services



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News from the **AP** Associated Press

## Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

### BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Class B SoDak 16

State Qualifier

Sully Buttes 66, Lemmon 53

### GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Class A SoDak 16

State Qualifier

Aberdeen Roncalli 49, Belle Fourche 27

Lennox 51, Sioux Falls Christian 46

McCook Central/Montrose 59, Beresford 53

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 58, Hamlin 53

St. Thomas More 56, Flandreau 42

Todd County 73, Miller 62

West Central 44, Crow Creek 41

Winner 50, Redfield/Doland 34

Class B State Tournament

Quarterfinal

Corsica/Stickney 61, Ipswich 32

DeSmet 59, White River 44

Ethan 52, Waverly-South Shore 40

Freeman 53, Warner 46

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

## Former tribal officer sentenced for sexually abusing inmate

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A former corrections officer with the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe has been sentenced to two years in prison for sexually abusing a jail inmate.

Authorities say 27-year-old Ryun Bowker, of Ridgeview, abused the woman while transporting her back to jail from an Eagle Butte hospital in March 2016.

The Rapid City Journal reports that Bowker pleaded guilty in federal court to abusive sexual contact, and a more serious charge of aggravated sexual abuse was dropped. That charge carries a maximum punishment of life in prison.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

## South Dakota passes bills to discourage Keystone XL rioting

By JAMES NORD Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota is poised to approve laws aimed at potential protests against the planned Keystone XL oil pipeline, seeking to prevent disruptive demonstrations like those against the Dakota Access pipeline that cost neighboring North Dakota nearly \$40 million and led to hundreds of arrests beginning in late 2016.

South Dakota's Republican-dominated Legislature rushed two bills to approval in three days, but it wasn't immediately clear when Gov. Kristi Noem will sign them.

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The Republican governor's bills would require pipeline companies to help pay extraordinary expenses such as the cost of policing during protests and aim to pursue money from demonstrators who engage in so-called "riot boosting," which is defined in part as encouraging violence during a riot.

But the measures have sparked opposition from Native Americans tribes who say they weren't consulted. The legislation comes after opponents of the Dakota Access oil pipeline staged large protests that resulted in 761 arrests in North Dakota over a six-month span beginning in late 2016. The state spent \$38 million policing the protests.

Noem has said the legislative package was developed to address problems caused by "out-of-state rioters funded by out-of-state interests." Officials are working to make sure disruptive and violent protests don't happen in South Dakota with Keystone XL, she said earlier in the week.

"We are working very hard and planning, and have been planning for many months, to ensure that that does not happen in South Dakota as the Keystone XL pipeline gets built across our state," Noem said.

The Keystone XL pipeline has sparked fierce opposition from environmental groups, Native Americans and some landowners since it was first proposed over a decade ago. President Donald Trump approved a federal permit for the project in 2017, reversing former President Barack Obama's decision to reject it amid concerns over greenhouse gas emissions.

The 1,184-mile (1,900 kilometer) pipeline is intended to ship up to 830,000 barrels a day of Canadian crude through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska, where it would connect with lines to carry oil to Gulf Coast refineries.

A federal judge in Montana in February largely kept in place an injunction that blocks TransCanada from performing preliminary work.

The pre-emptive South Dakota measure on "riot boosting" is about upholding the rule of law, said Republican Rep. Jon Hansen. It helps ensure that if someone incites a riot "they can't add insult to injury and stick South Dakota with the bill," he said.

But Senate Democratic leader Troy Heinert, an opponent, predicted it will be challenged in court.

"I don't believe that there is some vast conspiracy from out-of-state groups," Heinert said. "For the most part these are people who just want to protect, you know, the way of life in South Dakota, and a lot of them are South Dakotans."

The bills include emergency provisions that would make them take effect immediately and block opponents from referring them to a public vote.

Noem's office said her bills arose from discussions with lawmakers, authorities, stakeholders and pipeline developer TransCanada.

Rosebud Sioux Tribe President Rodney Bordeaux said in a statement Tuesday that his tribe wasn't consulted and called it an "underhanded tactic."

"Making the bills public after consulting in closed sessions with TransCanada with one week left in the current legislative session deprives the people of South Dakota a chance to react and comment on the proposed legislation and is a circumvention of the legislative process and freedom of speech," Bordeaux said.

One bill would tap a pipeline developer, among other sources, to fund extraordinary expenses that arise from pipeline protests. Approved claims from the state, cities or counties would be billed to the pipeline developer, which could contest the claims.

The second measure says that people who solicit or pay someone to break the law or be arrested would be subject to paying three times the amount that would compensate for the detriment caused. Money collected would be used to pay for riot damage claims or could be transferred into a fund.

The South Dakota legislation comes as the developer of the Dakota Access pipeline is seeking to recover millions of dollars in protest-related damages from Greenpeace. Energy Transfer Partners accused the group and activists of inciting opposition and directly training and funding protesters, including giving half a million dollars to a protest faction that advocated more militant tactics.

Greenpeace has called the lawsuit a "sham" and said ETP is trying to silence peaceful advocacy. A judge tossed ETP's claim out of federal court, but the company is pursuing similar claims in state court.

South Dakota officials have already changed state law in anticipation of Keystone XL protests. In 2017,

they made it a Class 1 misdemeanor for someone to stand in the highway to stop traffic or to trespass in a posted emergency area.

Associated Press writer Blake Nicholson contributed to this report from Bismarck, North Dakota.

## **Dell Rapids man faces 10 more sexual assault charges**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a Dell Rapids man accused of molesting girls who slept over at his house has been indicted on several new charges, including attempted first-degree rape.

The Argus Leader reports that 47-year-old Torin Lodmell, was arrested last week after several girls accused him of sexually assaulting them between 2015 and 2017. Lodmell was charged with one count of fourth-degree rape released on a promise to appear in court.

Court records show a grand jury has now indicted him on a total of 10 charges. That includes attempted first-degree rape in which the victim was younger than 13 years old, sexual contact with a child under 16, and attempted fourth-degree rape in which the victim was at least 13 years old but younger than 16.

It wasn't immediately clear if Lodmell has a lawyer.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

## **ArborCrowd Announces New Equity Offering in 707-Unit Multifamily Portfolio**

NEW YORK--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Mar 7, 2019--ArborCrowd, the first crowdfunding platform launched by a real estate institution, today announced a new offering that allows investors to acquire equity interests in the Sioux Falls Multifamily Portfolio, a collection of class-B apartment communities located in Sioux Falls, S.D. The properties exhibit strong upside potential due to Sioux Falls' sound multifamily real estate fundamentals and notable lack of professionally managed workforce housing product.

Affiliates of Tzadik Management, LLC led by Adam Hendry ("Tzadik") acquired the 18-property, 707-unit portfolio, which represents 4 percent of the Sioux Falls multifamily market, in four simultaneous transactions in October 2018. An ArborCrowd affiliate invested in the portfolio in January and ArborCrowd now seeks to raise \$3.2 million from investors. The transaction's total capitalization is approximately \$50.06 million, and Tzadik's equity group has invested more than 75 percent of the total equity in the deal.

The Sioux Falls metro area is supported by a strong job market and sustained population growth – both key drivers of demand for quality multifamily housing. Its unemployment rate is currently 2.5 percent, well below the national rate of 4 percent. Moreover, the city's diverse employment base ensures that its economy is not reliant on one industry, with the healthcare, retail, manufacturing and finance industries making up the majority of the job market. Throughout the Great Recession, Sioux Falls' economy demonstrated resilience as multifamily rents and vacancies remained steady. Additionally, when the national unemployment rate peaked at 10 percent in October 2009, Sioux Falls' unemployment was just 4.7 percent.

"Sioux Falls is a particularly attractive market for us, because it is a city with very strong fundamentals and was uniquely insulated against the global financial crisis, yet there are investment opportunities available that are not overpriced," said ArborCrowd Co-Founder and Managing Director Adam Kaufman. "The Sioux Falls multifamily market has seen a number of class-A developments come online in recent years, but there is a shortage of quality, professionally run workforce housing. Significant renovations coupled with institutional property management are expected to propel the portfolio's rent growth, while it is still anticipated to present a significant discount compared to class-A rents in the area."

The investment has a targeted internal rate of return (IRR) of 12 to 14 percent over a three- to five-year hold period. Tzadik has budgeted \$5.2 million to perform a comprehensive capital improvement plan that will include upgrades to all renovated units, common areas and public spaces. As part of the repositioning efforts, the properties – which were previously managed independently – will be unified under a single

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managerial umbrella, creating economies of scale, a heightened level of service, and a recognizable brand in the marketplace. These efforts are projected to generate an average rental premium of more than \$100 per unit per month.

The Sioux Falls Multifamily Portfolio is the eighth equity offering made by ArborCrowd since its inception. Most recently, ArborCrowd's Cove West Hartford deal in West Hartford, Conn., subscribed \$3.55 million worth of investments in less than two weeks, reflecting the high investor demand for its offerings. In total, ArborCrowd has raised more than \$22 million of equity for assets with a total capitalization of roughly \$220 million, comprising approximately 1,790 apartments.

To learn more about the Sioux Falls Multifamily Portfolio and access the offering overview and private placement memorandum, which includes market reports, property details, risks, financial pro formas and more, please visit [www.arborcrowd.com/offerings](http://www.arborcrowd.com/offerings).

## About ArborCrowd

ArborCrowd is the first real estate crowdfunding platform launched by a real estate institution, opening up an exclusive network to a new class of investors. As part of The Arbor Family of Companies, which includes Arbor Realty Trust (NYSE: ABR), a leading publicly traded commercial mortgage real estate investment trust, ArborCrowd is backed by more than 30 years of leadership experience. ArborCrowd reviews more than 500 deals a year from its proprietary network and only chooses the ones that survive its rigorous underwriting process. ArborCrowd commits capital to a deal prior to launching the offering to investors. This ensures the deal closes and allows ArborCrowd to offer investors accurate and detailed information about the property. Additionally, ArborCrowd chooses to present one deal at a time, so there is no guessing what property investors will actually own.

View source version on businesswire.com:<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190307005586/en/>

## Farm Rescue accepting spring crop-planting aid applications

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Plains farm aid nonprofit Farm Rescue is accepting applications for spring crop-planting assistance.

Farm Rescue provides free physical labor for farmers and ranchers dealing with an injury, illness or a natural disaster. It relies on volunteers from around the country, donations and corporate sponsors.

It was launched in North Dakota in 2006 and has since expanded to South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Montana and Nebraska. Its services include crop planting and harvesting, haying, and livestock feeding.

It has helped nearly 600 farm families through the years.

## Oliver County crash kills 2 New Salem residents, injures 3rd

CENTER, N.D. (AP) — Two New Salem residents are dead and a third injured after a one-vehicle crash in Oliver County.

The North Dakota Highway Patrol says the car the three people were in went out of control on a curve on a rural road and rolled in the ditch shortly after 10 p.m. Wednesday.

The 55-year-old man driving the car died at the scene about half a mile south of Center, as did a 54-year-old male passenger. A 52-year-old female passenger was taken to a Bismarck hospital with injuries the patrol says are not life-threatening.

## June trial set for mother accused of trying to kill baby

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A trial is scheduled in June for a Sioux Falls mother accused of trying to kill her baby and herself by crashing her vehicle.

Thirty-four-year-old Julia Alzoubaidi appeared in court Wednesday. A plea deadline was set for later this month. Alzoubaidi is charged with attempted first-degree murder and felony child abuse in the October

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crash off Interstate 229 near the Big Sioux River.

Authorities allege Alzoubaidi left a suicide note in her car saying she decided to kill her six-month-old child because he showed signs of an attachment disorder and that she felt she was an unfit mother. Highway Patrol troopers found Alzoubaidi in the river and her infant along the bank. The child also survived.

She's free on \$250,000 bond. She could face up to 40 years in prison if convicted.

## China promises 'all necessary measures' to defend companies

BEIJING (AP) — China's foreign minister on Friday promised "all necessary measures" to defend Chinese companies and citizens abroad amid legal clashes between tech giant Huawei and Washington.

Recent legal action against Chinese companies and individuals is "deliberate political suppression," said Wang Yi at a news conference.

Wang was responding to a question about Beijing's stance on Canada's arrest of a Huawei Technologies Ltd. executive on U.S. criminal charges and the company's lawsuit in an American court aimed at overturning restrictions on sales of its telecom equipment.

"Recent actions against specific Chinese enterprises and individuals are not simply judicial cases, but deliberate political suppression," said Wang.

Beijing will take "all necessary measures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises and citizens," he said.

"We also support companies and individuals using legal weapons to protect their rights and interests and not to be silent lambs."

China's government has demanded Canada release Huawei's chief financial officer. She is fighting U.S. efforts to extradite her to face charges of lying to banks about dealings with Iran.

Wang gave no details of what Beijing might do, but a Canadian former diplomat and a businessman have been arrested in China in what is widely seen as an effort to pressure Canada.

Authorities also have slowed imports of Canadian canola, an oilseed crop, by imposing more stringent inspections.

Meanwhile, Huawei faces charges including theft of trade secrets in a case in federal court in Seattle. The company pleaded not guilty this month.

On Thursday, Huawei announced it filed a lawsuit asking U.S. federal court to throw out a portion of this year's American military appropriations bill that bars the government from using its technology or dealing with contractors that do.

Huawei argues the measure improperly singles out the company for penalties without giving it a chance to defend itself.

## Huge power outage in Venezuela raises tensions amid crisis

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA and CHRISTINE ARMARIO Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Much of Venezuela was still without electricity Friday amid one of the largest power outages in years, raising tensions in a country already on edge from ongoing political turmoil.

President Nicolas Maduro ordered schools and all government entities closed and told businesses not to open to facilitate work crews trying to restore power.

The blackout hit 22 of 23 states by some accounts. It struck the capital Caracas, which until now has been spared the worst of a collapse in the nation's grid, at the peak of the evening rush hour on Thursday and was still wreaking havoc more than 14 hours later.

Thousands of commuters flooded into the streets because subway service was stopped. A snarl of cars jammed the streets amid confusion generated by blackened stoplights. Others had to walk long distances to get home.

At the darkened maternity ward at the Avila Clinic in wealthy eastern Caracas, several mothers cried as nurses holding candles monitored the vital signs of premature babies in incubators after backup genera-

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tors shut off.

Venezuela's socialist government blasted the outage as an "electrical war" directed by the United States. Communications Minister Jorge Rodriguez said right-wing extremists intent on causing pandemonium in Venezuela and taking orders from Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio were behind the blackout, although he offered no proof.

"A little bit of patience," Rodriguez urged on state television, saying service would be restored in a few hours. "If you're in your home, stay in your home. If you're in a protected space or at work, it's better for you to stay there."

But as night wore on in Caracas, patience was running thin.

Residents threw open their windows and banged pots and pans in the darkness. Some shouted out expletives at President Nicolas Maduro in a sign of mounting frustration. Normally hyperactive social media was eerily silent as much of the country was knocked offline. Even state TV went silent.

The outage comes as Venezuela is in the throes of a political struggle between Maduro and opposition leader Juan Guaido, the head of congress who declared himself the nation's rightful president in January and is recognized by the United States and about 50 nations.

Guaido took to Twitter to blast Maduro for the outage.

"How do you tell a mom who needs to cook, an ill person who depends on a machine, a worker who should be laboring that we are in a powerful country without electricity?" he wrote, using the hashtag #SinLuz, meaning without light. "Venezuela is clear that the light will return with the end of usurpation."

Venezuela's electrical system was once the envy of Latin America but it has fallen into a state of disrepair after years of poor maintenance and mismanagement. High-ranking officials have been accused in U.S. court proceedings of looting government money earmarked for the electrical system.

While intermittent outages have become regular occurrences in Venezuela of late, rarely have so many states simultaneously been without power for such an extended period.

While local authorities expressed concern about the sick and elderly, and a few people had to be rescued from elevators, some residents in Caracas expressed awe at the sight of stars hanging over the normally bustling city of 2 million.

The government keeps home power bills exceptionally low — just a couple dollars a month — relying heavily on subsidies from the Maduro administration, with is under increasing financial duress.

The nation is experiencing hyperinflation projected to reach a mind-boggling 10 million percent this year, is grappling with food and medical shortages and has lost about 10 percent of its population to migration in the past few years. Venezuela's economic woes are likely to increase as U.S. sanctions against its oil industry kick in.

State-owned electricity operator Corpoelec blamed the outage on act of "sabotage" at the Guri Dam, one of the world's largest hydroelectric stations and the cornerstone of Venezuela's electrical grid. Rodriguez described it as a "cyber" attack intended to derail the whole system. He said electricity in Venezuela's eastern region had been restored within two hours.

"What's the intention?" he said. "To submit the Venezuelan people to various days without electricity to attack, to mistreat, so that vital areas would be without power."

Pro-government officials often blame power outages on Venezuela's opposition, accusing them of attacking power substations with Molotov cocktails, though they rarely provide any evidence.

Rubio, who has been driving the Trump administration's confrontational stance toward Maduro, seemed to relish Rodriguez's accusations that he was somehow to blame for the power crisis.

"My apologies to people of Venezuela," the Florida Republican said in a message on Twitter. "I must have pressed the wrong thing on the 'electronic attack' app I downloaded from Apple. My bad."

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## 10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

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

### 1. MANAFORT ONLY GETS 4 YEARS IN PRISON WHEN 20 WAS POSSIBLE

The former Trump campaign chairman has been sentenced to only 47 months in prison for tax and bank fraud related to his work advising Ukrainian politicians.

### 2. HOW THE HOUSE RESPONDED AFTER ANTI-SEMITISM DISPUTE

Divided in debate but mostly united in a final vote, the House passed a resolution condemning anti-Semitism and other bigotry.

### 3. POWER OUTAGE IN VENEZUELA RAISES TENSIONS

Much of Venezuela remained engulfed by darkness amid one of the largest power outages in years as the blackout hit 22 of 23 states by some accounts.

### 4. WHY SUPPORT FOR MILITANTS IN PAKISTAN COMPLICATES CRACKDOWN

Many of the militant groups are popular among the poor because they operate networks of charities. Some groups have also enjoyed the support of the military and intelligence services.

### 5. ANALYSTS: NORMAL OPERATIONS RESTORED AT N. KOREAN LAUNCH SITE

U.S. analysts say North Korea appears to have restored normal operations at a long-range rocket launch site it had partially dismantled last year as part of disarmament steps.

### 6. R. KELLY COULD BE LEFT WITH NOTHING AFTER MAKING MILLIONS

Tax and legal issues — including recently filed charges that he sexually abused three girls and a woman — could leave the Grammy winner with next to nothing.

### 7. JOE BIDEN COULD GET BOOST BY BACK TO BACK 2020 DEPARTURES

With two key rivals already getting out of the way, the former vice president has more space to court voters who could help him claim the Democratic nomination.

### 8. RUGGED IDITAROD HAS HIGH-TECH SUPPORT

Volunteers and race contractors monitor the progress in the 47-year-old dog race through sleds equipped with GPS trackers that allow fans to follow them online in real time and organizers to ensure no one is missing.

### 9. BRAZIL ARMY ACCUSED OF ATROCITIES

In a historic hearing, an indigenous tribe in the Amazon accused the Brazilian military of killing members to make way for the building of a road.

### 10. BUCKS PLAYER WANTS TO WORK ALONGSIDE POLICE

Milwaukee Bucks guard Sterling Brown wants to work alongside law enforcement on improving practices used during arrests and stops after police used a stun gun on him.

## Manafort gets about 4 years in prison when 20 was possible

By MATTHEW BARAKAT and STEPHEN BRAUN Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort has been sentenced to nearly four years in prison for tax and bank fraud related to his work advising Ukrainian politicians, much less than what was called for under sentencing guidelines.

Manafort, sitting in a wheelchair as he deals with complications from gout, had no visible reaction as he heard the 47-month sentence. While that was the longest sentence to date to come from special counsel Robert Mueller's probe, it could have been much worse for Manafort. Sentencing guidelines called for a 20-year term, effectively a lifetime sentence for the 69-year-old.

Manafort has been jailed since June, so he will receive credit for the nine months he has already served. He still faces the possibility of additional time from his sentencing in a separate case in the District of Columbia, where he pleaded guilty to charges related to illegal lobbying.

Before Judge T.S. Ellis III imposed the sentence, Manafort told him that "saying I feel humiliated and ashamed would be a gross understatement." But he offered no explicit apology, something Ellis noted

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before issuing his sentence.

Manafort steered Donald Trump's election efforts during crucial months of the 2016 campaign as Russia sought to meddle in the election through hacking of Democratic email accounts. He was among the first Trump associates charged in the Mueller investigation and has been a high-profile defendant.

But the charges against Manafort were unrelated to his work on the campaign or the focus of Mueller's investigation: whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russians.

A jury last year convicted Manafort on eight counts, concluding that he hid from the IRS millions of dollars he earned from his work in Ukraine.

Manafort's lawyers argued that their client had engaged in what amounted to a routine tax evasion case, and cited numerous past sentences in which defendants had hidden millions from the IRS and served less than a year in prison.

Prosecutors said Manafort's conduct was egregious, but Ellis ultimately agreed more with defense attorneys. "These guidelines are quite high," Ellis said.

Neither prosecutors nor defense attorneys had requested a particular sentence length in their sentencing memoranda, but prosecutors had urged a "significant" sentence.

Outside court, Manafort's lawyer, Kevin Downing, said his client accepted responsibility for his conduct "and there was absolutely no evidence that Mr. Manafort was involved in any collusion with the government of Russia."

Prosecutors left the courthouse without making any comment.

Though Manafort hasn't faced charges related to collusion, he has been seen as one of the most pivotal figures in the Mueller investigation. Prosecutors, for instance, have scrutinized his relationship with Konstantin Kilimnik, a business associate U.S. authorities say is tied to Russian intelligence, and have described a furtive meeting the men had in August 2016 as cutting to the heart of the investigation.

After pleading guilty in the D.C. case, Manafort met with investigators for more than 50 hours as part of a requirement to cooperate with the probe. But prosecutors reiterated at Thursday's hearing that they believe Manafort was evasive and untruthful in his testimony to a grand jury.

Manafort was wheeled into the courtroom about 3:45 p.m. in a green jumpsuit from the Alexandria jail, where he spent the last several months in solitary confinement. The jet black hair he bore in 2016 when serving as campaign chairman was gone, replaced by a shaggy gray. He spent much of the hearing hunched at the shoulders, bearing what appeared to be an air of resignation.

Defense lawyers had argued that Manafort would never have been charged if it were not for Mueller's probe. At the outset of the trial, even Ellis agreed with that assessment, suggesting that Manafort was being prosecuted only to pressure him to "sing" against Trump. Prosecutors said the Manafort investigation preceded Mueller's appointment.

The jury convicted Manafort on eight felonies related to tax and bank fraud charges for hiding foreign income from his work in Ukraine from the IRS and later inflating his income on bank loan applications. Prosecutors have said the work in Ukraine was on behalf of politicians who were closely aligned with Russia, though Manafort insisted his work helped those politicians distance themselves from Russia and align with the West.

In arguing for a significant sentence, prosecutor Greg Andres said Manafort still hasn't accepted responsibility for his misconduct.

"His sentencing positions are replete with blaming others," Andres said. He also said Manafort still has not provided a full account of his finances for purposes of restitution, a particularly egregious omission given that his crime involved hiding more than \$55 million in overseas bank accounts to evade paying more than \$6 million in federal income taxes.

The lack of certainty about Manafort's finances complicated the judge's efforts to impose restitution, but Ellis ultimately ordered that Manafort could be required to pay back up to \$24 million.

In the D.C. case, Manafort faces up to five years in prison on each of two counts to which he pleaded guilty. The judge will have the option to impose any sentence there concurrent or consecutive to the sentence imposed by Ellis.



Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

## US jobs report likely to show more steady hiring in February

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers are thought to have extended their streak of hiring in February even as the overall economy is showing signs of slowing.

On Friday, the government is expected to report that the economy added 182,000 jobs last month, down from a blockbuster gain of 304,000 in January, according to data provider FactSet. Even such a smaller job gain, though, would be enough to lower the unemployment rate over time. The consensus forecast is that the jobless rate dipped to 3.9 percent last month from 4 percent in January.

Slowing global growth, a trade war with China and signs of increased caution among consumers have led many economists to forecast weaker growth in the first three months of this year.

Still, most analysts expect businesses to keep hiring and growth to rebound in the April-June quarter. It will be harder than usual, though, to get a precise read on the economy because many data reports are still delayed by the partial shutdown of the government, which ended Jan. 25.

In the meantime, there are cautionary signs. Consumer confidence fell sharply in January, held back by the shutdown and by a steep fall in stock prices in December. And Americans spent less over the winter holidays, with consumer spending falling in December by the most in five years.

Home sales fell last year and price gains are slowing after the average rate on a 30-year mortgage reached nearly 5 percent last year. Sales of new homes also cratered late last year before picking up in December. And U.S. businesses have cut their orders for equipment and machinery for the past two months, a sign that they are uncertain about their customer demand.

The economy is forecast to be slowing to an annual growth rate of just 1 percent in the first three months of this year, down from 2.6 percent in the October-December quarter. Growth reached nearly 3 percent for all of last year, the strongest pace since 2015.

Still, economists expect a rebound in the April-June quarter, and there are already signs of one: Consumer confidence rose in February along with the stock market.

And more Americans signed contracts to buy homes in January, propelled by lower mortgage rates. Analysts have forecast that annual growth will top 2 percent next quarter.

## Measure on bigotry, anti-Semitism sparks debate

By LISA MASCARO and LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Divided in debate but mostly united in a final vote, the House passed a resolution condemning anti-Semitism and other bigotry. Democrats are trying to push past a dispute that has overwhelmed their agenda and exposed fault lines that could shadow them through next year's elections.

The one-sided 407-23 vote Thursday belied the emotional infighting over how to respond to freshman Rep. Ilhan Omar's recent comments suggesting House supporters of Israel have dual allegiances. For days, Democrats wrestled with whether or how to punish the Minnesota Democratic lawmaker, arguing over whether Omar, one of two Muslim women in Congress, should be singled out, what other types of bias should be decried in the text and whether the party would tolerate dissenting views on Israel.

Republicans generally joined in the favorable vote, though nearly two-dozen opposed the measure, one calling it a "sham."

Generational as well as ideological, the argument was fueled in part by young, liberal lawmakers — and voters — who have become a face of the newly empowered Democratic majority in the House. These lawmakers are critical of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, rejecting the conservative leader's approach to Palestinians and other issues.

They split sharply from Democratic leaders who seemed caught off guard by the support for Omar and

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unprepared for the debate. But the leaders regrouped.

"It's not about her. It's about these forms of hatred," Speaker Nancy Pelosi said before the vote.

The resolution approved Thursday condemns anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim discrimination and bigotry against minorities "as hateful expressions of intolerance." Omar, a Somali-American, and fellow Muslims Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Andrew Carson of Indiana, issued a statement praising the "historic" vote as the first resolution to condemn "anti-Muslim bigotry."

Some Democrats complained that Omar's comments on Israel had ignited all this debate while years of President Donald Trump's racially charged rhetoric had led to no similar congressional action.

The seven-page document details a history of recent attacks not only against Jews in the United States but also Muslims, as it condemns all such discrimination as contradictory to "the values and aspirations" of the people of the United States. The vote was delayed for a time on Thursday to include mention of Latinos to address concerns of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. It was inserted under a section on white supremacists who "weaponize hate for political gain" over a long list of "traditionally persecuted peoples."

An earlier version focused more narrowly on anti-Semitism. The final resolution did not mention Omar by name.

Getting this debate right will be crucial for Democrats in 2020. U.S.-Israel policy is a prominent issue that is exposing the splits between the party's core voters, its liberal flank and the more centrist Americans in Trump country the party hopes to reach.

"What I fear is going on in the House now is an effort to target Congresswoman Omar as a way of stifling that debate. That's wrong," said presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders, the Vermont independent.

"Anti-Semitism is a hateful and dangerous ideology which must be vigorously opposed in the United States and around the world," the senator said. "We must not, however, equate anti-Semitism with legitimate criticism of the right-wing, Netanyahu government in Israel."

Other Democratic presidential contenders tried to walk a similar line.

California Democratic Sen. Kamala Harris said "we need to speak out against hate." But she said she also believes "there is a critical difference between criticism of policy or political leaders, and anti-Semitism."

A statement from Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts said, "Branding criticism of Israel as automatically anti-Semitic has a chilling effect on our public discourse and makes it harder to achieve a peaceful solution between Israelis and Palestinians." She said threats of violence, including those made against Omar, "are never acceptable."

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York said, "Everyone is entitled to their opinion, they are allowed to have free speech in this country," Gillibrand said. "But we don't need to use anti-Semitic tropes or anti-Muslim tropes to be heard."

Another member of the new crop of outspoken young House freshmen, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, said the final product, as well as the way presidential candidates are now talking about the issue, showed "there's been some really great progress we've made."

But Omar's rhetoric is taking Democrats to a place that leaves many uneasy. The new lawmaker sparked a weeklong debate in Congress as fellow Democrats said her comments have no place in the party. She suggested Israel's supporters were pushing lawmakers to take a pledge of "allegiance" to a foreign country, reviving a trope of dual loyalties. It wasn't her first dip into such rhetoric.

The new congresswoman has been critical of the Jewish state in the past and apologized for those previous comments. But Omar has not apologized for what this latest comment.

Pelosi said she did not believe that Omar understood the "weight of her words" or that they would be perceived by some as anti-Semitic.

Asked whether the resolution was intended to "police" lawmakers' words, Pelosi replied: "We are not policing the speech of our members. We are condemning anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and white supremacy."

Some of the House's leading Jewish Democrats wanted to bring a resolution on the floor simply condemning anti-Semitism.

But other Democrats wanted to broaden the resolution to include a rejection of all forms of racism and bigotry. Others questioned whether a resolution was necessary at all and viewed it as unfairly singling out

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Omar at a time when Trump and others have made disparaging racial comments.

There remained frustration that the party that touts its diversity conducted such a messy and public debate about how to declare its opposition to bigotry.

"This shouldn't be so hard," Rep. Ted Deutch, D-Fla., said on the House floor.

Among the Republican dissenters, Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, a member of the GOP leadership, called the resolution "a sham put forward by Democrats to avoid condemning one of their own and denouncing vile anti-Semitism."

In part, Democratic leaders were trying to fend off a challenge from Republicans on the issue.

They worry they could run into trouble on another bill, their signature ethics and voting reform package, if Republicans try to tack their own anti-Semitism bill on as an amendment. By voting Thursday, the House Democratic vote counters believed they could inoculate their lawmakers against such a move.

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Associated Press writers Padmananda Rama, Mary Clare Jalonick, Elana Schor, Juana Summers and Doug Glass contributed to this report.

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## Ex-Trump campaign boss Manafort gets 47-month sentence

By **MATTHEW BARAKAT** and **STEPHEN BRAUN** Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort has been sentenced to nearly four years in prison for tax and bank fraud related to his work advising Ukrainian politicians, much less than what was called for under sentencing guidelines.

Manafort, sitting in a wheelchair as he deals with complications from gout, had no visible reaction as he heard the 47-month sentence. While that was the longest sentence to date to come from special counsel Robert Mueller's probe, it could have been much worse for Manafort. Sentencing guidelines called for a 20-year-term, effectively a lifetime sentence for the 69-year-old.

Manafort has been jailed since June, so he will receive credit for the nine months he has already served. He still faces the possibility of additional time from his sentencing in a separate case in the District of Columbia, where he pleaded guilty to charges related to illegal lobbying.

Before Judge T.S. Ellis III imposed the sentence, Manafort told him that "saying I feel humiliated and ashamed would be a gross understatement." But he offered no explicit apology, something Ellis noted before issuing his sentence.

Manafort steered Donald Trump's election efforts during crucial months of the 2016 campaign as Russia sought to meddle in the election through hacking of Democratic email accounts. He was among the first Trump associates charged in the Mueller investigation and has been a high-profile defendant.

But the charges against Manafort were unrelated to his work on the campaign or the focus of Mueller's investigation: whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russians.

A jury last year convicted Manafort on eight counts, concluding that he hid from the IRS millions of dollars he earned from his work in Ukraine.

Manafort's lawyers argued that their client had engaged in what amounted to a routine tax evasion case, and cited numerous past sentences in which defendants had hidden millions from the IRS and served less than a year in prison.

Prosecutors said Manafort's conduct was egregious, but Ellis ultimately agreed more with defense attorneys. "These guidelines are quite high," Ellis said.

Neither prosecutors nor defense attorneys had requested a particular sentence length in their sentencing memoranda, but prosecutors had urged a "significant" sentence.

Outside court, Manafort's lawyer, Kevin Downing, said his client accepted responsibility for his conduct "and there was absolutely no evidence that Mr. Manafort was involved in any collusion with the govern-

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ment of Russia.”

Prosecutors left the courthouse without making any comment.

Though Manafort hasn't faced charges related to collusion, he has been seen as one of the most pivotal figures in the Mueller investigation. Prosecutors, for instance, have scrutinized his relationship with Konstantin Kilimnik, a business associate U.S. authorities say is tied to Russian intelligence, and have described a furtive meeting the men had in August 2016 as cutting to the heart of the investigation.

After pleading guilty in the D.C. case, Manafort met with investigators for more than 50 hours as part of a requirement to cooperate with the probe. But prosecutors reiterated at Thursday's hearing that they believe Manafort was evasive and untruthful in his testimony to a grand jury.

Manafort was wheeled into the courtroom about 3:45 p.m. in a green jumpsuit from the Alexandria jail, where he spent the last several months in solitary confinement. The jet black hair he bore in 2016 when serving as campaign chairman was gone, replaced by a shaggy gray. He spent much of the hearing hunched at the shoulders, bearing what appeared to be an air of resignation.

Defense lawyers had argued that Manafort would never have been charged if it were not for Mueller's probe. At the outset of the trial, even Ellis agreed with that assessment, suggesting that Manafort was being prosecuted only to pressure him to "sing" against Trump. Prosecutors said the Manafort investigation preceded Mueller's appointment.

The jury convicted Manafort on eight felonies related to tax and bank fraud charges for hiding foreign income from his work in Ukraine from the IRS and later inflating his income on bank loan applications. Prosecutors have said the work in Ukraine was on behalf of politicians who were closely aligned with Russia, though Manafort insisted his work helped those politicians distance themselves from Russia and align with the West.

In arguing for a significant sentence, prosecutor Greg Andres said Manafort still hasn't accepted responsibility for his misconduct.

"His sentencing positions are replete with blaming others," Andres said. He also said Manafort still has not provided a full account of his finances for purposes of restitution, a particularly egregious omission given that his crime involved hiding more than \$55 million in overseas bank accounts to evade paying more than \$6 million in federal income taxes.

The lack of certainty about Manafort's finances complicated the judge's efforts to impose restitution, but Ellis ultimately ordered that Manafort could be required to pay back up to \$24 million.

In the D.C. case, Manafort faces up to five years in prison on each of two counts to which he pleaded guilty. The judge will have the option to impose any sentence there concurrent or consecutive to the sentence imposed by Ellis.

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Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

## House broadly condemns hate after anti-Semitism dispute

By LISA MASCARO and LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

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Asked whether the resolution was intended to “police” lawmakers’ words, Pelosi replied, “We are not policing the speech of our members.” Instead, she said, the goal was to condemn anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and white supremacy.

Some of the House’s leading Jewish Democrats wanted to bring a resolution on the floor simply condemning anti-Semitism.

But other Democrats wanted to broaden the resolution to include a rejection of all forms of racism and bigotry. Others questioned whether a resolution was necessary at all and viewed it as unfairly singling out Omar at a time when Trump and others have made disparaging racial comments.

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## Trump disappointed by activity at North Korea missile sites

By DEB RIECHMANN and MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Thursday that he’s a “little disappointed” by reports of new activity at a North Korean missile research center and long-range rocket site and that time will tell if U.S. diplomacy with the reclusive country will be successful.

South Korea’s military said it is carefully monitoring North Korean nuclear and missile facilities after the country’s spy agency told lawmakers that new activity was detected at a research center where the North is believed to build long-range missiles targeting the U.S. mainland.

Defense Ministry spokeswoman Choi Hyun-soo said the U.S. and South Korean militaries are sharing intelligence over the developments at the North’s missile research center in Sanumdong on the outskirts of the capital, Pyongyang, and at a separate long-range rocket site. She did not elaborate on what the developments were.

Asked if he was disappointed in the new activity, Trump told reporters at the White House that he was “a little disappointed.” Then he said time will determine the future of U.S. efforts to get North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to give up his pursuit of nuclear weapons in exchange for relief from sanctions stalling economic growth.

“We’ll let you know in about a year,” Trump told the reporters.

Briefing reporters at the State Department later, a senior U.S. official said that despite the new activity and the failure of last month’s Trump-Kim summit in Hanoi to reach a denuclearization deal, the administration still believes it can reach and implement an agreement by the end of the president’s first term. The official said it is important that progress be made quickly but that the goal is “achievable” by January 2021.

The official said that the U.S. is still trying to determine exactly what North Korea is doing with recent activity but that the administration will seek clarification from the North as well as intelligence analysts. The official said the Trump administration did not necessarily agree with nongovernmental analysts who

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believe the activity is a sign of North Korean anger following the summit. The official was not authorized to speak publicly to the state of negotiations with the North Koreans and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump said on Wednesday that his relationship with Kim remained "good" even though Trump walked away from negotiations at their high-profile meeting in Vietnam, saying the North's concessions on its nuclear program weren't enough to warrant sanctions relief.

Trump has favored direct talks with Kim, but the next stage of negotiations is likely to be conducted at lower levels. Trump's envoy to North Korea, Steve Biegun, had lunch Wednesday at the State Department with his counterparts from Japan and South Korea. The South Koreans have proposed semiofficial three-way talks with the United States and North Korea as it works to put nuclear diplomacy back on track.

Suh Hoon, the director of South Korea's National Intelligence Service, told his nation's lawmakers in Seoul that North Korea was restoring facilities at a rocket launch site it had dismantled last year in a goodwill measure.

Meanwhile, 38 North, a website specializing in North Korea studies, said commercial satellite imagery indicates the rebuilding started between Feb. 16 and March 2. And the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank in Washington, issued another report saying satellite imagery taken Saturday — just two days after the summit ended — showed North Korea "pursuing a rapid rebuilding" of the Sohae Satellite Launch Site.

Some analysts think the work is a signal that Kim is getting ready to conduct more tests, but others suggest he's just registering his disappointment that no agreement was reached at the summit. Trump himself added to the confusion, saying his administration had a hand in the report on Sohae being made public.

"It's a very early report. We're the ones that put it out," Trump said without elaborating.

Joel Wit, a North Korea proliferation expert who helped negotiate with North Korea in the mid-1990s, said the new work at Sohae is Kim's way of showing that he's "getting impatient with lack of progress in negotiations."

"We have to watch to see what else happens," Wit said. "It's a space launch facility and has been used to send satellites into space. ... Problem is, some of the technologies are the same."

He said there is no evidence that North Korea's work at the site signals Kim is preparing to test another intercontinental missile. He said North Korea has never tested an ICBM at Sohae. "Preparations for any launch would require a wide range of activities not observed at the site," Wit said.

Trump and Kim, who also met in Singapore last year, have not said if there will be a third summit. For now, discussions with North Korea will be conducted by their subordinates. Biegun, the U.S. envoy to North Korea, gave members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee a classified update Tuesday afternoon on Capitol Hill.

Committee Chairman Jim Risch, R-Idaho, said that Biegun has a vision of where the U.S. wants to take the talks and that progress was made in Vietnam.

There's no framework agreement "to put the details on it yet," he said. But he added: "The differences have been narrowed."

Less upbeat, Committee member Edward Markey, D-Mass., said he's worried that future satellite launches at Sohae could help Kim further his work on ballistic missiles to threaten the U.S. and its allies with a nuclear attack.

"President Trump never codified in writing North Korea's missile and nuclear testing freeze," Markey said. "Without that formal commitment, North Korea might claim it is doing nothing wrong and derail the fragile diplomatic process underway."

## Judge dismisses porn star's hush money suit against Trump

By BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A federal judge on Thursday tossed out porn actress Stormy Daniels' lawsuit against President Donald Trump that sought to tear up a hush-money settlement about their alleged affair.

U.S. District Court Judge S. James Otero in Los Angeles said the suit was irrelevant after Trump and his

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former personal lawyer agreed not to penalize Daniels for violating a nondisclosure agreement she signed in exchange for a \$130,000 payment.

Attorney Michael Cohen admitted in federal court he arranged the payment to silence Daniels and help Trump win the presidency. He pleaded guilty to campaign violations.

Trump has denied the alleged 2006 affair.

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, had wanted a court to declare the agreement illegal so she could speak out without fear of financial penalties if she violated it.

The shell company Cohen set up to handle the deal, Essential Consultants, had once sought to fight Daniels in arbitration for violating the nondisclosure agreement by speaking in public about the alleged affair. Cohen had even threatened a \$20 million lawsuit against her before vowing not to.

In seeking to dismiss the lawsuit, the president and Cohen effectively gave Daniels what she was initially seeking. They vowed not to seek penalties for breaking the deal.

Daniels had fought dismissal of the case because she wanted to record sworn testimony from the two.

Daniels' attorney, Michael Avenatti, made no mention of that broader goal in declaring victory Thursday.

"The court found that Ms. Daniels received everything she asked for by way of the lawsuit — she won," Avenatti said.

Avenatti had said he would seek legal fees in the case, but the judge said that was no longer an issue for him to decide.

Otero sent the case back to Los Angeles Superior Court, where it was initially filed. He said that move does not mean the litigation would continue there, but said Daniels may be entitled to legal fees.

Last year, Otero ordered Daniels to pay Trump \$293,000 in attorney's fees after dismissing a defamation lawsuit she brought against him.

Attorney Charles Harder, who represents Trump, said the ruling on top of the previous award of fees represents a "total victory" for the president.

## Border agency watchdog looking into caravan database

By ELLIOT SPAGAT and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The U.S. government kept a database on journalists, activists, organizers and "instigators" during an investigation into last year's migrant caravan, infuriating civil liberties and media groups who called it a blatant violation of free speech rights.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection compiled information on dozens of people that included passport and social media photos, dates of birth, personal information and their suspected role in the caravan. Some of the people on the list were denied entry into Mexico and had their passports flagged or visas revoked.

On Thursday, officials said the department's independent watchdog was looking into the database, and stressed that journalists were not targeted based on their occupation or reporting.

"CBP has policies in place that prohibit discrimination against arriving travelers and has specific provisions regarding encounters with journalists," said Andrew Meehan, assistant commissioner of public affairs.

The database was revealed Wednesday by the San Diego TV station KNSD. People listed in the documents provided to the station included 10 journalists, many of whom are U.S. citizens, and an American attorney. There were several dozen people in all on the list, including many labeled as "instigators."

The intelligence-gathering efforts were done as part of "Operation Secure Line," which was designed to monitor the caravan of thousands of people who began making their way north from Central America last year to seek asylum in the United States.

The government compiled the database at a time when the caravan was attracting considerable attention in the White House around the midterm elections, with President Trump repeatedly tweeting about the group.

Customs and Border Protection officials said extra security was implemented after a breach of a border wall in San Diego on Nov. 25 in a violent confrontation between caravan members and border agents. The confrontation closed the nation's busiest border crossing for five hours on Thanksgiving weekend.



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Officials said it was protocol to follow up on such incidents to collect evidence, and determine whether the event was orchestrated.

Such "criminal events ... involving assaults on law enforcement and a risk to public safety, are routinely monitored and investigated by authorities," according to a statement from Customs and Border Protection.

"CBP will continue to maintain a high standard of accountability and transparency with the media and public," Meehan said.

Lawyers and immigrant rights groups were going back and forth across the U.S.-Mexico late last year to help thousands of people who arrived at the border manage a complicated clogged asylum process and to help provide humanitarian aid as conditions worsened and illness spread. Journalists from several news organizations were also there to chronicle the story.

Bing Guan, a freelance journalist from New York and student at the International Center of Photography, said he and a colleague were stopped by U.S. agents while returning from Tijuana in December. A plain-clothes agent who didn't identify his agency showed Guan a multi-page document with dozens of photos and asked him to identify people in the images. The agent then asked Guan to show him the photos he had taken in Tijuana.

Guan said the report of the dossiers confirmed the long-held suspicions he and other journalists had.

"It's sort of a weird combination of paranoia and pride," Guan said. "Paranoia because our own government is conducting these intelligence gathering tactics and these patterns of harassment in order to deter journalists from doing their jobs, but also a little bit of pride because I feel like I'm on the right track," Guan said.

Two House Democrats asked CBP Commissioner Kevin McAleenan for any instructions to officers on the 59 people named, an explanation of why they were included and how often they were stopped for additional questioning.

"The appearance that CBP is targeting journalists, lawyers, and advocates, and particularly those who work on immigration matters or report on border and immigration issues, raises questions about possible misuse of CBP's border search authority and requires oversight to ensure the protection of Americans' legal and constitutional rights," wrote Reps. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi and Kathleen Rice of New York, who both serve on the Homeland Security Committee.

The database was denounced by a variety of groups, including the Committee to Protect Journalists, American Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International and the Southern Poverty Law Center.

The database was built at a time of increasingly tense relations between the Trump administration and journalists, with Trump calling some members of the press the "enemy of the people." There has also been an increase in false news stories proliferating on social media on both the left and right.

The Department of Homeland Security last year sought a contractor to monitor more than 290,000 news sources and social media around the world in several languages, and compile a database of journalists, editors, foreign correspondents and bloggers. DHS officials said the aim was to gather open-source information, not unlike alerts the public can set up through email.

And according to documents obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request by The Nation, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, another part of Homeland Security, tracked a series of anti-Trump protests in New York City last year, including several that promoted immigrants' rights and one organized by a member of Congress.

The caravan documents, dated Jan. 9, are titled "San Diego Sector Foreign Operations Branch: Migrant Caravan FY-2019, Suspected Organizers, Coordinators, Instigators and Media." According to the San Diego station, the material was used by Homeland Security and other agencies, including some FBI agents.

One dossier was on Nicole Ramos, the refugee director and attorney for Al Otro Lado, a law center for migrants and refugees in Tijuana, Mexico. It included details such as the kind of car she drives and her mother's name, KNSD-TV reported.

A photographer working for The Associated Press was also on the list.

The Mexican government, which denied entry to some of the people in the database, said it disapproved of spying and didn't do "illegal surveillance." Mexican officials also said they would ask the U.S. to clarify

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any possible cases of "illegal spying."

"Mexico welcomes all foreign visitors who, obeying immigration laws, carry out in our territory tourism or professional activities," according to a joint statement from the Foreign Relations Department and the Department of Security and Citizen Protection.

Long reported from Washington. Associated Press Writers Nomaan Merchant in Houston and Peter Orsi in Mexico City contributed to this report.

## After making millions, R. Kelly could be left with nothing

By COREY WILLIAMS and DON BABWIN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — R. Kelly grew up in a public housing project in one of Chicago's toughest South Side neighborhoods and built a worldwide musical brand that earned tens of millions of dollars over a nearly 30-year career.

But tax and legal issues — including recently filed charges that he sexually abused three girls and a woman — could leave the Grammy winner who has written songs for some of music's top stars with next to nothing.

In an emotional interview that aired this week, Kelly told "CBS This Morning" that people stole money from his bank accounts. He offered no details.

His defense attorney said last month that the performer's finances were "a mess" after Kelly was unable to post \$100,000 in bail after his arrest on 10 counts of aggravated sexual abuse.

The lack of cash forced Kelly to spend a weekend in a Chicago jail, until a 47-year-old suburban business owner put up the money. She identified herself on the bond slip as "a friend" of Kelly's.

On Wednesday, Kelly was jailed again because he did not bring enough money to court to pay \$161,000 in back child support.

James L. Walker, an Atlanta-based entertainment lawyer, said Kelly should be worth over \$100 million based on his publishing catalog alone. At his apex, he was earning at least \$150,000 a night from live shows. Since then, he has taken financial hits from being dropped by his record label, Universal Music Publishing Group, and from scrapped concerts and tours, Walker said.

About a year ago, Walker said, he was approached by a Kelly intermediary to represent him on publishing. Walker said he declined because he "knew the profile and just didn't think it was in our best interest."

"I've represented everyone from Rick James to Aretha Franklin to Shirley Caesar," said Walker, who wrote the book "This Business of Urban Music." Kelly "had the talent and the ability to be just as legendary as some of those artists — if he would have handled his personal demons a lot better."

The latest allegations against Kelly date back as far as 1998 and span more than a decade. The singer, who was acquitted of child pornography charges in 2008, has denied wrongdoing and pleaded not guilty.

For many entertainers, maintaining their income depends on recording, concert or other music-related deals.

"In the recording business, it's not like you get a check every week," said Chicago attorney Eric Macey. He represented former Kelly business manager Derrel McDavid in a 2014 lawsuit against Kelly. A court entered a civil judgment of just over \$1 million against the star.

That judgment was only a part of Kelly's mounting money troubles. Financial records show at least six federal tax liens totaling about \$8 million were filed between 2009 and 2012. The records also show a federal tax payment of more than \$2.6 million in 2008.

A state of Illinois tax lien of about \$24,000 was filed in 2002 against Kelly and now-ex-wife Andrea Kelly.

Kelly lamented to CBS that he was unable to access \$350,000 because he had moved the money from one bank account to a new account, and the funds had not cleared in time to use it for his child support.

Peter Henning, a former federal prosecutor and current law professor at Wayne State University in Detroit, said money laundering rules might keep banks from shifting assets from one account to another.

Banks are required to report certain transactions, such as cash withdrawals over \$10,000. Some transac-

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tions over \$3,000 could trigger suspicious activity reports, Henning said.

That means a bank probably could not move the money into a new account without getting a raft of personal information from Kelly, including a description of the source of the funds.

"It's not easy to move that much money overnight," Henning said.

The files of Kelly's criminal case include a notation of his child-support debt.

After Wednesday's child-support hearing, Kelly's publicist, Darryll Johnson, confirmed that Kelly's concert dates have largely dried up.

"He hasn't worked in a long time. He can't book shows," Johnson said.

A concert in Springfield that Kelly was supposed to host was called off in January because the allegations and the protests outside his Chicago studio raised security concerns. Other concerts, including in New York and Chicago, have also been canceled in the last several months.

Kelly's hopes to make more money on a spring European tour were dashed when a German concert arena canceled its contract with the organizer days after Kelly was charged last month. Kelly had defiantly scheduled shows in Germany and the Netherlands despite the cloud of legal issues looming over him. But a judge ordered him to surrender his passport.

His options for earning money quickly dwindled after the release of a BBC documentary about him last year and the multipart Lifetime documentary "Surviving R. Kelly," which aired in January. Together they detailed allegations he was holding women against their will and running a "sex cult."

A social media campaign under the #MuteRKelly hashtag pushed fans to boycott his concerts and music. Spotify later cut Kelly's music from its playlists. News outlets also reported last year that Apple and Pandora were not promoting Kelly's music.

There have been other lawsuits and settlements. A complaint filed in 1997 by a Chicago woman named Tiffany Hawkins alleged sexual battery and sexual harassment while she was a minor. It was reportedly settled for \$250,000.

About four years later, another woman named Tracy Sampson sued Kelly alleging their sex was illegal under Illinois law because he was in "a position of authority" over her. NBC News reported that Sampson interned at a record company as a teen. The case was reportedly settled out of court in 2002 for an undisclosed amount.

In 2013, Kelly's custom-built suburban Chicago mansion, once valued at more than \$5 million, sold for \$950,000 in a foreclosure auction. Kelly was evicted in February 2018 from two Atlanta-area homes over more than \$31,000 owed in unpaid back rent.

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Williams reported from Detroit. Associated Press Writer Jeff Karoub in Detroit and researcher Rhonda Shafner in New York also contributed to this report.

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Check out the AP's complete coverage of the investigations into R. Kelly.

## Cohen's lawyer says Trump advisers were 'dangling' pardons

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and JONATHAN LEMIRE** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's advisers dangled the possibility of a pardon for his former personal lawyer Michael Cohen last year, Cohen's attorney said Thursday, as congressional investigators zero in on the president's pardon power.

The issue of pardons has emerged as a key line of inquiry as Democrats launch a series of sweeping investigations into Trump's political and personal dealings.

Lanny Davis, Cohen's lawyer, said in a written statement Thursday that his client was "open to the ongoing 'dangling' of a possible pardon by Trump representatives privately and in the media" in the months after the FBI raided Cohen's home, office and hotel room in April 2018.

Davis, who was not Cohen's lawyer at the time, said Cohen "directed his attorney" to explore a possible pardon with Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani and others on Trump's legal team. The statement appears to

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contradict Cohen's sworn testimony last week at a House Oversight Committee hearing that he had never asked for, and would not accept, a pardon from Trump.

Davis' comment raises questions about whether Cohen — who is slated to begin a three-year prison sentence in May for crimes including lying to Congress — lied to Congress again last week.

Cohen's legal team argued that his statement was correct because Cohen never asked the president himself for a pardon.

"This is more proof that Cohen is a liar," Giuliani said in an interview Thursday. "The guy says he never asked Trump for a pardon. He's hiding behind having his lawyers do it."

There is nothing inherently improper about a subject in a criminal investigation seeking a pardon from a president given the president's wide latitude in granting them. But investigators want to know if the prospects of presidential pardons were somehow offered or used inappropriately.

It is hard to untangle the conflicting narratives given the unreliability of some of the central characters. Cohen, for instance, has pleaded guilty to lying to Congress and saw his credibility attacked last week by Republican lawmakers. Davis has had to walk back at least one bombshell assertion over the last year — that his client could tell investigators that Trump had advance knowledge of a Trump Tower meeting with a Russian lawyer during the 2016 campaign — and Giuliani has fumbled facts and repeatedly moved the goalposts about what sort of behavior by the president would constitute collusion or a crime.

Congressional investigators, meanwhile, appear to be focusing on presidential powers as a significant line of questioning in their probes.

The House Judiciary Committee, which is conducting a probe into possible obstruction of justice, corruption and abuse of power, sent letters to the FBI, the Justice Department and others for documents related to possible pardons for Cohen, former national security adviser Michael Flynn and former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort. All three have been charged in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible coordination between Russia and Trump's presidential campaign.

Congressional investigators are also looking into whether anyone on Trump's legal team tried quietly to reach out to Cohen last year before he turned on the president and as his legal problems mounted.

According to a person familiar with the matter, two New York attorneys who claimed to be in contact with Giuliani reached out to Cohen after the raids on his office and hotel room. The attorneys said they could join his legal team in order to be a conduit to Trump's lawyers, the person said.

The person was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The attorneys did not explicitly discuss a potential pardon, but investigators are looking into whether it was an implicit communication that Cohen's chances of a pardon could be increased if he hired the attorneys, the person said. The lawyers later sent Cohen a bill for their legal service, which he didn't pay, according to the person.

Giuliani said Thursday he was contacted in May or June about a possible pardon for Cohen.

"My answer was the president is not going to consider or give any pardons now," Giuliani said. "As I have said in the past, the president has the right to, and that doesn't mean he won't consider it when the investigation is over. But there are no plans to do so; that's the answer that Jay and I and the president settled on. 'The best thing for you to do,' I would tell everyone, 'is assume you don't have the pardon.'" Jay Sekulow is another Trump lawyer.

Cohen's legal team stressed that he was one of Trump's closest confidants and if he wanted a pardon, he would have just asked Trump himself.

Cohen has become a key figure in congressional investigations since turning on his former boss and cooperating with the special counsel. During last week's public testimony, he called Trump a con man, a cheat and a racist.

Trump, in turn, has said Cohen "did bad things unrelated to Trump" and "is lying in order to reduce his prison time."

Davis tried to downplay the contradiction between his statement and Cohen's testimony. He said when

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he was brought on to Cohen's legal team in June, his client "authorized me as a new lawyer to say publicly Mr. Cohen would never accept a pardon from President Trump even if offered."

"That continues to be the case," Davis said. "And his statement at the Oversight Hearing was true — and consistent with his post joint defense agreement commitment to tell the truth."

Separately on Thursday, Cohen filed a lawsuit in New York City claiming the Trump Organization broke a promise to pay his legal bills and owes at least \$1.9 million to cover the cost of his defense. Cohen alleges the company breached a contract when it stopped paying his mounting legal fees after he began cooperating with federal prosecutors in their investigations.

The Trump Organization didn't immediately respond to messages seeking comment. Davis said Cohen has documents to prove the allegations in the lawsuit.

Cohen is headed to prison in May after pleading guilty to campaign finance violations, lying to Congress and other crimes.

Federal prosecutors have said Trump directed Cohen to arrange payments to buy the silence of two women — porn actress Stormy Daniels and former Playboy model Karen McDougal — who had alleged they had sex with Trump. Trump has denied having an affair.

Cohen also admitted that he lied to Congress about the duration of negotiations in 2016 over a Trump real estate project in Moscow.

The Senate intelligence committee is interested in re-interviewing Donald Trump Jr. and other witnesses after Cohen spoke to the committee last week, a person familiar with the probe said. The person wasn't authorized to discuss the confidential investigation and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity.

The committee first interviewed Trump Jr. in 2017, when he told the panel he was only "peripherally aware" of the proposal to build a Trump Tower in Moscow. Cohen told a House committee last week that he had briefed Trump Jr. approximately 10 times about the plan.

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Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writers Michael R. Sisak in New York and Eric Tucker in Washington contributed to this report.

## Cohen sues Trump Organization, wants it to pay legal bills

By JIM MUSTIAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump's former lawyer Michael Cohen filed a lawsuit Thursday claiming the Trump Organization broke a promise to pay his legal bills and owes at least \$1.9 million to cover the cost of his defense.

The lawsuit, filed Thursday in New York state court, claims the Trump Organization stopped paying Cohen's mounting legal fees after he began cooperating with federal prosecutors in their investigations related to Trump's business dealings in Russia and attempts to silence women with embarrassing stories about his personal life. It alleges breach of contract and seeks damages on Cohen's behalf.

Messages seeking comment have been left with the Trump Organization.

The lawsuit says the company stopped paying for his legal defense about two months after the FBI raided Cohen's home and office last year. It says that was around the time Cohen began discussing privately with friends and family that he was considering cooperating with special counsel Robert Mueller and federal prosecutors in New York.

"When it was publicly reported that I might be cooperating with prosecutors, the Trump Organization breached its agreement and stopped paying fees and costs," Cohen said in a statement released by his attorneys.

Cohen pleaded guilty in August to tax crimes, lying to Congress and campaign finance violations. He is expected to begin serving a three-year prison term in May.

The lawsuit said that as part of his work for Trump, the company agreed to indemnify him for his company-related work. It said the Trump Organization initially lived up to that promise, footing the bill for more than \$1.7 million in Cohen's legal fees.

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Cohen hired the law firm McDermott Will & Emery in spring 2017 after it became clear he was a "person of interest" in Mueller's investigation.

That firm withdrew from his case late last spring after the Trump Organization stopped paying Cohen's bills, a withdrawal the lawsuit says "prejudiced" Cohen's ability to respond to the federal investigations.

In addition to the \$1.9 million in legal fees Cohen is seeking, the lawsuit claims the Trump Organization should also pay the \$1.9 million Cohen was ordered to forfeit "as part of his criminal sentence arising from conduct undertaken by Mr. Cohen in furtherance of and at the behest of the Trump Organization and its principals, directors, and officers."

Cohen was one of Trump's lawyers and closest advisers for a decade until their public split last summer.

After once bragging that he would "take a bullet" for the president, Cohen met with federal prosecutors in New York and with the office of special counsel Robert Mueller, telling them he had lied to Congress to protect Trump and paid off two women to keep them from speaking out about alleged affairs with Trump.

Earlier this year, Cohen hired two new Chicago lawyers and parted ways with the attorneys who represented him for months as he cooperated with Mueller and prosecutors in the Southern District of New York. The Associated Press previously reported that the shake-up followed what a person familiar with the matter described as a dispute over unpaid legal fees.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.

Last week, Cohen told lawmakers he also has not been paying Lanny Davis, an attorney who has served as an adviser and spokesman for Cohen over the past several months.

"So he's doing all this work for nothing?" U.S. Rep. Jody Hice, R-Ga., asked Cohen during his daylong testimony before the House Oversight and Reform Committee.

"Yes, sir," Cohen said.

Cohen told Congress that Trump was a racist, a liar and a con man.

Trump, in turn, has assailed Cohen as a "rat" and a "serial liar."

Cohen has also tried crowdsourcing his legal fees. A GoFundMe page that Davis set up for Cohen after he first pleaded guilty in August has collected about \$215,000, including \$50,000 from an anonymous donor.

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Associated Press writers Bernard Condon and Michael R. Sisak contributed to this report.

## Run, bull, run. Longest bull market looks to keep going

**ALEX VEIGA and DAMIAN J. TROISE AP Business Writers**

Wall Street has rewarded its most patient investors handsomely over the past 10 years. Is there more to come?

The S&P 500, the U.S. market's benchmark index, has gained about 309 percent since bottoming out at 676.53 points in March 2009 during the Great Recession, according to FactSet. The index is now 5.4 percent below its recent peak of 2,930.75 set on Sept. 20.

This bull market's lifespan, the longest on record, speaks to financial markets' resiliency in the face of a variety of shocks, including a brutal fourth quarter of 2018.

Whether the bull keeps running hinges on whether companies can continue raking in profits, a key driver of the stock market, and whether the U.S. economy can avoid sliding into a recession. Bull markets tend to wither when fear of a recession kicks in.

"As long as corporate profits are growing, that's usually the oxygen for further gains in the stock market," said David Lefkowitz, senior Americas equity strategist at UBS Global Wealth Management.

Profit growth for the companies in the S&P 500 averaged 25.6 percent in the first three quarters of last year. That slipped to 13.4 percent in the fourth quarter, but still topped expectations.

But earnings are expected to decline slightly in the first quarter and grow in the mid-single digits for the full year, according to FactSet. And the U.S. economy has been showing signs of slowing and is expected to continue to do so this year.

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"The risk of recession grows," said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA, noting that the U.S. economy's current expansion will become the longest in history by the end of July.

"However, we currently see no quarterly GDP declines through the fourth quarter of 2020, let alone back-to-back declines, which have been a rule of thumb for recessions," he said.

Meanwhile, the wild card for the market — and the economy — might be the long-running, costly trade conflict between Washington and Beijing. While reportedly on track for a resolution as early as this month, the spat continues to weigh on investors' nerves and many companies' plans.

The bull market has looked very vulnerable at times during its decade-long run, most recently at the end of last year. That's when a bevy of concerns, including rising interest rates, the trade spat, slowing global economic growth and some tepid profit forecasts sent the S&P 500 into a skid that resulted in the index's worst December since the Great Depression.

That slide culminated on Dec. 24, when the S&P 500 closed 19.8 percent below its all-time high. A drop of 20 percent or more would have ushered in a bear market.

"What we've seen and continue to see is doubts," said Ryan Detrick, senior market strategist at LPL. "People have doubted it the whole way up."

And yet, the bull shrugged that off, too, and now the market is off to its best start to a year since 1991.

"It was a good-sized correction that freaked everybody out," Detrick said. "Then the realization comes that the economy is on good footing."

The Federal Reserve put investors at ease in January when it signaled a prolonged pause in further interest rate hikes. That calmed fears that the central bank would keep raising rates at a pace that could derail the economy.

One of the key questions in gauging the longevity of the bull market is the outlook for inflation and what action the Fed will take to try to manage it.

For now, inflation remains below the 2 percent target used by the Fed to determine whether annual price increases are growing too rapidly. It was up 1.7 percent in the 12 months ended in December.

As long as inflation remains at that level, the Fed has less incentive to raise rates.

The U.S. economy turned in a solid performance in 2018, boosted in part by tax cuts and higher government spending. But economic growth slowed to 2.6 percent in the last three months of the year from 3.4 percent in the third quarter.

Most economists envision a weaker performance for the coming months and probably years. Some expect gross domestic product to drop to a growth rate of 2 percent or less in the current January-March period.

Investors have grown cautious about business conditions going forward as signs of weakness in the global economy have emerged. Uncertainty over trade has also helped cloud the outlook for company profits this year.

Still, even modest company earnings growth should keep the bull market rolling.

"We think the bull market is still intact," Lefkowitz said. "And at some point, we're likely to see new all-time highs for the broad market gauges."

## Fired Florida officer guilty of slaying black motorist

By TERRY SPENCER Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A fired Florida police officer was found guilty of manslaughter and attempted murder Thursday for fatally shooting a stranded black motorist, becoming the first officer in the state to be convicted of an on-duty shooting in 30 years.

Nouman Raja, 41, faces a mandatory minimum of 25 years at sentencing April 26, and could spend his life in prison for the death of Corey Jones, 31.

The four-man, two-woman jury deliberated for four hours. Raja didn't react as the verdict was read. About 25 relatives and supporters of Jones looked on, some weeping. One said "the sweetest sound was the click of those handcuffs" after Raja was led away.

They held a prayer circle outside the courtroom, shouting praise for the verdict as many sobbed. A hous-

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ing inspector and part-time drummer, Jones came from a family of Christian ministers and was scheduled to perform at church the morning he died.

"Corey has been here - his soul is not here but he is definitely here in our hearts," said C.J. Jones, the victim's brother and a former Cleveland Brown football player. "He walked us through this."

Raja's attorneys left without comment. His wife said an obscenity when asked for comment.

Prosecutors said Raja, one of few police officers nationwide convicted of an on-duty shooting, escalated what should have been a routine interaction.

Prosecutors charged Raja with manslaughter, saying his actions created the confrontation and showed "culpable negligence." They charged him with attempted first-degree murder, saying that although they couldn't prove beyond a reasonable doubt which of the six shots killed Jones, the second volley was a conscious effort to kill him as he fled.

Raja, of Asian descent, was working on an auto burglary investigation team when he spotted Jones' SUV at 3:15 a.m. Oct. 18, 2015. Jones was returning home from a nightclub performance when his vehicle stalled. He had a concealed-weapons permit and carried a .38-caliber handgun, purchased days earlier to protect his \$10,000 drum set, which was in the SUV.

Wearing plain clothes, Raja drove an unmarked van the wrong way up an off ramp and stopped a few feet from the broken-down vehicle.

Prosecutors said Raja never identified himself as an officer and acted so aggressively that Jones must have thought he was about to be carjacked or killed. Raja said he first thought the SUV was empty, but then saw Jones inside. Raja's supervisor testified the officer had been told to don a police vest if he approached a civilian. He didn't. Prosecutors also questioned why Raja didn't pull his badge from his pocket.

What police didn't know at first was that Jones had been talking to a tow-truck dispatcher on a recorded line. That recording shows Jones saying "Huh?" as his door opens. Raja yells, "You good?" Jones says he is. Raja replies twice, "Really?" with Jones replying "Yeah."

Suddenly, Raja shouts at Jones to raise his hands, using an expletive. Jones replies, "Hold on!" and Raja repeats his demand.

Prosecutors believe Jones pulled his gun and tried to get away. Raja fired three shots; Jones ran down an embankment. Prosecutors said he threw his gun, found 125 feet (38 meters) from his body, but Raja fired three more times, 10 seconds after the first volley. Jones was killed by a bullet through his heart.

A medical examiner testified Jones would have dropped feet from where the fatal shot struck him. He also was shot once in each arm.

Prosecutors said Raja, not knowing of the tow-truck dispatcher recording, tried to deceive investigators. He told them in a video-recorded interview hours after the shooting he said "Police, can I help you?" as Jones jumped from the SUV. He told investigators Jones leapt backward and pointed his gun, forcing him to fire. Raja said Jones ran but turned and again pointed his gun, forcing him to fire the second volley.

C.J. Jones said his brother "was a good person" who wouldn't have confronted Raja.

"If that dude would have said he was a police officer right off the bat, this would have never happened," he said.

Attorney Benjamin Crump, who represents Jones' father and siblings, called the verdict by an all-white jury a victory for African-Americans and "anyone who believes in justice."

"When there is a young black man lying dead on the ground, there are different rules that apply — that is our reality in America," Crump said at a news conference surrounded by Jones' relatives. "Many people in America don't want to believe that police officers intentionally kill young black people, but it is our belief they do." When asked what sentence Raja should receive, Crump and others replied, "What Corey would have got if he shot Raja."

Clinton Jones Sr., Jones' father, cried after describing how the family went to his son's grave to celebrate the verdict and "let him know, Corey, son, we did it."

Palm Beach Gardens fired Raja shortly after the shooting. He'd been under house arrest since he was charged in 2016.



## Scientists discover different kind of killer whale off Chile

By **SETH BORENSTEIN** AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — For decades, there were tales from fishermen and tourists, even lots of photos, of a mysterious killer whale that just didn't look like all the others, but scientists had never seen one.

Now they have.

An international team of researchers says they found a couple dozen of these distinctly different orcas roaming in the oceans off southern Chile in January. Scientists are waiting for DNA tests from a tissue sample but think it may be a distinct species.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration felt confident enough to trumpet the discovery of the long rumored killer whale on Thursday. Some outside experts were more cautious, acknowledging the whales are different, but saying they'd wait for the test results to answer the species question.

"This is the most different looking killer whale I've ever seen," said Robert Pitman, a NOAA marine ecologist in San Diego. He was part of the team that spotted the orcas off Cape Horn at the tip of South America.

How different? The whale's signature large white eye patch is tiny on these new guys, barely noticeable. Their heads are a bit more rounded and less sleek than normal killer whales and their dorsal fins are narrower and pointed.

They likely mostly eat fish, not marine mammals like seals, as other killer whales do, Pitman said. Fishermen have complained about how good they are at poaching off fishing lines, snatching 200-pound fish away.

Pitman said they are so different they probably can't breed with other killer whales and are likely a new species. At 20 to 25 feet long (6 to 7.5 meters), they are slightly smaller than most killer whales. In the Southern Hemisphere, killer whales are considered all one species, classified in types A through C. This one is called type D or subantarctic killer whales.

Michael McGowen, marine mammal curator at the Smithsonian, said calling it a new species without genetic data may be premature. Still, he said, "I think it's pretty remarkable that there are still many things out there in the ocean like a huge killer whale that we don't know about."

Scientists have heard about these distinctive whales ever since a mass stranding in New Zealand in 1955. Scientists initially thought it could be one family of killer whales that had a specific mutation, but the January discovery and all the photos in between point to a different type, Pitman said.

He said they are hard to find because they live far south and away from shore, unlike most killer whales.

"The type D killer whale lives in the most inhospitable waters on the planet. It's a good place to hide."

Pitman got interested in this mysterious killer whale when he was shown a photograph in 2005. When he and others decided to go find them, they followed the advice and directions of South American fishermen, who had seen the whales poaching their fish.

After weeks of waiting, about 25 of the whales came up to the scientist's boat, looking like they expected to be fed. Equipment problems prevented the scientists from recording enough of the whale songs, but they used a crossbow to get a tissue sample. Pitman said the whales are so big and their skin so tough that it didn't hurt them, saying the arrow "is like a soda straw bouncing off a truck tire."

Pitman said he'll never forget Jan. 21 when he finally saw his first and then a bunch of the type D orcas.

"For 14 years I was looking for these guys. I finally got to see them," Pitman said.

He acknowledged that he did sound like the revenge-seeking captain in the classic novel "Moby-Dick."

"I guess I know how Ahab felt, but for a good reason," Pitman said.

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Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter: @borenbears .

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The Associated Press Health & Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Chimps varied 'culture' matters for conservation, study says

By CHRISTINA LARSON AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some chimpanzee groups are stone-throwers. Some use rocks to crack open tree nuts to eat. Others use sticks to fish for algae.

As researchers learn more about *Homo sapiens'* closest living genetic relatives, they are also discovering more about the diversity of behaviors within chimpanzee groups — activities learned, at least in part socially, and passed from generation to generation.

These patterns are referred to as "traditions" — or even animal "culture." In a new study, scientists argue that this diversity of behaviors should be protected as species themselves are safeguarded, and that they are now under threat from human disturbance.

"What we mean by 'culture' is something you learn socially from your group members that you may not learn if you were born into a different chimpanzee group," said Ammie Kalan, a primatologist at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany.

"As chimpanzee populations decline and their habitats become fragmented, we can see a stark decline in chimpanzee behavioral diversity," said Kalan, co-author of the sweeping new study published Thursday in the journal *Science*.

The 10-year study, led by researchers at the Max Planck Institute and the German Center for Integrative Biodiversity Research, examines data on 144 chimpanzee communities in Africa and the occurrence of 31 specific behaviors, such as tool usage or rock throwing.

The regions with the least human impact showed the greatest variety in chimp behaviors. But areas greatly altered by logging, road-building, climate change and other human activities showed markedly less behavioral diversity — an 88 percent lower probability of exhibiting all behaviors.

Multiple factors drive the loss, the authors say.

"With the increase of human disturbance, chimps may not be able to live in such large groups anymore — and it has been shown that group size is connected with social learning," said Hjalmar Kühl, also a primatologist at the Max Planck Institute and a co-author.

For example, researchers studying chimpanzee groups in parts of West Africa encountered mysterious piles of stones alongside battered tree trunks.

The rocks had been thrown against the trees by chimpanzees for reasons still unclear to the scientists who first documented the behavior in 2016. Perhaps the purpose was to mark territory, or proclaim dominance within a group, or start a game, or something else, the biologists surmised.

But not all chimpanzees are stone-throwers.

Some groups use stones to crack open tree nuts. Researchers recently discovered an archaeological site in West Africa that showed chimpanzees had used stones there for nut-cracking for more than 4,000 years.

Elsewhere in West Africa, sticks were the tools of choice, with young chimps in Guinea learning from their elders to use them to "fish" in lakes for long strands of algae to eat. Or, in Nigeria, to poke termite mounds to gather the insects for food.

Sixty years ago, scientists had limited knowledge of chimpanzees in the wild, until researcher Jane Goodall first recorded behaviors like tool usage, which previously were associated only with humans.

In 1999, Goodall and other scientists popularized the phrase "chimpanzee cultures" in an article in the journal *Science*. The use of the term has ignited debate ever since — including resistance from some anthropologists— but also launched further research.

Most likely genetics and socially learned behavior interact to form animal "culture" in chimpanzees and other species, said Carl Safina, an ecologist and author of several books on animal behavior who was not involved in the study.

This has implications for conservation.

"We have come to understand that behavioral diversity matters for protecting species," said Andrew Whiten, an evolutionary psychologist and zoologist at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, who was not involved in the study.

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"The greater the diversity of behavior, the more likely a species will be able to deal with future changes and challenges in their environment," he said. "It's not good news when their options are limited."

Last month, Whiten co-authored a "Policy Forum" article in *Science*, entitled "Animal cultures matter for conservation," arguing that policy-makers should include behavioral diversity alongside other measures of biodiversity.

"Culture is not the tip of the iceberg for these great apes — some kind of nice luxury — but an intrinsic and essential part of their local adaptation," Carel van Schaik, an anthropologist at the University of Zurich who was not involved in the new study, wrote in an email.

Lydia Luncz, a primatologist at the University of Oxford, agrees.

"We are far from understanding yet what is the cultural repertoire of chimps," said Luncz, who also was not involved in the study. "It would be a tragedy to lose more of the cultural heritage of our closest living relatives."

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## **Pentagon may tap military pay, pensions for border wall**

**By ANDREW TAYLOR and LISA MASCARO Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon is planning to tap \$1 billion in leftover funds from military pay and pension accounts to help President Donald Trump pay for his long-sought border wall, a top Senate Democrat said Thursday.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., told The Associated Press, "It's coming out of military pay and pensions. \$1 billion. That's the plan."

Durbin said the funds are available because Army recruitment is down and a voluntary early military retirement program is being underutilized.

The development comes as Pentagon officials are seeking to minimize the amount of wall money that would come from military construction projects that are so cherished by lawmakers.

Durbin said, "Imagine the Democrats making that proposal — that for whatever our project is, we're going to cut military pay and pensions."

Durbin, the top Democrat on the Appropriations panel for the Pentagon, was among a bipartisan group of lawmakers who met with Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan on Thursday morning.

The Pentagon is planning to transfer money from various accounts into a fund dedicated to drug interdiction, with the money then slated to be redirected for border barriers and other purposes.

More attention has been paid to Trump's declaration of a national emergency to tap up to \$3.6 billion from military construction projects to pay for the wall. The Democratic-controlled House voted last month to reject Trump's move, and the GOP-held Senate is likely to follow suit next week despite a White House lobbying push.

Senate Republicans met again Wednesday to sort through their options in hopes of making next week's voting more politically palatable. They are struggling to come up with an alternative to simply voting up or down on the House measure as required under a never-used Senate procedure to reject a presidential emergency declaration. Lawmakers in both parties believe Trump is inappropriately infringing on Congress' power of the purse.

Senators are increasingly uneasy ahead of voting next week because they don't know exactly where the money to build the wall will come from and if it will postpone military projects in their home states.

Vice President Mike Pence told senators during their meeting a week ago that he would get back to them with an update. But senators said they don't yet have a response from the administration.

"It's a concern," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas. He said a number of senators have been talking to the

White House about other ways the administration could shuffle the money without relying on the authority under the emergency declaration, which is likely to become tied up in litigation.

The pitch is, "Why have this additional controversy when it could be done in a less controversial way?" he said. "Apparently, the White House is not persuaded."

The Army missed its recruiting goal this year, falling short by about 6,500 soldiers, despite pouring an extra \$200 million into bonuses and approving some additional waivers for bad conduct or health issues.

Congress also appropriated money to give members of the military incentive to take early retirement, but enrollment in the program is coming in well under expectations.

"This is pay that would have gone to Army recruits that we can't recruit," Durbin said. "So there's a 'savings' because we can't recruit. The other part was they offered a voluntary change in military pensions, and they overestimated how many people would sign up for it."

## Catholic Church cardinals implicated in sex abuse, cover-ups

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The conviction of French Cardinal Philippe Barbarin for failing to report a known pedophile priest to police deepens the crisis confronting an already discredited Catholic Church hierarchy. The verdict handed down by magistrates Thursday shows the church's once-untouchable "princes" increasingly are judged accountable for priests who abuse children and the superiors who allowed the abuse to continue.

After centuries of impunity, cardinals from Chile to Australia and points in between are facing justice in both the Vatican and government courts for their own sexual misdeeds or for having shielded abusers under their watch.

Here is a look at cases implicating Catholic cardinals, members of the exclusive club of prelates that advises the pope and eventually elects his successor.

### AUSTRALIA - CARDINAL GEORGE PELL

In December, the Vatican's former finance minister was convicted in his native Australia of sexually abusing two boys in the 1990s.

Pell was convicted of orally raping a 13-year-old choirboy and indecently dealing with the boy and his 13-year-old friend in 1996 and 1997, months after the 77-year-old cardinal became archbishop of Melbourne.

Pell has denied wrongdoing and planned to appeal. He is scheduled to be sentenced next week.

Each of his five convictions carries a potential 10-year maximum sentence.

After his conviction, the Vatican said its sex crimes office had opened an investigation and confirmed the Sydney archbishop restricted Pell's ministry after the cardinal returned to Australia to face trial.

### UNITED STATES - EX-CARDINAL THEODORE McCARRICK

Francis last month defrocked the onetime leader of the American church after an internal investigation determined McCarrick sexually molested children and adult men; some of the molestation took place during confession. It was the first time a cardinal had been defrocked over the scandal.

One of McCarrick's victims has filed a police report and spoken to prosecutors in New York City, but it is unclear if any criminal charges can be brought given so much time has passed since the abuse occurred.

The McCarrick scandal has implicated high-ranking churchmen in both the United States and at the Vatican since it was apparently an open secret he slept with adult seminarians.

### CHILE - CARDINALS JAVIER ERRAZURIZ AND RICCARDO EZZATI

The current and former archbishops of Santiago are under investigation by Chilean prosecutors for allegedly covering up for abusive priests.

Errazuriz, who retired as Santiago archbishop in 2010, was recently forced to resign from Francis' kitchen cabinet after the depth of his cover-up was exposed last year.

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His successor, Ezzati, was sued this week by a man who accused him of protecting a priest who allegedly drugged and raped him in the Santiago cathedral. The victim first filed a complaint with Ezzati in 2015. Ezzati issued a church sentence against the priest last year.

Prosecutors have overseen raids of church offices around the country. Ezzati and Errazuriz have so far refused to answer questions in the investigation.

Francis secured offers of resignation from every active Chilean bishop last year as part of Vatican efforts to clean up the Chilean church.

## SCOTLAND - CARDINAL KEITH O'BRIEN

O'Brien, once the highest-ranking Catholic leader in Britain, recused himself from the 2013 conclave that elected Francis pope after unidentified priests alleged in British newspaper reports that he acted inappropriately toward them.

The priests said they had complained to church authorities about O'Brien's conduct but never received a response. None of the men were thought to have been minors when the alleged inappropriate behavior took place.

In 2015, Francis accepted O'Brien's resignation after he relinquished the rights and privileges of being a cardinal. The decision was reached after the Vatican sent its top sex crimes investigator to Scotland to look into the allegations.

O'Brien was allowed to retain the title of cardinal and he died a cardinal in 2018.

## BELGIUM - CARDINAL GODFRIED DANNEELS

The retired head of Belgium's Catholic Church has been under fire since 2010, when he was caught on tape suggesting that a victim of a serial predator bishop keep quiet until the man retired.

Two weeks after Danneels met with the victim, Bishop Roger Vangheluwe of Bruges resigned and expressed sorrow for having long abused his nephew, both as a priest and after becoming a bishop.

Danneels had told the victim it would do him no good going public, and he urged him to forgive his uncle.

Francis has been criticized for having included Danneels, considered a key supporter in his 2013 election, in important church meetings since the scandal.

## UNITED STATES - CARDINAL BERNARD LAW

Law resigned in disgrace as archbishop of Boston in 2002 following revelations he hid clergy abuse involving dozens of priests who raped and sexually molested children, the scandal chronicled by the Boston Globe that led to the reckoning in the U.S. church.

More than any other prelate, he epitomized the Catholic Church's failure to protect children from pedophile priests and its arrogance in safeguarding its own reputation at all costs.

St. John Paul II's decision to promote Law to head St. Mary Major basilica in 2004 reinforced the impression the Vatican still hadn't grasped the scale of the child abuse problem, the trauma it caused its victims, and the moral credibility the church had lost as a result.

At Law's Vatican funeral last year, Francis prayed for a merciful final judgment.

## AUSTRIA — CARDINAL HANS HERMANN GROER

Groer was allowed to retire on schedule as archbishop of Vienna in 1995 despite multiple allegations he sexually abused young boys at a seminary. He died in 2003 without ever facing civil or canonical justice.

His successor as Vienna archbishop, Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn, in 2010 accused the Vatican secretary of state at the time of the scandal, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, of being behind a cover-up and blocking a Vatican investigation of Groer's crimes.

The same year, the Vatican gave Schoenborn a rare dressing down for his comments about Sodano, reminding him that only the pope can level accusations against a cardinal.

VATICAN — CARDINAL ANGELO SODANO

As the powerful Vatican secretary of state under John Paul, Sodano has long been held in part responsible for the Vatican's refusal to take action against pedophile priests.

More than anyone, he has been blamed for blocking a church investigation into the 20th century Catholic Church's most notorious predator, the Rev. Marcial Maciel, founder of the Legion of Christ religious order.

Francis recently referred to how then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger — the future Pope Benedict XVI — initially failed to secure a sanction against Maciel, a veiled reference to the weight Cardinal Sodano wielded on the decisions of Ratzinger's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

"He (Ratzinger) went with all his files. And when he returned he told his secretary, 'Put them in the archive. The other side won,'" Francis said. "But then, once he became pope, the first thing he said was 'Bring me the files from the archive,' and he started."

Eventually, the Vatican under Benedict sanctioned Maciel to a lifetime of penance and prayer for his crimes.

## French court convicts cardinal of not reporting child abuse

By **NICOLAS VAUX-MONTAGNY** Associated Press

LYON, France (AP) — In a surprise ruling, France's senior Catholic cleric, Cardinal Philippe Barbarin, was convicted Thursday of failing to report a known pedophile priest to police, the latest high-ranking churchman to fall in the global reckoning over clergy sex abuse and cover-ups.

Magistrates in Lyon found that Barbarin had an obligation to report the Rev. Bernard Preynat to civil authorities and gave the cardinal a six-month suspended prison sentence. Barbarin offered to resign.

Preynat, who is scheduled to be tried on sexual violence charges next year, has confessed to abusing Boy Scouts in the 1970s and 1980s. People who said they were among the victims accused Barbarin and other church officials of covering up the priest's crimes for years.

Nine victims brought the case to trial. A group of Preynat's victims hailed the unanticipated conviction as a victory for child protection and a strong signal that church leaders will be held accountable.

"We see that no one is above the law. We have been heard by the court," said Francois Devaux, president of La Parole Liberee (Lift the Burden of Silence.)

The verdict came as a surprise since the statute of limitations had expired on some charges. At the end of the trial, prosecutors argued for an acquittal, saying there were no grounds to prove legal wrongdoing.

Five co-defendants - an archbishop, a bishop, a priest and two other officials - were acquitted.

Barbarin's conviction furthers the crisis facing the Catholic Church's embattled hierarchy. The sex abuse scandal recently led to Australian Cardinal George Pell's abuse conviction and the defrocking of America's ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick for sexually molested minors and adult men, including during confession..

The scandal swept up Pope Francis last year after he defended a bishop accused of veering up abuse in Chile. Francis is facing new questions about his backing for a bishop now under investigation for sexual abuse in his native Argentina.

With the confidence of Catholic faithful in the church hierarchy shaken, Francis brought church leaders from around the world to a summit last month at which he vowed an "all-out battle" to end abuse but issued no new rules to stop cover-ups.

In the French court's decision, read by The Associated Press, the magistrates wrote that Barbarin "had the obligation to report" accusations against Preynat between July 2014 and June 2015 because the priest's accusers didn't request ecclesiastic secrecy.

The victims' allegation of a cover-up that allowed Preynat to be in contact with children until his 2015 retirement was thrown out of court in 2016 for insufficient evidence.

Alexandre Hezez, one of those who put it back on the docket through a direct approach French law allows as a recourse, met with Barbarin in November 2014 and kept informing him there were probably other Preynat victims, according to the court ruling.

Barbarin "didn't take the initiative despite Hezez's request and insistence," the magistrates wrote.

The cardinal was not in court when the decision was handed down. His lawyer, Jean-Felix Luciani, said

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he will appeal.

"This is a decision that is not fair at the juridical level," Luciani said. He added: "We hope that at the next step, justice will be done."

Barbarin, 68, nevertheless said he would offer to resign when he meets with Pope Francis "in a few days."

"I have decided to go and see the Holy Father to offer him my resignation," he said in a brief statement, expressing his compassion for Preynat's victims.

Barbarin was made a cardinal by St. John Paul II in 2003, a year after John Paul made him archbishop of Lyon.

Unlike most cardinals, he does not have a large presence outside his home country. He only serves as a member of a single Vatican office, the congregation for religious orders. Even cardinals who live much farther from Rome work on two or three congregations at a time.

The Vatican didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Pope Francis previously said the French justice system should take its course, but praised Barbarin as "brave."

Francis now has to weigh whether to accept, reject or delay Barbarin's offer of resignation.

Last year, Francis reluctantly accepted the resignation of one of his key supporters, Washington Cardinal Donald Wuerl, after he was implicated in cover-ups from decades ago.

The cases were revealed by a Pennsylvania grand jury report. Francis kept Wuerl on as a temporary administrator pending the appointment of a replacement.

He also accepted the resignation last year of Adelaide, Australia Archbishop Philip Wilson after he was convicted of covering up abuse. The conviction was reversed on appeal, but Wilson already had been replaced. His future status is unclear.

In France, the priest's said top clergy had been aware of Preynat's actions since 1991, but allowed him to be in contact with children until his 2015 retirement.

Several men recounted during the four-day trial in January the fear and shame they felt after they were abused.

Christian Burdet, 53, testified that Preynat forced him to go into his tent when he was a 10-year-old Scout.

Describing years of suffering, Burdet said he wanted to "understand how this system was put in place" and help other victims to speak out.

A date for Preynat's trial next year has not been set. Only 13 cases will be heard in court, as the statute of limitations had expired for others. The priest is estimated to have abused 85 victims.

Devaux, of the victims' advocacy group, said the cardinal's conviction sent strong signals to both victims and the top ranks of the Catholic Church.

Top church officials need to "re-evaluate their sacred dimension. We're on Earth here, and while some things are acceptable, others are not."

A lawyer for some of Preynat's victims, Yves Sauvayre, called the verdict "historic."

"The cardinal is convicted because he didn't do what needed to be done," he said.

Anne Barrett Doyle, of the online resource BishopAccountability.org, said Thursday's decision was "a significant step forward" in making the Catholic hierarchy answerable for conduct it hid for decades.

"In affirming the victims' claims, the French court implicitly rejected the grab bag of excuses that Barbarin and other Catholic bishops use to justify non-reporting," she said in a statement.

The decision against Barbarin was handed down less than two weeks after the conviction of another "prince" of the church, Pell, was announced in his native Australia of sexually abusing two youths. He too is appealing.

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Sylvie Corbet in Paris and Nicole Winfield in Rome contributed to this report

## Monthly shots control HIV as well as pills in 2 big studies

By CARLA K. JOHNSON AP Medical Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — Monthly shots of HIV drugs worked as well as daily pills to control the virus that causes AIDS in two large international tests, researchers reported Thursday.

If approved by regulators in the United States and Europe, the shots would be a new option for people with HIV and could help some stay on treatment. Instead of having to remember to take pills, patients instead could get injections from a doctor or nurse each month.

“Some people will be thrilled” at the convenience, said Mitchell Warren, executive director of AVAC, an AIDS advocacy group.

Condoms remain the most widely available and inexpensive form of HIV prevention. Pills taken daily can keep HIV levels so low the virus is not transmittable to sex partners, but not everyone takes them as prescribed.

The shots could improve how well some people stick to treatment, perhaps helping those who have trouble remembering to take daily medicine to keep infection at bay.

There are other potential benefits. Getting shots at a clinic can lend more privacy to patients worried about the stigma of filling an HIV prescription at a pharmacy, said Dr. Susan Swindells of the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, who presented results Thursday at an HIV conference in Seattle.

Cost will be an issue “to make sure that everyone has access to this medication,” said Dr. Hyman Scott of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, who was not part of the study. It’s not clear how much the shots would cost. HIV pills can cost a patient up to thousands of dollars monthly, depending on the drug combination, insurance coverage, rebates and discounts.

And there will be concerns about patients missing a monthly shot, which could lead to drug-resistant strains of the virus. It will be “a good option for some people,” Scott said.

Whether monthly shots will also work to protect users’ sex partners hasn’t been studied yet, but there is reason to think they will, said experts at the conference.

The shots are a long-acting combo of two HIV drugs — rilpivirine, sold as Edurant by Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen, and ViiV Healthcare’s experimental drug known as cabotegravir.

ViiV Healthcare paid for the research. The drugmakers are seeking approval later this year in the United States and Europe.

One study included 616 people who were taking pills to treat their HIV infection. The other study enrolled 566 people who hadn’t yet started treatment, so they first got pills to get the virus under control.

In each of the studies, half the participants switched to the shots while the rest stayed on pills. After nearly a year, 1 to 2 percent of people in both groups had traces of virus in their blood, whether they got shots or pills. That shows the shots worked as well as the standard pill therapy. A few people withdrew from the studies because of pain after the injections.

The studies were done in Europe and North America and in nations including Argentina, Australia, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Japan and Mexico.

“We don’t have experience rolling out an injection in the real world,” said Warren, the AIDS advocate. He said the next challenges will be how to deliver the shots and whether patients will remember to come back monthly. “These are big questions.”

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Follow AP Medical Writer Carla K. Johnson on Twitter: @CarlaKJohnson

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## Farmer patience on tariffs comes with caution flag for Trump

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iowa hog farmer Howard Hill is feeling the pinch from President Donald Trump's get-tough trade policies — his pigs are selling for less than it costs to raise them. It's a hit that Hill is willing to take for now, but his understanding also comes with a caution flag for the president.

"We have patience, but we don't have unlimited patience," says Hill, who raises about 7,000 hogs a year near the central Iowa town of Cambridge.

The president's willingness to pick trade fights with multiple trading partners at once has set off volleys of retaliatory tariffs, driving down the price of pork, corn and soybeans in political bellwether Iowa and elsewhere, and contributing to a 12 percent drop in net farm income nationally last year.

At issue are trade talks with China over intellectual property theft and a new U.S. deal with Canada and Mexico to replace NAFTA that is awaiting congressional approval. Those efforts could take months to complete. So scores of farm and business groups are pressing for quicker relief, a stopgap step to help them out until the more comprehensive trade agreements are resolved. They're urging the administration to remove Canada and Mexico from the list of nations hit with a 25 percent tariff on steel shipped to the U.S. and a 10 percent tariff placed on aluminum. Their hope is that action would give the U.S. neighbors cause to remove retaliatory tariffs they placed on U.S. goods, such as a 20 percent levy Mexico placed on U.S.-produced hams.

So far, the administration hasn't bit on that idea, but it dispatched Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to Iowa this week to assure farmers that help is on the way.

For now, Trump is walking a political tightrope: Going to bat for steel and aluminum makers has endeared him to many voters in Ohio and Pennsylvania, where steel production is a matter of economic pride and legacy, but it could end up hurting him in ag-heavy states like Iowa and Wisconsin that backed him in 2016.

In Iowa, which casts the first votes of the presidential campaign season, state Republican Party Chairman Jeff Kauffmann said he's surprised by how patient farmers have been with Trump. The Trump Agriculture Department did approve up to \$12 billion in assistance to help compensate farmers caught up in the tariff battle.

"They all say it's hurting," Kauffman said of the trade disputes. "They're all saying the stopgap relief was definitely not a cure-all, but they all understand what the president is trying to accomplish. It's quite an interesting phenomenon."

But the defeat of two Republican House lawmakers in last year's midterm elections hints at some of the anxiety in farm country.

State Democratic Party Chairman Troy Price said the political climate in the state has changed since Trump defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton by 9 percentage points in 2016, in part because of trade.

"These tariffs are kind of a slow burn. People are getting more and more frustrated," Price said. "It's one of the reasons Donald Trump is going to lose Iowa in 2020."

Some of the Democratic candidates for president are starting to differentiate themselves from Trump on trade when talking to Iowa voters. Sen. Kamala Harris of California has criticized the president's "go it alone" attitude. Former Rep. John Delaney of Maryland says "we're not going to succeed in the global economy by enacting protectionist policies."

Still, some Democrats could have trouble seizing on the issue. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont spent much of the 2016 campaign railing against the very trade deals that Trump denigrated, calling them "disastrous" for blue-collar workers.

Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, is among the lawmakers urging the Trump administration to lift the steel and aluminum tariffs on products brought in from Canada and Mexico. He said it's a first step to getting the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement through Congress. He also said it would improve the financial picture for farmers.

"Unfortunately we're starting to see more and more warning signs that farmers are running out of leeway with their bankers and landlords," Grassley said.

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Pompeo sought to calm some of those nerves Monday even as he warned that Chinese theft of technology affects agriculture, too.

"The good news is this — help is on the way," Pompeo said. "American producers and Chinese consumers will both be better off. The outcome of President Trump's trade negotiations currently under way will pay dividends for people in each of our two countries."

Hill said he was encouraged by Pompeo's remarks.

"I think people recognize, particularly with China, they have not been playing by the rules for a long time," Hill said. "I think producers are supportive of trying to correct these issues. On the other hand, we don't want it to go on forever."

The American Farm Bureau Federation reports that Chapter 12 farm bankruptcies in the U.S. went down in 2018 compared with prior-year levels. But it also noted that farm debt is at a record high, and that lending standards are tighter and the cost of credit is rising.

"Certainly many farmers have liquidated assets to discharge debt. How much longer can many others endure remains a question," the farm group said.

## A different kind of freshman marks Pelosi's new majority

By **LISA MASCARO and LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — It wasn't exactly a mic-drop moment. But when House Speaker Nancy Pelosi abruptly ended a conversation as a freshman lawmaker no longer seemed to be listening, it showed just how far the Democratic leader and the new majority have to go in getting used to each other.

A lot has changed in the 12 years since Pelosi last ran the House.

The California Democrat is finding a freshman class whose members seem more eager to lead than be led. Part of a younger generation of lawmakers, mostly women and minorities, they bring perspectives and expectations different from some who have walked the halls for decades. A few, like New York's Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, carry their own stardom in real-time on social media.

Their willingness to question the protocols of Congress is exposing Pelosi's leadership team to high-profile stumbles. Leaders could not hold their majority in line on a routine procedural vote last week. And this week, a debate spilled into the open over a leadership plan for a resolution condemning anti-Semitism and Islamophobia largely in response to remarks made by Minnesota's Ilhan Omar.

"So, we have some internal issues," Pelosi acknowledged during a private caucus meeting.

By Thursday, the House was back on track with plans to vote on the resolution that Pelosi said would "speak out against anti-Semitism, anti-Islamophobia, anti-white supremacy and all the forms that it takes."

Democrats wanted to swiftly push past at least one of the big issues that was dividing them and tangling their legislative agenda.

It was during that Wednesday behind-closed-doors session that another newly elected Democrat, Jahana Hayes of Connecticut, stood to speak about the resolution, according to those in the room.

Hayes wanted more input on the process. Others worried that their legislative agenda had drifted way off track. Some questioned why Omar's actions were being singled out when others — namely President Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress — had repeatedly made offensive comments on race and religion.

When Pelosi addressed her, Hayes turned to walk away. Exasperated, Pelosi said if Hayes wasn't going to listen, the conversation was over. She set down the microphone.

Hayes later told reporters that she didn't realize Pelosi was talking to her. But, she said, she's ready to speak up again, every time she needs to.

"I don't want to wait two years before I raise my voice," she said. "I know that looks different or feels different to people. ... But I didn't come here to just sit quietly and fall in line."

Hayes said, "I don't mean that to be disrespectful. But the people in my district deserve a voice. These are important decisions." She added, "A new crop of freshmen, I guess."

Every new majority has its growing pains. GOP Speaker John Boehner never really figured out a way to

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control the tea party Republicans who ultimately forced his retirement. And Pelosi's predecessor, Republican Paul Ryan, called it quits rather than try to do much better.

Pelosi, who made history in 2007 as the first female speaker, has always been seen as a particularly strong leader. She fended off attempts to topple her return this year, and her stock soared among some Democrats as she took on Trump during the 35-day partial government shutdown.

But Pelosi faces a changed media environment that is rapidly chronicling every move of the historic freshmen class in real-time and a president in the White House eager, with his GOP allies in Congress, to capitalize on the divisions. Trump tweeted Wednesday about the resolution debate, saying it was "shameful" Democrats wouldn't take a stronger stand against anti-Semitism in their conference.

Democrats also returned a veteran leadership team, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland and Majority Whip Jim Clyburn of South Carolina, who, along with up-and-comers, have made no secret of their interest in Pelosi's job. They are responsible for setting the floor schedule and counting the votes, and share some responsibility — and blame — for the leadership's early pitfalls.

While Democrats had a larger majority 12 years ago, the caucus was not as racially and ethnically diverse the first time Pelosi was speaker. There was a sense Wednesday among Democrats that Pelosi and her leadership team may have underestimated the anger and opposition that a resolution dealing only with anti-Semitism would inflame among progressives, who now include the first two Muslim women to serve in Congress.

Rep. Katie Hill, D-Calif., a freshman liaison to Democratic leaders, said Pelosi is juggling several dynamics. Managing the social media and instantaneous reaction that turned the issue "into this massive explosion ... is one of the biggest challenges," she said.

In fact, it wasn't Pelosi's idea to put forward the resolution on anti-Semitism, according to those familiar with the situation. They and others spoke about private conversations on condition of anonymity.

But after fielding some 100 calls over the weekend from other lawmakers, some proposing it as a response to Omar's comments about Israel, Pelosi agreed to the idea and suggested they broaden the resolution to include a rejection of anti-Muslim bigotry. Omar is Muslim-American and faces criticism, including by GOP lawmakers, and public threats.

The early drafts, though, went too far for some lawmakers, but not far enough for others. Jewish lawmakers, in particular, preferred the more narrow approach to anti-Semitism. Others wanted a more sweeping statement against other forms of racism and bigotry that, as Clyburn put it, was "anti-hate."

After Wednesday's session, Pelosi pivoted, temporarily shelving the issue that had already drained Democrats of much of their focus on the week's agenda.

"This is a distraction," said Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman, D-N.J., who made similar remarks during the private session. "We came in promising a rigorous agenda for the people."

Others, though, said Democrats needed to remind Americans, and others, of the dangers of anti-Semitic tropes. Omar last week suggested the Jewish state's supporters are pushing lawmakers to pledge "allegiance" to a foreign country.

"It's important for us to have this conversation and for people to understand the history," said Rep. Juan Vargas, D-Calif. He faced his own run-in after Ocasio-Cortez tweeted about his views in what would have been seen as a rare display of intra-party disagreement.

Rep. Hank Johnson, D-Ga., said Pelosi is adroit at being able to "adapt to the reality once that reality becomes clear to her." He added, "We don't have a perfect leader, but she's doing an excellent job."

Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., a progressive who is allied with Ocasio-Cortez and others in the new class, said, "I don't agree with Nancy Pelosi on a number of things, but I understand that she knows more about how the system works than I know."

Khanna added that the freshmen have brought "great energy and great voice, but ultimately Washington is still about getting things done, and Nancy Pelosi understands power."

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## Battling over voting rights, Dems, GOP have 2020 in sight

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK AP National Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Every election year, there's heated talk about voter access and suppression. This year congressional Democrats are hoping to make it a top-tier political fight.

The Democrats are calling for new legislation and increasingly pressuring Republicans in both the House and Senate, aiming to highlight enduring restrictions that prevent some voters from casting ballots — and hoping to also energize key parts of the party's base of supporters.

In the House, Democrats flexing their new majority muscles chose to make their first major piece of legislation — significantly numbered H.R. 1 — a bill that would make it easier to register to vote. Senate Democrats, who remain in the minority, also intend to make voting rights a top priority.

"We're going to go on offense on it," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said in an interview. "We're going to make it an issue in the 2020 campaigns. We Democrats have to fight in this more aggressive, stronger, focused way."

Voting access was a strong motivator for Democratic voters in the 2018 campaign, including in Georgia, where Democrat Stacey Abrams narrowly lost the governor's race to Republican Brian Kemp. Abrams accused Kemp, as secretary of state, of improperly purging voters from the rolls and limiting access to polling places in rural parts of the state.

Kemp said he was following state law to guard against voter fraud after an AP analysis found 53,000 applications of mostly black voters were held in pending status just before the midterm election. National Republican leaders also insist the issue is voter fraud, not suppression.

Democratic leaders see the Georgia results as evidence that voters are concerned and motivated to vote by the issue. Hoping to keep the momentum, they're eager to show their base, particularly the African-Americans they'll need to win in next year's voting, that they're committed to pushing hard for legislation.

Schumer said he'll be targeting three specific areas: federal oversight of election laws in states with a record of voter disenfranchisement; automatic voter registration and statehood for the District of Columbia.

His comments coincide with the 54th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, when peaceful protesters were tear-gassed and beaten by Alabama state troopers as they attempted to march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma on March 7, 1965. It was a major incident of the Civil Rights movement, and led to the passage of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. That law in turn led to millions of black Americans gaining access to the vote — increasing their political power with the election of more black local, state and federal leaders.

Schumer said he would sign on to the current Voting Rights Advancement Act introduced by Sen. Patrick Leahy. The Vermont Democrat's bill would require new election laws in some states to be approved by the Justice Department. The Supreme Court struck down a federal preclearance requirement in 2013, saying it unfairly punished Southern states. Schumer said Democrats would also introduce automatic voter registration legislation in the Senate.

The efforts appear to have little chance of moving through the Republican-led Senate. Republicans have typically cast such efforts as an attempt to tilt elections in Democrats' favor and expressed concern about voter fraud. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Wednesday that Democrats are "intent on fixing our elections, even though they aren't broken."

"This new House Democrat majority's top priority is apparently assigning themselves an unprecedented level of control over how they get elected to Washington D.C.," McConnell said.

Unsurprisingly, that's not how the Democrats see it.

Schumer contends that the Republicans "don't like it when poor people, people of color and students vote, and so they make it harder for them to vote. ... That is not what our democracy is all about."

The Democratic leader acknowledges the challenge for his party to actually pass their voting-rights bills into law. But he says his efforts are part of a long game, focusing on where leverage exists, such as in must-pass legislation like the federal budget.

Meanwhile, Democrats are also busy working to document and investigate allegations of voter suppression.

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sion in the 2018 midterms. A House committee on Wednesday sent letters to Georgia's governor and secretary of state asking for information on "recent reports of serious problems with voter registration, voter access and other matters affecting the ability of people in Georgia to exercise their right to vote."

## No 2020 White House run for Dem Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio

By **JULIE CARR SMYTH and ELANA SCHOR Associated Press**

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown said Thursday he will not run for president in 2020, becoming the latest Democrat to bow out of the White House race.

His decision comes after recent visits to several early-voting states to highlight his worker-friendly policy agenda. Brown said he believed his "dignity of work" tour succeeded in putting the struggles of average Americans on Democrats' 2020 radar and that he "can be most effective" by remaining in the Senate.

"I fight best when I bring joy to the battle," he told home-state reporters. "And I find that joy fighting for Ohio in the Senate."

Several other Democrats, including former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley and former Attorney General Eric Holder, announced this week that they would not join a presidential primary already packed with a dozen candidates. Democrats are awaiting word from former Vice President Joe Biden and former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke about whether they will undertake highly anticipated campaigns that could reshape the race.

Brown said he will continue to call out President Donald Trump's "phony populism" from his perch in the Senate and will "do everything I can to elect a Democratic president and a Democratic Senate in 2020."

The 66-year-old had emerged as a potentially strong challenger to Trump after winning re-election in November in a state that Trump carried by nearly 11 percentage points in 2016. Brown's victory was powered by strong support in many blue-collar areas of the state where Trump had prevailed.

Well-known for his progressive populism, Brown had pledged to be the most "pro-union, pro-worker" candidate in the Democratic field if he ran. But he would have faced a steep climb to the upper tier of the 2020 field.

Brown's comfort in relating to Midwestern, working-class voters is a key element in the political appeal of Biden, who is seen as leaning heavily toward running. Also, Brown's political brand has some similarities to the anti-corporate liberalism of two high-profile senators already in the race, Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.

Even so, Brown proved himself less willing than those possible rivals to embrace the litmus-test politics of the left: He declined to sign onto Sanders' "Medicare for all" single-payer health care plan or the Green New Deal, an ambitious framework to fight climate change.

Brown said he was not deterred from running by the large number of Democratic candidates, money concerns or his status as a white male in a party that prizes diversity. He said he has never aspired to be president and, in the end, decided he could do the most good in the Senate.

Citing his record on worker issues, Brown said, "I think my message has been strong enough that other candidates are picking it up."

Schor reported from Washington.

## Asian shares fall on doubts over US-China trade deal

By **ANNABELLE LIANG Associated Press**

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian markets tumbled Friday on fears that the U.S. and China may not be as close to a trade deal as President Donald Trump had suggested. Selling was also fueled by worries about the global economy ahead of Chinese trade data.

The Shanghai Composite index gave up 2.9 percent to 3,016.22 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 1.4 percent to 28,391.57

The Kospi in South Korea fell 1.0 percent to 2,144.36 and Australia's S&P/ASX 200 eased 0.9 percent

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to 6,210.80.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 was 1.5 percent lower at 21,142.75, even after the government said its economy grew 1.9 percent in 2018's fourth quarter, from a year ago. This was better than its initial estimate of 1.4 percent. Stocks fell in Taiwan and throughout Southeast Asia.

On Thursday, The New York Times newspaper reported that the U.S. and China have come to a broad agreement that would result in the removal of some tariffs in both countries. This involves China buying more American goods and opening some of its markets further to foreign companies, it said.

But the report said negotiators haven't locked down key details, like when the tariffs will be removed and how to ensure China holds up its end of the deal. It added, citing two people familiar with Beijing's position, that Chinese officials were wary about the final terms due to Trump's bent for last minute-changes.

Trump told reporters Wednesday that the negotiations were "moving along very nicely." Last week, the U.S. shelved a tariff hike on \$200 billion in Chinese goods to give officials time to work out a deal.

Investors were also focused on the global economy. The European Central Bank delayed its next interest rate hike and announced a new round of cheap loans for banks on Thursday. This was seen as an acknowledgement of weaker growth by the bank.

Upcoming trade data from China could stem losses or send stocks that are already broadly lower into a freefall.

"The series of aggravating factors for growth concerns continues to gather, the latest from the euro-zone, setting Asia markets up for synchronized decline into the end of the week," Jingyi Pan of IG said in a commentary.

Over on Wall Street, the broad S&P 500 index suffered its fourth straight loss on Thursday, falling 0.8 percent to 2,748.93. The Dow Jones Industrial Average declined 0.8 percent to 25,473.23 and the Nasdaq composite shed 1.1 percent to 7,421.46. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks dipped 0.9 percent to 1,523.63.

ENERGY: U.S. crude lost 31 cents to \$56.35 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It picked up 44 cents to \$56.66 a barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils fell 44 cents to \$65.86 a barrel in London. The contract rose 31 cents to settle at \$66.30 per barrel on Thursday.

CURRENCIES: The dollar retreated to 111.39 yen from 111.57 yen late Thursday. The euro advanced to \$1.1197 from \$1.1194.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Friday, March 8, the 67th day of 2019. There are 298 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 8, 1702, England's Queen Anne acceded to the throne upon the death of King William III.

On this date:

In 1618, German astronomer Johannes Kepler devised his third law of planetary motion.

In 1854, U.S. Commodore Matthew C. Perry made his second landing in Japan; within a month, he concluded a treaty with the Japanese.

In 1948, the Supreme Court, in *McCullum v. Board of Education*, struck down voluntary religious education classes in Champaign, Illinois, public schools, saying the program violated separation of church and state.

In 1965, the United States landed its first combat troops in South Vietnam as 3,500 Marines arrived to defend the U.S. air base at Da Nang.

In 1971, Joe Frazier defeated Muhammad Ali by decision in what was billed as "The Fight of the Century" at Madison Square Garden in New York. Silent film comedian Harold Lloyd died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 77.

In 1975, the first International Women's Day was celebrated.

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In 1979, technology firm Philips demonstrated a prototype compact disc player during a press conference in Eindhoven, the Netherlands.

In 1983, in a speech to the National Association of Evangelicals convention in Orlando, Florida, President Ronald Reagan referred to the Soviet Union as an "evil empire."

In 1988, 17 soldiers were killed when two Army helicopters from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, collided in mid-flight.

In 1999, baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio died in Hollywood, Florida, at age 84.

In 2004, Abul Abbas, the Palestinian guerrilla leader who'd planned the hijacking of the Achille Lauro (ah-KEE'-leh LOW'-roh) passenger ship, died while in U.S. custody in Baghdad, Iraq; he was 56. Actor Robert Pastorelli was found dead in his Hollywood Hills, Calif., home; he was 49.

In 2008, President George W. Bush vetoed a bill that would have banned the CIA from using simulated drowning and other coercive interrogation methods to gain information from suspected terrorists.

Ten years ago: A pastor was gunned down during a Sunday sermon in a southwestern Illinois church; a judge later ruled the suspect in the shooting, Terry Sedlacek (SEHD'-lak), was mentally unfit to stand trial in the killing of the Rev. Fred Winters at the First Baptist Church of Maryville. A suicide bomber struck a police academy in Baghdad, killing at least 30. Country singer Hank Locklin, 91, died in Brewton, Ala.

Five years ago: Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, a Boeing 777 with 239 people on board, vanished during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, setting off a massive search. (To date, the fate of the jetliner and its occupants has yet to be determined.)

One year ago: U.S. and South Korean officials said President Donald Trump had agreed to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jung Un by the end of May to negotiate an end to North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Despite Republican warnings of a trade war, Trump ordered steep new tariffs on steel and aluminum imports to the United States. Mississippi lawmakers passed one of the most restrictive abortion laws in the nation, making the procedure illegal in most cases after 15 weeks of pregnancy; a federal judge later struck down the law as unconstitutional. Serena Williams beat Zarina Diyas of Kazakhstan, 7-5, 6-3, in the first round of a tournament in Indian Wells, California; it was Williams' first match following a 14-month layoff for the birth of her daughter.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician George Coleman is 84. Actress Sue Ane (correct) Langdon is 83. College Football Hall of Famer Pete Dawkins is 81. Baseball player-turned-author Jim Bouton is 80. Songwriter Carole Bayer Sager is 75. Actor-director Micky Dolenz (The Monkees) is 74. Singer-musician Randy Meisner is 73. Pop singer Peggy March is 71. Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Rice is 66. Jazz musician Billy Childs is 62. Singer Gary Numan is 61. NBC News anchor Lester Holt is 60. Actor Aidan Quinn is 60. Country musician Jimmy Dormire is 59. Actress Camryn Manheim is 58. Actor Leon (no last name) is 56. Rock singer Shawn Mullins (The Thorns) is 51. Neo-soul singer Van Hunt is 49. Actress Andrea Parker is 49. Actor Boris Kodjoe is 46. Actor Freddie Prinze Jr. is 43. Actress Laura Main is 42. Actor James Van Der Beek is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kameelah Williams (702) is 41. Actor Nick Zano is 41. Rock singer Tom Chaplin (Keane) is 40. Rock musician Andy Ross (OK Go) is 40. Actress Jessica Collins is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kristinia (kris-teh-NEE'-ah) DeBarge is 29.

Thought for Today: "There are things known and there are things unknown, and in between are the doors of perception." — Aldous Huxley, English author (1894-1963).

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