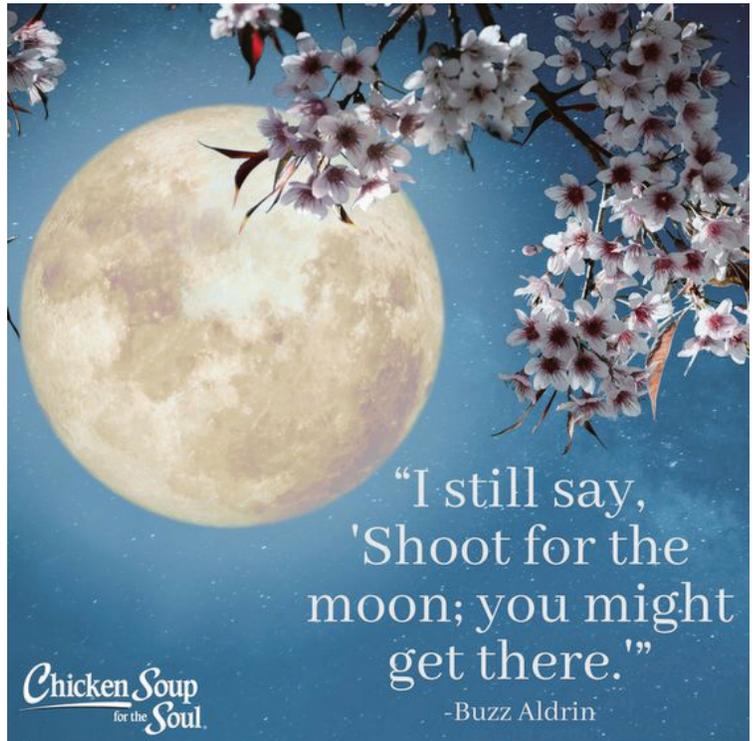


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- 1- UMC Salad & Dessert Buffet
- 2- Kolker Thank You
- 2- KG Roundup Reschedule
- 3- Community Events
- 3- Kern Bridal Shower
- 4- Blood Drive Ad
- 5- Truss Pros Ad
- 6- 2019 South Dakota High School All-Star Game Rosters Announced
- 7- South Dakota Severe Weather Awareness week is scheduled for this week
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*Groton United Methodist Women*

## *Salad & Dessert Buffet*

*Wednesday, May 1st*

*from 11 am - 1 pm*

*Please join us for lunch or make your own to-go!*

**Men & Women \$8 - Children 6 and under free**

**at the Groton United Methodist Church**

*Proceeds to UMW Missions*

**OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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*Thanks to all who made my 80th birthday one to remember! I sincerely appreciate your stopping in at the Legion to share a few hours. A special thanks to Kari, Gail and Jeanette and to the staff at the Legion. It is one to remember!!!*

*Dick Kolker*

**Groton Area's**

**KG**



**has been rescheduled to  
April 30th**

**All scheduled times will stay the same. Please contact Heidi Krueger at the elementary school to confirm this new date.**

**605/397-2317**

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## Tuesday, April 23

**Cancelled:** Track meet in Groton

7 p.m.: City Council meeting at the Groton Community Center

7 p.m.: School Board meeting at the multipurpose room.

2:15 p.m.: Tour of Kindness program at Groton Area Elementary. Justine Kougal began the Tour

of Kindness last year when her daughter turned 2, she was born with Treacher Collins Syndrome, the same as Auggie in the movie Wonder. She is traveling around the Midwest to schools throughout the region to spread the word of kindness and making the choice to Be The Difference and Choose Kind to kids and adults alike. The public is invited to attend.

*Upcoming*  
**COMMUNITY  
EVENTS**

## Thursday, April 25, 2019

10:00am: Golf: Girls Varsity Meet @ Redfield Golf Course

3:30pm: Track: 7th/8th Meet @ Milbank High School

## Friday, April 26, 2019

1:00pm: Track: Varsity Meet @ Sisseton High School

## Saturday, April 27, 2019

7 p.m.: Prom at Groton Area High School

## Sunday, April 28, 2019

2 p.m. - 5 p.m.: Bridal Shower for Emily Kern at Emmanuel Lutheran Church

5:30 p.m.: Princesses Prom Grand March at the GHS Gym

## Monday, April 29, 2019

2:00pm: Track: 7th/8th Meet @ Redfield Jr-Sr High School

## Tuesday, April 30, 2019

8:30am- 3:30pm: KG Roundup (Screening) at Groton Area Elementary School

1:00pm: Track: Varsity Meet @ Milbank High School

DI Pork Loin Meal, 5-7 p.m., HS Gym.

7:00pm: Middle School Spring Concert

## Wednesday, May 1, 2019

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: United Methodist Women May Salad & Dessert Buffet at the UMC.

7 p.m.: Carnival of Silver Skates annual meeting at the warming house.

## Thursday, May 2, 2019

10:00am: Golf: Girls Varsity Meet @ Lee Park Golf Course

DI Pork Loin Meal, 5-7 p.m., HS Gym.

7:00pm: High School Spring Concert and Awards Night

## Friday, May 3, 2019

Howard Wood Relays in Sioux Falls

4:00pm: Track: Varsity Meet @ Sisseton High School

7:00pm: FFA Banquet Groton Area High School

## Saturday, May 4, 2019

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Groton City-wide Rummage Sale

Howard Wood Relays in Sioux Falls

## Sunday, May 5, 2019

5:00 p.m. Groton Softball, Baseball and T-Ball parent meeting at the Legion

**Come and go Bridal shower for Emily Kern, bride to be of Nathan Skadsen,  
Sunday, April 28 2019 2-5 pm at  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church**



**Be a hero.  
Save a life.**

vitalant.

**Blood Drive  
Monday, April 29  
12:15 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Groton Community Center  
Call 397-8498 or 397-7525 to sign up**

**Don't forget to fill out your Fast Track  
Health History online the day of your  
donation to speed up the process!  
The link for your Fast Track Health  
History can be found at  
<https://www.vitalant.org/health>.**

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To apply visit [www.uslbn.com/careers](http://www.uslbn.com/careers) or call Diane at 605-448-2929.

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## 2019 South Dakota High School All-Star Game Rosters Announced

Vermillion, SD - The Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company, along with the South Dakota High School Football Coaches Association, is proud to announce this year's rosters for the South Dakota High School All-Star Football Game presented by Sanford, scheduled for Saturday, June 8th. This marks the game's fourth year in Vermillion.

### Red Team:

1. Zach Leisinger – Lennox
2. Morgan Harkless – Hot Springs
3. Tupak Kpeayeh – Sioux Falls Washington
4. Nate Rice -Dakota Valley
5. Austin Thu - Canistota
6. Noah Wiersma - Castlewood
7. Max Anderson – Harrisburg
8. Jay Krull – Sturgis Brown
9. Teigen Heckel – Rapid City Stevens
10. Rex Ryken - Yankton
11. Bo Donald - Kimball
12. Alec Landis – Colman-Egan
13. Jetzon Olson – Rapid City Central
14. Carson Wilson – Sioux Falls Washington
15. Tucker Kraft – Timber Lake
16. Elijah Blare - Winner
17. Jacob Just - Harrisburg
18. Shea Connot - Winner
19. Michael Hofer - Howard
20. Keenan McKnight – Rapid City Central
21. Michael Drotzmann - Yankton
22. Cole Tiegen - Harrisburg
23. Gavin West – Sturgis Brown
24. Tyler Kropuenski - Beresford
25. Scott Peterson - Canton
26. Clayton Koppatschek – Deubrook Area
27. Sam Muston - Baltic
28. Avry Rice – Sioux Falls Lincoln
29. Zach Hanson – Sioux Falls Lincoln
30. Bradan McDonnell - Wall
31. Sam Chesterman – Dakota Valley
32. Jhett Andersen – Sioux Falls Washington
33. Andrew Wendland – Hot Springs
34. Dakota Johnson - Garretson
35. Cliff Johnson – Andes Central
36. Taylor Hojer – Oldham-Ramona
37. Hunter Jacobsen - Canton
38. Tyler Resick - Kimball
39. Manny Gallosa – Sturgis Brown
40. Casey Voichahoske – Dakota Valley
41. Brady Hoftiezer – Stanley County
42. Peyton Nieuwsma – Sioux Falls Washington
43. Justin Steedly - Spearfish
44. Caleb Stukel - Gregory
45. Tyson Stoebner - Lennox

### Blue Team:

1. Trejon King – Irene-Wakonda
2. Karst Hunter – Miller-Highmore
3. Zane Schuchard - Pierre
4. Cole Siegfried – Brandon Valley
5. Carter Olthoff – Brandon Valley
6. Devlin McManus – Sioux Falls Roosevelt
7. Caleb Schentzel - Northwestern
8. Josh Rowland – Todd County
9. Joseph Slama – Bon Homme
10. Carson Max - Mitchell
11. Parker Beers - Brookings
12. Lynden Williams – Wolsey-Wessington
13. Broc Haldeman – West Central
14. Carter Max - Mitchell
15. Jonathan Ricke - Madison
16. Dillon Woods – St. Thomas More
17. Mason Amato – Sioux Falls Roosevelt
18. Bryce Steffen - Huron
19. Doyle Brown - Milbank
20. Jack Maher - Pierre
21. Eddie Price – Dell Rapids
22. Gage Gehring - Pierre
23. Noah Reeves – O’Gorman
24. Alex Aesoph - Faulkton
25. Aidan Thomas – O’Gorman
26. Blake Holden - Watertown
27. Jay Szafryk - Brookings
28. Rylie Stevens – Wessington Springs
29. Talon Shaving – Cheyenne-Eagle Butte
30. Devonte Murphy – Sioux Falls Roosevelt
31. Kaden Johnson – Aberdeen Central
32. Jamin Arend – Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan
33. Jett McGirr - Huron
34. Carter Healy – West Central
35. Lucas Hinman - Groton
36. Daylin Simon - Warner
37. Barret Wren - Redfield
38. Jerett Lurz - Madison
39. Dylan Waxdahl – West Central
40. Isaac Olson - Mobridge
41. Connor Hansen – Aberdeen Roncalli
42. Jackson Rohlf – Aberdeen Central
43. Grayson Florey - Clark
44. Clayton Kurtz - Webster
45. Kipp Red Dog – Cheyenne-Eagle Butte

## South Dakota Severe Weather Awareness week is scheduled for this week

During the week Brown County will be testing our entire network of outdoor warning sirens across the county. This is scheduled to happen on Wednesday April 24, 2019.

- Test tornado watch will be issued at 10:00am CDT
- Test tornado warning will be issued at 10:15am CDT

The outdoor sirens will be activated during the 10:15 warning.

Please remember these are outdoor warning sirens and are only designed to alert those who are outside that something dangerous is happening in your area. Once you hear the siren activated you should go inside and turn to local media or NOAA weather radio to get more information.

If severe weather is in the area that day we will not be doing the test.

For more information or questions please call the Brown County Emergency Management office at 605-626-7122

## Are You 'Intexticated?'

### AAA South Dakota Launches Initiative to Reduce Distracted Driving

April 22, 2019 – AAA South Dakota will launch a multi-year initiative this week to reduce deaths and injuries as a result of electronic device use by drivers. April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

"Don't Drive Intoxicated – Don't Drive Intexticated" is the theme of AAA's multimedia traffic safety education campaign created to make distracted driving socially unacceptable. AAA South Dakota will unveil the campaign in Mitchell on Tuesday, April 23 at the Mitchell High School (920 N. Capitol) from 10:00a – 11:30a.

Campaign public service announcements are designed to help audiences understand that the consequences of using a smartphone while driving are the same as drinking and driving. The campaign targets drivers who would never consider drinking a beer behind the wheel, and yet, regularly engage with mobile devices that dangerously take their eyes, hands and minds off the road. The public is invited to take the Don't Drive Intexticated pledge at [www.aaa.com/dontdrivedistracted](http://www.aaa.com/dontdrivedistracted) to join this lifesaving effort.

#### Parallel Drawn to Alcohol-Impaired Driving Campaigns

"It's taken 50 years of public education to make alcohol-impaired driving shameful," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA South Dakota spokesperson. "Our efforts helped pass alcohol-impaired driving laws, increase enforcement, and, most importantly, shift public attitudes and behaviors toward drinking and driving." Although much more still needs to be done, anti-drunk driving campaigns and related efforts have helped cut the number of alcohol-impaired crash fatalities in half since the 1980s, according to the National Institutes of Health.

"Through this latest initiative, AAA South Dakota is committed to changing attitudes and behaviors surrounding the deadly problem of distracted driving, and we will continue this effort with our traffic safety partners as long as it takes," Buskohl said.

A AAA survey last month (March 2019) of more than 600 South Dakota drivers revealed the following thoughts and opinions on distracted driving:

68 percent said they notice more drivers distracted by electronic devices now than two years ago.

90 percent said they are "concerned" or "very concerned" about their safety on the road due to other drivers being distracted by electronic devices.

78 percent "think that it's never okay" to use a smart phone for texting, emailing or social media while driving.

When asked how often they look at their phones to read or send a text while driving, 3 percent responded "regularly," 4 percent said "fairly often," 42 percent replied "rarely" and 51 percent said they "never" did so.

50 percent said they "always" or "often" put their smart phone away where it cannot be accessed while driving.

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89 percent "strongly agree" or "somewhat agree" that the dangers of using a smart phone for texting, emailing and social media can be as serious as drinking and driving.

57 percent of respondents "rarely" or "never" use hands-free technology such as Bluetooth or voice-activated calling.

When asked about the existing South Dakota law banning texting while driving and whether survey participants would support or oppose a law in South Dakota banning hand-held cell phone use while driving:

64 percent said they would support

19 percent said they would oppose

17 percent said they are not sure

## **Crash Facts**

According to crash facts provided by the South Dakota Office of Highway Safety, 1,073 crashes involved a distracted driver in 2017. In that same year, 378 people were seriously injured and 5 tragically lost their lives as a result of distracted driving.

Distracted driving kills an average of nine people and injures 1,000 each day, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. It is the third leading driver-related cause of crash fatalities behind speeding and driving under the influence.\* And these numbers likely underestimate the problem because most drivers do not admit to distracting cell phone use after a crash. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety has conducted numerous studies regarding distracted driving that demonstrate:

Drivers interacting with cell phones to perform tasks like texting or surfing the Internet are two to eight times more likely to be involved in a crash.

Taking your eyes off the road for just two seconds doubles your chances of being involved in a crash.

59 percent of all teen crashes involve some form of driver inattention, and 12 percent of teen crashes involve cell phone use.

## **Tips to Resist Distracted Driving**

Put it away. Place your mobile device out of sight to prevent temptation.

Know where you're going. If using a navigation system, program the destination before driving.

Pull over. If you have to call or text while on the road, pull off the road safely and stop first.

Ask passengers for help. If riding with someone, seek their help to navigate, make a call or send a message.

Be a good passenger. Speak out if the driver of your vehicle is distracted.

Don't be a distraction. Avoid calling or texting others when you know they are driving.

Everyone should prevent being intoxicated. Just as drivers need to pay attention, so do pedestrians and bicyclists. Never call, text or play games while walking or cycling.

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## Today in Weather History

April 23, 2002: High winds of 35 to 50 mph gusting to over 70 mph occurred across much of central and northeast South Dakota. The high winds caused some spotty damage to property and trees. With the dry conditions, dust was stirred up by the winds and caused reduced visibilities at many locations. The highest wind gust was 72 mph at Onida.

1948: A three block long section was devastated at the edge of Ionia, Iowa in Chickasaw County by an estimated F4 tornado. Six homes and a church were leveled, and nine other homes were severely damaged. Two deaths occurred in the collapse of the Huffman Implement Store. Overall, the tornado killed five people, injured 25, and caused \$250,000 in damages. An F2 tornado touched down initially 5 miles northeast of Rochester. Barns, silos, windmills, and machinery were destroyed on four farms as this tornado tracked north.

1961: Severe weather struck the south suburbs of Chicago, IL. Joliet, IL reported an inch of hail with some hailstones the size of golf balls. Heavy rain from these storms also resulted in some flooding. A tornado struck the town of Peotone resulting in damage to nearly every building with damage also reported in Lorenzo and Wilton Center, IL. Estimated damage was \$9 million with about 30,000 structures affected.

1989: Salina Kansas was the hot spot in the nation with a high of 105 degrees. The high of 105 degrees established an April record for the state of Kansas.

1999: On Friday, April 23, 1999, a horrific hailstorm moved southeast from Pennsylvania across Garrett County, Maryland and into the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. It had weakened some as it crossed Garrett County and the Allegheny Front, but as it passed east of Keyser, West Virginia, hail began to increase in size once again. By the time it reached Capon Bridge in eastern Hampshire County, West Virginia, the size of the hail had grown from golf balls to baseballs. As it moved into Frederick County, VA, the hail storm continued to grow dropping golf ball size hail in a swath now reaching from the north of Winchester, south to Stephen City (about 10 miles). Hailstones grew to the size of Grapefruit (4 inches in diameter) east of Winchester. The storm continued east through Clarke County, southern Loudoun, and northern Fauquier doing considerable damage to Middleburg, then across Fairfax County hitting Centreville, Chantilly, Fairfax, Burke, Springfield, and Lorton with golf ball size to baseball size hail. It crossed the Potomac River and weakened slightly. It moved across northern Charles, clipped southern Prince Georges and then into Calvert County with 1 inch to 1.5-inch diameter hail and onto the Chesapeake Bay continuing southeast to the ocean. The damage left behind was incredible. In Northern Virginia alone, it amounted to over \$50 million in losses to public and private properties. Some communities saw a third of the homes with siding and roof damage. Some required total replacement. Windows were broken, cars dented, and windshields smashed. Piles of shredded plant debris were left on the ground in the storm path. In about 6 hours of time, this one thunderstorm, moving at about 50 mph, did \$75 million in damage. There have been other severe hail storms to hit this area before, but none to cause this much damage to property.

1885 - The city of Denver, CO, was in the midst of a storm which produced 23 inches of snow in 24 hours, and at Idaho Springs CO produced 32 inches of snow. (David Ludlum)

1910 - The temperature at the Civic Center in Los Angeles, CA, hit 100 degrees to establish an April record for the city. (The Weather Channel)

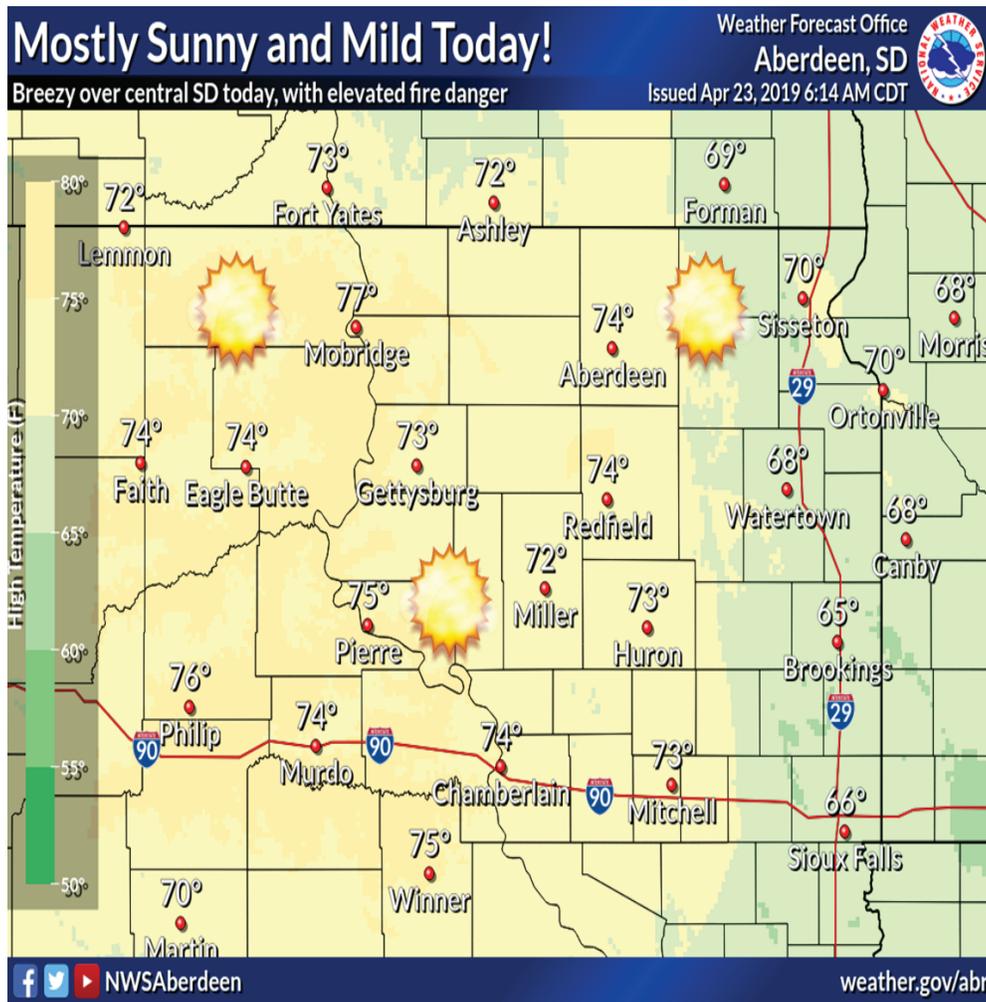
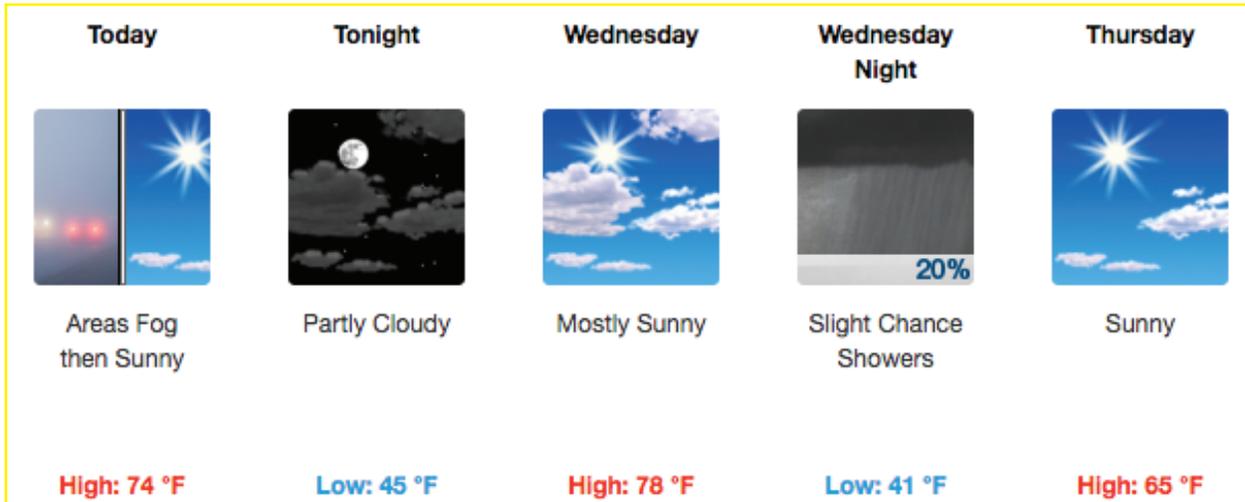
1983 - A mini-blizzard produced sixteen inches of snow at Laramie, WY, including a foot of snow in just eight hours during the night. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in the Atlantic Coast Region produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 67 mph at Anderson SC. The high winds destroyed two planes at the airport, and the large hail damaged fifty other planes, and severely damaged twenty-three greenhouses. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - An intense winter-like storm brought thunderstorms to southern California, and produced snow in some of the higher elevations. Nine girls at Tustin CA were injured when lightning struck the tree under which their softball team had taken shelter from the rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Published on: 04/23/2019 at 7:20AM

Very mild air will stream across the region today as breezy southwest winds develop. Highs will rise into the 70s for most areas, especially from the James River and points west. Dry conditions will also be in place, which will promote an elevated fire danger across central South Dakota.

# Groton Daily Independent

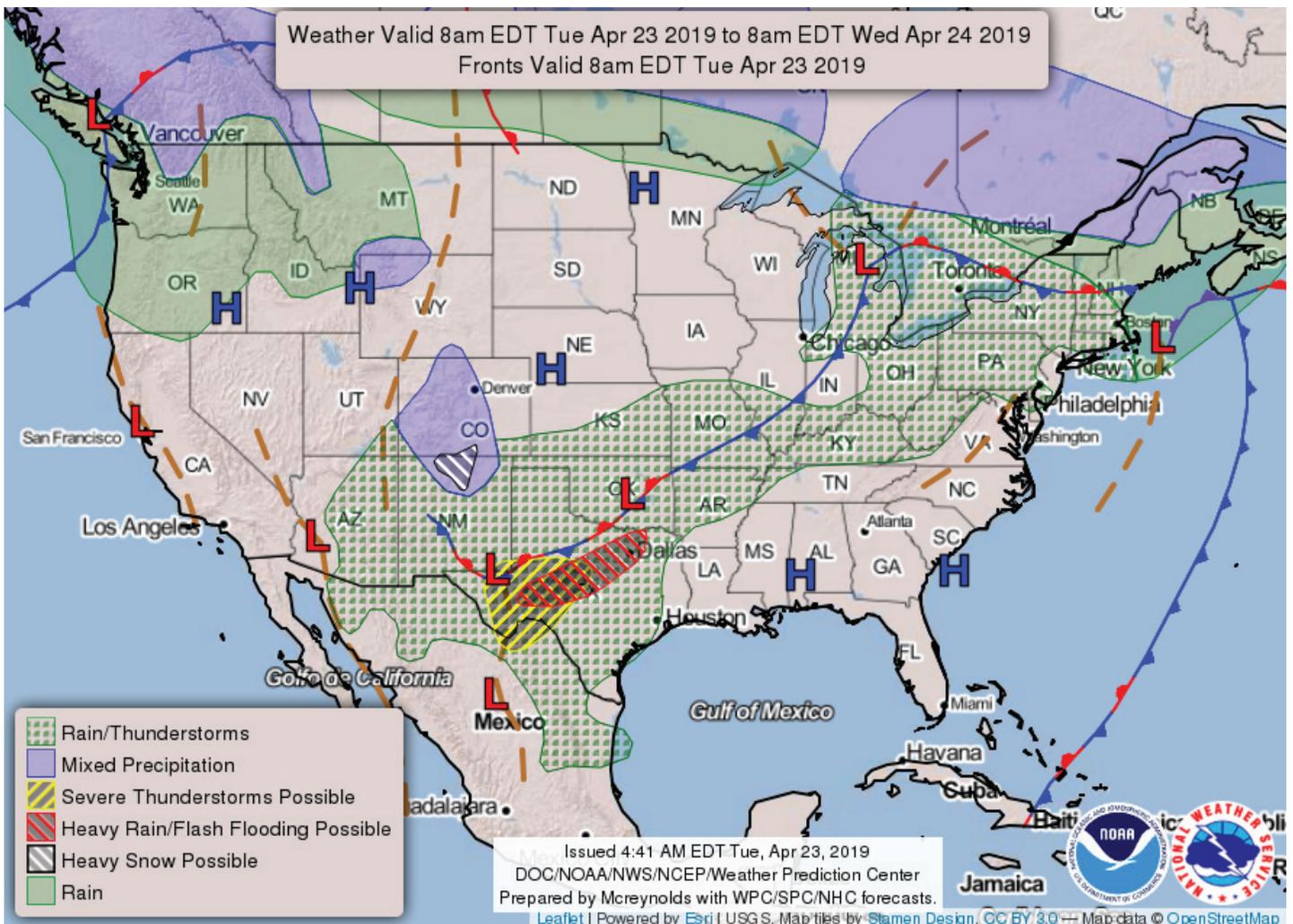
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 65 °F at 5:38 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 48 °F at 6:08 AM**  
**High Gust: 28 mph at 12:35 PM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 90° in 2009**  
**Record Low: 14° in 1956**  
**Average High: 61°F**  
**Average Low: 35°F**  
**Average Precip in April.: 1.18**  
**Precip to date in April.: 1.42**  
**Average Precip to date: 3.36**  
**Precip Year to Date: 4.46**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:30 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:33 a.m.**



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## GODS FAVORITES?

Its true! God has favorites!

Its also true that He offers all of us the opportunity to become one of His favorites. And, its not that difficult, either. Good people, wrote Solomon, obtain favor from the Lord. Its rather obvious that those who want His favor, as well as those who receive His favor are those who are good people.

Since most of us have our own definition of good, it is important to understand Gods definition of good. If we know His definition of good, we then have a choice: we can either meet His requirements and receive His favor or decide that His favor is not worth the effort.

Throughout the Old Testament good people are the ones who are motivated by a Godly-love to do Godly-things. They willingly set their own needs and desires to the side while they serve the needs of others. Doing God-things is the driving force in their lives. The good are those who are able and willing when they see someone in need, to do something about it - even if it means they willingly sacrifice something. The good are those who work with God to bring honor to His name when one of His children is being treated unfairly or unjustly, is in need or is suffering. The good are those who follow the examples of Jesus: His life was about doing good. The good have Gods seal of approval on their lives.

Those who devise wicked schemes are the opposite of the good people. Their lives are about self, not sacrifice; their schemes are unfair, unjust, unholy; they lack decency, honesty, integrity or kindness. Gods wrath awaits them. Live well, and receive Gods favor!

Prayer: Lord, convict me, challenge me, discipline me, and burden me through Your Holy Spirit, until I become one of Your good people. And revive Your favor! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 12:2 Good people obtain favor from the Lord, but he condemns those who devise wicked schemes.

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## 2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 03/17/2019 Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program (Memorial Day)
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Thursday Mid-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
- 06/22-23/2019 Groton Junior Legion Tournament
- 06/29/2019 Groton U10/U12 Round Robin Tournament
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest/Car Show (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/18/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Tournament
- 07/21/2019 Granary Ice Cream Social & Family Music Fest
- 08/02/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Wine on Nine
- 08/09-11/2019 State Junior Legion Tournament in Groton
- 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
- 09/08/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 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 (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday, Labor Day-Memorial Day, 6:30pm at the Legion Post #39

## 2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 4/4/2020 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 5/2/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)

## News from the **AP** Associated Press

### Top court skeptical of paper's argument over food stamp data

By JESSICA GRESKO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday seemed inclined to rule against a South Dakota newspaper seeking data about the government's food assistance program, previously known as food stamps.

The high court was hearing arguments in a case originally brought by the Argus Leader newspaper, which is owned by USA Today publisher Gannett and is the largest newspaper in South Dakota. The paper wants to know how much money goes annually to each store that participates in the government's \$65 billion-a-year Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

The Argus Leader says the data is public and shows citizens how the government is spending their tax money. A supermarket trade association opposing the information's release argues it is confidential.

At arguments, both conservative and liberal justices suggested skepticism about the Argus Leader's contention on the meaning of the word "confidential."

As a result, the newspaper's best hope of winning may rest on a question about the group that brought the case to the high court, the Food Marketing Institute, a supermarket trade association. Justice Sonia Sotomayor suggested that the group didn't have the right to pursue the case.

The issue she raised has to do with the fact that the Argus Leader's request for information was made to the U.S. government, and it was the government that initially blocked the information's release and defended that decision in court. But after a court ruled against the government, it said it would not pursue the case further and would instead release the information.

At that point, the Virginia-based Food Marketing Institute stepped in to continue the fight. Sotomayor indicated that was an issue.

"The government chose not to appeal. It chose ... to turn it over. Why aren't you bound by that decision?" Sotomayor asked Food Marketing Institute lawyer Evan Young.

The Trump administration is backing the group in arguing against the information's release. The Associated Press is among dozens of media organizations that have signed a legal brief supporting the Argus Leader. If the court gets past the fact that it's the Food Marketing Institute pursuing the case, it will then have



**Food Marketing Institute lawyer Evan Young speaks to reporters outside the Supreme Court after the high court heard arguments in the supermarket trade association's case Monday, April 22, 2019, in Washington. FMI is arguing that the government shouldn't release data on the government's food assistance program, previously known as food stamps, that's being sought by South Dakota's Argus Leader newspaper. The paper wants to know how much money goes annually to each store that participates in the government's \$65 billion-a-year Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.** (AP Photo/Jessica Gresko)

to interpret the federal Freedom of Information Act. The act gives citizens, including reporters, access to federal agencies' records with certain exceptions.

In the Argus Leader's case, the government argued that disclosing the data the paper sought was barred by a section of the law that tells officials to withhold "confidential" "commercial or financial information" obtained from third parties. The question for the court is what "confidential" means.

The case is 18-481 Food Marketing Institute v. Argus Leader Media.

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Follow Jessica Gresko on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jessicagresko>

## Lake Hiddenwood's future unknown after federal funds denied

SELBY, S.D. (AP) — The future of South Dakota's Lake Hiddenwood Recreation Area is in doubt after a request for federal funding to restore its dam was denied.

State officials sought a federal disaster declaration for the Selby park after heavy rains washed out its dam last year, causing Lake Hiddenwood to empty, Aberdeen American News reported.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency denied the park's request for federal assistance, said Al Nedved, assistant director of the state Division of Parks and Recreation.

"So that basically leaves no federal assistance available to do any restoration work at Lake Hiddenwood," he said.

The state has no plans to repair or restore the dam, Nedved said.

He said severe damage from the May 2018 storm, which dumped up to 10 inches of rain in Walworth County, "would likely require a complete rebuilding of the dam and even some additional work in the lake bottom as well."

Many residents are in support of maintaining some level of recreational facilities in the area, but Nedved said the state has few options without funding.

"A lot of folks are very disappointed that there is no ability to restore the dam," he said. "But folks are open to continuing the dialogue to see what we can do to make the area usable again."

Nedved said state officials are also meeting with the National Guard about alternatives for the dam.

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Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

## Ex-fire chief convicted of theft could have record sealed

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — The former chief of the Spearfish Volunteer Fire Department who pleaded guilty to stealing thousands of dollars from a firefighter's association can have his criminal record sealed if he follows conditions of his probation.

Court records show Lloyd Hesper Jr. owes more than \$9,100 in restitution for embezzling money from the Spearfish Volunteer Firefighters' Association from 2016 to 2018. He pleaded guilty to Class 4 grand theft.

The Rapid City Journal reports Monday that Deadwood state court Judge Michelle Comer decided in early April to give him a suspended sentence. That means Hesper needs to spend 15 days in jail, pay restitution and fines, and not break any laws as part of his four-year probation. If he succeeds, his case will be sealed to the public.

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

## Sri Lanka, like world, again sees scourge of suicide attacks

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — The Easter attacks in Sri Lanka are a bloody echo of decades past in the South Asian island nation, when militants inspired by attacks in the Lebanese civil war helped develop the suicide bomb vest.

Government ministers have said seven Sri Lankans from a little-known local group carried out the six nearly simultaneous bombings at churches and hotels on Sunday that killed more than 300 people and wounded about 500. While little else was known about the group or their motives, Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger fighters used suicide bombings in the country's 26-year civil war before being wiped out by government forces.

Similar bombs would then detonate across Israel, wielded by Palestinian militants, and later across the wider Middle East, Africa and Europe by Islamic extremists in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Such attacks strike fear around the world because of their indiscriminate slaughter of civilians, like those eating breakfast at a hotel or worshipping in a church on Easter. Sunday's assault also raises questions about whether the perpetrators had help or experience from abroad.

"I call today the age of the suicide bomber. This is very much a time of extreme acts that have to, in a way, usurp the previous attacks," said Iain Overton, executive director of the London-based group Action on Armed Violence, who wrote a book on suicide bombings. "They have to be much more devastating, more impactful, more hurtful, to get as much media headlines as possible."

Experts put the first modern suicide bombing in 1881, when a radical killed Tsar Alexander II of Russia. What may be the first photographs of a suicide bomb vest came in the 1930s, when China used them in its war against Imperial Japan. Japanese kamikaze pilots turned their own planes into weapons.

But the shock of the suicide bomber only struck the minds of many in the West in the 1980s with Lebanon's civil war. Suicide truck bomb attacks struck both the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, killing 63 people, and later a U.S. Marine barracks, killing 231 American troops in the bloodiest day for the armed forces since World War II. The U.S. later would blame the Shiite militant group Hezbollah, which formed out of Lebanon's civil war, and Iran for the bombings. Both deny involvement.

At that time, however, a small contingent of Tamil fighters was receiving weapons training in Lebanon and took what they learned back to Sri Lanka, Overton said. Their first suicide attack, in which a bomb-laden truck drove into a Sri Lankan army barracks and killed 55 people in 1987, resembled the U.S. Marine barracks attack.



**FILE - In this Oct. 16, 2006, file photo, a Sri Lankan soldier inspects the debris at the site of a suicide explosion by Tamil Tigers near Dambulla, about 150 kilometers (90 miles) northeast of Colombo, Sri Lanka. The April 21, 2019 deadly Easter attacks in Sri Lanka are a bloody echo of decades past in the South Asian island nation, when militants inspired by attacks in the Lebanese civil war helped develop the suicide bomb vest. Over nearly 30 years of civil war, the Tamil Tigers would launch more than 130 suicide bomb attacks, making them the leading militant group in such assaults at the time.** (AP Photo/Eranga Jayawardena, File)

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Over 26 years of civil war, the Tamil Tigers would launch more than 130 suicide bomb attacks, making them the leading militant group in such assaults at the time. They killed a Sri Lankan prime minister and a former Indian prime minister, among others, including bystanders. The war ultimately ended in 2009 with the government crushing the Tamil Tigers, with some observers believing that tens of thousands of Tamils died in the last few months of fighting alone.

But while the Tamils were secular nationalists, Islamic extremists in the Middle East would embrace the suicide bomb as a weapon. By the 1990s, Palestinian militants from both Hamas and Fatah would use suicide bombs against Israel. Then al-Qaida under Osama bin Laden would employ them against U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, and later against the USS Cole off Yemen.

Then came Sept. 11 and the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan.

Up until then, there were some 350 suicide attacks worldwide from 1980, said Robert A. Pape, a political science professor at the University of Chicago who directs the school's Chicago Project on Security and Threats.

The U.S. war in Iraq followed, fueling bloody sectarian violence that put Iraq on the brink of civil war. Suicide bombers pounded the country. An al-Qaida branch there would morph into the Islamic State group, which would launch its own suicide attacks around the world.

Today, the number of suicide attacks since 1980 is around 6,000, Pape said, with around half in Iraq and Syria alone.

"When we invaded and conquered Iraq, we touched off the largest suicide terrorist campaign in modern times," he said.

Sri Lankan authorities have blamed a local Islamic group, National Thowfeek Jamaath, for the Easter attacks. However, there is no recent history of Muslim extremist attacks in Sri Lanka, a predominantly Buddhist island nation off the southern tip of India. Nor was there any explanation for how a group previously not known for violence could engineer such a massive attack, which experts said resembled an assault by the Islamic State group or al-Qaida.

"What they are seeking to push is this ISIS mantra, which is 'We love death more than they love life,'" Overton said, using an alternate acronym for the militant group. "It is the icon of a death cult."

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the Sri Lanka attack via its Aamaq news agency on Tuesday, but offered no photographs or videos of attackers pledging their loyalty to the group. Such material, often showing suicide bombers pledging loyalty before their assaults, offers credibility to their claims.

Since the Islamic State group has lost all the territory it once held across Iraq and Syria, there's been more concern among nations about foreign fighters returning home. Sri Lanka's justice minister told parliament in 2016 that 32 Muslims from "well-educated and elite" families had joined the Islamic State group in Syria. It's unclear what happened to them.

"There weren't many, but there don't have to be many," Pape said.

Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/jongambrellap](http://www.twitter.com/jongambrellap)

## Sri Lanka minister: Easter bombings a response to NZ attacks

By EMILY SCHMALL and KRISHAN FRANCIS Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka's state minister of defense said Tuesday that the Easter attack on churches, hotels and other sites was "carried out in retaliation" for the shooting massacre at two New Zealand mosques last month, as the Islamic State group sought to claim responsibility for the attack.

The comments by Ruwan Wijewardene came shortly before the Islamic State group asserted it was responsible for the bombings in and outside of Colombo that killed over 320 people. But neither Wijewardene nor IS provided evidence to immediately support their claims, and authorities previously blamed a little-known Islamic extremist group in the island nation for the attack.

Wijewardene told Parliament the government possessed information that the bombings were carried out "by an Islamic fundamentalist group" in response to the Christchurch attacks. He also blamed "weakness"

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within Sri Lanka's security apparatus for failing to prevent the nine bombings.

"By now it has been established that the intelligence units were aware of this attack and a group of responsible people were informed about the impending attack," he said. "However, this information has been circulated among only a few officials."

The office of New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern issued a statement responding to the Christchurch claim that described Sri Lanka's investigation as "in its early stages."

"New Zealand has not yet seen any intelligence upon which such an assessment might be based," it said.

Authorities announced a nationwide curfew would begin at 9 p.m. Tuesday.

As Sri Lanka's leaders wrangled with the implications of an apparent militant attack and massive intelligence failure, security was heightened Tuesday for a national day of mourning and the military was employing powers to make arrests it last used during a devastating civil war that ended in 2009.

The six near-simultaneous attacks on three churches and three luxury hotels and three related blasts later Sunday was Sri Lanka's deadliest violence in a decade. Wijewardene said the death toll from the attack now stood at 321 people, with 500 wounded.

Word from international intelligence agencies that a local group was planning attacks apparently didn't reach the prime minister's office until after the massacre, exposing the continuing political turmoil in the highest levels of the Sri Lankan government.

On April 11, Priyalal Disanayaka, Sri Lanka's deputy inspector general of police, signed a letter addressed to the directors of four Sri Lankan security agencies, warning them that a local group was planning a suicide attack in the country.

The intelligence report attached to his letter, which has circulated widely on social media, named the group allegedly plotting the attack, National Towheed Jamaar, identifying its leader as Zahran Hashmi, and said it was targeting "some important churches" in a suicide terrorist attack that was planned to take place "shortly."

The report named six individuals likely to be involved in the plot, including someone it said had been building support for Zahran and was in hiding since the group clashed with another religious organization in March 2018.

On Monday, Sri Lanka's health minister held up a copy of the intelligence report while describing its contents, spurring questions about what Sri Lanka police had done to protect the public from an attack.

It was not immediately clear what steps were taken by any of these security directors. Disanayaka did not answer calls or messages seeking comment.



**A Sri Lankan family mourns next to the coffins of their three family member, all victims of Easter Sunday bombing, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Tuesday, April 23, 2019. The six near-simultaneous attacks on three churches and three luxury hotels and three related blasts later Sunday were the South Asian island nation's deadliest violence in a decade while Sri Lanka police arrested 40 suspects in the wake of a state of emergency that took effect Tuesday giving the military war-time powers.** (AP Photo/Eranga Jayawardena)

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Among the 40 people arrested on suspicion of links to the bombings were the driver of a van allegedly used by the suicide attackers and the owner of a house where some of them lived.

Heightened security was evident at an international airport outside the capital where security personnel walked explosive-sniffing dogs and checked car trunks and questioned drivers on roads nearby. Police also ordered that anyone leaving a parked car unattended on the street must put a note with their phone number on the windscreen, and postal workers were not accepting pre-wrapped parcels.

A block on most social media since the attacks has left a vacuum of information, fueling confusion and giving little reassurance the danger had passed. Even after an overnight curfew was lifted, the streets of central Colombo were mostly deserted Tuesday and shops closed as armed soldiers stood guard.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said he feared the massacre could unleash instability and he vowed to "vest all necessary powers with the defense forces" to act against those responsible.

Authorities said they knew where the group trained and had safe houses, but did not identify any of the seven suicide bombers, whose bodies were recovered, or the other suspects taken into custody. All seven bombers were Sri Lankans, but authorities said they strongly suspected foreign links.

Later Tuesday, the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the Sri Lanka attack via its Amaq news agency, but offered no photographs or videos of attackers pledging their loyalty to the group. Such material, often showing suicide bombers pledging loyalty before their assaults, offer credibility to their claims.

The group, which has lost all the territory it once held in Iraq and Syria, has made a series of unsupported claims of responsibility.

Also unclear in Sunday's attack was the motive. The history of Buddhist-majority Sri Lanka, a country of 21 million including large Hindu, Muslim and Christian minorities, is rife with ethnic and sectarian conflict.

In the nation's 26-year civil war, the Tamil Tigers, a powerful rebel army known for using suicide bombers, had little history of targeting Christians and was crushed by the government in 2009. Anti-Muslim bigotry fed by Buddhist nationalists has swept the country recently.

In March 2018, Buddhist mobs ransacked businesses and set houses on fire in Muslim neighborhoods around Kandy, a city in central Sri Lanka that is popular with tourists.

After the mob attacks, Sri Lanka's government also blocked some social media sites, hoping to slow the spread of false information or threats that could incite more violence.

Sri Lanka, though, has no history of Islamic militancy. Its small Christian community has seen only scattered incidents of harassment.

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Associated Press journalists Bharatha Mallawarachi, Jon Gambrell and Rishabh Jain in Colombo and Gemunu Amarasinghe in Negombo, Sri Lanka, contributed to this report.

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Follow Emily Schmall on Twitter @emilyschmall

## Impeachment, felons voting divides Democrats at CNN forums

By STEVE PEOPLES and HUNTER WOODALL Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — California Sen. Kamala Harris joined the call for President Donald Trump's impeachment as five leading Democratic presidential contenders clashed in a series of prime-time town hall meetings that exposed deep divisions in a party desperate to end the Trump presidency.

Harris' unexpected support for impeachment follows Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren's push for Congress to begin the process to remove the Republican president following the release of special counsel Robert Mueller's redacted report — a plan all but certain to fail without significant Republican support.

"There is no political inconvenience exception to the United States Constitution," Warren said. "If any other human being in this country had done what's documented in the Mueller report, they would be arrested and put in jail."

The impeachment debate, which is raging among Democrats nationwide, played out on national television Monday as five 2020 hopefuls representing different wings of the party addressed young voters in

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first-in-the-nation primary state New Hampshire. While they took turns on stage, the forum, hosted by CNN, marked the first time this young presidential primary season in which multiple candidates appeared on national television for the same event.

The five-hour marathon marked a preview of sorts for the party's first formal presidential debate, set for late June. On Monday, they clashed from afar while taking questions from college students about free college, free health care, gun control and impeachment.

A central question faced candidates throughout the night: Who is best positioned to deny Trump a second term?

Bernie Sanders, a front-runner in the crowded Democratic field who has pushed much of his party to the left in recent years, was asked to defend his decision to embrace democratic socialism.

"It's a radical idea. Maybe not everyone agrees. But I happen to believe we ought to have a government that represents working families and not just the 1 percent," he said.

Republicans, led by Trump, have spent much of the last year warning voters that Democrats would take the country toward socialism should they win in 2020.

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who has cast herself as a Midwestern pragmatist well positioned to appeal to the middle of the country, refused to embrace "Medicare for All," free college or Trump's impeachment.

"I wish I could staple a free college diploma to every one of your chairs," Klobuchar told the audience of college students. "I have to be straight with you and tell you the truth."

Warren, a champion for her party's more liberal wing, called for an "ultra-millionaires' tax" on income over \$50 million to help pay for free college, free child care for all children 5 and younger, free universal prekindergarten and student-debt forgiveness.

"We say good for you that you have now gotten this great fortune," she said of the nation's wealthiest taxpayers. "But you gotta pay something back so everybody else gets a chance."

The Republicans tasked with helping Trump win re-election paid close attention to the Democrats' answers, seeking political ammunition to tear them down.

GOP Chair Ronna McDaniel pounced on Sanders' call to restore the voting rights of felons, including people like the Boston Marathon bomber, who killed three people and injured hundreds in 2013 with a pair of pressure-cooker bombers and was sentenced to death.

"I think the right to vote is inherent to our democracy," Sanders said. "Yes, even for terrible people."

McDaniel responded on social media: "If you had any doubt about how radical the Democrat Party has become, their 2020 frontrunner wants to let terrorists convicted of murdering American citizens vote from prison. It's beyond extreme."

South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, who has generated tremendous buzz recently in the Democratic field, also opposed Sanders' position. The 37-year-old openly gay former military officer said felons should have their voting rights restored only after they leave prison, not before.



**FILE - In this April 19, 2019, photo, Democratic presidential Candidate Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., speaks at the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority South Central Regional Conference in New Orleans.** (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

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There was very little discussion of immigration, an issue that has largely defined Trump's presidency. Most of the Democrats seeking the presidency support a pathway to legal status for immigrants in the country illegally, particularly those brought to the country as children.

Buttigieg noted that most Americans support such a plan, based on public polls. And he condemned Trump for inflaming immigration tensions for political gain.

"We've got a White House that's actually computed that it's better off politically if this problem goes unsolved," Buttigieg said. "It's been used to divide us."

Foreign policy was also an afterthought for most of the night, though Sanders drew cheers from the young crowd when he condemned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for treating Palestinians "unfairly."

The Vermont senator said he believes the United States should "deal with the Middle East on a level-playing-field basis." The goal, he continued, must be to try to bring people together and "not just support one country, which is now run by a right-wing, dare I say, racist government."

Just five of the roughly 20 Democratic presidential candidates participated in Monday's forum. Former Vice President Joe Biden, expected to announce his candidacy later in the week, was among the missing.

CNN did not explain how it chose the participants. The cable network has held prime-time town halls for many of the candidates, including four of the five who appeared Monday.

On impeachment, an issue that has exposed deep divisions within the Democratic Party in recent days, both Harris and Warren broke from Sanders and Klobuchar by openly calling for elected officials to begin proceedings to remove the president from office. Democratic leaders, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, have urged a more cautious approach because impeachment would be nearly impossible politically without significant Republican support.

Harris said the special counsel's recently released report "tells us that this president and his administration engaged in obstruction of justice."

"I believe Congress should take the steps toward impeachment," she said.

Buttigieg said Trump has "made it pretty clear he deserves impeachment," but that he's focused on delivering the Republican president "an absolute thumping at the ballot box."

Klobuchar, like Sanders, sidestepped direct questions about impeachment. Sanders warned that pushing too hard to remove the president before the next election might distract from Democrats' priorities on health care and the economy.

"At the end of the day," he said, "what is most important to me is to see that Donald Trump is not re-elected."

## Myanmar court rejects appeal of jailed Reuters reporters

By AUNG NAING SOE Associated Press

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP) — Myanmar's Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected the final appeal of two Reuters journalists and upheld seven-year prison sentences for their reporting on the military's brutal crackdown on Rohingya Muslims.

Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo earlier this month shared with their colleagues the Pulitzer Prize for international reporting, one of journalism's highest honors. The reporters were arrested in December 2017 and sentenced last September after being accused of illegally possessing official documents, a violation of a colonial-era law.

The court did not give a reason for its decision, which was quickly decried by rights advocates.

"Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo should never have been arrested, much less prosecuted, for doing their jobs as investigative journalists," said Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director for New York-based Human Rights Watch. "Sadly, when it comes to media freedom, both Myanmar's military and the civilian government seem equally determined to extinguish any ability to question their misrule and rights violations."

Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, who are being held in a prison in Yangon, were not present for the ruling, but their wives were. Kyaw Soe Oo's wife, Chit Su, broke down in tears when the ruling was read.

"Both he and I hoped for the best," Chit Su told reporters. "I am terribly sad for this decision."

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Wa Lone, 32, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 28, had denied the charges against them and contended they were framed by police. International rights groups, media freedom organizations, U.N experts and several governments condemned their conviction as an injustice and an attack on freedom of the press.

"Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo did not commit any crime, nor was there any proof that they did," Gail Gove, Reuters chief counsel, said in a statement after the ruling. "Instead, they were victims of a police setup to silence their truthful reporting. We will continue to do all we can to free them as soon as possible."

Khin Maung Zaw, a lawyer for the two, said the pair could still seek their freedom by petitioning the president's office or the legislature.

President Win Myint could reduce the sentence, order a retrial or have them released. Legislative action for a retrial would be a lengthier, more complicated process.

"I am greatly disappointed by the decision of the court because it damaged very much our country's prestige and our right of information and press freedom," Khin Maung Zaw said. "But I'm not losing hope completely, because all the whole world is on our side. So, as I always said, the case was lost, but the cause was won throughout the whole world. "

Myanmar's military launched a brutal counterinsurgency campaign in the western state of Rakhine in 2017, driving more than 700,000 members of the Muslim Rohingya minority to flee to Bangladesh.

The Reuters reporters had worked on an investigation of the killing of 10 Rohingya villagers in Inn Din village, for which the government last year said seven soldiers were sentenced to up 10 years in prison with hard labor.

Investigators working for the U.N.'s top human rights body said last year that genocide charges should be brought against senior Myanmar military officers, while other critics accused the army of ethnic cleansing.

The military has denied committing human rights abuses and says its campaign was a response to a series of attacks on security personnel by Rohingya insurgents. Many in Buddhist-dominated Myanmar supported the military and bristled at worldwide condemnation of the military's alleged wrongdoing.

The U.S. Embassy in Myanmar, citing other recent rulings against a filmmaker and a theater troupe, said the decision was "deeply disappointing."

"Journalism, satire, peaceful protest, and other forms of legitimate expression should not be crimes in a democratic society," it said in a statement.

The reporters' claim that they were framed was supported by surprise testimony from a whistleblower in the police department, Police Capt. Moe Yan Naing, who told the court that his superior had arranged for two policemen to meet the reporters and hand over documents described as "important secret papers" in order to entrap them.



**FILE - In this Sept. 3, 2018, combination file photo, Reuters journalists Kyaw Soe Oo, left, and Wa Lone, are handcuffed as they are escorted by police out of a court in Yangon, Myanmar. Myanmar's Supreme Court on Tuesday, April 23, 2019, rejected the final appeal of the two Reuters journalists and upheld seven-year prison sentences for their reporting on the military's brutal crackdown on Rohingya Muslims. They earlier this month shared with their colleagues the Pulitzer Prize for international reporting, one of journalism's highest honors.** (AP Photo/Thein Zaw, File)

As a result of his testimony, Moe Yan Naing was jailed for a year for violating the Police Disciplinary Act and his family was forced to leave their police housing unit.

A report released in February by Human Rights Watch noted that expectations of a new era of freedom of expression under the government of democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi remained unfulfilled nearly three years after her party ended more than five decades of harsh military rule.

The military, however, remains powerful and controls key ministries that are not under civilian oversight, such as defense and internal security.

The report said her government has failed to roll back many of the legal restrictions on freedom of speech and assembly, and has instead toughened some of those laws and enacted a new measure limiting free speech.

Journalists have been some of the most high-profile targets. The report cited a Myanmar freedom of expression organization, Athan, as saying that at least 43 journalists had been arrested from when Suu Kyi's government took power in 2016 through last September.

In a new case, the online magazine The Irrawaddy reported Monday that it has been sued by the army for its coverage of recent fighting between the government and the Arakan Army ethnic rebel group.

It said the suit was filed under Article 66(d) of the Telecommunications Law, which provides for up to three years in prison for "extorting, coercing, restraining wrongfully, defaming, disturbing, causing undue influence or threatening any person using a telecommunications network."

There has been an upsurge of fighting since late last year involving attacks by the Arakan Army, which is aligned with Rakhine state's Buddhist population and seeks autonomy for the region.

## 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. SRI LANKA SAYS BOMBINGS RETALIATION FOR NEW ZEALAND ATTACK

The toll from coordinated bombings at churches, luxury hotels and other sites now stands at more than 320 people dead and 500 injured; Security chiefs were warned of impending attacks.

### 2. MILITANTS HAD MADE INCENDIARY THREATS

The purported leader of an Islamic extremist group blamed for the Easter Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka that killed over 300 had called for non-Muslims to be "eliminated."

### 3. CANDIDATES DEBATE IMPEACHMENT, TAXES, COLLEGE TUITION

Five leading Democratic presidential contenders clashed in a series of prime-time town hall meetings that exposed deep divisions in a party desperate to end the Trump presidency.

### 4. REMORSEFUL FEMALE MEMBERS OF ISLAMIC STATE GROUP



**Clergymen carry coffins for burial during a funeral service for Easter Sunday bomb blast victims at St. Sebastian Church in Negombo, Sri Lanka, Tuesday, April 23, 2019.** (AP

Photo/Gemunu Amarasinghe)

Women from Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, Indonesia and Belgium interviewed by the AP said joining IS was a disastrous mistake.

## 5. PULITZER PRIZE WINNERS LOSE LEGAL BATTLE

Myanmar's Supreme Court has rejected the final appeal of two Reuters journalists and upheld seven-year prison sentences for their reporting on the military's brutal crackdown on Rohingya Muslims.

## 6. PACIFIC NATION HIT BY ANOTHER TREMOR

A new powerful earthquake has hit the central Philippines, a day after a magnitude 6.1 quake rattled the country's north and left at least 16 people dead.

## 7. WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO KNOW

The Supreme Court is set to hear arguments over the Trump administration's plan to ask about citizenship on the 2020 census.

## 8. IRA SPLINTER GROUP SAYS "VOLUNTEER" KILLED NORTHERN IRELAND JOURNALIST

The New IRA apologized for the shooting as police have arrested a 57-year-old woman in connection with the slaying.

## 9. PYONGYANG MAY TURN TO MOSCOW FOR ECONOMIC BOOST

When North Korean leader Kim Jong Un meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin, he will have a strong desire to notch a win after the failure of his second summit with President Trump.

## 10. THEY DON'T WANT THEIR MONEY

California legislators have considered a plan intended to encourage more banks to do business with marijuana companies that have been frozen out of thousands of financial institutions.

## Powerful quake hits Philippines, day after deadly temblor

By BULLIT MARQUEZ Associated Press

PORAC, Philippines (AP) — A new powerful earthquake hit the central Philippines on Tuesday, a day after a magnitude 6.1 quake rattled the country's north and left at least 16 people dead, including in a collapsed supermarket, where rescuers scrambled to find survivors.

The U.S. Geological Survey put the magnitude of Tuesday's quake at 6.4, while the local seismology agency said it was 6.5. The quake was centered near San Julian town in Eastern Samar province and prompted residents to dash out of houses and office workers to scamper to safety.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or major damage from the new quake.

Classes and office work were suspended in San Julian, where cracks on roads and small buildings and a church were reported. Power was deliberately cut as a precaution in the quake's aftermath, officials said.

Meanwhile, rescuers worked over-



**Damaged St. Catherine church is seen following a 6.1 magnitude earthquake that also caused the collapse of a commercial building in Porac township, Pampanga province, north of Manila, Philippines, Tuesday, April 23, 2019. The strong earthquake struck the northern Philippines Monday trapping some people in a collapsed building, damaged an airport terminal and knocked out power in at least one province, officials said.** (AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

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night to recover bodies in the rubble of a supermarket that crashed down in Monday's quake, which damaged other buildings and an airport in the northern Philippines.

The bodies of five victims were pulled from Chuzon Supermarket and seven other villagers died due to collapsed house walls in hard-hit Porac town in Pampanga province, north of Manila, said Ricardo Jalad, who heads the government's disaster-response agency.

An Associated Press photographer saw seven people, including at least one dead, being pulled out by rescuers from the pile of concrete, twisted metal and wood overnight. Red Cross volunteers, army troops, police and villagers used four cranes, crow bars and sniffer dogs to look for the missing, some of whom were still yelling for help Monday night.

Authorities inserted a large orange tube into the rubble to blow in oxygen in the hope of helping people still pinned there to breathe. On Tuesday morning, rescuers pulled out a man alive, sparking cheers and applause.

"We're all very happy, many clapped their hands in relief because we're still finding survivors after several hours," Porac Councilor Maynard Lapid said by phone from the scene, adding that another victim was expected to be pulled out alive soon.

Jalad said at least 15 people died in Pampanga province, including those who perished in Porac town. The quake damaged houses, roads, bridges, Roman Catholic churches and an international airport terminal at Clark Freeport, a former American air base, in Pampanga. A state of calamity was declared in Porac to allow contingency funds to be released faster.

A child died in a landslide in nearby Zambales province, officials said.

At least 14 people remained missing in the rice-growing agricultural region, most of them in the rubble of the collapsed supermarket in Porac, while 81 others were injured, according to the government's disaster-response agency.

The four-story building housing the supermarket crashed down when the quake shook Pampanga as well as several other provinces and Manila, the Philippines' capital, on the main northern island of Luzon.

More than 400 aftershocks have been recorded, mostly unfelt.

The U.S. Geological Survey's preliminary estimate is that more than 49 million people were exposed to some shaking from the earthquake, with more than 14 million people likely to feel moderate shaking or more.

Clark airport was closed temporarily because of damaged check-in counters, ceilings and parts of the departure area, airport official Jaime Melo said, adding that seven people were slightly injured and more than 100 flights were canceled.

In Manila, thousands of office workers dashed out of buildings in panic, some wearing hard hats, and residents ran out of houses as the ground shook. Many described the ground movement like sea waves.

A traffic-prone Manila street was partially closed after a college building was damaged by the quake and appeared to tilt slightly sideways toward an adjacent building, officials said. Many schools and government offices, including courts, in the densely packed Manila metropolis were closed Tuesday to allow inspections of their buildings.

Philippine seismologists said the back-to-back quakes in the last two days were unrelated and caused by different local faults.

One of the world's most disaster-prone countries, the Philippines has frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions because it lies on the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire," a seismically active arc of volcanos and fault lines in the Pacific Basin. A magnitude 7.7 quake killed nearly 2,000 people in the northern Philippines in 1990.

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Associated Press writer Jim Gomez in Manila contributed to this report.

## House chairman issues subpoena to former White House lawyer

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House chairman subpoenaed former White House counsel Don McGahn as Democratic leaders moved to deepen their investigation of President Donald Trump while bottling up talk among their rank-and-file of impeaching him.

Judiciary Chairman Jerrold Nadler was one of six powerful committee leaders making their case on a conference call Monday with other House Democrats late in the day that they are effectively investigating Trump-related matters ranging from potential obstruction to his personal and business taxes.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi urged divided Democrats to focus on fact-finding rather than the prospect of any impeachment proceedings after the damning details of special counsel Robert Mueller's report.

Nadler and the other chairmen made clear they believe Trump did obstruct justice, according to people on the call who weren't authorized to discuss it by name. McGahn would be a star witness for any such case because he refused Trump's demand to set Mueller's firing in motion, according to the report.

"The Special Counsel's report, even in redacted form, outlines substantial evidence that President Trump engaged in obstruction and other abuses," Nadler said in a statement released as the conference call got underway. "It now falls to Congress to determine for itself the full scope of the misconduct and to decide what steps to take in the exercise of our duties of oversight, legislation and constitutional accountability."

The subpoena angered Republicans even as it functioned as a reassurance to impatient Democrats.

Rep. Doug Collins of Georgia, the top Republican on the Judiciary panel, pointed out that McGahn sat for 30 hours of interviews with Mueller and said Nadler was asking for some items that he knows cannot be produced.

Trump himself insisted he wasn't worried.

"Not even a little bit," he said when asked Monday whether he was concerned about impeachment. However, his many tweets seeking to undermine the report's credibility indicate he is hardly shrugging it aside.

"Only high crimes and misdemeanors can lead to impeachment," he said Monday on Twitter. "There were no crimes by me (No Collusion, No Obstruction), so you can't impeach. It was the Democrats that committed the crimes, not your Republican President!"

On the other end of the scale, Pelosi's approach disappointed some Democrats who are agitating for impeachment proceedings. According to her spokesman, Rep. Val Demings of Florida said she believed the House has enough evidence to begin the process.

McGahn was a vital witness for Mueller, recounting the president's outrage over the investigation and



**FILE - In this Sept. 27, 2018, file photo, White House counsel Don McGahn listens as Supreme court nominee Brett Kavanaugh testifies before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington. Rep. Jerrold Nadler, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee has subpoenaed McGahn for testimony following the release of the report from special counsel Robert Mueller.** (Saul Loeb/Pool Photo via AP, File)

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his efforts to curtail it.

The former White House counsel described, for instance, being called at home by the president on the night of June 17, 2017, and directed to call the Justice Department and say that Mueller had conflicts of interest and should be removed. McGahn declined the command, "deciding that he would resign rather than trigger what he regarded as a potential Saturday Night Massacre," the Mueller report said.

Once that episode became public in the news media, the president demanded that McGahn dispute the reports and asked him why he had told Mueller about it and why he had taken notes of their conversations. McGahn refused to back down, the report said.

Nadler's announcement was one of several leadership moves aimed at calming a struggle among Democrats to speak with one voice about what to do in light of Mueller's startling account of Trump's repeated efforts to fire him, shut down his probe and get allies to lie.

After Mueller's report was released last week, the most prominent of the Democratic freshmen, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, signed on to Rep. Rashida Tlaib's resolution calling for an investigation into Trump's conduct and the question of whether it merits a formal impeachment charge in the House.

"Mueller's report is clear in pointing to Congress' responsibility in investigating obstruction of justice by the President," Ocasio-Cortez tweeted.

On Monday, Pelosi's letter made clear there was no Democratic disagreement that Trump "at a minimum, engaged in highly unethical and unscrupulous behavior which does not bring honor to the office he holds." But she acknowledged the party's officeholders have a range of views on how to proceed.

She counseled them repeatedly to go after facts, not resort to "passion or prejudice" in the intense run-up to the 2020 presidential and congressional elections. She is the de facto leader of her party until Democrats nominate a candidate to challenge Trump, so her words echoed on the presidential campaign trail.

"We all firmly agree that we should proceed down a path of finding the truth," Pelosi wrote. "It is also important to know that the facts regarding holding the president accountable can be gained outside of impeachment hearings."

As the conference call got underway, Nadler's subpoena announcement was made public, an indication that the facts-first approach was moving ahead. Pelosi, calling from New York City, spoke briefly. Then she put a show of leadership force on the line — six committee chairmen, some of the most powerful people in Congress — to give more details, according to people on the call.

Nadler went first. Others who followed were Oversight and Reform Chairman Elijah Cummings, intelligence committee Chairman Adam Schiff, Foreign Affairs Chairman Eliot Engel, Financial Services Chairwoman Maxine Water and Ways and Means Chairman Richard Neal. The call lasted about 90 minutes and included about 170 Democrats.

During a series of town hall events on CNN Monday night, several 2020 Democratic presidential candidates weighed in. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren repeated her call for an impeachment vote, saying that if lawmakers believe the president's actions were appropriate, "they should have to take that vote and live with it."

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar said Trump should be held accountable, but she stopped short of calling for impeachment.

There's more coming to keep Trump's reported misdeeds in public. Congressional panels are demanding the unredacted version of the Mueller report and its underlying material gathered from the investigation. Attorney General William Barr is expected to testify in the House and Senate next week. Nadler has summoned Mueller to testify next month, though no date has been set.

In the face of the intense run-up to the 2020 election, Pelosi implicitly suggested Democrats resist creating episodes like the one in January in which Tlaib was recorded declaring the House would impeach Trump.

"We must show the American people we are proceeding free from passion or prejudice, strictly on the presentation of fact," Pelosi wrote.

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Associated Press Writers Eric Tucker, Mary Clare Jalonick and Will Weissert contributed to this report.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

## In NH, Democrats question whether Harris willing to woo them

By JUANA SUMMERS and HUNTER WOODALL Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — When Sen. Kamala Harris made her first trip to New Hampshire, she attracted an enthusiastic crowd of more than 1,000 people who braved a treacherous February snowstorm to see the person vying to become America's first black female president. But as the California senator returns to the state this week, she's in a more challenging position.

The number of Democratic presidential candidates has swelled to nearly 20 since her first visit. Some of the spotlight has shifted away from Harris, with attention being lavished recently on Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana. Former Vice President Joe Biden's expected entry into the race this week will further reshape the contest.

But Harris faces a more fundamental hurdle in New Hampshire: skepticism from some over whether she's fully committed to courting voters in the nation's first primary state. Democrats here famously expect intimate, regular access to candidates. For now, they say they aren't getting that from Harris and are warning her to take the state more seriously.

"I don't think she's been there as much as she should be," said Peter Hoe Burling, a former Democratic committeeman in New Hampshire. "Yes, I understand it is outrageous how New Hampshire presumes to expect the presence of a person running for president, but we do. We're very good at evaluating the character and programs that individual candidates bring."

Some of Harris' rivals are outpacing her in the Granite State. Since the beginning of the year, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of neighboring Massachusetts has made nine trips to New Hampshire. Former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke has been here twice. Buttigieg has made five trips and New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand has made four.

As she returns, Harris is sharing the spotlight with other White House hopefuls, a sign of how it's becoming increasingly difficult to break through the crowded field.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders is campaigning in the state, too, his second New Hampshire visit this year. Harris and Sanders were among the five candidates participating in back-to-back town halls in Manchester that aired on CNN Monday night.

Harris backers rejected the notion that she's paying too little attention to New Hampshire.

An aide to Harris, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss strategy, said her campaign has paid special attention to mobilizing students at colleges and universities across New Hampshire. On Tuesday, she is holding town halls at Keene State and Dartmouth College.

She's also raising money on behalf of New Hampshire Democrats. On her first trip here, Harris held a private meeting with Joyce Craig, the mayor of Manchester, New Hampshire's largest city. When Craig formally announced her re-election bid, Harris emailed her list of supporters to cultivate donations to Craig's campaign.

Harris has also sent fundraising emails for New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen and Rep. Chris Pappas, among others.

On Monday, she signed onto a petition led by Shaheen condemning a state law requiring college students to be permanent New Hampshire residents in order to vote. She's hired an in-state staff that includes veterans of New Hampshire politics, including campaign director Craig Brown and political director Meredith Shevitz.

Harris spokesman Ian Sams noted that Hillary Clinton made the first Granite State swing of her 2016 campaign four years ago this week. While Clinton ultimately won her party's nomination, it was Sanders who won New Hampshire — with a commanding 60% of the vote.

Harris is aware of the issue. Her February appearance — her first-ever to New Hampshire — drew a large crowd to Portsmouth's historic South Church, where she told attendees that she wanted to address the "elephant in the room."

"I intend to compete in New Hampshire," Harris said. "I intend to spend time here. I intend to shake every hand I possibly can."

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Crowds cheered for her support of "Medicare for All" and the Green New Deal, as well as her support for replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day. She also said she supports changing laws to allow same-day voter registration and to make Election Day a national holiday.

But the day after the trip, Harris told "The Daily Show" host Trevor Noah that the first question she received from in-state media was about whether she planned to compete in the state.

"And what no one said, but the inference was, well, the demographic of New Hampshire is not who you are in terms of your race," Harris told Noah.

The reporter who asked the question has said it was not motivated by demographics, but the exchange has sparked a local debate.

If Harris "thinks she's going to win New Hampshire, you have to show up," said Atinuke Cahill, 69, adding that the California Democrat needs to "prove that she wants New Hampshire voters."

Lindy Hamilton, 21, said that while New Hampshire is "overwhelmingly white," she thinks Harris "still has a fighting chance."

"As a woman of color I definitely think that there are stops against us, and she definitely is at a disadvantage because of that," said Hamilton, who is co-president of the University of New Hampshire College Democrats. "But I think she could definitely still rise above it. I think it's definitely possible for her to win."

The debate over Harris' commitment to New Hampshire hasn't dampened curiosity about her among voters.

Every election cycle, 68-year-old Gayle Esterly said, there seems to be a discussion of "why New Hampshire? Why Iowa? Because they're very white and not representative of the whole country."

"Maybe some people would have preconceived notions of who the people in New Hampshire are. We're just people," she said. "We want to know what she has to say. She has as good a shot as anybody else."

Summers reported from Washington.

## Court to hear arguments over citizenship question on census

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is set to hear arguments over the Trump administration's plan to ask about citizenship on the 2020 census, a question that could affect how many seats states have in the House of Representatives and their share of federal dollars over the next 10 years.

Three federal courts have blocked the Commerce Department from adding the citizenship question. Those courts have ruled that Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross violated federal law in the way he went about trying to include the question for the first time since 1950. They found that millions of Hispanics, who tend to vote for Democrats, and immigrants would go uncounted.

The lower court judges dismissed Ross' contention that the question, and the detailed information it would produce on where eligible voters live, is needed to aid in the enforcement of the federal Voting Rights Act.

Two of the three judges also ruled that asking if people are citizens would violate the provision of the Constitution that calls for a count of the population, regardless of citizenship status, every 10 years.

Census Bureau experts have concluded that the census would produce a more accurate picture of the U.S. population without a citizenship question because people might be reluctant to say if they or others in their households are not citizens. Federal law requires people to complete the census accurately and fully.

The Supreme Court is hearing the case on a tight timeframe, even though no federal appeals court has yet to weigh in. A decision is expected by late June, in time to print census forms for the April 2020 population count.

The administration argues that the commerce secretary has wide discretion in designing the census questionnaire and that courts should not be second-guessing his action. States, cities and rights groups that sued over the issue don't even have the right to go into federal court, the administration says. It also says the question is plainly constitutional because it has been asked on many past censuses and continues to be used on smaller, annual population surveys.

Opponents of the question obtained documents and testimony that showed Ross had begun pressing for a citizenship question soon after he became secretary in 2017, and that he had consulted Steve Bannon, who had been President Donald Trump's top political adviser, and then-Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach. Emails showed that Ross himself had invited the Justice Department request to add the citizenship question.

The Supreme Court has sent somewhat conflicting signals about how it might resolve the case. The justices allowed the first trial, in New York, to take place, over the administration's objection. Justices Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch and Clarence Thomas would have halted the trial.

The high court also prevented the challengers from taking sworn testimony from Ross, though it allowed the questioning of other officials.

Follow Mark Sherman on Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/shermancourt>

## North Korea's Kim to meet Putin at crucial diplomatic moment

By FOSTER KLUG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea confirmed Tuesday that leader Kim Jong Un will soon visit Russia to meet with President Vladimir Putin in a summit that comes at a crucial moment for tenuous diplomacy meant to rid the North of its nuclear arsenal.

North Korea has so far not gotten what it wants most from the recent flurry of high-level summitry between Kim and various world leaders — namely, relief from crushing international sanctions. There are fears that a recent North Korean weapon test and a series of jibes at Washington over deadlocked nuclear negotiations mean that Pyongyang may again return to the nuclear and long-range missile tests that had many in Asia fearing war in 2017.

The North's state-run Korean Central News Agency released a terse, two-sentence statement saying Kim "will soon pay a visit to the Russian Federation," and that he and Putin "will have talks." A date for the meeting was not released, and it wasn't clear if Kim would fly or take his armored train. There are some indications the meeting will be held this week in the far-eastern port of Vladivostok, not too far from Russia's border with the North.

The Kremlin said in a brief statement last week that Kim will visit Russia "in the second half of April," but gave no further details.

It's not clear how — or even if — Putin will push the stalled nuclear talks along, and the visit may have more to do with each nation's economic interests. Russia is interested in gaining broader access to North Korea's mineral resources, including rare metals. Pyongyang, for its part, covets Russia's electricity sup-



**A man passes by a TV screen showing images of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, left, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, April 23, 2019. North Korea confirmed Tuesday that Kim will soon visit Russia to meet with Putin in a summit that comes at a crucial moment for tenuous diplomacy meant to rid the North of its nuclear arsenal. The screen reads: "Kim Jong Un visits Russia soon."** (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

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plies and wants to attract Russian investment to modernize its dilapidated industrial plants, railways and other infrastructure.

Kim and President Donald Trump have had two summits, but the latest, in Vietnam in February, collapsed because North Korea wanted more sanctions relief than Washington was willing to give for the amount of disarmament offered by Pyongyang.

For a leader often perceived by foreign media as isolated, Kim has had a remarkable string of summits, meeting with the leaders and other senior officials of South Korea, China, Vietnam and Singapore. He has also sent his deputies to Washington and received Trump's lieutenants in Pyongyang as part of nuclear talks.

But Kim's patience appears to be wearing thin. The North last week announced that it had tested what it called a new type of "tactical guided weapon." While unlikely to be a prohibited test of a medium- or long-range ballistic missile that could scuttle the negotiations, the announcement signaled the North's growing disappointment with the diplomatic breakdown.

The North also demanded that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo be removed from the talks, and on Saturday criticized White House national security adviser John Bolton for calling on North Korea to show more evidence of its disarmament commitment before a possible third leaders' summit.

## Medicare, Social Security face shaky fiscal futures

By ANDREW TAYLOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The financial condition of the government's bedrock retirement programs for middle- and working-class Americans remains shaky, with Medicare pointed toward insolvency by 2026, according to a report Monday by the government's overseers of Medicare and Social Security.

It paints a sobering picture of the programs, though it's relatively unchanged from last year's update. Social Security would become insolvent in 2035, one year later than previously estimated.

Both programs will need to eventually be addressed to avert automatic cuts should their trust funds run dry. Neither President Donald Trump nor Capitol Hill's warring factions has put political perilous cost curbs on their to-do list.

The report is the latest update of the government's troubled fiscal picture. It lands in a capital that has proven chronically unable to address it. Trump has declared benefit cuts to the nation's signature retirement programs off limits and many Democratic presidential candidates are calling for expanding Medicare benefits rather than addressing the program's worsening finances.

Many on both sides actually agree that it would be better for Washington to act sooner rather than later to shore up the programs rather than wait until they are on the brink of insolvency and have to weigh more drastic steps.

Limiting her comments to Medicare, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said the report highlights the need for "serious-minded" lawmakers to work with the administration on bipartisan changes to lower costs, eliminate fraud and abuse, and preserve the program for future generations.

Sanders also took the opportunity to criticize Democrats' calls to expand Medicare. She claimed such a step would amount to a "total government takeover of health care" that would cut out private-sector options, endanger access to health care for seniors and further strain the federal budget.

But potential cuts such as curbing inflationary increases for Social Security, hiking payroll taxes or raising the Medicare retirement age are so politically freighted and toxic that Washington's power players are mostly ignoring the problem.

Arkansas Rep. Steve Womack, the senior Republican on the House Budget Committee, urged action, saying the financial condition of both programs is driving up federal spending, increasing budget deficits and crowding out other priorities.

"We cannot afford to ignore this reality any longer," Womack said.

Later this year, Social Security is expected to declare a 1.8% cost-of-living increase for 2020 based on current trends, program officials say.

Monday's report by three Cabinet heads and Social Security's acting commissioner, urges lawmakers to

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"take action sooner rather than later to address these shortfalls, so that a broader range of solutions can be considered and more time will be available to phase in changes while giving the public adequate time to prepare."

If Congress doesn't act, both programs would eventually be unable to cover the full cost of promised benefits. With Social Security that could mean automatic benefit cuts for most retirees, many of whom depend on the program to cover basic living costs.

For Medicare, it could mean that hospitals, nursing homes, and other medical providers would be paid only part of their agreed-upon fees.

In a glimmer of good news, Social Security's disability program is now estimated to remain solvent for an additional 20 years, through 2052. Overall, however, Social Security would run out of reserves by 2035, one year later than projected in last year's report.

"We remain committed to further bolstering the programs' finances, which will benefit from the long-term growth we will see as a result of the Administration's economic policies," said Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

As an indication of Medicare's woes, it would take a payroll tax increase of 0.91 percentage points to fully address its shortfall or a 19% cut in spending. Medicare's problems are considered more difficult to solve, as health care costs regularly outpace inflation and economic growth.

Social Security is the government's largest program, costing \$853 billion last year, with another \$147 billion for disability benefits. Medicare's hospital, outpatient care, and prescription drug benefits totaled about \$740 billion.

Taken together, the two programs combined for 45% of the federal budget, excluding interest payments on the national debt.

## Mexican police detain hundreds of Central American migrants

By SONIA PÉREZ D. Associated Press

PIJJIAPAN, Mexico (AP) — Mexican police and immigration agents detained hundreds of Central American migrants Monday in the largest single raid on a migrant caravan since the groups started moving through the country last year.

Police targeted isolated groups at the tail end of a caravan of about 3,000 migrants who were making their way through the southern state of Chiapas with hopes of reaching the U.S. border.

As migrants gathered under spots of shade in the burning heat outside the city of Pijjiapan, federal police and agents passed by in patrol trucks and vans and forcibly wrestled women, men and children into the vehicles.

The migrants were driven to buses, presumably for subsequent transportation to an immigration station for deportation processing. As many as 500 migrants might have been picked up in the raid, according to Associated Press journalists at the scene.

Some of the women and children wailed and screamed during the detentions on the roadside. Clothes, shoes, suitcases and strollers littered the scene after they were taken away.

Kevin Escobar, a 27-year-old from Honduras, was one of about 500 migrants who fled onto private property to avoid immigration agents. Sitting on the property, he yelled to them: "Why do you want to arrest me?"

Escobar vowed that he will never return to his hometown of San Pedro Sula, saying "the gangs are kidnapping everyone back there."

Agents had encouraged groups of migrants that separated from the bulk of the caravan to rest after some seven hours on the road, including about half of that under a broiling sun. When the migrants regrouped to continue, they were detained.

Agents positioned themselves at the head of the group and at the back. Some people in civilian clothing appeared to be participating in the detentions.

After seeing what happened, some migrants began walking in dense groupings and picked up stones and sticks.

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Officials from the National Human Rights Commission observed the action from a distance.

"We are documenting what is happening," said Jesús Salvador Quintana, a commission official. "We cannot tell authorities in charge what to do, but yes, we are documenting and we will investigate."

Mexico welcomed the first caravans last year, but the reception has gotten colder since tens of thousands of migrants overwhelmed U.S. border crossings, causing delays at the border and anger among Mexican residents.

Last Friday, local media reported a series of detentions of migrants in nearby Mapastepec, where thousands were awaiting normalization of their migratory status.

Mexico's National Migration Institute did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The National Human Rights Commission said it had interviewed more than 200 people who were detained in Mapastepec and transferred to an immigration center in Tapachula, across the border from Guatemala.

The detentions came as the U.S. has ramped up public pressure on Mexico to do more to stop the flow of migrants. President Donald Trump railed against the government of his Mexican counterpart, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, and threatened to shut the entire border down, but then quickly congratulated Mexico for migrant arrests just a few weeks ago.

Mexico already allows the United States to return some asylum seekers to Mexico as their cases play out. And government officials said in March they would try to contain migrants heading north at the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, the narrowest part of the country's south and easiest to control. Pijijiapan and Mapastepec are not far from the isthmus' narrowest point, which comes in neighboring Oaxaca state.

In recent months Mexican authorities have deported thousands of migrants, while also issuing more than 15,000 humanitarian visas allowing migrants to remain in the country and work.

A group of about 10 prominent social organizations recently warned that detentions of migrants and violations of their human rights have risen, blaming immigration agents and federal, state and local police. The groups also said the increased detentions have overwhelmed capacity at the immigration center in Tapachula. The National Human Rights Commission also said the facility is overcrowded.

In its most recent statement from last week, the Migration Institute said 5,336 migrants were in shelters or immigration centers in Chiapas, and over 1,500 of them were "awaiting deportation."

The Rights Commission said Sunday that more than 7,500 migrants were in detention, at shelters or on the road in the southern state. It urged authorities to carry out a proper census of the migrants and attend to their needs, particularly children.

Most of the migrants who have arrived in groups to southern Mexico in recent weeks originated in Honduras. There they joined previous groups of migrants from other Central American countries along with some Cubans and Africans.

## Shelter uproar highlights strife in expensive San Francisco

By JANIE HAR Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco's renowned waterfront hosts joggers, admiring tourists and towering condos with impressive views. It could also become the site of a new homeless shelter for up to 200 people.

Angry residents have packed public meetings, jeering at city officials and even shouting down Mayor London Breed over the proposal. They say they were blindsided and argue billionaire Twitter executive Jack Dorsey and other tech executives who support the idea should lobby city officials to build a shelter by their homes.

The waterfront uproar is among recent examples of strife in an expensive city that is both overwhelmed by tech wealth and passionate about social justice. San Francisco companies Pinterest and Lyft recently went public, and Uber and Slack are coming soon, driving fears that newly minted millionaires will snap up the few family homes left for under \$2 million.

City Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer fought tears at a testy hearing over a housing density development

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bill, inviting her critics to visit poor seniors in her district who eat cat food for dinner. Opponents of the bill stood and turned their backs on Supervisor Vallie Brown, who vigorously defended the legislation.

And as the city continues to grapple with a housing shortage, the entire Board of Supervisors was roasted on social media this month for rejecting a 63-unit housing project because it would cast shadows over a nearby park in an area with little green space.

"We're definitely at the boiling point, whether it's the housing crisis, whether it's quality of life, which is exacerbated by the worst traffic congestion in America, or the affordability crisis," said Supervisor Aaron Peskin.

A March New York Times story about the upcoming IPOs set off frenzied activity among potential homebuyers and a call from City Hall for a hearing on how all that new wealth will affect gentrification and city revenue.

Realtor John Townsend had the article on hand as he showed a 1,500-square-foot (139-square-meter) three-bedroom, one-bath condo listed at \$1.15 million. He said he had double the traffic the weekend after ride-hailing company Lyft went public in March. The condo, which needed updates, sold above asking price.

"You're going to have a period of incredible demand not just from tech, by any means, but by (interest) rates being lowered in the last week," Townsend said. "The real problem is we can't even remotely meet demand."

The market for single-family houses under \$2 million is going nuts, especially in neighborhoods attractive to millennials and young families, said Realtor Monica Sagullo.

The IPOs are "in the back of people's minds, and the people who have to buy are the ones who are going for it — the families that need houses, the double-incomes," she said.

A family of four earning \$117,400 a year is considered low-income in San Francisco, where the median sale price of a two-bedroom is \$1.3 million. Yet every night, the city of 885,000 also has about 4,400 people sleeping unsheltered, in alleys and doorways and tucked away in Golden Gate Park.

San Francisco opened its first homeless "navigation center" in 2015 and currently operates six throughout the city. Unlike traditional shelters, the centers allow people to bring pets and don't kick them out in the morning.

The proposed navigation center in the Embarcadero is a critical part of the mayor's campaign pledge to open 1,000 new shelter beds by the end of 2020. It would sit in a parking lot owned by the Port of San Francisco.

Commissioners are scheduled to vote Tuesday on whether to lease the land to the city.

After Breed's plan was announced, opponents started a GoFundMe campaign to fight it, called "Safe Embarcadero for All." Shelter supporters quickly called out the campaign on social media, and a sometimes-nasty battle ensued. The campaign against the shelter has raised \$100,000, while the campaign for it, called "SAFER Embarcadero for ALL," is at \$175,000, including \$25,000 from Twitter's Dorsey and \$10,000 each from Salesforce founder Marc Benioff and Twilio chief executive Jeff Lawson.

The high-rises surrounding the lot are pricey. A three-bed, three-bath in The Brannan condo towers sold for nearly \$2.5 million in February; the monthly dues are \$1,200. In the nearby Watermark building, which has a rooftop pool, a two-bed, two-bath condo sold for more than \$1.3 million in October — also with monthly dues above \$1,000.

"It's very hard for people who are not on the very high end of things, in terms of wealth, to feel like they can even make it in San Francisco, or own or commit over the long term to be here, and that creates a lot of anxiety," said Supervisor Matt Haney, who represents the district and supports the shelter plan.

Haney, who rents a studio in the dilapidated Tenderloin neighborhood, has introduced legislation requiring each of San Francisco's 11 districts to make space for a homeless shelter.

Plenty of supporters of the waterfront proposal, including those who live in the neighborhood, say the shelters are safe and opponents are being heartless. But opponents say a shelter is inappropriate in a neighborhood filled with tourists and children, and not many homeless. They worry about crime and property values and want to know why the navigation centers are not evenly distributed around San Francisco.

"Other people in the city casting us as wealthy people who don't like to see the homeless population,

it's not true at all," said Wallace Lee, a stay-at-home dad who is leading the opposition.

Stacey Reynolds-Peterson has rented a two-bedroom, below-market unit in a building near the proposed shelter since 1991, when the area was full of grim warehouses. Retired because of disability, she puts most of her income toward the \$2,700 monthly rent, and is considering moving north because she can't afford San Francisco.

"We have homeless people. I see them every day, and they're nice people, but this is going to attract more," she said. "I used to love the city and be proud of the city. Now I'm not anymore. It's dirty, and it's ugly."

## **Trump, business organization sue Democratic House chairman**

**By ERIC TUCKER and JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and his business organization sued the Democratic chairman of the House oversight committee on Monday to block a subpoena that seeks years of the president's financial records.

The complaint became the latest front in the intensifying battle between the president and the Democrats who control the House of Representatives and are committed to investigating Trump and his finances. The complaint, filed in federal court in Washington, said the subpoena from Rep. Elijah Cummings "has no legitimate legislative purpose" and accuses Democrats of harassing Trump and wielding their new majority in Congress to try to stain the president's standing.

"Instead of working with the President to pass bipartisan legislation that would actually benefit Americans, House Democrats are singularly obsessed with finding something they can use to damage the President politically," the lawsuit states.

Cummings, a Maryland Democrat and chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, issued the subpoena earlier this month to Mazars USA, an accountant for the president and Trump Organization. He said Monday that the complaint "reads more like political talking points than a reasoned legal brief, and it contains a litany of inaccurate information."

"The President has a long history of trying to use baseless lawsuits to attack his adversaries, but there is simply no valid legal basis to interfere with this duly authorized subpoena from Congress," Cummings said. "The White House is engaged in unprecedented stonewalling on all fronts, and they have refused to produce a single document or witness to the Oversight Committee during this entire year."

The lawsuit accuses Cummings of failing to consult with Republicans on the panel before issuing the subpoena and says he relied on the testimony of Trump's former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, who told lawmakers in February that some of Trump's financial statements contained inaccuracies. Cohen pleaded guilty last year to lying to Congress in 2017 about a real estate deal involving Trump in Moscow.

"The Cohen hearing was a partisan stunt, not a good-faith effort to obtain accurate testimony from a reliable witness," the lawsuit says.

The suit, in a sense, amounts to Trump — the leader of the executive branch of government — asking the judicial branch to stop the legislative branch from investigating his past. To do so would break decades of precedent, which established that the legislature's investigative power is not limited to just researching possible legislation. Trump advisers have argued that the newest requests are fishing expeditions, broad-based inquiries meant to extend beyond what should be in the investigators' purview in order to embarrass Trump and could set a dangerous precedent for future chief executives.

The complaint also says the subpoena seeks to investigate events that occurred before Trump was president and "has no legitimate legislative purpose." It says, "Democrats are using their new control of congressional committees to investigate every aspect of President Trump's personal finances, businesses, and even his family."

Jay Sekulow, one of Trump's lawyers, said in a statement Monday that "we will not allow presidential harassment to go unanswered." Neither the White House nor Trump Organization responded to requests for comment.

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The lawsuit comes amid a widespread effort by the White House and the president's attorneys to refuse to cooperate with congressional requests for information and records.

Earlier this month, the Treasury Department missed a deadline to hand over Trump's tax returns to the House Ways and Means Committee. A new deadline was set for Tuesday but there has been no indication that Trump's team plans to cooperate. A White House spokesman referred requests for comment to one of the president's personal attorneys, who did not immediately respond.

Lanny Davis, Cohen's representative, linked the complaint to Trump's ongoing effort to shield his taxes. "The reasons for Mr. Trump's desperate attempt to prevent his tax returns from being made public — like all prior presidents — is no mystery," Davis said. "Does anyone doubt he has something to hide?"

And White House officials have refused to comply with other requests related to Trump's actions as president. The administration, for instance, has also signaled it does not plan to turn over information being sought about how particular staffers, including senior aides like Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner, received their security clearances.

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Lemire reported from New York.

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## SpaceX suffers serious setback with crew capsule accident

By **MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — SpaceX has suffered a serious setback in its effort to launch NASA astronauts into orbit this year, with the fiery loss of its first crew capsule during testing.

Over the weekend, the company's recently flown Dragon crew capsule was engulfed in smoke and flames on an engine test stand at Cape Canaveral. SpaceX was testing the Dragon's abort thrusters when Saturday's accident occurred.

The company said the test area was clear and no one was injured.

This capsule flew to the International Space Station last month on a crew-less trial run, and it was supposed to be reused in a launch abort test in June. Another capsule was supposed to follow with two astronauts as early as July. Astronauts haven't launched from Florida since 2011.

NASA said Monday it's too early to revise the target launch dates, given that the accident is still so fresh. "This is why we test," NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said in a statement over the weekend. "We will learn, make the necessary adjustments and safely move forward with our commercial crew program."

Until Saturday, SpaceX was on a roll to resume crew launches from Florida. The March test flight, to the space station and back, went smoothly. The SuperDraco thrusters embedded in the sides of the capsule were not used during the demo.

The thrusters are crucial to protect astronauts in flight; they're designed to fire in an emergency and pull the capsule safely away from the rocket.

The University of Southern California's Garrett Reisman, a former NASA astronaut who directed space operations for SpaceX until last year, said it was a "tough day ... not good" for the company. "But thankfully no one got hurt and with everything we learn from this anomaly Crew Dragon will be a safer vehicle for all her future crews," he tweeted.

SpaceX said it will make sure, through the accident investigation, that the Dragon is one of the safest spacecraft ever built for astronauts. The California-based company released few details, though, on the accident itself and how it might impact future flights.

Former NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, now with Syracuse University, said via email Monday that it's "too early to tell what the implications may be."

NASA has not launched astronauts from Cape Canaveral since the last shuttle flight in 2011, instead paying for rides on Russian rockets. The space agency turned the job over to two private companies — SpaceX and Boeing — to build new capsules to ferry astronauts to and from the space station.

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Earlier this month, NASA announced major delays for test flights of Boeing's Starliner crew capsule. The initial trip to the space station, without astronauts, is targeted for August, with the first Starliner crew potentially flying by year's end.

NASA stressed that next week's launch of a SpaceX Dragon cargo capsule remains on track. The supply ship is set to blast off from Cape Canaveral on April 30. SpaceX has been making deliveries to the space station since 2012.

The crew Dragon is a much-enhanced version of the cargo version.

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

## Asian stocks mixed, oil soars on Iran sanctions worries

By ANNABELLE LIANG Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian stocks were mixed on Tuesday while oil prices soared to their highest level since October after the U.S. said it would soon impose sanctions on all buyers of Iranian oil.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index lost 0.2% to 22,165.41. The Kospi in South Korea was less than 0.1% higher at 2,217.31 while the Shanghai Composite gave up 0.6% to 3,194.88. Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 0.1% to 29,926.69. Australia's S&P ASX 200 gained 0.8% to 6,308.50.

Shares fell in Taiwan and Singapore but rose in Indonesia.

There was no strong impetus for buying in Asia. Reports from a recent high-level meeting in China, which was chaired by President Xi Jinping, showed willingness to fine-tune monetary policy but raised questions about future government stimulus. Traders were waiting for a slew of U.S. earnings reports from big companies such as Twitter starting Tuesday.

Over on Wall Street, the spike in crude oil prices boosted energy stocks on an otherwise listless Monday.

The broad S&P 500 was up 0.1% at 2,907.97 while the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.2% to 26,511.05. The Nasdaq composite picked up 0.2% to 8,015.27. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks shed 0.4% to 1,560.04.

On Monday, the Trump administration said it would no longer exempt any countries from U.S. sanctions if they continue to buy Iranian oil. The administration had granted eight waivers when it reimposed sanctions on Iran in November. These expire May 2.

Asian countries, namely China, India, Japan and South Korea are major importers of Iranian oil. The move will choke off more than \$50 billion of annual Iranian income, which the U.S. says funds destabilizing activity in the Middle East and beyond.

"The prompt contracts quickly repriced higher on panic fears that markets could face an immediate supply crunch, adding more pressure to the already tenuous global supply squeeze," Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a commentary.

Industry experts said the sanctions could potentially remove up to 1.2 million barrels of oil per day from international markets. But that number will likely be lower, depending on how countries respond and just how much oil Iran continues to export.

ENERGY: Oil prices rose for the third straight day on the news. Benchmark U.S. crude added 34 cents to \$65.89 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract surged \$1.48 to \$65.55 per barrel on Monday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained 29 cents to \$74.33 per barrel in London. It jumped \$2.07 to \$74.04 per barrel in the previous session.

CURRENCIES: The dollar weakened to 111.80 yen from 111.93 yen late Monday. The euro fell to \$1.1253 from \$1.1257.

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## Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, April 23, the 113th day of 2019. There are 252 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On April 23, 1954, Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Braves hit the first of his 755 major-league home runs in a game against the St. Louis Cardinals. (The Braves won, 7-5.)

On this date:

In 1616 (Old Style calendar), English poet and dramatist William Shakespeare died in Stratford-upon-Avon on what has traditionally been regarded as the 52nd anniversary of his birth in 1564.

In 1789, President-elect George Washington and his wife, Martha, moved into the first executive mansion, the Franklin House, in New York.

In 1898, Spain declared war on the United States, which responded in kind two days later.

In 1943, U.S. Navy Lt. (jg) John F. Kennedy assumed command of PT-109, a motor torpedo boat, in the Solomon Islands during World War II. (On Aug. 2, 1943, PT-109 was rammed and sunk by a Japanese destroyer, killing two crew members; Kennedy and 10 others survived.)

In 1968, student protesters began occupying buildings on the campus of Columbia University in New York; police put down the protests a week later. The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged to form the United Methodist Church.

In 1969, Sirhan Sirhan was sentenced to death for assassinating New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. (The sentence was later reduced to life imprisonment.)

In 1971, hundreds of Vietnam War veterans opposed to the conflict protested by tossing their medals and ribbons over a wire fence in front of the U.S. Capitol.

In 1987, 28 construction workers were killed when an apartment complex being built in Bridgeport, Connecticut, suddenly collapsed.

In 1988, a federal ban on smoking during domestic airline flights of two hours or less went into effect.

In 1995, sportscaster Howard Cosell died in New York at age 77.

In 1998, James Earl Ray, who confessed to assassinating the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and then insisted he'd been framed, died at a Nashville, Tennessee, hospital at age 70.

In 2005, the recently created video-sharing website YouTube uploaded its first clip, "Me at the Zoo," which showed YouTube co-founder Jawed Karim standing in front of an elephant enclosure at the San Diego Zoo.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama met privately with leading executives of credit-card issuing companies; afterward, the president said he was determined to get a credit-card law passed that eliminated the tricky fine print, sudden rate increases and late fees.

Five years ago: Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal signed a law allowing legally owned guns in bars without restriction and in some churches, schools and government buildings under certain circumstances. Facebook reported its earnings had nearly tripled and revenue had grown sharply in the first quarter, surpassing Wall Street's expectations.

One year ago: A man plowed a rental van into crowds of pedestrians in Toronto, killing 10 people and leaving 16 others hurt; police said the suspect, Alek Minassian, had posted a Facebook message indicating anger toward women. (Minassian is due to go to trial in February 2020.) French President Emmanuel Macron began a three-day state visit to Washington by visiting George Washington's Mount Vernon estate with his host, President Donald Trump, and their wives. The Duchess of Cambridge, formerly known as Kate Middleton, gave birth to a new prince who was fifth in line to the British throne; Louis Arthur Charles was the third child for the duchess and her husband, Prince William.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Alan Oppenheimer is 89. Actor David Birney is 80. Actor Lee Majors is 80. Hockey Hall of Famer Tony Esposito is 76. Irish nationalist Bernadette Devlin McAliskey is 72. Actress Blair Brown is 72. Writer-director Paul Brickman is 70. Actress Joyce DeWitt is 70. Actor James Russo is 66. Filmmaker-author Michael Moore is 65. Actress Judy Davis is 64. Actress Valerie Bertinelli is 59. Actor Craig Sheffer is 59. Actor-comedian-talk show host George Lopez is 58. U.S. Olympic gold medal skier Donna

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Weinbrecht is 54. Actress Melina Kanakaredes (kah-nah-KAH'-ree-deez) is 52. Rock musician Stan Frazier (Sugar Ray) is 51. Country musician Tim Womack (Sons of the Desert) is 51. Actor Scott Bairstow (BEHR'-stow) is 49. Actor-writer John Lutz is 46. Actor Barry Watson is 45. Rock musician Aaron Dessner (The National) is 43. Rock musician Bryce Dessner (The National) is 43. Professional wrestler/actor John Cena is 42. Actor-writer-comedian John Oliver is 42. Actor Kal Penn is 42. Retired MLB All-Star Andruw Jones is 42. Actress Jaime King is 40. Pop singer Taio (TY'-oh) Cruz is 36. Actor Aaron Hill is 36. Actor Jesse Lee Soffer is 35. Actress Rachel Skarsten is 34. Rock musician Anthony LaMarca (The War on Drugs) is 32. Singer-songwriter John Fullbright is 31. Tennis player Nicole Vaidisova (vay-deh-SOH'-vuh) is 30. Actor Dev Patel (puh-TEHL') is 29. Actor Matthew Underwood is 29. Actor Camryn Walling is 29. Model Gigi Hadid is 24. Rock musicians Jake and Josh Kiszka (Greta Van Fleet) are 23. Actor Charlie Rowe (TV: "Salvation") is 23. U.S. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Chloe Kim is 19.

Thought for Today: "In the future everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes." — Andy Warhol, American pop artist (1928-1987).